

# UFO RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

A REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

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## STRANGE EFFECTS CHARACTERIZE SIGHTING REPORTS



UFO with Tube, Photographed  
by Patrick Thrush Near Bra-  
denton, Fla., December  
13, 1973

(Courtesy: St. Petersburg  
Times)

Sixteen-year old Patrick Thrush was driving to the home of a friend near Bradenton, Fla., at about 8:50 p.m., December 13, 1973, when he saw what he thought was a plane going down in the vicinity of the Braden River. Pulling his car off the road, the witness drove down an embankment and his headlights picked up a stationary object approximately 20 feet above the water with a tube leading from the UFO to the river, stated the December 23, 1973, edition of the *St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times*.

Thrush grabbed his camera, jumped from his car, and, using a strobe light, snapped two photographs. (See photo, left). The tube ascended back into the mysterious craft and the object slowly descended toward the astonished witness. It passed about seven feet over Thrush's Toyota. The driver heard something strike the hood of the automobile. The UFO emitted a bluish-green light and traveled east in a slow, wide arc. Then it turned south, changed to a red color, and disappeared.

Meanwhile, John Dowdy was about two miles east of Thrush's location. He observed a "bright orange object, going real fast." He saw it turn south, appear to stop, and disappear.

Also at about the same time, George Montgomery was in nearby Palma Sola Park when he saw a bright light with two smaller lights. The smaller lights merged with the bigger light and disappeared.

Returning to his car, Thrush discovered three warm, dry rocks, each exhibiting a lava-like appearance. At least one of the rocks is being analyzed by Dr. Larry Doyle, a scientist at the University of South Florida.

Thrush is a high school drop-out, but he is the exact opposite of the stereotype. He simply found the normal educational process too slow, the teachers too uncommitted and unimaginative. The teen-ager is a former science fair winner. He was a whiz at trigonometry and advanced algebra in the seventh grade. He draws blueprints, has an expanded knowledge of physics and electronics, and designs and constructs custom electronic equipment.

The sighting above is only one of numerous excellent reports -- some exhibiting rather startling characteristics from at least 17 states during the final quarter of

1973. The reports include a UFO occupant that attempted to abduct witnesses; a witness who fired at UFO occupants; another occupant case; an object that caused a truck to vibrate; another that touched a garage roof; a UFO that disappeared into a lake; an object

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 Business Manager: Martha D. Hall  
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Sketch by Mars Walker of UFO Occupant, Jonesboro, Ga., October 20, 1973

(Courtesy: News-Daily)

that lit up a home and caused physiological effects; another photograph case; a plane and a policeman that chased mysterious objects; a UFO that fired off "missiles that sped across the sky and disappeared"; objects that shot light beams onto cars, caused electro-magnetic (E-M) effects, left behind physical evidence, emitted sounds, landed and took off, and frightened witnesses; a witness who tapped a landed UFO, which then took off; an object that stayed on the ground until a train passed, then took off; another that flew into a hill; a UFO that left the area when a spotlight was shone on it; an object that lit up an area; and another that emitted smaller objects. Witnesses include a pilot, an aerial photographer, a former air traffic controller, police officers, and a radio announcer.

At 2 a.m., October 20, Mars Walker, a University of Georgia art student, was reading in his apartment in or near Jonesboro when his bizarre and frightening sighting occurred. He heard "a high-pitched, siren-like sound," followed by a "glow like a watch dial" that went around the building.

Looking outside, the witness observed a vague, at first undefinable, round shape about 17 feet by 10-12 feet. Then the sound volume increased "and a thing took shape within the doughnut shape of the middle." It was "a human-like being, standing erect, and it was a sea green -- opaque like a hologram." The creature wore "a number of oddly shaped objects" on a plastic belt with which it appeared to take readings. (See sketch, left).

"The odd thing to me... is how little attention [the creature] paid me," Walker stated in the October 21, 1973, edition of the *Jonesboro News-Daily*, "no interest in communication with or threatening me... or any other activity besides observing."

Walker said the being had a "medusa head" -- tentacle-like objects surrounding its head -- and hands with only three or four fingers. When it was apparently through observing, it was surrounded by a green color from the "doughnut" and lifted back into the vessel.

