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more effective than existing tests and that it will become an important means of detecting chlamydial infections in women before their tubes have been irretrievably damaged and they suffer infertility.

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where it is impinging on the nerve, has revolutionised treatment. Patients who have been so incapacitated that their activities have been seriously restricted for more than three weeks deserve full investigation, probably including an MRI scan, rather than the mere prescription of

Mr Hinkes is now back in Yorkshire and enjoying his fish and chips, although he said in a radio interview that notwithstanding the chapatis he had every intention to climb his peaks. At his next attempt he should take it all rather more steadily, and find time to take pleasure in what he is achieving.

# Air marshal's flight of fancy

The autobiography of Air Marshal Sir Peter Horsley, former war-time pilot and later deputy head of Strike Command, is being published in October.

There are already press and radio reports that the book contains an account of Sir Peter's conversation with an alien, who told the air marshal about life on flying saucers. One interesting feature of these travellers from outer space is that as they journey they carry with them in their luggage spare body parts.

Whatever happened in the flat in Smith Square, Westminster, where Sir Peter had his encounter in 1954, may never be unravelled but he is unlikely to convince either his RAF colleagues, or his doctors, that his informant, Janus, existed.

It is interesting that patients' auditory, visual or olfactory hallucinations, and the delusions that stem from them, are dependent on the prevailing culture. If Sir Peter had lived several centuries ago, and if the explanation for the strange happenings in Smith Square is the result of a hallucination, he might have been confronted

by the Devil, or a saint. Religious imagery is now unfashionable, and people who believe they have had paranormal experiences are more likely to recount how they have met a man from outer space. And many are convinced that they have been abducted or raped by the little green men, but when pressed are characteristically short of the detail that would have made the story so fascinating, and added veracity to it. It is striking that now Mars has been explored, the aliens are apt to come from outer space. Very depressed patients may develop psychotic symptoms, including hallucinations and delusions. Many other patients suffering from schizophrenia, or its related disorders, also hear voices and may carry on long and complicated conversations with them.

Until recently, the peace of the morning room of one

London club was regularly disturbed by the noisy argument that one much-loved member held with his voices. Together they battled over the political points reported in the newspapers and other members were treated to a running commentary on the discussion inside his head.

Hallucinations may also be tactile so that patients not only hear the voice of the invisible stranger, but may feel them and may even complain that the hallucinatory presence has made sexual advances.

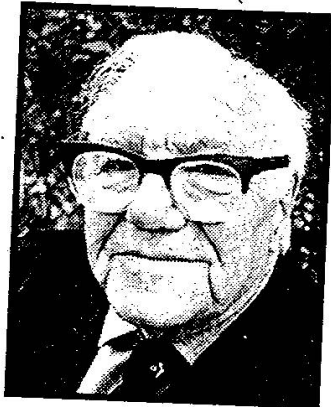
Visual hallucinations are also common in many forms of dementia as well as in psychotic conditions. Delirium tremens and Lewey body dementia, a form of senile dementia, are particularly associated with visual hallucinations.

In Lewey body dementia the vision is frequently incomplete, a phenomenon that may

account for the number of ghosts which are either headless or without feet.

Perhaps Sir Peter really did meet an alien, but for those of us who don't like to think that the man in charge of a nuclear strike force was hallucinating, there is another more reassuring explanation. It is possible that Sir Peter, exhausted after his duties at Buckingham Palace where he was then posted, dropped off to sleep in the Smith Square flat and experienced a hypnagogic hallucination.

Hypnagogic hallucinations are the phenomena in which a person who is in the twilight zone between sleep and wakefulness sees, hears and even feels a hallucinatory other person. The image is very real and it can be very hard to convince the dreamer that the incident took place only in his or her mind. Hypnagogic hallucinations are comparatively common and whereas they are usually part of a continuing sleep disorder, they can occur in people who don't have a history of abnormal sleep patterns.



Sir Peter Horsley

## Jellyfish warning to holidaymakers

THE hot weather has produced the usual problems for seaside holidaymakers. This week visitors to beaches in East Anglia have been suffering from jellyfish stings.

The tentacles of jellyfish release a mild toxin when they are touched. It usually causes little more trouble than some reddening of the skin, a faint rash which is mildly irritant. The symptoms are readily alleviated by a simple painkiller — Veganin, for instance, for adults, paracetamol for children, and inflammation is reduced by the application of hydrocortisone cream. If part of the tentacle remains stuck to the skin an application of vinegar from the picnic basket will usually cause it to drop off, or it may be removed by applying sticky plaster and tearing off.

Some patients are allergic to such stings. If the reaction is very severe they may need an immediate subcutaneous injection of one in a thousand adrenalin, and in the very worst cases transfer to hospital.



Watch out for jellyfish on the beach

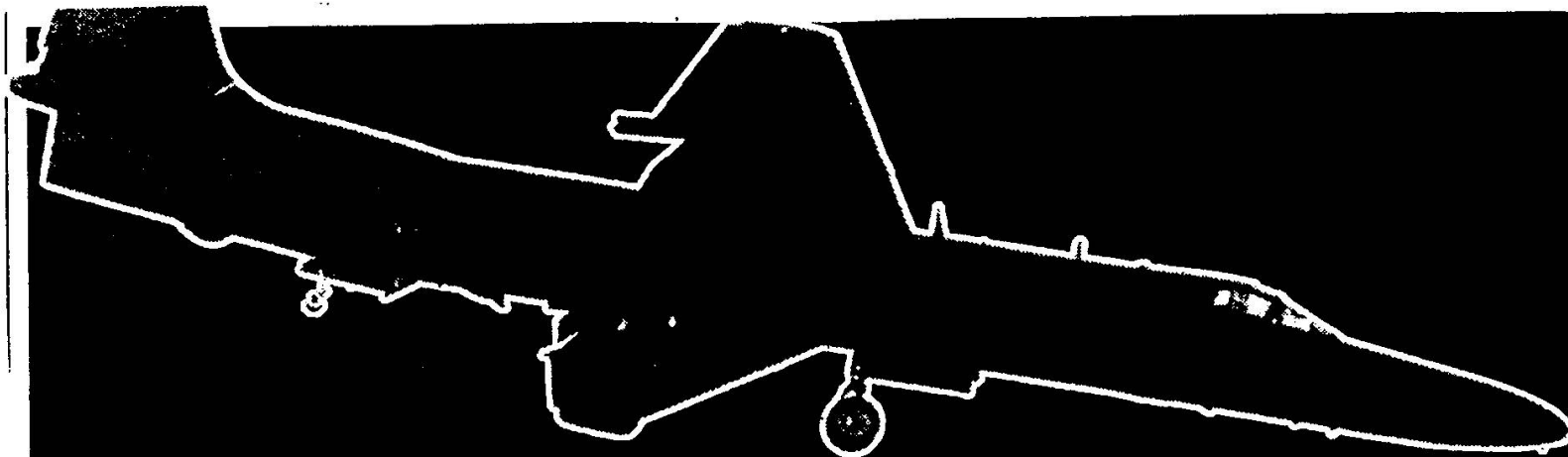
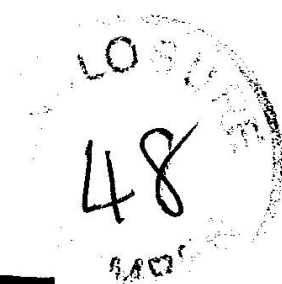
## New drugs aid schizophrenics

THE introduction of anti-psychotic drugs 30 years ago was a huge advance in the treatment of schizophrenia. Unfortunately 25 per cent of patients failed to respond to these drugs, and half of those treated with them relapsed within two years. Many of the drugs also have unpleasant side-effects.

Over the past year or two a new era in the treatment of schizophrenia has started with the advent of the atypical neuroleptics. The indications for the prescription of Risperdal has recently been extended. The advice to doctors to use Risperdal with caution in the elderly has been replaced with the statement that it is well tolerated in older patients.

Dr Tonmoy Sharma, senior lecturer at the Maudsley Hospital, London, said: "These new drugs offer a proven treatment with fewer side-effects than the older treatment. Patients are less likely to suffer excess tiredness, sexual dysfunction, gross weight gain, or uncontrollable movement to the face and limbs than are those taking conventional neuroleptics. The new drugs are also better at controlling a wide range of psychotic symptoms."

The Express  
05 August 1997  
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# Lies, spies and secret objects in the skies

**BY TOBY MOORE AND IVOR KEY**

**CONSPIRACY** theorists have reacted with typical scepticism to the "leaked" news that thousands of UFO sightings were not alien observers at all.

A historian has claimed that half of the sightings of "flying saucers" spotted in the Fifties and Sixties were in fact secret spy plane missions which the US Government did not want to admit to at the time.

Interest in UFOs has spawned not only a multi-million dollar tourist industry in so-called "hot-spots", but the influence of hit TV programmes — notably *The X-Files* — has fuelled widespread claims of a cover-up of alien visits and abductions.

**HOLLYWOOD** has been followed by an unlikely force — the CIA — in the rush to tell us about aliens. Interest in hit films like *Men in Black* and *Independence Day* will doubtless soar in the light of the CIA's admission that it covered up the truth behind UFOs.

continues.

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continues.

It is not, therefore, surprising that a rational explanation from a government agency infamous for subterfuge and misinformation is quickly dismissed.

UFO enthusiasts said that an admission of a cover-up by the CIA can only mean that another cover-up lurks behind its new-found honesty.

"They're still lying," said Richard Hall, chairman of the Fund for UFO Research.

"The American public is not stupid," added Walter Andrus, international director of the Mutual UFO Network.

"They've been lied to by the government so often over the years that they're not going to believe it now."

Top historian Gerald Haines, however, claimed in his research paper, *The CIA's Role in the*

*Study of UFOs 1947-90*, that the "false cover story" is true.

"Over half of all UFO reports from the late 1950s through the 1960s were accounted for by manned reconnaissance flights," he said.

"This led the Air Force to make misleading and deceptive statements to the public in order to allay public fears and to protect an extraordinarily sensitive national security project."

The paper claimed that test flights by the top-secret, high-altitude U2 spy plane were mistaken for UFOs from its launch in 1954 until 1960, when the Soviets shot down Gary Powers in one.

Later, existence of the futuristic SR-71 Blackbird was also denied, as was Project Y — ironically, a prototype flying saucer developed by Western powers, including Britain, which could even hover.

The latter aircraft was kept secret, it was claimed by Mr Haines, because of "agency fears

that the Soviets were testing similar devices".

The cover-up, however — if, indeed, there was one — backfired as early as 1952 when officials feared mass hysteria would soon break out because of the rash of unexplained sightings.

Mr Haines said they feared the Soviets would cash in on the panic by staging mass UFO sightings which would disrupt America's air defence systems and enable a surprise nuclear attack to be launched.

Top secret monitoring organisations discussed enlisting schools, work clubs and even Walt Disney to help prevent "hysterical mass behaviour".

Even the National Security Council was urged to "debunk UFO reports and institute a policy of public education to reassure the public of the lack of evidence behind UFOs".

As the Cold War between Russia and the US intensified, flying saucer sightings increased.

A special panel of scientists,

asked to investigate the security implications of alien invasion, concluded unanimously in 1953 that there was no credible evidence of aliens, nor evidence of a direct national security threat.

Mr Haines said that by 1956, the US Air Force was able to attribute 96 per cent of all UFO sightings to the high altitude U2 and SR-71 intelligence gathering planes.

He said that the Air Force, while allowing the flights over populated areas where they might very well be seen, took care "not to reveal the cause of the sightings to the public".

In the following 20 years, all sorts of explanations were offered to a disbelieving public, including ice crystal formations, "temperature inversions" and even the sunlight reflected off seagulls.

Even Mr Haines admitted that the CIA did itself no favours by continuing with such a weak cover-up.

He wrote that by steadfastly concealing its interest in the matter, the CIA "contributed to later charges of a CIA conspiracy and cover-up".

He added: "The UFO issue will probably not go away soon, no matter what the agency does or says.

"The belief that we are not alone in the universe is too emotionally appealing and the distrust of our government is too pervasive to make the issue amenable to rational

explanation and evidence."

Hardened ufologists remain unconvinced by the CIA's admission, which closely follows several others by the US Government.

In March, the military claimed that a spate of sightings over the Arizona desert were the result of flares fired into the desert skies.

And in June, the US Air Force said that the famous Roswell UFO crash of 1947 contained crash test dummies and not dead aliens.

It has not, however, explained the truth behind a secret film — recently released to the media — which was alleged to be an autopsy of one of the alien

victims. "The flying saucer community is definitely on to something in charging that the military is hiding something," said John Pike, head of space policy at the Federation of American Scientists.

The US revelations have also prompted requests that the British Government now comes clean about a 50-year spate of incidents over here.

Joe McNally, associate editor of *Fortean Times*, the leading journal of strange phenomenon, said that "intense secrecy" fostered by governments has simply kept the UFOs alive in the public's imagination.

"There have now been three different explanations of Roswell, first it was a rocket, then it was a balloon now it's crash test dummies, to encourage scepticism."

Typically, the Ministry of Defence said yesterday that it was not involved in any secret monitoring of UFOs spotted over Britain.

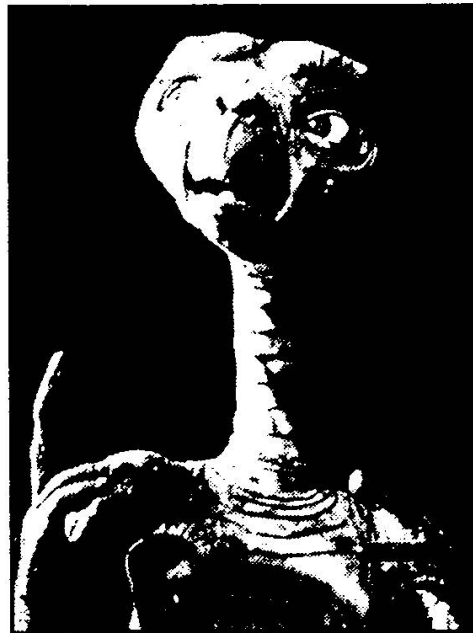
Therefore, there was absolutely no reason to reveal anything to the public about such sightings.

"We have always said that we don't believe in UFOs," said a spokesman.

"We have no competency in that area. We only take note of reported sightings to establish if there is any threat to UK airspace."

The conspiracy theorists will never believe such a seemingly rational explanation.

They also now have something else to chew on — Gerald Haines published his research in a CIA journal.



ET: UFO enthusiasts believe alien observers often visit Earth

ends.

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# Close encounter in a Chelsea flat

**MILITARY** giants don't come much bigger than Air Marshal Sir Peter Horsley.

A war hero who flew Mosquitoes against the Germans, he has held one of the highest ranks in the RAF and has been an intimate adviser to the Queen and Prince Philip.

He has also, he claims, met a visitor from another galaxy.

Sir Peter has kept his close encounter with the mysterious man he calls Mr Janus in a London flat a secret for 43 years. But now, at the age of 76, he is ready to go public.

Fixing me with a steely gaze, he says: 'We talked for hours about travelling in space and time. I don't know what or who he was. He didn't say he was a visitor from another planet but I had that impression. I believe he was here to observe us.'

'I never saw him again. I have no qualms about the reaction to my experience with Mr Janus. I don't care what people think - it was what happened.'

His extraordinary testimony - in his autobiography, *Sounds From Another Room\**, to be published in the autumn - and his uncompromising belief in Unidentified Flying Objects will no doubt ruffle the sangfroid of the men at the Ministry. For, incredible as it seems, it is the evidence of a man who once ran the country's front line defence at RAF Strike Command, and was a Buckingham Palace aide for six years.

At his riverside cottage in Hampshire, where Christmas cards from the Royal Family hang in the lavatory, he discusses the presence of alien spacecraft with unswerving nonchalance.

I would say they come from another planet somewhere in

## RAF chief's memoirs on a man from outer space

By Fiona Barton

the universe but not in our galaxy. They are benign, not aggressive and, like us, are explorers,' he says.

His interest in UFOs began, he says, in 1952 while he was an equerry to the Duke of Edinburgh and was sparked by newspaper reports at the time.

He joined the Royal Household in 1949 as a squadron leader who

**'I don't care what people think - it happened'**

had been decorated for his work as personal pilot to Major General Sir Miles Graham during the Normandy Invasion.

