

A newsletter of unusual reports on various subjects. Published on an irregular schedule as an exchange publication only with others of a like nature. Comments should be sent to: Gene Duplantier, 17 Shetland Street, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2M 1X5

Tales of trips on space ships may be memories of voyages through the birth canal, researcher says

By JOHN WOOLARD
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

UFO investigator Alvin Lawson is both believer and non-believer.

"Do I think there are unidentified flying objects, things that people can't explain what they are or why they're there? Yes," says Lawson, director of the California-based UFO Reports Centre. "Do I think that little green men are inside them abducting people? No."

Space aliens are all the rage these days — witness the popularity of such television shows as *The X-Files*. But Lawson believes that people claiming to have been snatched from the planet by alien scientists are actually reliving the trauma of their birth.

"I hate to disappoint the people who want so badly to believe that we are having, and have had, contact with beings from outer space," says Lawson, 67, a retired English professor. "But research I've personally been involved with disputes that entirely."

This research was conducted at a California hospital in the 1970s and '80s. A trained hypnotherapist hypnotized people who knew little or nothing about UFOs and didn't know before hypnosis that they were participating in a study pertain-

ing to UFOs.

The volunteers were asked to imagine being abducted and to describe who had abducted them.

According to Lawson, the research results matched hypnosis sessions with people who claimed to be abduction victims, implying that the alleged abductions were psychological events relating to memories of fetal development and birth.

"The images we received from both groups were remarkably similar," he says. "Both the people that knew nothing about UFOs and the people who said they were abducted had basically the same story. When you look at it, you can't help but notice the birth imagery."

'It's not difficult to see parallels between these images and the birth process. Even the aliens resemble a fetus'

Such imagery, Lawson says, as sudden loss of control, paralysis, pressure on the head, difficulty in breathing and travelling down a lighted tunnel into a large room with humanoid figures looking at them.

"It's not difficult to see the parallels between images like these and the birth process. They came up so many times that we believe that is what is being described by people claiming to have been abducted. Even the descriptions given of the aliens resemble a fetus."

Lawson's theory is that human beings have the capacity to remember birth and even being inside the womb, but that the memory — not always a pleasant one — is suppressed. He says people who have alleged abduction memories, are, in fact, reliving the trauma of birth subconsciously.

"There has not been a UFO abduction story that didn't have a number of these references," he says.

"I started out as someone who thought abduction cases might be true. But the more I examined it, the more I realized the evidence pointed in a different direction.

"I don't even say that there isn't other life in the universe," he says, pointing out the discovery of the Mars rock that showed possible bacterial life. "There are too many worlds out there to rule out the possibility that there are life forms elsewhere. I just don't believe there's been any real proof they've come here."

Lawson is not so skeptical, however, about UFOs.

"There are some mysteries there, some things in our skies that people are unable to answer what they are, and I think you have to take them seriously," he says. "But the unreasonable leap is to assume that these unexplained things are aliens. There are a lot of other potential Earthbound explanations.

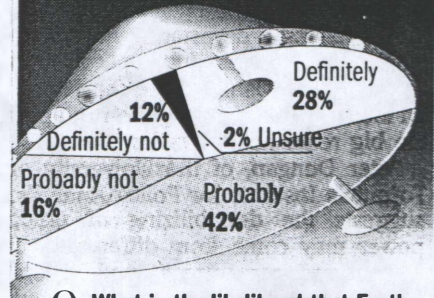
"True believers are mad at me. They loathe and detest me and they detest my ideas. My ideas represent a threat to their belief systems. They need to believe in aliens to give meaning to their lives.

"All I'm asking for are the facts," Lawson says.

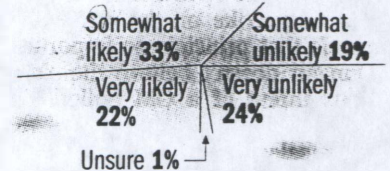
LONG BEACH PRESS-TELEGRAM

Aliens: What Canadians believe

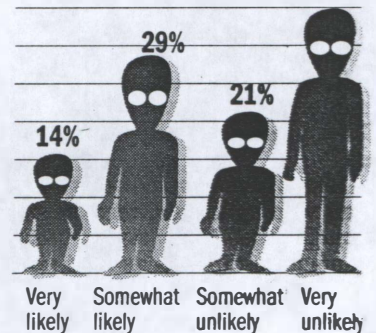
Q. Is there intelligent life elsewhere in the universe?



Q. What is the likelihood that Earth has been visited by intelligent life from another planet?



Q. What is the likelihood that Earth will be visited by extraterrestrials in your lifetime?



The Angus Reid Group is 95 per cent certain that the results of the poll of 1,501 adult Canadians taken Aug. 27-30 are accurate within 2.5 percentage points.

ANGUS REID POLL

SOUTHAM GRAPHIC



Somewhere, the Truth Is Out There

■ **Phenomenons:** With academics, books, TV shows, movies—even a major highway—devoted to the subject, it's clear UFOs have a firm grip on the public's imagination.