Mrs. Marti Thiel, Lemon Grove, Calif., reported a UFO sighting by her son, Rich, and his friend, Danny Fleming, at around 7:15 p.m., November 16.

"I was washing dishes and my son and the boy next door came running in saying there was 'this big popcorn thing and it just took off,'" Mrs. Thiel related in the December 3, 1973, edition of the *San Diego, Calif., Union*. "The boys said they had seen a large, dark-colored saucer behind their house. I really wasn't paying too much attention, but, when they said it was as big as this house, that got my

attention. They said it had a dome on top like a policeman's car, only a whole lot bigger. Rich said he had a flashlight and he just reached over and tapped it about four times. He said it rose up in the air about five feet. Danny said, 'You should have seen the look on his face.' Anyway, they said it started to rotate and this big red light covered them and it took off."

Vern McCullough, a local UFO investigator, inspected the landing site.

"I went out the next morning," he said. "The depression in the ground was still there. It was perfectly round and the tall grass was swirled around perfectly, like something had blown it down. There were two holes in the depression, four feet, eight inches apart, six inches wide by six inches deep. The holes were very distinct."

Witnesses in New Hampshire were also seeing UFOs.

At about 8 p.m., October 2, John Hanson was pulling into his driveway in East Derry when he observed a round, bright object "the size of a dinner plate" that hovered over Rainbow Lake, then disappeared into the water, stated the October 4, 1973, edition of the Boston, Mass., *Morning Globe*. According to police, at least six others also saw it.

East Derry police and firemen dragged the lake, but found nothing.

Kim and Kevin Potter and Patrick and Sharon Rice were watching an object that "pulsated from white to an orange-red glow" over Quechee on the evening of November 14. They phoned the Hartford police station. Officer Stephen Broughall rushed to the scene and saw the luminous, football-shaped UFO move swiftly back and forth at about 200 feet altitude.

"It was weird," Broughall stated in the November 15, 1973, edition of the Lebanon, N.H., *Valley News*. "Strangest thing I ever saw, honest to God."

The shaken policeman attempted to radio in his report, but "the transmission was fouled in static." The interference cleared up when the UFO left the area.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials at Lebanon Regional Airport reported no planes "missing or overdue."

An unidentified woman said she saw a red UFO with flashing lights fly into a hill in Lobster Valley, Ore., on the evening of November 11, according to the Corvallis, Ore., *Gazette-Times*. Investigators checking the hillside discovered "a large burned area, with a strange fungus growing in the charred soil."

James Sills was delivering newspapers in Norman, Okla., just after 5 a.m., November 2, when he spotted a "big light that went way down and straight up." He alerted Police Officer Richard Eubanks, a former air traffic controller for the Air Force. Eubanks said the round object was approximately 100 feet in diameter.

"The thing was red," Eubanks stated in the *Oklahoma City (Okla.) Times*, November 2, 1973, "but fluctuated both in the intensity of color and in the red spectrum... I know it wasn't a normal aircraft. It was either an illegal aircraft, the FAA has really changed its regulations, or it's not one of ours."

Sills said the UFO blinked white and blue when it neared the ground, but glowed all white while further up. The object "took off" to the west when Eubanks shone his police spotlight on it.

"I don't know what it was," Sills remarked. "Man, I don't know. I never saw anything like it."

Texas witnesses also reported sightings. (See *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. III, No. 10, p. 6).

#### *UFO Causes Truck to Shake, E-M Effects*

At 9:10 p.m., October 31, Norman Hearn was driving his 1965 Ford pick-up truck near Lewisville when the truck started to shake. The lights blacked out, the motor quit, and the radio stopped playing.

"A 12-foot tall saucer-shaped object came over my truck and hovered in front of me for a while," the startled witness related in the Lewisville *Leader*.

He said the UFO had a gold medallion with writing on it. As the object flew over a lake and disappeared, the E-M effects cleared up.

Mrs. Nita Smitherman and her young grandson, Brent, were approaching home near Calvert when they saw an object on or just above the ground "near the calf pen" in their pasture at approximately 6:30 p.m., December 11. The UFO had a "tower type structure" on top with "a very intensely bright red light" atop the structure. At each end of the oval-shaped craft "were long antennae that seemed to gather and throw the red lights in a pulsating motion."