Sir Peter says he talked to Prince Philip of his interest in UFOs. 'He was quite interested. As always his mind was open. He agreed I should do a study on the subject in my spare time as long as I kept it in perspective and didn't bring the Palace into disrepute. He didn't want to see headlines about him believing in little green men.'

Sir Peter started by interviewing people who claimed to have seen UFOs and invited a BOAC captain to visit him at Buckingham Palace. His own

encounter came in 1954. 'At the end of my tour at the Palace, I had a very strange experience,' he recalls with charming understatement.

He says he was introduced to a General Martin who arranged for him to visit the Chelsea home of a Mrs Markham.

Sir Peter cannot remember the date or the number of the flat in Smith Street - nor can he describe the man he met there - but he is adamant the encounter took place.

'Janus was there, sitting by the fire in a deep chair. He asked, "What is your interest in flying saucers?"'

And then he gave a Wellsian account of space travel at the speed of light with spare body parts in the luggage. When Sir Peter went back to the flat it was empty.

But his interest in the paranormal stayed with him during his rise through the ranks to the crucial post of Deputy Commander in Chief of RAF Strike Command in 1973.

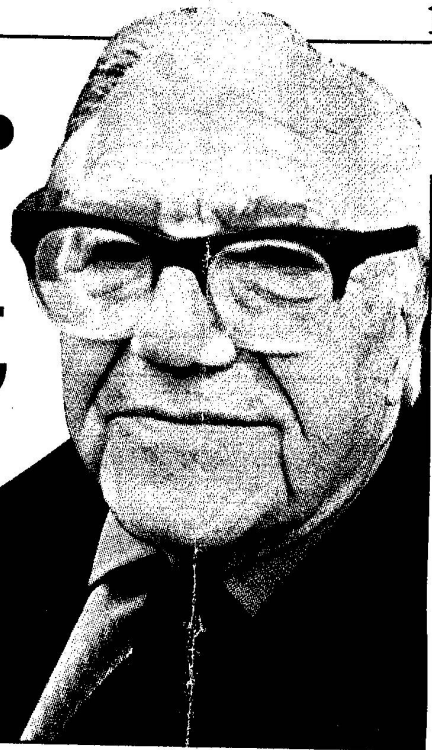
Sir Peter insists: 'I don't think I am a crank about it at all.'

But at the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall, jaws are dropping. As one former senior officer put it: 'Oh God. How unfortunate that the public will learn that the man who had his finger on the button at Strike Command was seeing little green men.'

*\*Sounds From Another Room is published by Leo Cooper in October.*



FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES: Sir Peter, circled, was close to the Queen and Prince Philip Picture: DAVID O'NEILL



Odd, but true. Mars bars were the only chocolate bars sent out to British troops in World War Two. Top tactics from our man Churchill.

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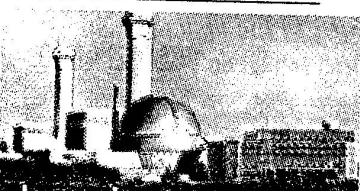
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### INSIDE THIS WEEK'S FINANCIAL MAIL

ON SUNDAY



Why Bill Gates is taking a bite of Apple



Is nuclear power set to make a comeback?

# THE AMERICAS

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## US DoD: laser not cause of eye injuries

An investigation by the US Department of Defense (DoD) has decided it is unlikely that eye injuries suffered by a US Navy officer in April were caused by a laser fired from a Russian cargo ship.

The officer reported eye damage after photographing the *Kapitan Man* in US waters north of Puget Sound off Washington State. He was serving as a crew member on a Canadian Forces CH-124 Sea King helicopter.

Photographs show a red light below the port bridge on the ship and the DoD suspected it may have been a laser targeted at the helicopter to blind the occupants. After an investigation the DoD said it was a port navigational running light.

A search of the ship by US Coast Guard and Navy personnel found no evidence of a laser or modifications to the ship which would indicate the removal of a laser.

## Dispenser to get jump-start after 87-day break

BY STACEY EVERS  
WASHINGTON DC

The US Air Force Wind Corrected Munitions Dispenser (WCMD) programme is looking "at anything we can do" to jump-start its schedule following 87 days of stopped work, WCMD programme manager Lt Col Steven Welch said.

The programme, which has been on the fast track since its inception, came to a halt when Alliant Techsystems protested against Lockheed Martin's winning of a contract to finish WCMD development and begin production. The US General Accounting Office rejected the protest.

Air force and Lockheed officials held their first post-protest meeting this month to look at the schedule and begin debating trade-offs. The upcoming milestones are critical, so trade-offs will be "scrutinised well", Col Welch said. "We won't trade quality for schedule."

The meeting's agenda included a briefing on Lockheed-proposed technology insertions and contractor plans for how to install the Sensor Fuzed Weapon. Foreign military sales options are also an issue, as Lockheed Martin has begun looking for markets and the USAF international affairs office has started developing an export strategy.

The WCMD tail kit assembly system is expected to improve the precision of tactical munitions such as the Combined Effects Munition by providing a 'smart' guidance capability for the existing dispenser. The developmental test and evaluation flight test, which was to start in May, is scheduled to run from September to January. However, the contract award

for low-rate initial production is projected to slip by only two months, to March next year.

During developmental testing, an F-16 will make seven drops at Eglin AFB, Florida, and a B-52 will make 13 drops at Edwards AFB, California. About five months of operational test and evaluation will begin in January with 20 more drops from an F-16 and B-52.

Early operational capability for the B-52, originally set for February, will now be achieved by 31 July. This is still one year ahead of the schedule set by the air force's Operational Requirements Document, Col Welch said.

The only missed opportunity will be joint testing on the B-52 with the Joint Direct Attack Munition programme, although some software development can be done in collaboration.

## USAF presents 'Case Closed' over Roswell

Alien bodies supposedly recovered in New Mexico in 1947 were actually human-like dummies dropped during the mid-1950s, the US Air Force revealed in a new report on the famous Roswell UFO incident.

The USAF contends that the reported 1947 crash of an "extraterrestrial flying disc" and its "alien" occupants were debris from Project Mogul, a high-altitude balloon research project. The programme was to determine whether a sound channel exists in the upper atmosphere that could be used to detect ballistic missiles.

The mostly unclassified Project Mogul used acoustical sensors, radar reflecting targets and other devices attached to a train of weather balloons more than 180m long. In 1947 a rancher turned in the radar targets to the local sheriff, allegedly after hearing media reports of flying discs.

The first claims to have seen



The first pictures of the USAF's high-altitude balloon experiments and (inset) the dummies dropped in the mid-1950s (Photo: US DoD)

bodies came in the late 1970s, leading USAF officials to argue that the memories of witnesses have consolidated air force activities for a period of years into a handful of days in July 1947. The witnesses are "wrong about the 1947 date", said USAF Col John Haynes in a Pentagon briefing.

From 1953 to 1959, the Air Force Aero Medical Laboratory used anthropomorphic dum-

mies as part of high-altitude aircraft escape projects called High Dive and Excelsior.

These programmes aimed to devise methods for returning pilots or astronauts to earth by parachute should they be forced to escape at extreme altitudes.

The dummies, transported by balloons to altitudes as high as 98,000ft (30,000m), fell freely while instruments recorded

body movements and escape equipment performance. Forty-three high-altitude balloons carrying 67 dummies were launched and recovered across New Mexico between 1954 and 1959 and 30 were dropped by aircraft over White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, in 1953.

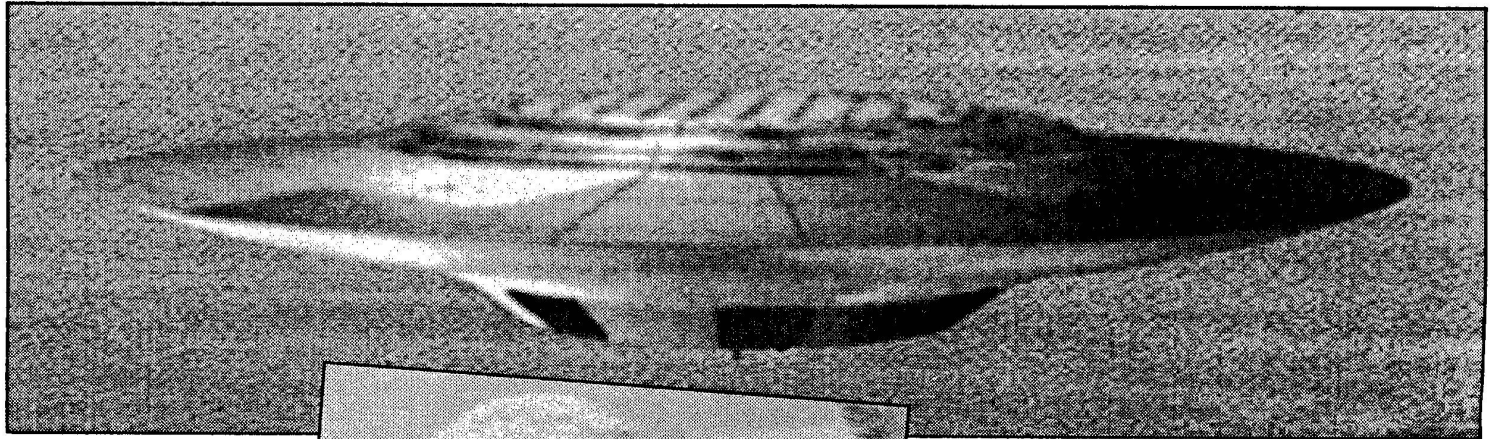
"The dummies were sometimes transported to and from off-range locations in wooden shipping containers, similar to caskets, to prevent damage to fragile instruments mounted in and on the dummy," the report said.

In 1994 the USAF released its first Roswell report on the order of a New Mexico congressman. The USAF said it has volunteered this second Roswell report to answer "lingering questions" about sightings of alien bodies, a subject not discussed "extensively" in the 1994 paper.

Subtitled 'Case Closed', the new document also serves as a pre-emptive strike against the publicity that is surrounding the 50th anniversary of the incident.

AS THE CIA CLAIMS TO COME CLEAN ABOUT THE UFO PHENOMENON, THE MYSTERY STILL REMAINS

# If spy planes are behind UFO sightings, what could possibly explain the five vast objects that hovered over Britain?



**T**AKEN at face value, it was an attempt by the CIA to clear up a perplexing mystery. The agency admitted, albeit reluctantly, that more than half the sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects recorded in the Fifties and Sixties could be explained after all.

The darting silver objects seen in the sky and assiduously reported by members of the public were not flying saucers or alien space ships of any kind.

They were U.S. military spy planes flying top-secret reconnaissance missions from bases in Nevada and California to the Soviet Union at the height of the Cold War.

The aircraft, the Lockheed U-2 and the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird, flew at very high altitudes — the latter capable of more than 2,000mph at up to 85,000ft. No wonder people squinting into the heavens thought they'd seen strange objects.

Duplicity had been necessary, the CIA reasoned, in the interests of 'national security'.

The air force had made 'misleading and deceptive statements in order to allay fears and to protect an extraordinarily sensitive project', the agency said. So the public had been fobbed off with half-hearted explanations of the sightings — weather balloons which had gone astray and atmospheric phenomena were the favoured white lies.

The optimists in the CIA hoped that this belated admission in documents published on the Internet would be another nail in the coffin of the UFO 'believers' who have been a thorn in their side for 50 years. But the realists acknowledged that far from defusing the issue, it has only added to the intrigue.

After so many years of fooling the public, why should anyone believe the CIA now? And why has the CIA suddenly come clean about a subject in which it always maintained it had no involvement?

**E**VEN if the report were true, what about the other UFO sightings which the CIA cannot explain? There is a strong body of respected opinion on both sides of the Atlantic that believes the CIA has panicked in the face of an enormous surge of interest in all things extra-terrestrial.

While the number of UFO sightings rises every year, the vacuous explanations and stonewalling have remained the same.

'The old cover-up stories just don't wash any more,' said John E. Pike, head of space policy at the Federation of American Scientists, based in Washington. 'The flying saucer community is definitely onto something.'

The UFO 'believers' who have dissected the report are in two camps: the radicals who don't believe a word the agency is



from NICK HOPKINS

IN NEW YORK

saying; and the moderates who accept the CIA is probably telling the truth — but not the whole truth.

Walter Andrus, international director of the Mutual UFO Network, is in the radical camp. 'The public are not stupid,' he said. 'They've been lied to by the government so often over the years that they are not going to believe it.'

There are Britons, though, who are less dismissive. They think the CIA is boxing clever to try to assuage the thousands of people who believe they have seen a UFO but are still inherently sceptical.

**O**BVIOUSLY there is a problem of admission here,' said Nick Pope, who studied UFO sightings for the Ministry of Defence between 1991 and 1994, and still works there.

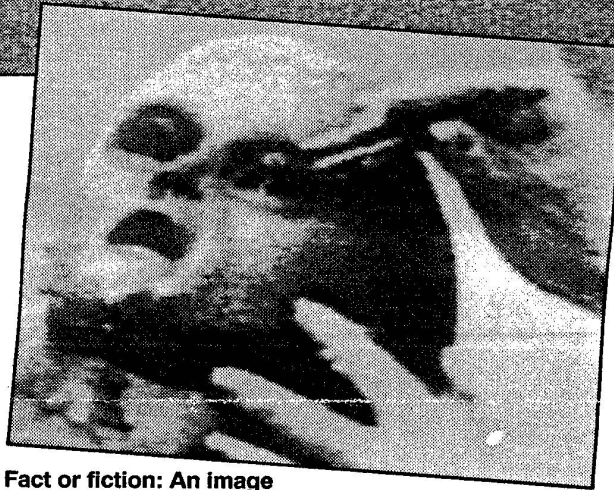
'The CIA hardly inspires confidence in what it is saying by admitting that everything it has said in the past was all lies. But even if you do believe that many of these sightings were spy planes, it does not amount to very much.'

'The report does not help to explain the numerous low-altitude sightings of UFOs, or the photographs of circular-shaped objects in the sky. Hundreds of them have not been accounted for properly.'

Some of the most outstanding come from Britain and date back to the Fifties.

On April 4, 1957, three separate radar operators at West Freugh, near Stranraer in Scotland, picked up five objects at 70,000ft. The operators knew immediately they were not aircraft. First, they were stationary. More intriguingly, they were the size of 'battleships'.

The incident was filed away in a confidential report — Air 20/9321/DDitech.D/ — which has only recently seen the light of day. It concluded that the objects were not weather balloons or aircraft, and the radar



Fact or fiction: An image alleged to depict an alien from the Roswell crash

soundings could not be explained by freak weather conditions either.

In the same year, personnel at the RAF base in Church Lawford, Warwickshire, saw a spherical craft accelerate from a standing start to 1,400mph. Again, the incident was filed and forgotten.

There have been other more recent developments which have stirred the imagination.

Earlier this year, an archaeologist called Jerry Freeman embarked on a 700-mile trek through restricted U.S. Air Force property in the Nevada desert looking for inscriptions made in 1849 by members of a pioneering wagon train.

Mr Freeman had badgered the military unsuccessfully for five years to allow him onto the land and, having tired of their refusals, decided to go anyway.

**A**FTER several days of trekking across barren landscape, he was astonished by what he found. Not the inscriptions he had sought, but a military base tucked between two valleys. He saw cars and lights, and a hangar door. But the installation was not marked on any maps, and when he returned home the military denied the base existed.

Later, he discovered he had come across what many UFO buffs have come to see as the holy grail. For years they have maintained that there is an underground hangar in the desert where an alien spacecraft is being stored.

Though Mr Freeman's

discovery was hardly conclusive, at least a reliable source had confirmed there was 'something out there'.

The most enduring of UFO stories was the Roswell incident, which has confused and confounded since 1947. Onlookers claimed they saw alien bodies being taken from a craft which had crashed into the desert in New Mexico. At first military sources denied everything, then they said a secret weather balloon had plunged to ground.