By DENNIS McLELLAN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Alien beings descend on Earth in miles-wide spacecraft this week as "Independence Day" hits theaters, but Alvin Lawson is figuring on business as usual.

No flood of calls like there was back in the 1970s. No hysteria. Just the current one or two calls a week to his UFO hotline, a telephone answering machine in his Garden Grove home. Lawson, a retired Cal State Long Beach English professor, has been studying UFOs in Southern California for nearly 25 years.

"Independence Day," with its dark vision of

Indeed, nearly 50 years after the press coined the term "flying saucers" to describe the nine disk-shaped objects pilot Kenneth Arnold reported seeing streaking through the sky over the state of Washington in 1947, UFOs continue to maintain a firm grip on the public's imagination.

The U.S. Air Force initiated Project Blue Book in 1952, a program in which it investigated about 12,000 UFO reports. In the late '60s, the Air Force commissioned a team of University of Colorado scientists to conduct an independent study of the UFO reports. Team leader Edward U. Condon concluded that further study of UFOs was not justified and agreed with the Air Force that UFOs did not threaten national security.

Many in the UFO research community were critical of his conclusions, saying they did not reflect what the report actually said: that the phenomenon appeared genuine and that more than 30% of the investigated cases could not be explained. Still, Condon's report led to the cancellation in 1969 of Project Blue Book.

But UFO investigations have continued in the private sector, with the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), a 5,000-member international organization based in Seguin, Texas; the Chicago-based Center for UFO Studies; and a host of smaller groups looking into alleged sightings. The 200-member

visitors from outer space, will no doubt leave moviegoers compelled to cast a wary eye skyward. But, if past experience is any indicator, they won't be reporting more unidentified flying objects out there than usual.

"A movie like 'E.T.' was a grand movie, but after that came out people weren't crowding onto my phone line to report things," says Lawson of the 1982 film. Studies—including one by the U.S. Air Force—have found no evidence that media coverage or entertainment spurs UFO sightings. "Whenever there is a big surge in reports," Lawson says, "it's been around a series of sightings or after a major sighting."

The Mutual UFO Network, one of several private organizations that keep track of such information, receives about 300 reports a year of UFO sightings nationwide that cannot be explained. The network estimates that about 10 of the unexplainable reports a year are based on sightings in the skies over Southern California.

Over the years, the region has had its share

of "significant" sightings. What are considered some of the best UFO photos ever taken were snapped with a Polaroid camera in 1965 by an Orange County road maintenance inspector in Irvine. In the '70s, a Marine pilot saw mysterious balls of light following his plane and another observational plane over San Diego County; an observer on the ground also saw the lights. The occurrence remains unexplained.

Lawson started his hotline in 1973, during the last great wave of UFO sightings when thousands of people across America reported seeing unidentified flying objects. That first year he received more than 400 reports—the easily explained and prank calls included—from throughout Southern California.

Now, his UFO Report Center of Orange County is listed in only one local phone book; Lawson is retired and no longer investigates reports. But the currently low number of calls to his UFO hotline is not what's important, he says: "The interesting thing is it hasn't gone away."

All of this, Lawson says, feeds the belief in UFOs.

"This indicates a hunger—it's a hunger for contact, for communication with something larger than humanity," says Lawson, who calls himself an "informed skeptic" of UFOs. "I think there is very little reasoning going on because the belief need is so high. The need to believe. It's a religious kind of impulse, I think."

Says Jacobs, a Los Angeles native who has written three books on UFOs: "Humankind has wondered about this basically since they realized those are stars out there and there might be other planets. The question of are we alone is an extremely important question for us."

Saying you've seen a UFO is one thing; saying you've been abducted by space aliens is another. Jacobs and Dr. John E. Mack, a Harvard Medical School professor of psychiatry, are two of the best known researchers involved in that highly controversial aspect of UFOs.

Alleged abductees typically claim they were taken on board alien spacecraft for reproductive purposes. A dozen or more therapy and support groups for people who say they've been abducted by space aliens have sprung up around the country, including in Los Angeles and Orange counties.

Over the past 10 years Jacobs

has done hypnotic regressions with 110 people who claim to have been abducted. Jacobs says his academic colleagues say there are a wide range of psychological and psychiatric explanations for these tales.

"But what they don't know is that none of these explanations fit the data," he says. As he sees it, "the UFO phenomenon is the abduction phenomenon. They are one and the same: The reason there is a UFO phenomenon is for the purpose of abducting people. You can't divide them."

There is one thing those who study UFOs have no trouble agreeing on: "We're involved with a phenomenon that won't go away," Jacobs says. "It's consistent and it's persistent. We're going to be in for the long haul with this phenomenon. No matter how many people play ostrich it's not going to go away."

LOS ANGELES TIMES
JULY 3, 1996
CR: HI KAUFMAN

Toronto Sun, Thursday October 3, 1996

22-year-old fetus

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuter) — A 52-year-old woman had surgery yesterday to remove a fetus lodged in her body for 22 years. "This is a rare case of an ectopic pregnancy ... the eight-month-old fetus mummified and stayed in her body," said Dr. Zamir Cirauda.