"The light on the west end was huge," Mrs. Smitherman related in *The (Calvert) Tribune*, December 20, 1973, "and it glowed maroon-like."

Pulling into her yard, the witness called her husband. When Smitherman neared the craft, it "made a whooshing sound and took off faster than the eye could follow." It descended again behind some trees.

The landing site was inspected by a local UFO group. They apparently found a flattened area and, from this, determined the object was about 30 feet long.

On or about October 7, Constable Charlie Delk, of Petal, Miss., responded to a call from residents frightened by a UFO.

"When I got there, I spotted it over Petal High School," he said in the October 9, 1973, edition of the Huntsville *Alabama News*. "It looked like an old-timey wind-up toy with yellow lights all the way around it. I followed it up to the Jones-Forrest County line. It slowed down over a field and some lights came out the side. They looked sort of like blow torches. Then it went back north. I followed it five miles and it went toward the Tallahalla Swamp. I got pretty close to it when my car died. It was just like someone had cut the motor off. In about 15 minutes, my car started up again like nothing was wrong. Sheriff's deputies had tried to contact me by radio, but everything was dead during that time."

The E-M effects lasted 15 minutes, at which time the policeman continued the chase until the object "did a double flip and disappeared." The chase lasted for more than 30 miles.

An unidentified police officer said he saw a brilliant white light the size of a basketball take off from the ground and disappear near Manilla, Iowa, around 4:05 a.m., October 10, stated the Denison, Iowa, *Bulletin*, October 15, 1973. He added communications with the Iowa Police Radio were blocked for about 10 minutes, but, after the UFO left the area, the communications continued. An Iowa Police Radio spokesman confirmed the communications blackout.

It was about noon, October 14. Bill Davidson, a pilot for 30 years, and an aerial photographer were aerial mapping at 10,500 feet over Terre Haute, Ind. Near the end of their assignment, they saw a brilliant, round, white light.

Completing the final photo run, Davidson headed his plane for Springfield. The object remained. Then the witnesses sped toward Indianapolis and the UFO began pulling away from the aircraft. It "began to grow dimmer as though it were on a rheostat."

"It looked like an oblong box, three times as wide as it was high," Davidson related in the October 23, 1973, edition of the *Ashland (Ohio) Times-Gazette*. "On the side we were looking at, there were four round exhaust ports with what appeared to be jet fire coming out."

The object continued to dim and pulled ahead faster until it was an estimated 15 miles from the plane. Davidson pursued it to Wier Cook Airport outside Indianapolis, but the witnesses lost sight of it as it descended and passed over the city.

Though there were three large cameras mounted in the floor of the plane, the photographer was unable to disengage one.

#### *Craft Emits Smaller Objects*

On the evening of October 14, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hensley and Mr. and Mrs. John Thomas were driving near Culpeper, Va., when they saw a "huge, silvery-bluish glow in the sky just above treetop level."

"The object was moving almost parallel to the road we were on," said Mrs. Hensley in the *Culpeper Star-Exponent*, October 18, 1973, "so we followed it. It was glowing so brightly we couldn't tell what shape the object was. After a couple of miles, the object seemed to hover and, since it looked like it was a mile or so from us, we tried to get closer. But there was no road we could find to cut much of the distance down. Then a smaller light came

from the object and glided across the road in front of us, disappearing into the trees. Then another light emerged -- and another and another. In all, we counted eight smaller lights that left the larger one. When the last light was gone, the big glowing object disappeared into the trees as if it had landed. We had been watching it now for about two hours. It did not reappear before we left."

Three nights later -- around 8:30 p.m., October 17, the Hensleys, their two children, and *Star-Exponent* reporter Donnie Johnston observed a large, glowing, red object moving from southwest to northeast over Madison.

"All at once the object seemed to stop and then, faster than the twinkling of an eye, it was gone," Johnston stated.

After Johnston left the area, the Hensleys again spotted it and followed it to near Gordonsville, "where it reversed its field and started back toward Madison." The frightened witnesses watched as the UFO descended to within several hundred feet of the automobile, "made a tremendous roaring noise" and disappeared.

The state of Illinois was privy to additional reports.