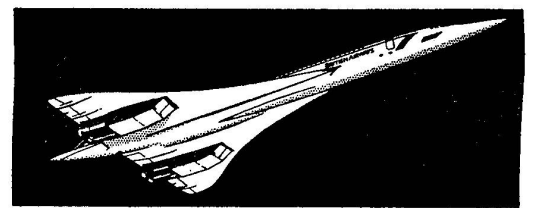
Finally this summer, on Roswell's 50th anniversary, the U.S. Air Force said the conspiracy theorists were wrong. Yes, they had seen bodies, but they were not aliens. They were flight-test dummies dropped from high altitude as part of an experiment. The Air Force said this was the 'final word on Roswell'. But it wasn't.

'How anyone in the U.S. military expected people to believe that explanation is beyond me,' said Dr Colin Ridyard, of the British UFO Research Organisation. 'If that was all that Roswell amounted to, they could have told us years ago.'

Nick Pope has his own theory. Governments are under more scrutiny than ever over UFOs, and they are under pressure to come up with answers. The intelligence community is being brow-beaten because it is inexorably losing the battle for 'believability'.

'There seems to be a concerted strategy to debunk the phenomenon. The problem is that the agenda is so obvious, people don't believe the authorities. What are they trying to hide?'

Will we one day prove the existence of alien craft?



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The People  
 Sunday, July 13, 1997  
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ENCLOSURE  
 44  
 1/10/97

# SAS IN ALIEN RIDDLE

## Troops saw 'four little grey men' walk into ambush – then vanish

SAS soldiers waiting to ambush IRA gunmen were stunned when ALIENS walked in front of their gun-sights, it was claimed yesterday.

The undercover troops – hiding near an arms cache on a hillside in South Armagh – say they saw up to four small grey figures.

The "aliens" and soldiers

stared at each other for a minute. Then the "spacemen" disappeared – and seconds later the eight SAS troops saw a flash in the sky.

*They were so disturbed by what they had seen they took the rare decision to abandon the stake-out.*

Their commander was furious – and their comrades in the elite Special Air Services regiment laughed or accused them of being high on drugs.

But the eight stuck to their

**By JOE BRADY**

story and it was accepted. Now, four years later, it has been revealed to an Ulster UFO study group by a former Army intelligence officer.

Belfast-based expert Hugh O'Brien said: "We are trying to interview the soldiers even though some may be too embarrassed to come forward.

"We have learned that on that

morning they were convinced they saw three, perhaps four, small grey figures in human form.

"At no stage did the soldiers feel threatened. They simply could not believe what they were seeing.

"The alien forms made no move towards them but judging from what the soldiers told their regimental priest and commanding officer, the aliens knew the soldiers were there. It

was like a stand-off. Within a few minutes, probably much less, the aliens disappeared.

"All the men can recall is that in a very quick space of time they saw a brief flash of light in the sky."

*Mr O'Brien added: "These men were fit, highly-trained observers and to put it down to some flight of imagination would be absurd."*

The weapons cache was recovered by other soldiers.

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Dr Coleman's Casebook

## MINISTER GOES BACK ON PLEDGE TO BAN HUNTING

TWO weeks ago I asked readers to write to Tony Blair reminding him that before the election he had promised to stop hunting on Forestry Commission and Ministry of Defence land.

I then sent copies of my column and the letter I had received from Elliot Morley MP - now Minister for Fisheries and the Countryside - to every MP in Britain. Many MPs have already written to offer their support.

Here are just three of scores of supportive replies I received:

● Paul Flynn MP (Newport West): "I intend to raise this matter through a Parliamentary Question and letter and am most grateful to you for keeping me fully informed."

● Jim Cunningham MP (Coventry South): "Like you, I am greatly concerned about this matter and I appreciate receiving your thoughts. I have written to Tony Blair with a

copy of your letter. I'll contact you when I receive a response."

● Dr John Marek MP (Wrexham): "I have written to Elliot Morley asking what he intends to do."

*But to my horror I discovered last week that it is now far from certain that hunting on publicly-owned land will be banned after all.*

Elliot Morley's pre-election letter to me said: "We are committed to an immediate suspension of licences to

hunting with hounds on Forestry Commission and MoD land." This promise was unqualified.

But on June 24 Morley wrote: "Any decision will continue to be based on a proper review taking into account proper criteria in relation to the effective management of these estates and whether or not hunting with hounds is an effective method of fox and deer control."

Read that again - and read it slowly. It was written LAST WEEK by a LABOUR minister!

And who will conduct the reviews? The Government won't release the names of the officials carrying out the secret reviews.

How do we know the reviews aren't being conducted by hunters or hunt supporters?

*Is there anyone left out there who still believes in Tony Blair and his wretched New Labour?*

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## UFO reports hushed up

THE People has obtained proof of an MoD hush-up of alien craft sightings.

Secret military papers, including advice to the Defence Secretary, contain evidence of UFOs over Britain.

The documents, dating back to the 50s and 60s, have just been released after 30 years in official archives.

They show that the RAF and other military units were involved in UFO investigations. In 1957 the Ministry received RAF reports of an object over

southern Scotland, which accelerated from a dead stop to 1,400mph.

In 1962 the RAF investigated another UFO over Taunton, Somerset, and one witness claimed she was advised not to talk about her experience.

A late MoD memo to a US airforce colonel confirmed that it was policy to "play down the subject of UFOs".

UFO Research Association sleuth Matthew Williams said: "This finally proves there was a cover-up."



The Guardian  
28 June 1997  
Page 4  
THE WEEK

# Truth in the twilight zone

HEAD  
TO HEAD

Aliens at Roswell? As US officials switch stories again, former MoD sky watcher **Nick Pope** debates UFOs with Greenwich Observatory astronomer **Robin Catchpole**

## Dear Robin,

I FIRST became involved in UFO watching in 1991, as part of my government work. I am a civil servant at the Ministry of Defence, and between 1991 and 1994 I worked in a division called Secretariat (Air Staff), where my job was to investigate reports of UFO sightings. I confess to being initially sceptical. I believed UFOs were vague lights in the sky seen by people out late at night walking their dogs — perhaps on their way back from the pub! I was wrong.

I received between two and three hundred UFO reports each year, and carried out detailed investigations in attempts to correlate sightings with aircraft activity, astronomical phenomena, etc. After a rigorous investigation, between 90 and 95 percent of sightings could be explained as misidentifications of known objects and phenomena — anything from aircraft lights to weather balloons. This left what I called the *real* UFOS.

The real UFOs are structured craft of unknown origin, capable of penetrating our sophisticated air defence network with impunity. Sometimes they show up on radar, and sometimes not. They have been seen by civil and military pilots, and on occasion, RAF jets have been scrambled to try and intercept these mystery craft; we have not been able to catch them.

I accept that just because a UFO sighting remains unexplained, it is not unexplainable. But these craft display a technology which goes beyond the cutting edge of anything in our terrestrial inventories



Pope (left) and Catchpole (right)

(including prototype craft), both in terms of speed and manoeuvrability. I am convinced this technology can only be extraterrestrial.

Yours sincerely,  
Nick Pope

## Dear Nick,

I AM an astronomer, and in my 35 years of observation and research I have never come across anything I would describe as a UFO, although I did once call off a police car from

pursuing Venus setting beneath a thunder cloud. I am glad to see that Roswell was not mentioned in your letter, even though this debate must mark its 50th anniversary.

As a scientist, I respect observations and particularly your claim that between 1991 and 1994 there were between 10 and 30 reports per year, made by qualified observers for which you had no explanation. This is, of course, a valuable body of data that should be published and made available to the scientific community. Until this is done I cannot accept your deductive jump from the observations to the existence of craft that go beyond our existing technology.

I would like to open the debate wider and, at the risk of blemishing my position as a narrow-

minded scientist, indulge in a little speculation that suggests it is unlikely that we will ever make contact with another civilisation. The Earth is an ideal place for intelligent life to develop. Nevertheless it took 4500 million years for it to appear in a form capable of communication. When the Earth was born the Universe was already at least 6000 million years old. Clearly there has been enough time for a civilisation like ours to develop and spread its radio signals at the speed of light throughout our galaxy and far beyond. As we listen with some of the world's most powerful radio telescopes, we hear nothing. How much less probable it is that they are silently flying around us.

Yours sincerely,  
Robin Catchpole.

## Dear Robin,

I AM always pleased when scientists such as yourself get involved in the debate about UFOs, and the fact that you are an astronomer puts me in mind of one of the founding fathers of serious UFO research, the late Dr J Allen Hynek. As you may know, Hynek was Professor of Astronomy at North Western University in the US, and was scientific consultant to Project Blue Book, the US Air Force's study into the UFO phenomenon. He felt the UFO situation merited serious scientific study, and set up a study group when Blue Book was closed down.

I would love to share some of my own official findings with you, but suspect that until and unless the UK has a Freedom of Information Act, this will not be possible. What I can do is point you in the direction of some of the Ministry of Defence's old UFO files from the fifties and sixties. Now de-classified, they are available to all at the Public Record Office in Kew, and make fascinating reading.

While I understand the point about the lack of radio signals from an extraterrestrial civilisation, I will quote philosopher Terence McKenna, who said: "To search expectantly for a radio signal from an extraterrestrial source is probably as culture-bound a presumption as to search the galaxy for a good Italian restaurant".

Yours sincerely,  
Nick Pope

## Dear Nick,

I AM indeed familiar with the work of Dr Allen Hynek. I have his book beside me. I see he cautions us

against "uninhibited theorising" in the explanation of UFOs because we must rely on anecdotal reports. Dr Hynek points out that "uninhibited theorising", the yeast of the scientific method, is appropriate only where such theories can be put to direct test, which we have failed to do in the case of UFOs.

I think we are all agreed that it is both unscientific and improper to dismiss UFO reports without due consideration. But we should all remember that the letters UFO stand for Unidentified Flying Object. They do not and should not be used to refer to a spaceship with or without "little green men", which I would call a perfect example of "uninhibited theorising".

To come to your quotation from Terence McKenna, apart from the obvious observation that there are many good Italian restaurants on Earth, which is surely part of our galaxy, I would point out that although not culture-bound, our universe is science-bound.

I know that it is both dangerous and unfashionable to imply we know the laws that govern our Universe, but the essence of a restaurant, namely the need to provide the building material for replicating life forms, would, I feel, be universal. As would the need to communicate using the fastest available means, namely electromagnetic radiation or radio waves. I therefore find the great silence out there sadly lonely, although I live in hope that we may yet hear something.

Yours sincerely,  
Robin Catchpole.

## Dear Robin,

IN DECEMBER 1980 numerous military personnel witnessed a UFO in Randelsham Forest in Suffolk. Radiation readings were taken from the site where a metallic craft landed, and the defence radiological protection service confirmed these were 10 times background levels.

On March 31, 1990 two Belgian F16 fighters were scrambled in an attempt to intercept a UFO that had been seen by several thousand witnesses and simultaneously detected on Belgian and Nato radar systems. The pilots locked on to the mystery craft, but it took evasive action. The Belgian air staff adjudged that it had been under intelligent control.

On November 5, 1990 a squadron of RAF Tornado jets were casually overtaken by an unidentified craft while on March 31, 1993 a UFO the size of a jumbo jet was seen by mili-

8 continues

personnel, flying over RAF  
and RAF Shawbury.  
Incidents such as these involve  
technology which extends beyond  
anything terrestrial. I agree with  
you about the universe being sci-  
ence bound, and if laws that govern  
the universe are constant, then the  
same factors that give rise to intelli-  
gent life on earth must have  
ensured that other civilisations  
have evolved elsewhere among the  
billions of stars in this infinite  
universe.

Yours sincerely,  
Nick Pope

**Dear Nick,**

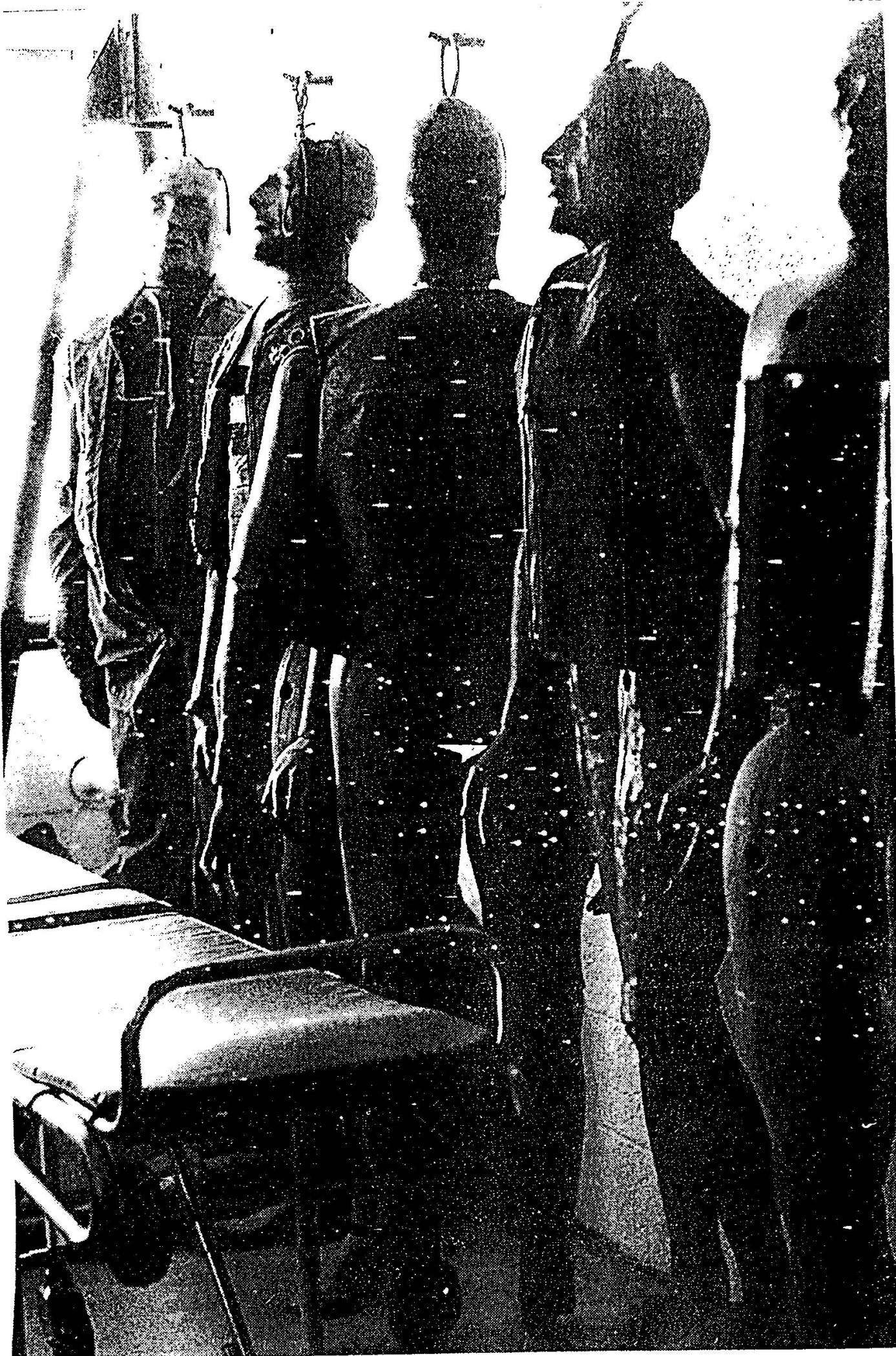
YOUR evidence is so compelling,  
why does it always seem to be left in  
splendid isolation by those for  
whom it has serious implications?

There is no doubt that secret mil-  
itary activity is often mistaken by  
the public and military as evidence  
of aliens. The need to hide this  
activity has led to a belief that gov-  
ernments conspire to hide alien  
contacts. If this were true, we  
would see vastly superior technol-  
ogy as governments exploited their  
secret knowledge. But we do not.

Although we should take UFO  
observations seriously, they are dif-  
ficult to analyse. Astronomers have  
more productive ways of searching  
for life. These include the search for  
planets around other stars, investi-  
gation of organic materials on  
comets, the forthcoming examina-  
tion of primitive life on Mars, and  
hopefully Ganymede and Callisto,  
and the search for intelligent radio  
signals. Although it seems lonely  
out there, I share your optimism  
that we may not be alone.

Yours sincerely,  
Robin Catchpole

The Uninvited by Nick Pope is published  
by Simon & Schuster



Science fiction or science fact . . . how easy is it to tell the difference?

ends.