At around 3 a.m., October 5, Mrs. Agnes M. Wehrle, Zeigler, awakened to see a bright light shining through her home. Thinking a fire had broken out somewhere in the back, she went to the storage room and peered out of the window. She saw a bright light hovering over some trees.

"The light was so bright... I could... look at it... for less than a second," the witness stated in a report to UFOR dated February 11, 1974. "It burned my eyes so bad, but I kept trying to see, then would cover my eyes for a while, then try again. I kept this up for about 15 minutes and then [the UFO] was gone -- no sound or anything. It was round and [had] some bluish lights, but the bright white light was larger and much brighter than the blue. My eyes burned so bad [that] I could hardly see. After a couple of days, I decided to see a doctor... The doctor said the fluid was dried out of my eyes. He gave me drops to put in my eyes which I still use. My eyes were very bad at the time I first went to him... They are better now, but not entirely well."

Mrs. Wehrle said at least two others also saw the object. She added she was "very frightened" at the time of the incident.



UFO Photo by Ralph Noe, Waverly, Ill., October 17, 1973

(Courtesy: Journal-Courier)

Early on the morning of October 17, Police Chief Robert Shumaker, of Waverly, spotted a large, round object "with a red and green flashing light on it," according to the October 18, 1973, edition of the Jacksonville, Ill., *Journal-Courier*. Springfield state police first saw it around 2 a.m. They contacted Shumaker, who, in turn, called Ralph Noe to view the UFO for verification. Other police officers also saw it. Noe photographed the object. (See photo, left).

Numerous witnesses in and around the Johnson City, Tenn., area reported seeing UFOs on the afternoon and evening of the same day, October 17, according to the October 18, 1973, edition of the Johnson City *Press-Chronicle*.

During the afternoon, Mrs. Linda Greene, of Watauga, her son, Junior, and Teddy Malone saw a "copper-colored, circular" object hovering just above the ground. The astonished Mrs. Greene watched as a door on the UFO opened and a creature six feet tall with blinking eyes and claw-like hands attempted to abduct the two boys.

The boys eluded their would-be captor and the object "soared straight up and disappeared."

A neighbor, Ruth O'Quinn, saw the same or a similar object "about the size of a house" on a hillside near her home. It descended to near the ground, hovered, and then "took off straight up."

Anita Byrd was driving near Johnson City from Jonesboro when she spotted a large object "with its wings sawed off." The craft's tail resembled the "back of a space capsule" and was hovering over a field.

Around 7:30 p.m., Mrs. Betty Berry and five other Johnson City residents saw two bright, white, flashing objects. Underneath each object was a smaller white craft. Four airplanes approached one of the objects, appeared to momentarily merge, and then flew away. Meanwhile, the object on the right "fired off some type of missiles that sped across the sky and disappeared."

During the early evening, James C. Kendrick witnessed a UFO "with flashing red and blue lights hovering or 'maybe circling' over Johnson City. It emitted a "humming" or "buzzing" sound.

Ohio again came under the scrutiny of the mysterious objects. (See *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. III, No. 7, p. 6, No. 8, p. 5, No. 9, p. 4, and No. 10, p. 7).

#### *Object Blacks Out CB Radio*

At 8:30 p.m., October 17, Jim Gregory, his son, and Mr. and Mrs. Fred McCoy were at a gasoline station in Midland when they observed a "glowing white object about 30 feet long with red and green flashing lights" that "made a whining noise" about 50 feet north of the station.

"Whatever it was, it blacked out my citizen's band radio [CB]," the witness stated in the October 18, 1973, edition of the *Wilmington, Ohio, News-Journal*. "I tried to use the radio to report it, but I couldn't for the static. Other CBs in the area said they had static, too, but thought it was an electrical disturbance."

Kevin Bentz, Wooster, was watching television around 8:15 p.m., October 18, when he observed an "upside-down V"-shaped UFO approximately 30 feet tall and 15 feet wide. It had blue and green lights on what looked like landing legs and a white band around it that could have been windows. Above this band was a large orange light that lit up the area around the witness' house.

When he first saw the light, Bentz recalled, it was hovering. Then it grew larger and descended rapidly, then flew in a "kind of weaving" manner, with its pointed part up.

Bentz rushed inside to call the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, then ran back outside. The object began to approach him in an S-shaped path.

"It was just like watching a big semi-truck coming toward you," he stated in the October 22, 1973, edition of *The (Wooster) Daily Record*. "It kept coming closer and closer, but there was no noise."

When the UFO got "real close" to the witness, it stopped and hovered for about half-a-minute, "like it was watching me or something," then ascended. Bentz alerted his neighbor, Mrs. Kathy Roberts, who also saw it with another neighbor.

"I was really scared!" Bentz added. "When the thing came toward me, I kept feeling like I was going to faint -- and, at one point, I think I almost did. I was so scared that, when the deputy came, I couldn't even talk to him because my throat kept clogging up and I started choking."

Paul Hess was driving just north of Salem on the evening of November 5. He spotted a hovering UFO "flashing red and blue lights." Pulling off the road, the witness, an announcer for WSON Radio, flashed his headlights at the object, the *Alliance (Ohio) Review*, November 6, 1973, stated. The UFO approached the car and projected a beam of light onto it.

Pennsylvania continued to have sighting reports. (See *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. III, No. 1, p. 3, No. 2, p. 1, No. 3, p. 3, No. 4, p. 1, No. 6, p. 4, No. 7, p. 5, No. 8, p. 8, and No. 10, p. 4).

At 7:10 a.m., October 18, William Martin and Gail Suders, Mount Union, observed a bluish-green, fish-shaped object that "made a weird screeching noise," *The (Huntingdon, Pa.) Daily News*, October 22, 1973, reported. As the UFO took off, it touched Martin's garage roof.

Allan Brotzman was driving near Black Rock on the evening of October 28, when "a triangular-shaped object shot up in the sky and shot a beam of white light onto my car," causing it to slow down, stated the October 25, 1973, edition of the Lancaster, Pa., *Intelligencer*. Brotzman turned off his headlights, but the UFO followed him into Quarryville.

About 15 people observed the landing of a large, ball-shaped orange object in a field in North Union Township on the evening of October 25, the Uniontown, Pa., *Evening Standard*, October 26, 1973, stated. George Kowalczyk fired several shots from a 30.06 rifle at two 7-8-foot tall creatures walking near the object.

On the evening of November 29, John B. Moore stepped onto his back porch in Waynesboro and saw a large red disc traveling rapidly from west to east. The center portion of the object, he said, was transparent and glowing bright white. The outer surface glowed red. Moore observed, in the center section of the UFO, a shape like "a man's legs standing in a fixed position."

"I could hardly believe what I was seeing," Moore said in the December 6, 1973, edition of the Waynesboro *Record-Herald*. "I yelled for my wife to come out quick and look at it, too, but she didn't hear me at first and, by the time I did get her attention, it had disappeared into a cloud bank. I just wish she, you or someone could have been here to see it, too."

At approximately 9 p.m., October 21, Richard Morgan and Donnie Honaker saw a UFO land near the railroad tracks in Caldwell, W. Va., stated the Ronceverte *West Virginia Daily News*, October 23, 1973. The large object, with multi-colored, color-changing, flashing lights, emitted a sound, stayed on the ground until a train passed by, then took off.

At around 11:30 p.m., October 23, Larry Smith and his girl friend, Sharon Reeves, observed a bright white object with multi-colored lights above Keansburg, N.J. Arriving home around midnight in Hazlet Township, Smith called his mother, Mrs. Nellie Baker, her son, Doren, and daughter, Mary. They all saw the object with members of the Hazlet Township Police Department.

Smith said as he observed the one UFO, another appeared in the opposite direction.

"They interfere with my short wave radio," he said in the October 24, 1973, edition of the *Asbury Park (N.J.) Press*. "They seem to be making a circle over my house, and, as they hover directly overhead, the radio goes dead. When they circle away, the radio comes back on. One time as I watched a plane went over and the UFO's lights went out. As the plane passed, the lights came back on."