## COVER STORY

Official - we are not alone. Nick Pope, a government UFO expert, admits in a startling new book that alien abductions can - and have - taken place.. Interview: **Mark Campbell**

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MRF

From 1991 - 1994, Nick Pope was the man responsible for investigating UFO sightings for the Ministry of Defence. He wrote a best-selling book last year, *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, which detailed his startling findings.

Now he's got a new book out, *The Uninvited*, which looks at alien abductions. It's a sobering read, and his conclusions are a mite unsettling - he believes abductions really *do* happen and they're far more widespread than anyone previously thought.

In his early thirties, Pope scarcely seems old enough to have worked in such a prestigious job - he was, after all, the UK's only official researcher into the subject. But what he lacks in age, he more than makes up for in enthusiasm.

'I'd been in the Ministry since 1985,' he explains, 'but they move you around every two or three years to give you a broad spectrum of experience. And just out of the blue I was asked, "How would you like to look at UFOs?," so I jumped at the chance. I'd just come from a job where I'd been working in the Joint Operations Centre during the Gulf War, so you couldn't get more different.'

He was assigned to Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a, better known as the 'UFO desk'.

'I was able to look at UFO sightings and alien abductions from the inside, and I was perhaps able to put a different spin on them. I had abductees 'phone me up at the Ministry and ask for help, and that's how I first came to the subject. People may pick up my book because of my background at the MoD - they'll read it and realise they're not alone in these experiences, and then they'll come forward. I think we're going to see the floodgates open in the next year or so, and it's going to be extremely interesting to see what's going to happen.'

A key point in Pope's book is that the UFO phenomenon can be shaped by the witnesses themselves. 'Human perceptions are very important when looking at abduction reports,' he explains. 'They may play a part in shaping the phenomenon itself. Put it this way, if a religious person sees a form at the end of their bed, they might say that they've seen the Blessed Virgin Mary. If a ghost hunter saw exactly the same thing they'd say they were seeing a ghost,



# The UFO Man From The Ministry

and if a UFO researcher saw something, they'd say "Oh my gosh, I'm being abducted." It's the belief system of the witness that's really crucial.

'In the olden days there were plenty of accounts of people being taken away by the fairies to the fairy world where time behaved in very different ways to mortal time. And it's quite striking to see the parallels between these folklore tales and the modern accounts of so-called 'missing time'. Someone's driving back down a lonely country road at night arrives back two or three hours later than they would have expected, and then it subsequently emerges that there was an abduction involving small beings.'

'Whether you call them aliens, visitors, fairies, whatever name you

give these other intelligences, the evidence from folklore and legend - and all legends are rooted in some sort of fact - is that these things have been with us for a long, long time.

'A lot of people say religion and UFOs don't mix, and I think up to a point that's true. But at the end of the day those people who believe in God would presumably take the view that God is the God not just of Earth but of the entire Universe. Therefore surely a Universe full of life only enhances the majesty of God's creation. I'm not religious myself, but I have a huge amount of respect for people with religious beliefs, up to the point where they start knocking UFOs and demanding proof. At that point, I say "Well, how many photographs have you seen of God?''

And what about the aliens' motives in abducting us? Is it correct to say they're teaching us to be more compassionate?

'I wouldn't necessarily use the word 'teach', he says carefully. 'What I've found most striking in the abduction cases that I've investigated is the transformative nature of the experience, the way in which it has affected the witnesses. If somebody has been through what, at face value, is quite a traumatic experience - taken against their will and subjected to some rather strange and unpleasant procedures - you would expect there to be a great bitterness, a great anger. But I find many instances of people who take a much more positive view. Some people have developed spontaneous interests in environmental issues, some people

have become psychic, or developed skills as spiritual healers. We are perhaps being changed in some way, but the key issue is whether it's being taught or not - whether it's for our purposes or whether it's for theirs.

The modern UFO started in 1947 with Kenneth Arnold and the Roswell crash. If we were being observed in the 40s by intelligent extra-terrestrials, what would they have seen? The Second World War with all its horror and misery, the firebombing of civilian targets, and then they would have seen us develop V2 rocket technology, which would eventually lead to the Apollo programme. They would have seen an intelligent species, but committing the most horrendous evil, even upon our own people and our own environment; and then looking as if we are about to make that jump out into space. Maybe that's worried the extra-terrestrials, and maybe they are trying to do something about it to make us less of a threat.'

Pope feels sure that there's more than one alien race behind it all. 'I think it's very unlikely that if there are intelligent extra-terrestrials elsewhere in the Universe, there's just one other planet. Even mainstream science is now coming round to the view that the Universe is probably teeming with life. Amongst the big names in the scientific community, you'd probably only find one or two who would be prepared to say that we were absolutely alone in the Universe. So if there is life elsewhere in the Universe, then there's likely to be a huge variety of it.

'When you look at the reports of the abductees, although there are common themes, there are plenty of differences too. And although a lot of people see these short grey creatures with the large heads and the huge almond-shaped black eyes, that's not to say that there aren't other types.

'I think there is still chronic under-reporting of abductions. But if you imagine how difficult it is for someone to come forward and talk about a UFO sighting, often because of their responsible position in society, imagine how much more difficult it is for them to come forward with an abduction account. I suspect that there are cases out there where the material has just not yet surfaced.

Is Pope worried about what the future may hold?

'There is the danger of cults getting involved, and tragically

we saw that with the Heaven's Gate situation in America (the cult committed mass suicide when they thought aliens from the Hale-Bopp comet would beam them up), so we always have to be on our guard against that. But if you can get rid of the cults and get rid of the cranks, you're left with a hardcore of extraordinary accounts coming from very ordinary people. Many of the people spoke only on condition that pseudonyms were used. They certainly weren't interested in money or publicity, they just wanted some straight answers.

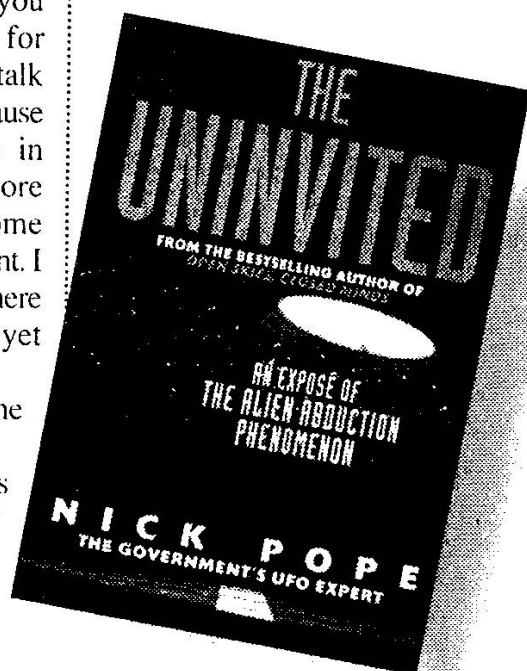
'There's a marvellous story that someone sent a letter to the MoD - after I left, I have to say - asking what their policy was on alien abductions. And the reply came back, "Abduction is a criminal offence, and as such it is a matter for the police."! Some abductees regarded that with great humour, some with great anger.

'I think it does show that there are attitudes that need to be changed and there is work still to be done, but we are much further along the road than we were five years ago. More and more good cases are coming forward, and more and more serious, mainstream people are beginning to take an interest, both in science and the media. I think the next few years are going to be very, very exciting.'

Although Pope has now left the 'UFO desk' ('To coin a phrase,' he says, 'the X FILES have been closed down'), he still works in a private capacity as a UFO researcher. If you think you've seen a UFO, or better still been abducted by an alien, you can write to him at the following address:

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*The Uninvited* by Nick Pope is published by Simon & Schuster at £15.99



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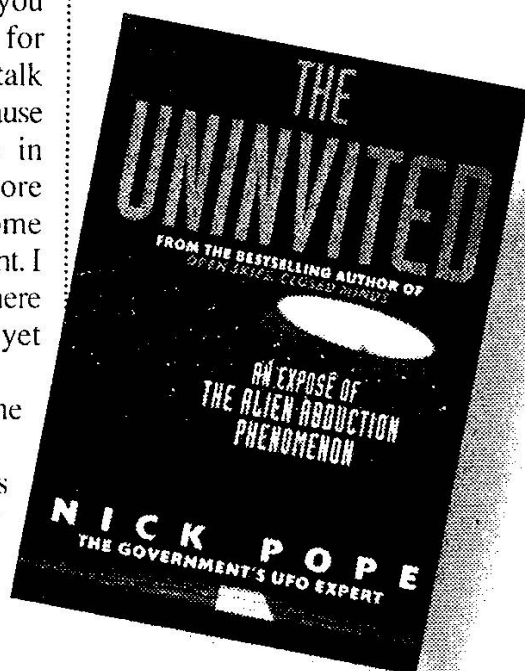
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*The Uninvited by Nick Pope is published by Simon & Schuster at £15.99*



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07.08.1997 15:49

P. 1

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WINDY BRILL BIRK 8. 7. 97

Woman captures strange display on her camcorder

# UFO puzzle over lights in the sky



Heidi Rhiann and husband Jozsef looking across to Moel Bentrych

As scientists continue to digest data from a probe on Mars, mystery surrounds strange lights witnessed in the skies above a Mid Wales community.

Several people saw strobe-like lights appear from a hillside at Llanerfyl, near Llanfair Caereinion, for several hours at the weekend, but nobody knows where they were coming from. Police at Welshpool confirmed a middle-aged couple travelling through the area saw "strange lights in the sky" and reported it to them early on Saturday.

A local woman, Heidi Rhiann, was so taken aback by the sight she recorded it on her video camera.

But Ministry of Defence and RAF officials said they had no aircraft in the region at the time and were baffled.

Mrs Rhiann, a self-confessed UFO sceptic, watched for over an hour as strange beams of light flashed from the far side of the hill.

She captured her own mysterious lights on video and watching them back has convinced her she saw something out of the ordinary.

She spotted the lights just after midnight. Three powerful beams were playing up and down the mountain and valley for over an hour.

"They were very clear, strong bright lights that seemed to be like strobes up and down the hill. There are no roads on the hill — Moel Bentrych — and the lights were just too strong to have come from a Land Rover.

"I dashed off and got the camcorder and filmed the lights for about an hour. I have since been told that the postman saw them at 4.30am on Saturday and another friend saw the lights in the same place earlier."

It is not the first time the Llanerfyl area has been the centre of a UFO sighting. There have been several over the years.

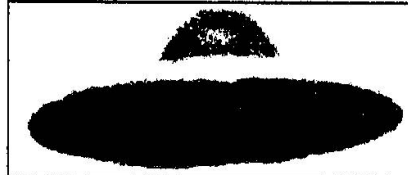
A clairvoyant has claimed she was abducted by aliens at Llanfair Caereinion, just a few miles away.

"I have heard about people seeing UFOs but have always been a bit sceptical. But having seen the tape I am even more convinced about what I saw.

"What is even more strange is that my horse flatly refused to stay out last night. She made such a fuss that I had to bring her in," said Mrs Rhiann.

\*\*\*END\*\*\*

# Pentagon shoots down a UFO legend



A report aimed at silencing rumours of a UFO crash in New Mexico has failed to sway believers, Giles Whittell writes

THEORIES about teenage aliens, hairless chimpanzees and imported Japanese test-pilots took a serious if not fatal knock yesterday when the Pentagon published a comprehensive report aimed at silencing once and for all rumours surrounding a now legendary crash in the New Mexico desert in July 1947.

The official verdict: it was a high altitude balloon that crashed near the tiny ranching town of Roswell, not a UFO, and any bodies found next to it were life-size dummies from top-secret simulated parachute drops.

In *Roswell: Case Closed*, the result of a four-year, multi-million-dollar internal investigation, the Pentagon says a balloon trailing disc-shaped radar reflectors, used as part of the US Army's Operation Mogul to detect Soviet nuclear tests in the upper atmosphere, fell near Roswell 50 years ago next month.

As the town gears up for three days of anniversary events and an influx of 60,000 UFO enthusiasts, military officials hope their new tome will put to rest one of the century's most enduring conspiracy theories: that aliens captured after the "Roswell incident" were taken to "Area 51", an unacknowledged test site in Nevada, and have been studied there ever since.

If the myth survives, the army will only have itself to blame. On July 5, 1947, Mac Brazel, a Roswell ranch-hand, stumbled on the flimsy metallic remnants of an airborne object in a field 75 miles

northwest of the town. Unable to identify them, he turned them over to the sheriff who, in turn, gave them to the Roswell Army Air Field (RAAF). Three days later an official army press release stated that the wreckage of a "flying disc" had been recovered, giving the *Roswell Daily Record* a front page now coveted and framed by "ufologists" around the world. "RAAF Captures Flying Saucer on Ranch in Roswell Region", the headline read.

A rapid correction of the

with a fat fuselage", and three bodies, on July 5.

Frank Kaufmann, now 81, was a civilian employee at the airfield when he was dispatched to see what had crashed. He says he got a close look at two dead aliens. "They were very good-looking people, ash-coloured faces and skin... about 5ft 5in tall, eyes a little more pronounced, small ears, small nose, fine features and hairless," he says, adding that he saw military personnel place five corpses into body bags.

Before his death in 1995, Jim Ragsdale, owner of the land on which the incident happened, vividly described for the first time having seen dead aliens and even trying to touch one. That year two black-and-white films, of 18 minutes and three minutes and purporting to be of military surgeons operating on dead aliens, found their way into a British documentary on Roswell. The Pentagon dismissed both films as hoaxes. No bodies fell to earth with the Operation Mogul balloon, according to *Roswell: Case Closed*, which suggests the source of alien rumours may be photographs taken of wounded military balloon pilots.

But believers will never be dissuaded. "It's just another cover-up," the army press officer who issued the July 8, 1947, release told ABC News this week. "Any dummy knows what a dummy looks like, and those weren't dummies."

Leading article, page 21

Any dummy knows what a dummy looks like, and those weren't dummies

July 8 press release announcing that what had crashed was, in fact, a weather balloon satisfied the media and the wider world for decades. But it never quashed speculation in the diehard UFO community. Sixty-five per cent of Americans now believe a UFO crashed near Roswell, according to a recent poll.

Locals claiming to have seen aliens there have come forward in droves years afterwards. W. Curry Holden, leader of an archaeological team, said he saw "a crashed airplane without wings and



A model of an "alien" proves a big attraction for children visiting America's International UFO Museum and Research Centre at Roswell in New Mexico. A recent poll shows that as many as 65 per cent of Americans believe that a UFO crashed outside the small town

Profit out of this world for aliens



**SNAP THIS UP FOR THE FAMILY!**



# Industry

By GILES WHITTELL

FOR just \$15 (£10), you too can visit the patch of scrubby land where Hub and Sheila Corn swear a flying saucer crashed half a century ago. If their daughter, Kristin, is your guide, she will tell you it was piloted by errant alien youngsters on a joyride.

In Roswell, where the median household income is barely two thirds of the national average, aliens are big business. As the golden jubilee of the town's defining incident approaches, gift shops and museums are stocking up with T-shirts, spaceship earrings, "alien glow-pop" lollipops and reproductions of the Roswell Daily Record's announcement of a UFO landing.

And videos. Perhaps the hottest sellers, these go for \$6.50 at the Midway Sighting UFO Museum, whose owners insist that their film of what look like flying insects is in fact of alien spacecraft. For \$29.50, a local property devel-



Nevada's Little A Le Inn whose owners reap profits from the "UFO crash" 1,000 miles away in Roswell

oper sells a video of Jim Ragsdale's final sworn account of a crash on Forest Service land west of town. His early claims put the crash site further north, but the Corns own that land now.

Increasing public fascination with UFOs pumps more than \$5 million a year from 90,000 tourists into Roswell's economy, according to a Forbes magazine investigation entitled *Unidentified Flying Dollars*.

Local people give the credit for the boom to Thomas Jennings, their new Mayor and a marketing graduate who came to the job in 1994 convinced that Roswell could be known for more than its mozzarella plant, America's biggest, and as the birthplace

of the actress Demi Moore. Since then hotel tax revenues have increased by 36 per cent.

"We weren't lucky enough to have a mountain or a beach," Mr Jennings said, "so we have to go with what we've got, which is a UFO crash."