### CURRENT ENQUIRER PANEL OPERATIONS

By Robert F. Creegan

[In this exclusive article, Dr. Creegan, philosophy professor at the State University of New York at Albany and member of the National Enquirer's Blue Ribbon scientific UFO panel, brings us up to date on the activities of the panel (see UFO Research Newsletter, Vol. I, No. 12, p. 7; Vol. II, No. 1, p. 6, No. 2, p. 5, No. 3, p. 8, No. 4, p. 8, No. 5, p. 5, No. 6, p. 6, No. 7, p. 7, No. 8, p. 6, No. 9, p. 7, No. 10, p. 1; and Vol. III, No. 2, p. 5, and No. 9, p. 8)]

Some of my academic colleagues are quick to express doubt that newspaper awards and subsidies can lead to any progress in science -- in the UFO field or elsewhere. They must be reminded that, even in the last century, much geographic exploration, to name just one scientific field, was hastened in that very way. Most famous are the explorations conducted by H.M. Stanley at the behest of various American and British newspapers. His finding of the missionary David Livingston in a remote part of Africa was an associated event. The UFO studies of the scientific panel sponsored by the *National Enquirer* are not so unusual in the light of the whole tradition of journalistic interest in scientific ventures.

The possibly unequalled UFO flap of 1973 has presented problems, and much of the contacts of the panel with each other and with persons reporting sightings has involved the

mails and the telephone. On January 9, 1974, representatives of the newspaper, of NICAP [National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena] and of APRO [Aerial Phenomena Research Organization], met to reach agreement on cases for additional study by the panel. First, however, they formalized criteria of good reports, following suggestions received from the panel and other sources. Close encounters were favored, other things being equal, and reports including rather definite geometric descriptions of the UFO were given close attention. There was concern for the number of persons sharing a sighting and for their qualifications, and general reliability. Hard data, such as residues from landings and photographs were hoped for and, in some cases, obtained. Instruments, such as radars and magnetometers, were deemed to contribute substantial evidence in some cases.

Finally, only seven reports were tentatively endorsed by the screening group and further considerations, following communication with panel members, may have reduced the effective number still more. At any rate, additional field investigations have been called for. A Middle-Western sighting involving several members of a helicopter crew is being followed by an analysis of some of the instruments aboard the craft. A Southeastern photographic case has led to the request for more "blow ups" of motion picture frames, and more with the microdensitometer. In addition, cross-questioning of witnesses continues in several other cases, and physical residues from an alleged landing in California are being examined in a metallurgical laboratory. Elements of confidentiality must be preserved, and it may be some weeks before the whole panel meets to adjudicate the evidence which now exists or which may be obtained by virtue of the above mentioned and other field work.

Some readers may be disconcerted because some very well known cases have not been mentioned here. Of course, not all the seven have been identified, but, doubtless, some of those best known to "UFO buffs" have been ruled out, even in the preliminary screening, because of total lack of "hard data," or because of lack of qualifications on the part of the witnesses, or even because of irregularities in investigation processes which occurred prior to any involvement by the panel and which, in effect, distorted available evidence so that it is now next to impossible to determine what really happened. Despite all those difficulties, it is the writer's personal opinion that some awards will be forthcoming.

#### SCI-FI AUTHORS AIR UFO VIEWS

For some inexplicable reason, science fiction (sci-fi) authors have long denounced the very subject they write about most -- UFOs. Since the 1973 rash of reports started, however, there is evidence at least a few of the top names in the field, while generally exhibiting "an air of cautious and alert skepticism," are willing to accept the possibility that what they are writing about could be occurring. Late last year, Jack Kresnak, of Knight News Service, contacted Isaac Asimov, Poul Anderson, Robert A. Heinlein, and Frank Herbert for their views. Asimov and Anderson were asked their opinions on the Pascagoula, Miss., case. (See *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. III, No. 7, p. 1).

"Frankly, if someone came in and told me that story, I'd smell his breath first, get out of the room, and call a policeman," Asimov, the most negative of the famed sci-fi authors, responded.

Anderson was not so sure.

"I would hesitate to be dogmatic," he stated. "On the face of it, it seems very unlikely. But it's possible."

"I have not seen one," stated Heinlein, author of the highly-touted *Stranger in a Strange Land*, "but the evidence, as far as I've heard it, leads me to think there is something... that is not easily explainable by our science, our technology..."

Herbert, whose work *Dune* has become a classic in its field, spotted a UFO years ago in California.

"I saw a red cone which, from the surrounding trees, was probably 30 feet high and 15 feet at the base," he explained. "It looked like an ice cream cone upside down on the sidewalk."

The metallic object disappeared when Herbert turned around for a moment.