The Roswell incident has also had a big financial ripple effect 1,000 miles away at Rachel in central Nevada, where the Little A Le Inn does a brisk trade accommodating UFO fanatics who believe the visitors who crashed in Roswell are kept at a top secret Air Force base nearby.

Meanwhile 20th Century Fox is still counting the takings from last year's *Independence Day*, about an alien invasion. They are currently more than \$900 million.

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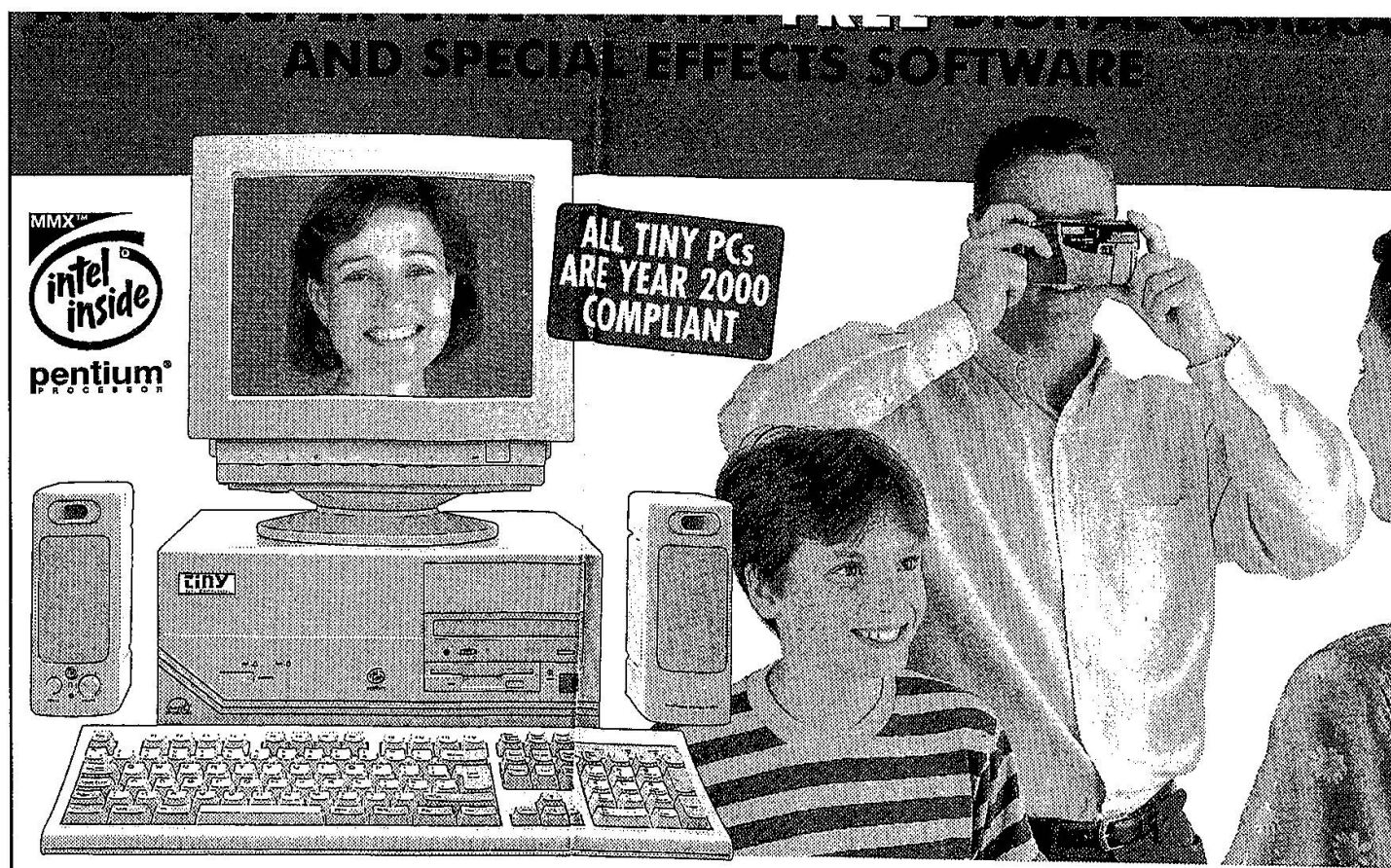
## Libraries in US net £119m gift

New York: Bill Gates, the software magnate, has promised to install the Internet in all of America's public libraries, at a cost of \$200 million (£119 million) over five years (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

Yesterday's announcement was welcomed by the American Library Association. Elizabeth Martinez, the association's executive director, said: "This is Mr Gates becoming the 21st-century's Andrew Carnegie." Carnegie, a man of no formal education who died in 1919, is regarded as the book world's greatest philanthropist, endowing more than 2,500 libraries in America and Britain.

Mr Gates's decision to create a library foundation should galvanise America's creaking public libraries, hauling them belatedly into the turn-of-the-century information age.

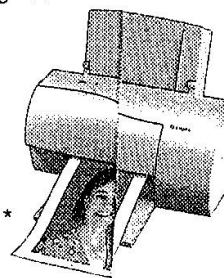
The computer king may have opened himself up to criticism that his generosity is self-serving: any proliferation of his technology would ultimately add to profits, to say nothing of publicity. But few can deny libraries will reap a rich reward. Strapped for cash, a majority remain mired in outdated ways.



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LETTERS

Litigation mad

THE case of the six-year-old suing for something that happened before his birth has left me very annoyed.

I could sue the neurologist who missed the large tumour at the base of my brain, or my GP who was misled for another two years while the tumour grew to critical size. But I won't: all doctors, good or bad, do a better job than no doctor.

I could sue the driver of my bus today for being late: I could have missed an appointment. But I won't: if it was vital, I should have got an earlier bus.

Or I could sue the man who gave me wrong directions. But I won't: if it was so important that I knew my whereabouts, I should have had a map.

Maybe I could sue my fellow human beings for making my world polluted, sometimes expensive or unpleasant, even violent. But I won't, because I'm sane (unlike many in this country, it seems) and I don't believe in making someone else's life a misery just to resolve some inner grievance.

But then, should I do it just for the money? That would be selfish, wouldn't it? Bad things happen, that's life: live with it. Or you could try suing God.

JOHN HARTLEY, Surrey.

Dangerous games

SHELLY 'Fluffy' Lenz must be married or partnered in some way and thus protected by a sponsor at home if she believes you can safely employ ingenue tactics to get what you want at work (Letters). It's all a bit of a laugh for her.

But she might reflect upon us single women who are not so protected and who have to swim in her wake, exposed to a Shelly-inspired office environment of selfish demands.

The expectations she excites of office banter and sex are, sadly, for us unmitigated by the luxury of a useful body-guard at home. We have to ride the same tube train after good

Is anyone out there?

AS FOUNDER of the oldest-established flying saucer (Unidentified Flying Object) organisation in the world, may I point out that modern UFO sightings are closely monitored and recorded by a variety of non-human means such as radar, photography, theodolites, camcorders etc. with the result that we now have a greater understanding of these craft and their performance capabilities.

With this enhanced data the mystery of these extra-terrestrial craft and the reasons and purpose of their visits to Earth will become more apparent within the next few years.

Fifty years ago, I was one of the few who believed, when many did not, so it's particularly satisfying to see how the subject has progressed.

This progression, now producing scientific results and measurable data, can only improve our knowledge and understanding of the greatest mystery this century. It only requires one sighting to be proved genuine for us to realise that we are not alone in the cosmos.

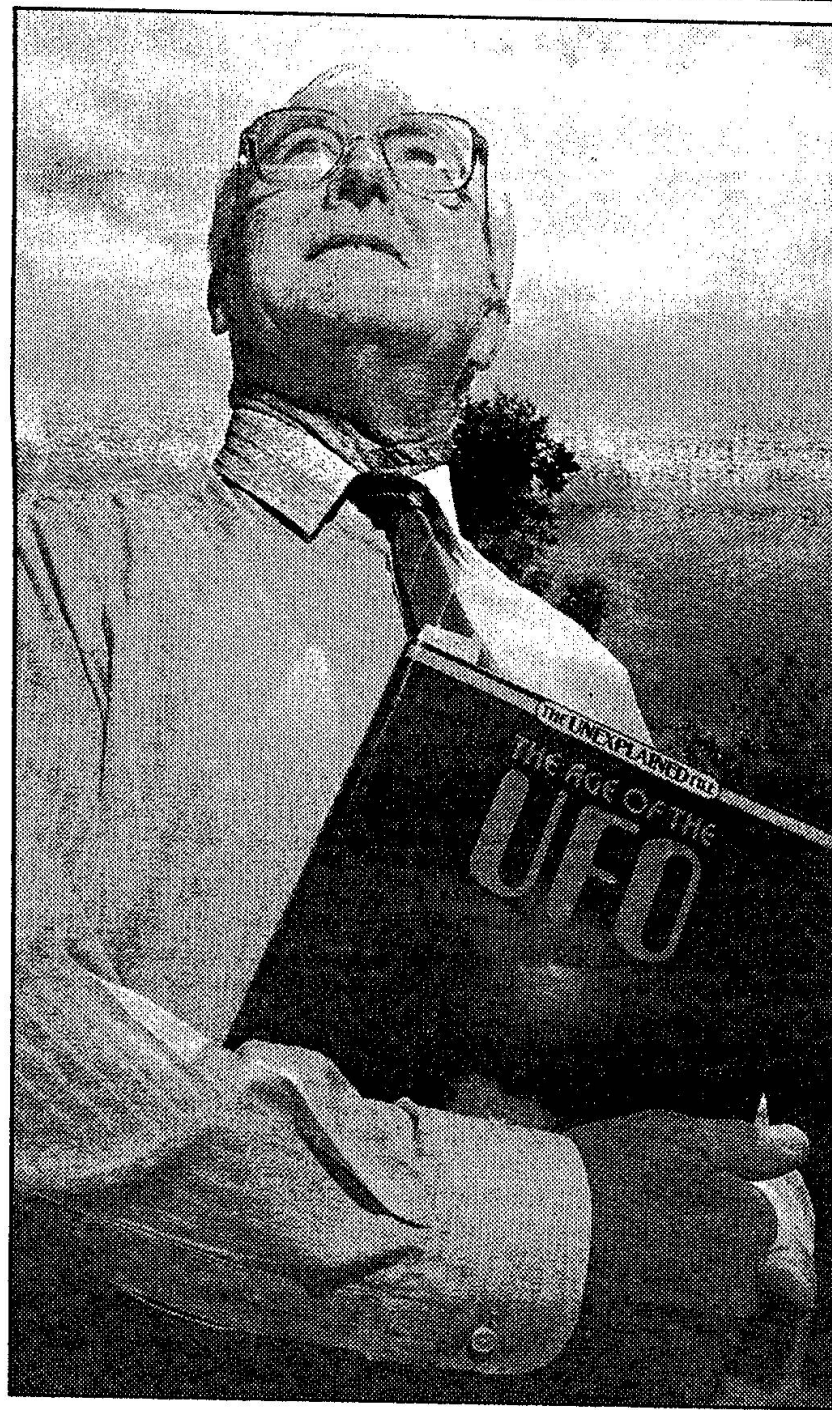
DENIS P. PLUNKETT, Bristol.

THE giant V-shaped UFO which 'blocked out the stars' one night in America is of a type which is seen all the time over Britain. I research into what these things are and who is behind them, and organisations such as my Aerial Phenomena Association work closely with other teams across the country to try to solve this kind of mystery, and I have discovered that what is going on is totally amazing.

I know what a normal aircraft looks and sounds like, and either someone has made a big breakthrough in aircraft technology or something incredible is going on.

The Ministry of Defence gives odd replies to our inquiries, which indicates to me that without doubt it knows what's going on.

SIMON LEWIS, Morecambe, Lancs.



Believer: Denis Plunkett investigates UFO sightings

STRAIGHT TO THE POINT...

■ IRONING is now a nightmare, thanks to Princess Michael who sacked her nanny for pressing 'common' creases into shirt sleeves.

HOLLY HILLS, Sevenoaks, Kent.

■ AMERICAN cartoonist Al Capp described abstract art as: 'A product of the untalented, sold by the unprincipled to the utterly bewildered.' Into which camp does the Turner Prize jury fall?

TREVOR J. ALLCOTT, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.

■ WHAT a disgraceful trick the brewers are attempting to pull, suggesting a full pint of beer should cost 10p more than a short measure. A barrel contains a specific number of pints; there's no head until it is poured.

MARTIN BRADLEY, Hampton, Middlesex.

■ NOISY word processing is a thing of the past, thanks to advanced inkjet technology. Leading manufacturer Brother and the Daily Mail are presenting a Brother LW-700i compact inkjet graphic word processor, for superior document presentation, to the writer of our Letter of the Week. Write to: Daily Mail Letters, Northcliffe House, 2 Derry St, London W8 5TT or fax on 0171-937 7493 or e-mail at letters@dailymail.co.uk including postal ac.

Should we mark the millennium?

FOR

THE discussion about the millennium monument leads me to suggest that if businesses invest in

AGAINST

A 'MONUMENT' to mark the millennium need not cost millions of pounds. A suitable and humane

A degree less encoura

MY DAUGHTER, who is a top judo player, gave up the chance of a Masters degree course in order to

funding. So far she has received nothing while the people in charge of the paperwork seem to be earning very

# Here's the proof!

**CHILLING:** A computer-created graphic of the sighting over Arizona published in the American Press

**Where the first sighting of the Arizona formation was made at 8.16pm by a retired policeman who reported seeing red lights**

**Red and white lights were spotted in the second sighting**

**Video films of the phenomenon were made by many of the eye-witnesses**

**Switchboards across the state were jammed with hundreds of people reporting sightings**

**Three F-16 fighters were scrambled to track down the huge, V-shaped formation which immediately vanished**

Map locations: Paulden X, Prescott, Phoenix, Flagstaff, ARIZONA

## A first contact is near

By JOHN EARLS

A FORMER Government expert officially in charge of investigating British UFO sightings claims he could provide concrete evidence of alien life forms within two years.

And he believes they might soon be about to reveal themselves to us.

Nick Pope, head of UFO Investigations at the Ministry of Defence between 1991-94, claimed he was on the verge of finding conclusive proof of UFOs and abductions.

But Nick said the work he'd done was being sabotaged by his replacement.

Nick, 31, had access to top-secret documents at the MoD and has continued investigating UFOs as a civilian.

He said: "The reports I



CONVINCED: Nick

witnessed in my three years there would have convinced anyone with an open mind that UFOs have been sighted - and that aliens have abducted humans for experiments."

Nick still works for the Ministry of Defence but was moved to become head of one of its financial policy units.

He added: "I don't think it was a cover-up but I was getting so close to blowing the lid on alien existence that some Ministry bosses weren't too keen."

Nick has written two best-selling books - *Open Skies Closed Minds* and *The Uninvited*.

He is convinced that aliens are becoming less secretive in how they watch over mankind.

He added: "The ever-increasing number of new cases makes me think aliens will shortly reveal themselves publicly."

"And I don't think the new millennium is co-incidental in all this."

Nick Pope's new book, *The Uninvited*, is published by Simon & Schuster (price £15.99).

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now know this is for real."

Walt Andrew, head of the Mutual UFO Network, said: "There is an incredible amount of activity in this part of America."

"There must be a reason for it. Perhaps the craft are drawn to the area for a reason. But we don't know what it is."

Across America there has

been a desperate scramble for pictures of the spacecraft.

President Bill Clinton has been informed and major news networks have clamoured for new information, their hunger fuelled by the failure of the authorities to find a rational explanation.

Richard Motzer, the Arizona investigator in charge of the sightings probe, has still to

reveal his final conclusions.

He is a cautious man. Many previous investigations have ended in disappointment as fakes, hoaxes and spoofs.

But he acknowledges that this time it is different.

"We just do not know," he said. "And after three months, if this was something ordinary, we almost certainly would."

# Riddle of what the astronauts saw...

NASA chiefs have been accused of covering up amazing new evidence of alien encounters.

They are refusing to release live recordings involving space shuttle astronauts who saw UFOs.

The video recordings were of operations at NASA's mission control in Houston, Texas.

Shuttle crew members Col Mark Lee and Steve Smith had just finished a space walk when they describe seeing flashing lights.

As the men discuss seeing more lights a NASA controller can be seen cutting off the audio link and the sound goes dead.

The pictures were beamed live from NASA in February. They are to be broadcast on the ITV

By DAVID JACK

show *Strange But True Live* on Friday as part of a live studio debate on aliens.

Viewers will see the pictures of mission control and hear the astronauts relaying their close encounter by radio link.

Producers have asked NASA for the missing sound but have had no response.

A spokesman said: "We believe they deliberately switched off the sound. They panicked because they didn't want anyone hearing what the astronauts were saying."

"It's very suspicious. Astronauts are highly trained, rational people and when you hear the surprise

in their voices it makes you wonder exactly what they saw."

The astronauts saw the flying lights as they returned to the shuttle *Discovery* on February 14 after carrying out repairs on the Hubble space telescope.

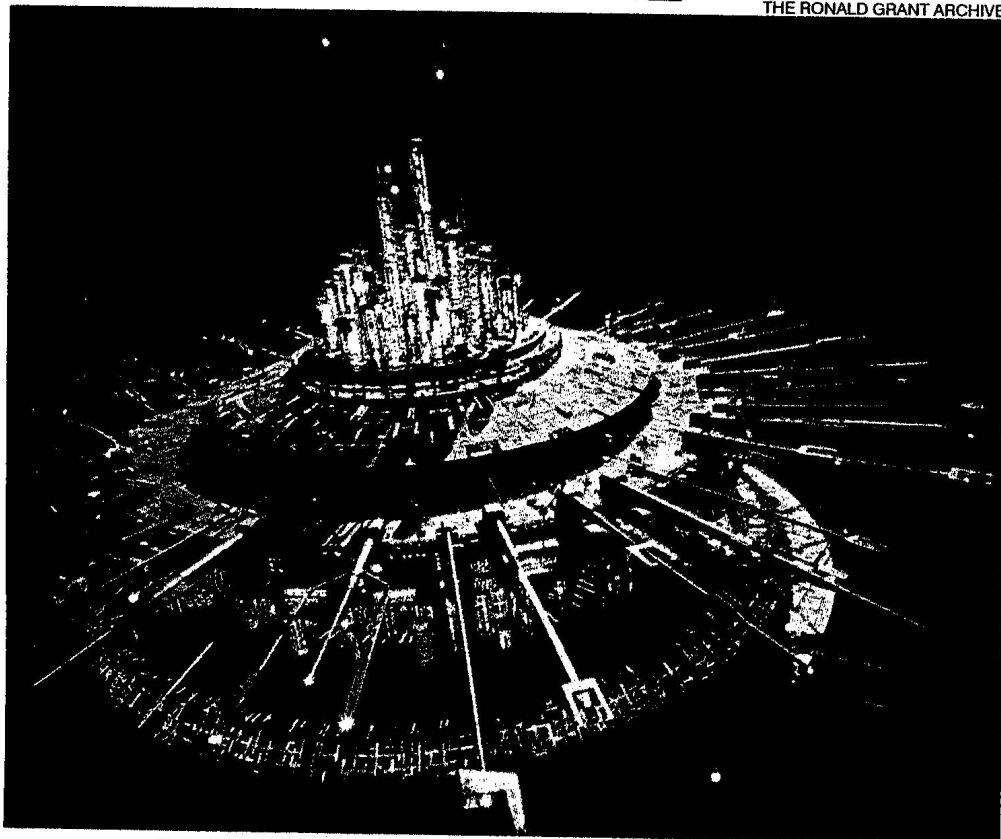
They describe bright flashes, flickering lights and at one stage one astronaut says: "What is this? It's just gone past in front of us."

Seconds later the audio is cut and all that remains are pictures of mission control.

UFO expert Tony Dodd said: "This is typical a crude attempt at a cover-up. NASA try to appear media friendly. As soon as they come across something like this they switch off."

# Anoraks who live on another planet

THE RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE



It is 50 years since a UFO allegedly landed in New Mexico

They came at great speed out of a clear, blue sky and suddenly the air was thick with them. Five of them. Five thudding tomes on flying saucers, Martians, alien abductions and cosmic voyages.

The reason for this squadron of unidentified flying books is the fiftieth anniversary of the Roswell Incident, when, it is claimed, parts of a flying saucer fell to earth in New Mexico, and in a separate incident the bodies of five aliens were also discovered. Part of this story was at first confirmed by the USAF and then denied, the local air base claiming the debris was a weather balloon.

The television producer Timothy Shawcross has written an objective and exhaustive study, *The Roswell File* (Bloomsbury, £16.99), as a follow-up to his Channel 4 documentary. Fascinating though his study is, he is struggling with a mixture of old memories, the patina of time and hoax. There is little doubt that the famous picture taken of an alien during a post-mortem is a hoax, and the most likely explanation of the crash is that the US was experimenting with something top secret. The problem for Shawcross after 50 years is that Roswell has become a tourist industry in its own right, with seven different crash sites.

The same problem faces Mike Dash in *Borderlands* (Heinemann, £16.99). This is a superbly researched and sensible encyclopaedia. It attempts to explain the unexplainable and is strong on sorting the wheat from the chaff on phenomena such as the time it rained frogs — true — to ectoplasm and spontaneous combustion — untrue.

After that, it's fantasy land. Nick Pope's *The Uninvited* (Simon and Schuster, £15.99), an exposé of the alien abduction phenomenon, is

nothing of the sort. The book is a mishmash of interviews with people who claim to have had contact — some sexual — with someone from Out There. Many have been taken into spaceships, but none has managed to come out with even a cosmic coat hanger. Nonetheless, Pope, who works for the Ministry of Defence, and in the early 1990s was responsible for carrying out official research into UFOs, claims "careful study" of the available abduction evidence shows there is "a genuine phenomenon of some sort at work".

Jim Marr's *Alien Agenda* (HarperCollins, £16.99) is written in that earnest American style so beloved of journalist investigators who can prove nothing but manage to do it in 400 pages. Marr's is a terminal conspiracy theory case, a rampant virus which leads him to believe a colony of Martians is living underground in New Mexico.

But this has nothing on Dr Courtney Brown's *Cosmic Voyage* (Hodder & Stoughton, £16.99). Brown is associate professor of political science at Emory University in the US specialising in — wait for it — non-linear mathematical modelling of social phenomena, environmental politics and elections. He is also a time traveller, which enables him to write a chapter called "My first visit to Mars". But Courtney can do better than that. He cues in for God, but gets Jesus. He calls up Buddha, and asks whether he should put the fact in the book: "He told me to decide for myself."

Good for Buddha, but whoever decided to publish this drivel must be living on another planet.

RICHARD STOTT

# And the Word was drivel

Bernard Levin

THE BIBLE CODE

By Michael Drosnin

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20  
ISBN 0 297 81995 X



Patterns reveal "secrets"

IT IS well known that there is a sucker every minute. But what about suckers who not only get sucked, but run about the land crying: "I am a sucker, I am a sucker, I am proud to be a sucker"? You think there are such people, or at least if there are, they must be a tiny few? Oh, yes? Look at the Bestseller List. What do you see? You see the third on the list (out of 20) and you see a book called *The Bible Code*. Very well, very well, it must be some kind of religious work, and we should be reverent.

But what if I tell you that *The Bible Code* is — and I do not exaggerate — the greatest pile of nonsense I have ever seen in a book. Any book.

So how did it get on to the Bestseller List? For the Bestseller List means, and is, the numbers of books being bought and sold. I have never heard of the author, Michael Drosnin, and I wish I never had, but if hundreds — perhaps thousands — of people are buying it, it behoves me to open the book and examine it.

So I did. Or, to be exact, tried to. For the book is unreadable, literally unreadable. Every page of it — every page — has a giant block of

what I suppose is Hebrew (mind you, it might be Moon-talk for all the readers could tell), a language I regret I do not have on my tongue. Yes, but some 99 buyers out of the 100 are in the same plight. What in the names of St Matthew, St Mark, St Luke and St John are they going to do when they open the book?

FLIP up any page, and find these burllements. But we have not got to the heart of the matter. I assume that the book is not a hoax (would that it were), and I examine the rubbish more closely. I do so, and I begin to shiver. The blocks of Hebrew are sprinkled by patterns across the blocks. Page after page does

nothing that a word could elucidate; turn almost any page, and you see nothing but a pretty line at right-angles, or a pretty curve. And all this trash is supposed to tell us the secrets of the Bible which have lain quiet for 3,000 years, until Mr Drosnin came along.

You want a real version of this stuff? Something we can all understand? Right. Right.

Rips [the expert in mathematics] explained that each code is a case of adding every fourth or twelfth or fiftieth letter to form a word. Skip X spaces, and another X spaces, and another X spaces, and the hidden message is spelled out. As in this paragraph.

Start at the first letter of the above paragraph, skip every three letters, and the code is revealed: Rips ExplAined thAt eacH codE is a Case Of adDing Every fourth or twelfth or fiftieth letter to form a word. The hidden message — READ THE CODE.

And I hope it keeps fine for you my dear good sir. But as for the book, I cannot call it one. And I think there will be many a household in which the buyers of the book had looked at it, and looked at it again, and again, and came to the conclusion that they would have preferred the £20 that the book had cost.

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Mail, Thursday, June 19, 1997

# 'Aliens are here' cry as thousands see UFO on a 60-mile sky trek

From **GEORGE GORDON**  
in New York

IT was huge. So large that it blotting out the stars for more than a mile as it swooped silently over Arizona.

Thousands saw it and dozens videotaped it. After months of investigation, computer analysis and talks with eye-witnesses, experts have been unable to come up with any earthly explanation for the sightings.

The V-shaped formation of red and white lights passed over several towns at a steady 30mph, covering a distance of 60 miles.

Witnesses — who included pilots, air traffic controllers, doctors and lawyers — said the object glided across the sky without sound, its height ranging from 500ft to several thousand feet.

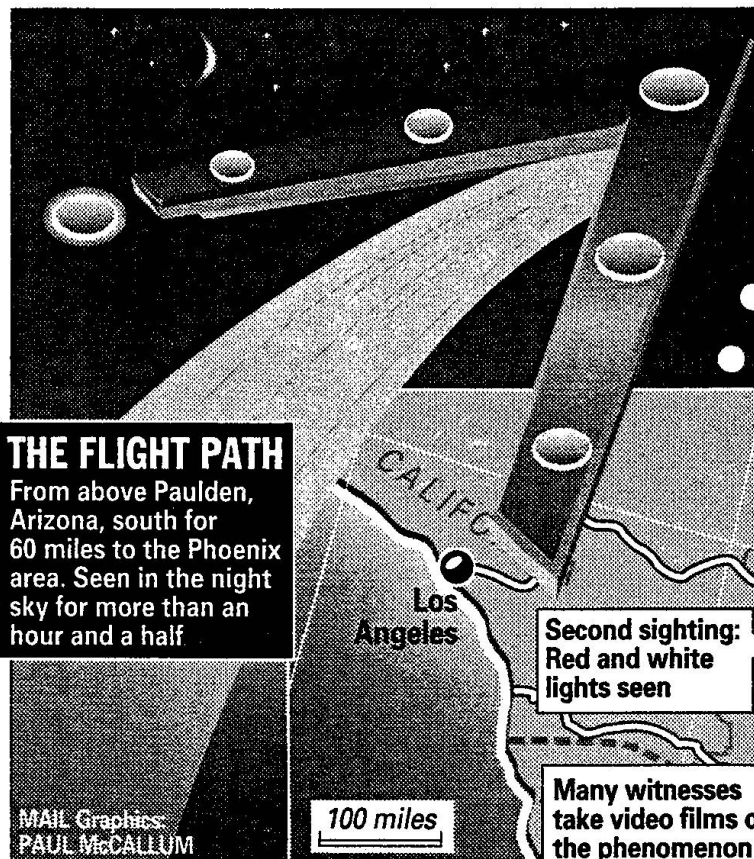
The incident has captured the imagination of America like no UFO sighting in decades. It has revived memories of the Roswell incident of 50 years ago, when the supposed crash of a flying saucer in New Mexico was allegedly covered up by the authorities. Black and white film exists which purports to show autopsies on some of the aliens recovered at the scene. Peter Davenport, of the National UFO Reporting Centre in Seattle, said the Arizona incident was the most dramatic in his experience. 'What we have here is the real thing — they are here,' he added.

The files of the UFO Centre record that the first sighting came from a retired police officer in Paulden, 60 miles north of Phoenix. He reported a cluster of red lights heading south.

The second call came from Prescott, 15 miles down the road. This time the report was of one red light and four white lights.

Within minutes the centre's switchboard was jammed with calls from Wickenburg, Glendale, Phoenix and Scottsdale. Police stations, fire departments and city halls were overwhelmed by hundreds of calls in the space of around two hours on March 13.

Bill Grava, a pilot and air traffic controller for 12 years, was on



## THE ARIZONA X FILES

- Object was very big — blotting out the stars for more than a mile
- V-shaped, with lights on each side and one trailing
- The lights, uniform in shape with no glow, changed from red to white
- It flew at a steady 30mph, varying in height between 500 and several thousand feet
- It made no sound at all

### THE FLIGHT PATH

From above Paulden, Arizona, south for 60 miles to the Phoenix area. Seen in the night sky for more than an hour and a half

First sighting, 8.16pm: By retired police officer, red lights reported

Authorities' switchboards jammed with hundreds of sighting reports

Second sighting: Red and white lights seen

Many witnesses take video films of the phenomenon

Three F-16 fighters fly towards object which immediately shot upwards and disappeared

MAIL Graphics: PAUL McCALLUM

100 miles



Left: A still from the film said to show one of the dead aliens from the Roswell incident

tower duty at Sky Harbor International Airport. 'I have never seen anything like that,' he said. 'It was weird — inexplicable.'

Tim Ley, a 54-year-old management consultant, had just arrived home when he saw the lights. 'They looked like gas,' he said. 'There was a distortion on the surface. The light didn't spill out or shine. I have never seen a light like that.'

Truck driver Bill Greiner, 51, said:

'Before this, if anyone told me they saw a UFO, I would say "Oh yeah, and I believe in the tooth fairy"'. Now I've got a whole new view. I may be just a dumb truck driver, but I've seen something that don't belong here.'

Michael Tanner and Jim Dilettosa are partners in a firm which designs computerised effects. They ran computer analysis of video footage and compared the lights to every

other light in the Phoenix area. Nothing matched.

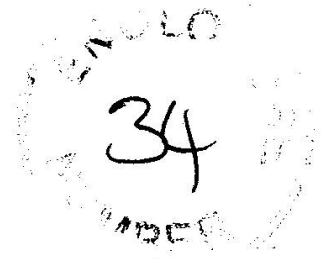
The Luke Air Force Base between Phoenix and Glendale has been a target for hundreds of callers who assumed that the sighting was linked to the base. Officials denied it.

Lieutenant Colonel Mike Hauser said many callers became angry and accused the Air Force of a cover-up. There were F-16 fighter jets in the air that night and one of the last sightings of the UFO was near the base.

Mr Greiner said he saw three of the jets take off and veer towards the object. 'Then it shot straight up and disappeared in the blink of an eye,' he said. 'Those pilots had to see it.'

If they did, the Air Force is not confirming it — adding to claims of a cover-up worthy of the X Files.

Daily Telegraph  
13 June 1997  
Page 19



## Mystery of airliner's near miss with 'UFO'

By Paul Marston  
Transport Correspondent

AIR investigators are baffled by an apparent near-miss between an Aer Lingus jet and an unidentified flying object.

The BAe 146, bound for Stansted from Dublin, took evasive action after both pilots saw what they described as a red aircraft with blue and white stripes heading towards them as they flew over Hertfordshire.

The jet passed 100ft above the interloper two seconds later.

The crew reported the incident to air traffic control and suggested that what they had seen might have been a military aircraft, such as a Red Arrows Hawk.

But inquiries involving searches of radar recordings and radio transcripts, failed to find another aircraft.

Investigators established that no Red Arrows aircraft flew that day, and checks on all military or civil Hawks revealed that the last one to be airborne had landed four hours earlier.

Inquiries into the whereabouts of Gnat aircraft, which are similar to Hawks, also revealed no flights.

The possibility that an unregistered ex-military aircraft had taken off from a private airstrip was ruled out as "inconceivable" because radar in the area would make detection a certainty.

The Civil Aviation Authority group set up to examine the incident said yesterday that there was no doubt that the pilots "saw something and agreed in some detail in their descriptions".

Group members speculated that the object could have been a model aircraft, an advertising balloon, or even plastic sheeting.

But the lack of radar evidence "meant that members could feel reasonably certain that what had been seen was not an aeroplane".

Similarly, the degree of risk to the jet from the incident, which occurred last June, was "impossible to assess".

Aer Lingus said its pilots had reported the event because they were trained to do so. The airline predicted that the incident was "likely to remain a mystery".

new body.

They will also be able to see what happens to individual cells when cancers are forming in the body and when they come into contact with experimental drugs.

'This would not only aid in cancer treatment and organ transplants but can be widely used in biotechnology in general,' said a member of the research team.

The green mouse comes six months after British scientists working for the Cancer Research Campaign found a way of adding the jellyfish gene to human cells in a test tube.

'We actually have the technology to produce green people, but we're leaving that to the Martians,' said a

'This type of procedure is useful for seeing what happens after a transplant and what happens in the life of a cell.'

Because the jellyfish gene is present in every cell of the mouse, any offspring will also glow.

It has been a confusing few months for the rodent community. Earlier this year scientists found a way of knocking out a muscle restricting gene, creating the mighty mouse one third bigger than normal.

They also successfully transferred a massive fragment of one human chromosome, containing hundreds of human genes, into a mouse.

The jellyfish *Aequorea Victoria* lives in the Pacific Ocean. Its luminous protein, aequorin,

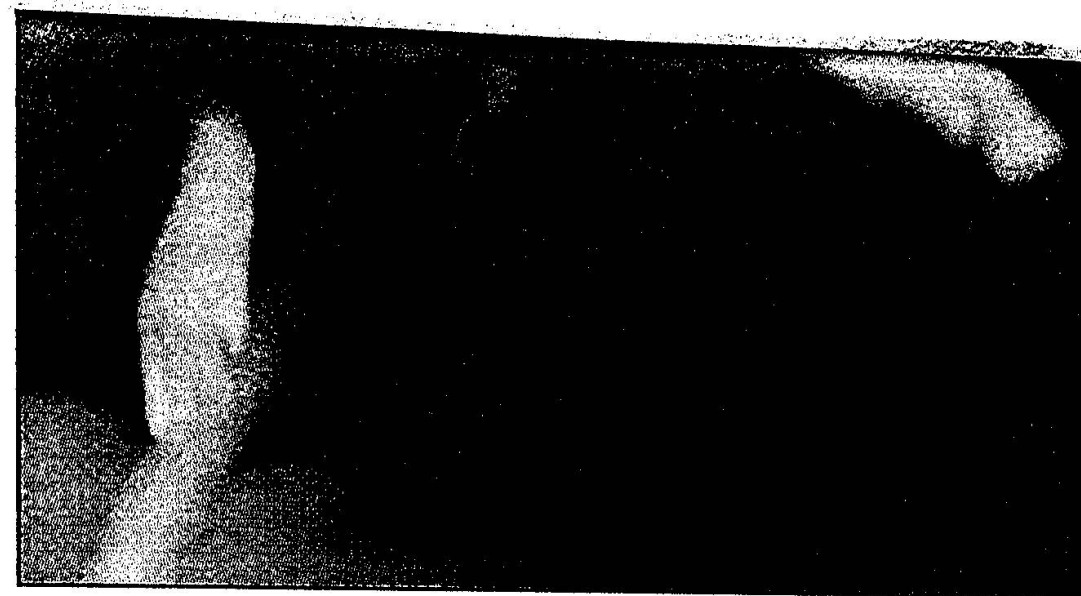
Until recently, scientists were only able to add the protein to living insects and fish, not mammals.

It has however, been transferred to plants. Researchers at Oxford University created a strain of tobacco which glows under attack from pests or disease.

The response is so sensitive, scientists can spot a threat to a plant weeks before it begins to wilt or die.

They are now trying to create fields of luminous crops which would give farmers early warnings of damage.

They are even looking at flowers which light up with the touch of a hand and bushes which glow in the breeze.



Taking the Mickey? No, green mice bring hope, say scientists

# Jet 'buzzed by UFO'

By ANDREW LOUDON

THE pilots had just emerged from heavy cloud when it flashed towards them.

The streak of red, white and blue seemed to be on a collision course. But within two seconds it had vanished.

Was it a military aircraft? Or perhaps a Red Arrow which had strayed from its path?

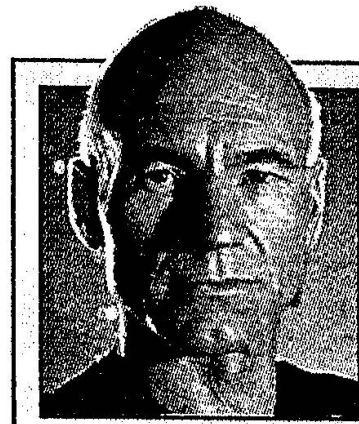
Both the captain and first officer of the Aer Lingus BAe 146 passenger jet saw it as they flew at 9,000ft over Stevenage, Hertfordshire, on the descent into Stansted Airport on a flight from Dublin last June.

But despite exhaustive investigations, no-one has been able to

## Mystery of airliner's near-miss in clear skies

establish what it was. The 146 had flown down a 'canyon' of huge, towering clouds and was just emerging into clear weather when the object came hurtling towards them, passing down their right-hand side 100ft below and less than 300 yards away.

Both men described it as red



STAR TREK diehards are hooked like drug addicts, says a psychologist. The most passionate five to ten per cent 'meet the psychological criteria of addiction, showing withdrawal symptoms such as agitation and frustration if they miss an episode and developing higher tolerance levels so they need increasing doses', said Dr Sandy Wolfson who made a four-year study of Trekkies. 'One woman couldn't relax on holiday because she was worried she had not set the video properly,' said Dr Wolfson.

with blue and white stripes. They thought it might have been a Hawk jet and noticed engine intakes on the fuselage.

The captain radioed air traffic control and asked: 'Did we have a Red Arrow pass quite close there?' Nothing could be seen on radar. Investigators

established that none of the Red Arrows had flown that day and all other RAF and BAe Hawks could be accounted for.

The livery suggested it might have been a Folland Gnat, the aircraft formerly flown by the Red Arrows, but none were found to have been airborne.

Operators of ex-military jets including MiGs and even old Sabres were checked and eliminated.

An air proximity or 'near miss' report was filed and a lengthy investigation by the Joint Airprox Working Group made up of civil and military flight professionals has concluded that what the pilots saw was 'an unknown object'.

'There is no doubt that both BAe 146 pilots clearly saw something and agreed in some detail in their descriptions.

'Regrettably it has not been possible to trace any aircraft that were in the area at the time.'

An Aer Lingus spokesman said: 'We really have no explanation and the incident is likely forever to remain a mystery.'

DAILY MAIL  
13 JUNE 97.



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 THE TIMES MONDAY JUNE 16 1997

# Philosophy student joins the search for life out there

BY MARK HENDERSON

OXFORD UNIVERSITY has opened its own X file. A graduate student at Balliol College is writing a thesis on the philosophy of extra-terrestrial life.

Andrew Clark, 21, is studying the way in which different views of the world have influenced attitudes towards the search for intelligent life on other planets. Oxford's philosophy department is funding his research.

Mr Clark, who graduated last year with a first from Balliol in physics and philosophy, was inspired to write the thesis by Hamlet's line, "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, Than are dreamt of in your philosophy." The words made him realise that no one had attempted a proper academic discussion of the philosophy of the search for ET.

He has been investigating his subject with all the fervour

of the FBI agents Mulder and Scully of *The X Files*, beavering away in the Bodleian Library and surfing the Internet to find evidence of the way we have looked for life on other planets.

"In every society, people have looked for extra-terrestrials according to their own preconceptions. During the Cold War... the Soviets were basically looking for the Communist Party Intergalactic, the Great Soviet in the Sky. They felt that given the laws of historical materialism, there had to be an advanced communist culture 'out there'."

"The Americans took a very different approach, setting up radio telescopes to listen for deliberate messages from alien life. It was as if they were waiting to be contacted by Radio Free Andromeda."

He said that hostile attitudes towards aliens in the arts and the media, from *The War of the Worlds* to the recent films *Independence Day* and *Mars Attack!*, had been conditioned by a fear of dictatorship. In the 19th century, philosophers used the possible existence of aliens to argue for or against the existence of God.

Mr Clark also hopes to show how different methods of looking for alien life have developed in tune with cultural and philosophical attitudes. Scientists tend to be respectful about looking for aliens with radio-telescopes, but not of "ufology", or *X Files*-style investigation of reported UFO

sightings, he said. "That's basically prejudiced, because neither branch has had any more success than the other. We see one as scientific because it has funky instruments, and the other as nutty because it seems based on ghosts and ghouls."

He thinks that only by taking a scientific approach to ufology can we hope to find a way of answering Professor Stephen Hawking's "Flying Saucer Puzzle": why, if it is likely there is life elsewhere in the Universe, does it not seem to have visited us?

□ Charles Fort, who gave his name to Forteanism, the study of unexplained and paranormal events, will be commemorated with a plaque at the house in Marchmont Street, Bloomsbury, central London, where he lived from 1921 to 1928. The journal *Fortean Times* is sponsoring the plaque. Fort, who was born in New York in 1874, died in 1932.



Clark: takes a scientific approach to ufology

## ET, phone again, the line is clear

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE search for intelligent life elsewhere in the Universe has taken a big step forward. The most powerful system for analysing signals from space has been installed at the world's largest radio telescope, the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico.

"We have been searching the sky for signs of extraterrestrials with continuously increasing capability," said Professor Stuart Bowyer, from the University of California at Berkeley, who began the search 20 years ago. "So far, nothing. We are not giving up."

The new equipment, called Serendip IV (Search for Extraterrestrial Radio Emissions from Nearby Developed Intelligent Populations) is 40 times more powerful than earlier

searches, because of sophisticated computer programs that can sort through radio signals.

All signals detected so far have originated from human sources such as aircraft and satellites. Jeff Cobb, who is responsible for handling the data, said: "We detect intelligent signals all the time. Unfortunately they have all been from Earthlings."

Serendip IV can scan 168 million frequency channels every 1.7 seconds, analysing each for radio intensities above background levels. Selections are studied to eliminate any caused by interference, then the remainder are examined more closely. Support for the search has come from private sources and companies such as Toshiba, Intel and Sun Microsystems.



LOOSE MINUTE

HB(A)/6/3

9 June 1997

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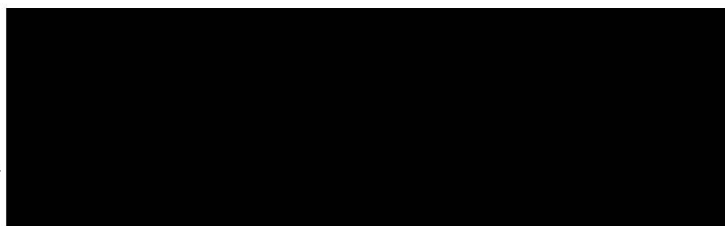


SUNDAY TIMES ARTICLE ON ALIENS/UFOs : 8 JUNE 1997.



1. Just for your information, the US Colonel mentioned in the above article - Col Corso, a one time US Army intelligence officer - has a previous track record of unreliable testimony.

2. He has previously made claims about the 'Missing in Action' saga, stating that some 1,000 US Servicemen were not repatriated from prisoner of war camps at the end of the Korean War. Colonel Corso's claims have been recorded, examined and rejected by the US authorities. Their examination included study of papers he claimed supported his views.



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FILE

# Army witness 'saw alien at Roswell'

by James Adams and  
Maurice Chittenden

IT CAME from outer space. Now the very first X File is being reopened as a new witness comes from out of the blue to testify that he saw the body of an alien recovered from the wreckage of a flying saucer in the New Mexico desert.

The "Roswell incident" has fascinated UFO researchers for 50 years. Now Colonel Philip Corso, a retired American army officer, has written a book in which he becomes the highest-ranking person to give evidence that what crashed was not, as the Pentagon insisted, a high-altitude balloon, but an alien spacecraft.

Britain's UFO spotters welcomed his testimony this weekend as fresh evidence that Roswell actually happened, after losing credibility when a film purporting to show an autopsy of the aliens was exposed by The Sunday Times as a hoax. Sceptics, though, claim it is Corso who is now full of hot air, pointing to the fact that he

has kept quiet for half a century only to come forward to cash in on the golden anniversary of the incident which started the UFO craze.

During the night of July 2, 1947, there was a violent thunderstorm over Roswell army air field (RAAF) in New Mexico, then home to the only atomic bomber squadron in the world. The next morning a rancher, checking for storm damage, stumbled across wreckage and strange shiny material which he could not bend or tear, and which he had never seen before. On July 8 the local newspaper published a report headlined "RAAF cap-



With his own eyes: Corso, left, claims to have seen 'a human-shaped figure with an oversized incandescent lightbulb-shaped head' at a base; his description matches the image of aliens popularised by UFO enthusiasts

tures flying saucer on ranch in Roswell region"

The military authorities at first claimed the wreckage was parts of a weather balloon. Within hours the owner of a local radio station was contacted by the Pentagon and warned that he would lose his licence if he continued to transmit news of the find. Later it was said that the debris belonged to a high-altitude balloon being used to monitor Soviet nuclear tests.

In his book *The Day After Roswell*, Corso claims not only to have seen an alien who had been killed in a crash but also to have examined the Pentagon's secret files on the incident. Corso says that the Pentagon shipped the bodies of aliens to the Walter Reed hospital in Washington, where autopsies were performed.

The spacecraft contained technology that baffled the Pentagon's best scientists, says Corso. He claims parts of the spacecraft were parcelled out to America's top defence companies and eventually led to the development of fibre optics, night-vision equipment, lasers, particle beams and integrated circuits.

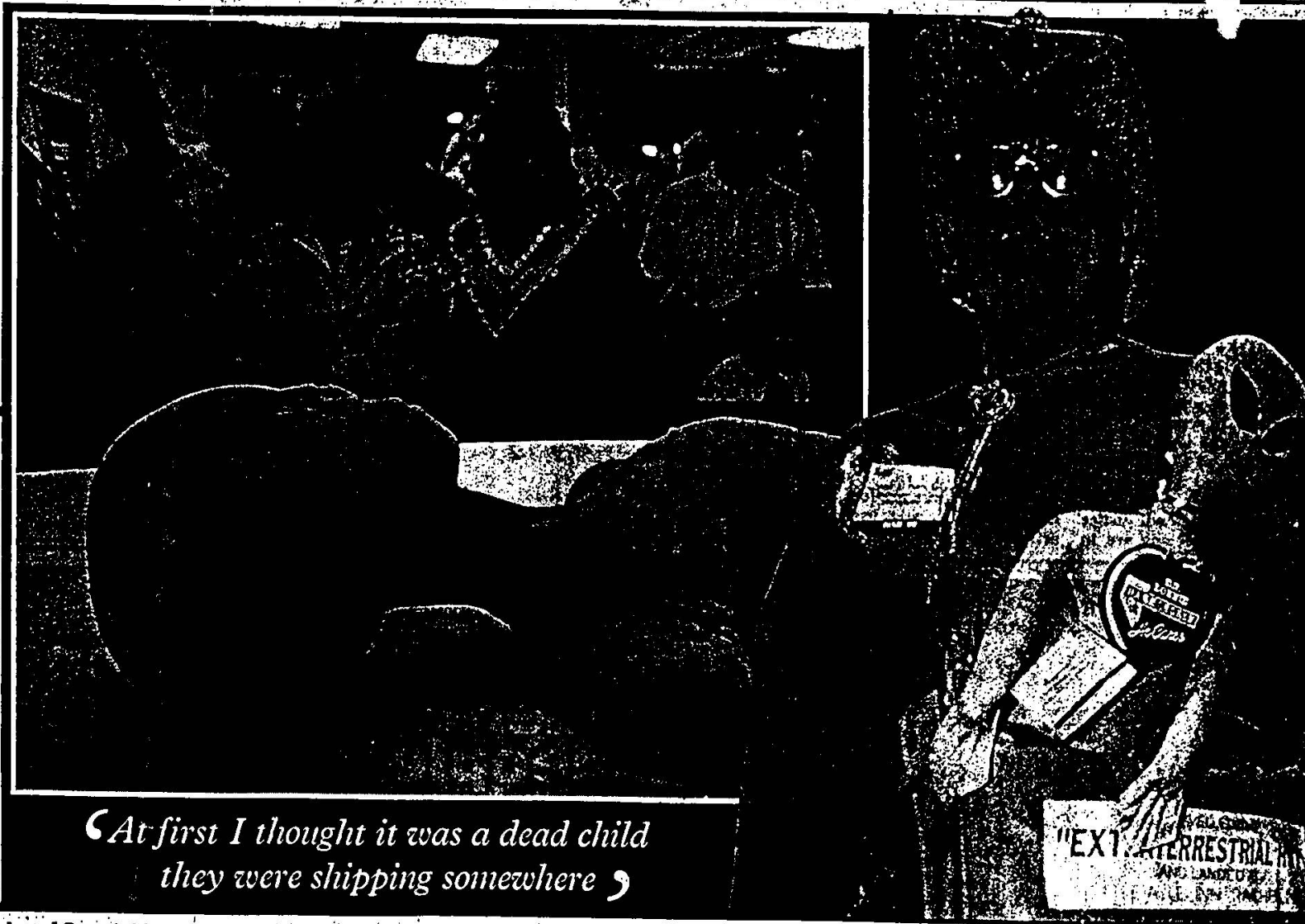
The "massive cover-up" of the Roswell incident was not so much to keep the secret of the aliens from the American people, he insists, but to allow defence contractors to develop the new technologies without them falling into the hands of the Russians. Ironically, the defence contractors were told that the material had been stolen from the Soviet Union.

Corso said: "Nobody wanted to come in second place in the silent, unacknowledged

alien-technology development race going on at the Pentagon as each service quietly pursued its version of a secret Roswell weapon."

Corso had joined the army in 1942 and served in intelligence in Europe. Later, during the Korean war, he was on General Douglas MacArthur's intelligence staff and for four years served on President Dwight Eisenhower's national security staff. He claims that while he was based at Fort Riley in Kansas in July 1947, he became curious about a mysterious group of sealed boxes that had been stored in a secure area. One night, armed with a torch, he prised open one of the containers.

Inside, he says, was an astonishing sight: "The contents, enclosed in a thick glass



'At first I thought it was a dead child they were shipping somewhere'

container, were submerged in a thick light blue liquid. At first I thought it was a dead child they were shipping somewhere, but this was no child.

"It was a 4ft human-shaped figure with arms, bizarre-looking four-fingered hands — I didn't see a thumb — thin legs and feet, and an oversized incandescent lightbulb-shaped head that looked like it was floating over a balloon gondola for a chin. I had the urge to touch the pale grey skin. But I

couldn't tell whether it was skin because it also looked like a very thin one-piece head-to-toe fabric covering the creature's flesh."

His account is similar to how others have previously imagined the Roswell "aliens". However, George Knapp, an investigative reporter and UFO expert, said: "Corso brings a level of credibility to these revelations that has been sorely lacking in the past. I strongly suggest that interested parties

keep open minds about his claims."

But Karl Pflock, a former assistant secretary of defence and a writer on UFOs who is working on his own account of Roswell, said: "The book is a cross between a 1940s pulp thriller and contemporary pop science fiction. It is one big outrageous joke that a retired officer could pull off this kind of thing. He offers no proof, no back-up and no documentation."

Nevertheless, the book will give weight to the claims of researchers when 10m people watch a live debate on UFOs on ITV later this month. Lionel Beer, founder and vice-president of the British UFO Research Association, said: "Ninety-five per cent of UFO researchers are not convinced the autopsy film was a put-up job. Clearly something happened at Roswell, but we may never know exactly what it was."

each paint a portrait of Major as an insecure prime minister in need of constant reassurance from his ministers. In interviews to be broadcast tomorrow on BBC1's Panorama, they

Ever since, stories have circulated suggesting that Major suffered a minor breakdown that day. Hurd, Fowler and others close to Major at the time

at Admiralty House, then the prime minister's temporary residence. "He said, 'Do you think I am the right man to go on doing European negotiations with the other leaders?'"

Hurd's recollections are aided by a diary he kept. Off-camera, he told the programme that Major wrote several resignation letters. In the fortnight after Black Wednesday,

even after giving reassurances this would not happen. "I think the feeling was that either the prime minister and the chancellor should go or neither," says Hurd. "Certainly John

asked why Major was still thinking of throwing in the towel. Hurd used his own slang for Black Wednesday, likening it to a lethal missile which

downed the government: "The he has quite often erred calling it a day and it up. There have been moments of acute frustration and his decision to soldier on was often reluctantly taken."

# Army witness 'saw alien at Roswell'

by James Adams and Maurice Chittenden

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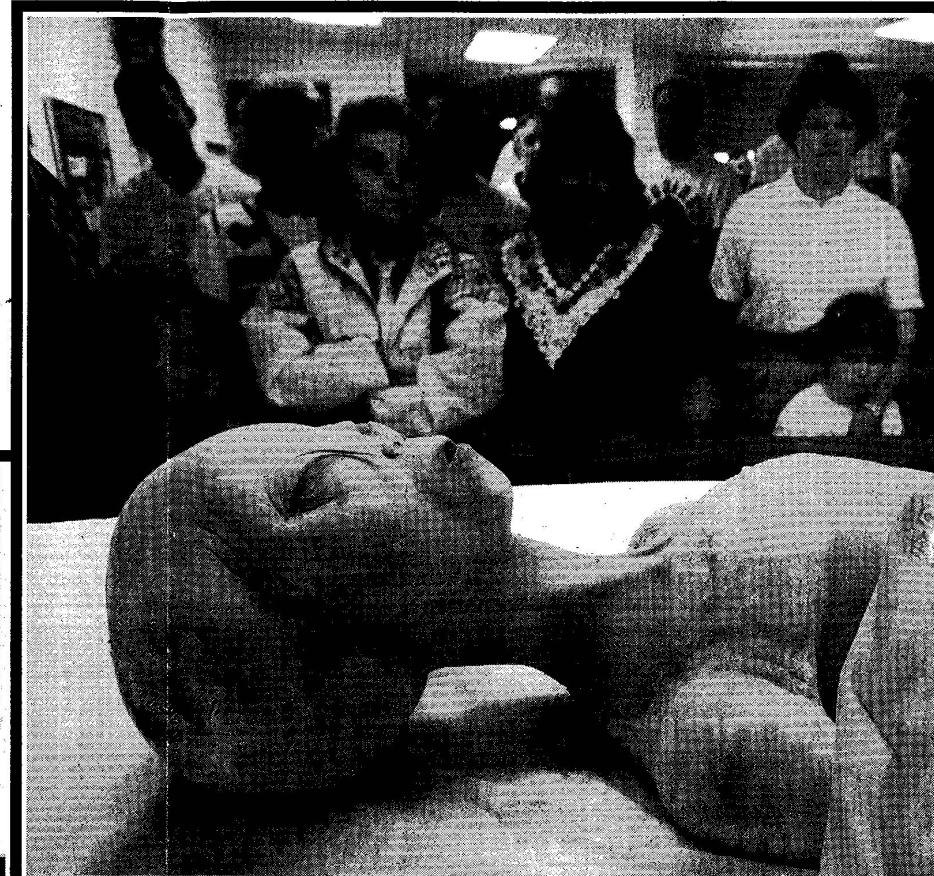
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## Hotter summers raise danger of malaria coming to Britain

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The Sunday Times 8 June 97

# elephants in for the kill

le ban is a moral imperative. But African nations... Ruaridh Nicoll reports from Namibia

as put up in a goroba. elephants into a be traded, Botswana to prove good procedures. The already agreed will be no export of ivory in the two the next Cites that all three nt to trade will reserves built up g poachers and phant culls. All according to the ernment, will be rvation and set- unity conserva- where the people ved to manage ir own benefit. d a rift between conservation support the idea



rs pay \$50,000 for a shot at this wild target

and their European and American counterparts who see the issue as a moral question. There is no doubt that elephants are thriving. To the west of Harare, where the Cites meeting is to be held, the bushlands of Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia are populated by vast herds. In Namibia, just north of where the elephant vented its frustration against the fence, 500 others waded into the Kavango river to wash, drink and play. But arguments in favour of trade fail to impress the European and American activists. Already the proposal has been attacked by numerous governments, and to bodies such as the Environmental Investigation Agency any trade in ivory, even the stuff confiscated from poachers, is fundamentally immoral. But African realities, as always, make a mockery of political correctness. Already more unpleasant activities are

afloat. While the arguments fly back and forth over Cites, the hunting season has opened and people from America and Europe are paying up to \$50,000 for the chance to shoot an elephant and take their trophy home. An even grimmer prospect is that of widespread culls, an event which makes even the seasoned elephant hunter squeamish. 'I once saw the professionals shoot a whole herd,' said the owner of a Namibian hunting concession. A small plane finds the herd and the trucks full of workers rush to the spot. There are four shooters, each with high-powered rifles and loaders with semi-automatics. 'Once they are on the herd, the lead shooter identifies and drops the matriarch with a clean head shot, then the other elephants rush around her screaming. The shooters use the semi-automatics to spine shoot the rest and then move in to kill them. There were 30 elephants dead within five minutes.'

These culls take place because of the burgeoning numbers of elephants in a retreating habitat. 'The fence blocks the movement of wildlife, especially elephants,' said Dr Karen Ross of Conservation International's Okavango project.

'Nobody knows the effect it will have yet,' said another conservationist. 'But if it cuts them off from their dry season grazing, many will die.'

Botswana's ministers have begun to speak about removing the 19-mile stretch of the fence which will most affect game but some conservationists are worried that this is just talk in the run-up to Cites.



Fortean Times publisher Dr Mike Dash takes a sceptical look at the paranormal.

Photograph by Richard Mildenhall

## Bad news for Mulder. UFO expert says mystery is bunk

by Roger Tredre

IN HIS early twenties, he spent five summers in a row hunting for the Loch Ness Monster. In his late twenties, he edited *Fortean Times*, the monthly journal devoted to strange phenomena, and is now its publisher. So, in his thirties, Mike Dash is well-placed to write the definitive book on the paranormal. Dr Dash used to believe in all the great strange phenom-

ena of our time, from UFO and ghost sightings to the Bermuda Triangle and the Loch Ness Monster. But his surprising view, expressed in *Borderlands*, published this week by Heinemann, is that most of it is bunkum. He says most strange phenomena are products of the mind — internally generated fantasies rather than paranormal events.

Most monster-watchers on Loch Ness, he argues, are fooled by the psychological phenomenon of 'expectant attention' — seeing what they want or expect to see.

*Borderlands* is billed as 'the ultimate exploration of the unknown'. But its conclusions will be a severe disappointment to readers addicted to *The X-Files*.

On UFOs, he writes: 'Of the myriad UFO photographs, most are clumsy hoaxes.' On crop circles: 'The saga is perhaps the single best example of a phenomenon riddled so rotten with fraud that it collapses from within.'

He says many ghosts are 'the products of the human imagination', while 'all supposed photos of the gods are dubious at best'. The Bermuda Triangle is dismissed as the product of 'wishful thinking, poor research and mis-identification'.

Other researchers criticised Dr Dash's conclusions last week. Dr Karl Shuker, a leading cryptozoologist, said: 'The truth is there are some intriguing pieces of evidence for

the existence of a large underwater mammal in Loch Ness, not least the sonar soundings of 1972 which showed the presence of a 6ft flipper.' Recent discoveries of species of deer in Vietnam showed many strange creatures hitherto unknown remained to be identified.

Gloria Dixon, director of investigations at the British UFO Research Association, said: 'It's true that we can explain 90 per cent of the sightings we receive, but

who will believe anything, but actually we're quite the reverse.'

Fortean takes their inspiration from Charles Fort, a pioneering American author whose four books published in the 1920s were the first to explore comprehensively the gamut of strange phenomena. Fort took a humorously sceptical stance and devoted much of his efforts to ridiculing the inadequate explanations advanced by many in the field.

So was Dr Dash an unbeliever from the start? 'Oh no, I originally believed... I used to think the huge volume of witnesses couldn't all be wrong. I believed there were UFOs and that people were seeing ghosts.'

But years of trawling Loch Ness without success started him on the transition to sceptic. 'The core of the problem is the complete fragility of human testimony. The physical evidence for most strange phenomena is extremely fragile, so you're left with witness statements. Researchers have tended to gloss over major problems in examining these statements: for example, it's hard to find someone who doesn't know what a UFO and a monster is supposed to look like, and is influenced accordingly.'

Dr Dash does not believe his sceptical approach will harm sales of his 43,000-circulation magazine. 'I like to think that people who buy it are impartial seekers after truth.'

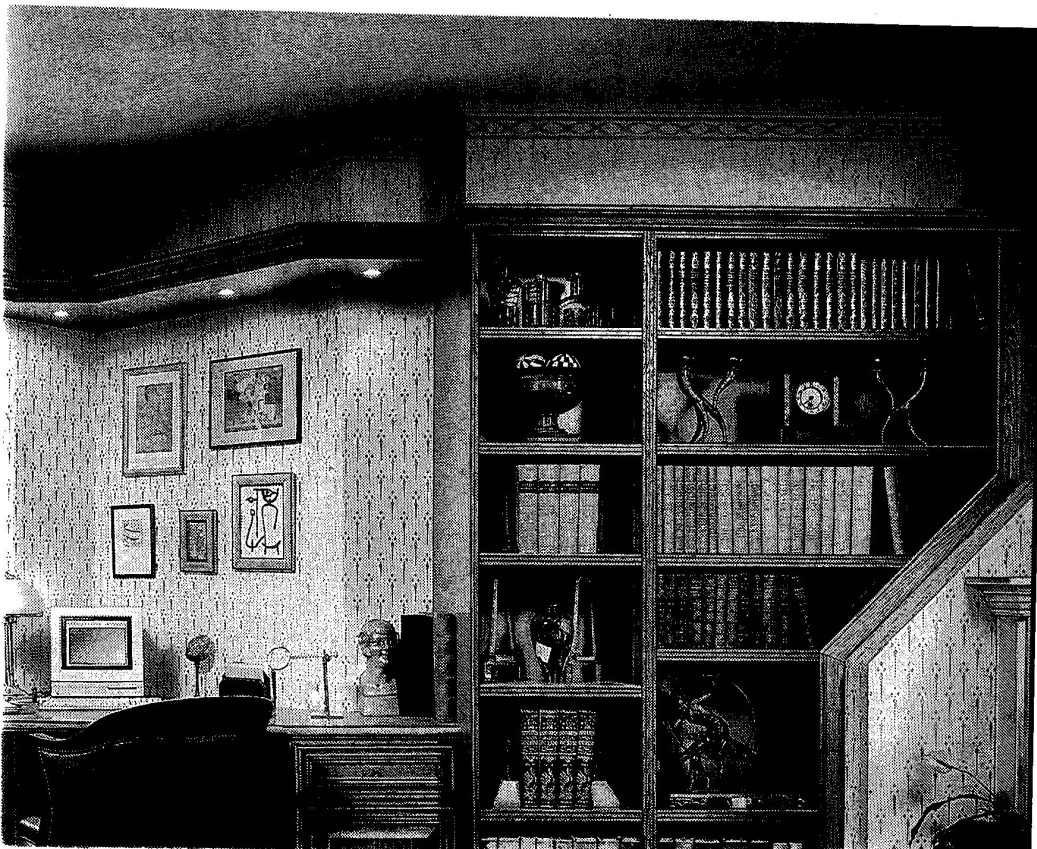
'Fortean are the reverse of cranks who will believe anything'

there are some things that appear to defy explanation. Some things we can't dismiss or trivialise.' UFO sightings reported to the association have tripled over a year.

Dr Dash does agree that some strange phenomena are real: he includes ball lightning, falls of animals and objects from the sky, and entombed frogs and toads. But the most extraordinary — UFOs, ghosts, ESP, religious visions, and miracles — are not real at all, he says.

Last week, Dr Dash denied he was an overnight convert to scepticism. 'Some people think Fortean are cranks

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