Loopy new planet found

Just over a year ago, astronomers announced that they had found a planet about the size of Jupiter orbiting a star similar to the sun. The discovery caused a sensation. The 40-year quest for planets around sunlike stars had finally born fruit.

It was just the beginning. Now, depending on who is counting, at least eight and possibly as many as 12 new planets have been uncovered — all Jupiter-sized or larger, all orbiting sunlike stars within 80 light-years of our solar system.

The latest, discovered by teams of astronomers at San Francisco State University and the University of Texas, is the first found orbiting a star in a binary (or double star) system.

The planet orbits the star 16 Cygni B, a star virtually identical to the sun, which in turn orbits a slightly larger star known as 16 Cygni A. Astronomers have long debated the possibility of planets forming around stars in a binary system, and now they have the answer.

The two stars in the 16 Cygni system are 70 light-years from Earth and far enough apart to be visible as twins in small backyard telescopes. The B star orbits the A star once every 250,000 years. The minimum distance between them during the orbit is about 25 times the distance from the sun to Neptune — close by astronomical standards.

Meanwhile, the new-found planet, which is roughly the size of Jupiter, orbits the B star

The Universe

TERENCE DICKINSON

THE TORONTO STAR Sunday, November 3, 1996

once every 804 days but in a highly elliptical path. At its nearest, the planet is at the distance of Venus in our solar system, but at its farthest point in its orbit the planet swings out to beyond the distance of Mars. Such a highly eccentric orbit has never been seen before.

But what the new find does tell us is that planets can form in binary systems, if the stars are far enough apart. What astronomers are now asking is how it got into such a loopy orbit. Planets in our solar system all travel in roughly circular paths around the sun.

Neither this planet, nor any of the others found so far, have been seen directly. Their existence is inferred by a slight wobbling motion of the star

they orbit, the wobble being induced by the planet's gravity.

Eureka!

British botanists have found the master gene that switches a plant's metabolism to produce asymmetrical flowers (such as snapdragons and orchids) rather than a radially-symmetrical flower (such as a daisy). Asymmetrical flowers evolved later than simpler ones and are usually insect-pollinated.



Tiny battlefield robots may see action by 2001

ALBUQUERQUE (Reuters) — Since the 1920s, when Czech dramatist Karel Capek coined the word "robot," science-fiction writers have assumed that someday robots would be routinely used in warfare.

Why waste human lives when dispensable automatons could be used to clear mine fields, detect chemical weapons and act

as forward spotters for artillery and missiles?

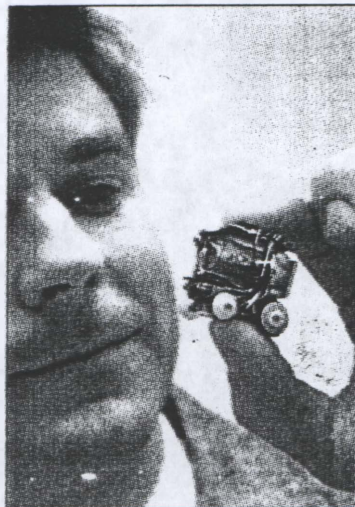
The sci-fi writers often imagined that the robot soldiers would be vaguely humanoid, like C-3PO in *Star Wars*, and wouldn't be available until well into the next century.

Now it looks as if they were wrong on both counts. Tiny battlefield robots (nicknamed "robugs") are being designed in a \$33-million lab unveiled here last week. They will be the size of a shoe box or as small as a dime, and should be commonplace by 2001.

They will crawl, hop and eventually fly over mine fields, across deserts and beaches and through towns, gathering information for nearby troops or headquarters thousands of kilometres away.

"These little guys will do things it's impossible for people to do now," says Pat Eicker, director of Intelligent Systems and Robotics at Sandia National Laboratories (SNL). "If bad chemicals were being produced in a building you could send in a herd of them to gather data."

The robugs may first be used to clear land mines in countries such as Cambodia and Bosnia.



AP PHOTO

WEE WARRIOR: Researcher holds a proto-prototype of a military robug.

The Saturday Sun, October 5, 1996

High level ozone nearly depleted

GENEVA (AP) — Destruction of the ozone layer has worsened so much that it has become nearly depleted in the atmospheric zone about 19 kms above Earth, the UN weather agency said yesterday.

Ozone gas plays a key role in shielding people, animals and plants from dangerous forms of ultraviolet radiation. Its depletion, caused in large part by industrial chemicals, is believed to increase the incidence of skin cancer and cataracts.

Ozone destruction "is becoming worse ... especially when the stratospheric temperatures are very low," said Dr. Rumen Bojkov, the World Meteorological Organization's adviser on ozone.

In the atmospheric layer 17 to 22 kms above the earth's surface, "the ozone is nearly completely annihilated," Bojkov said.

"We're looking at a possible new record" for ozone destruction, the agency's Eirah Dale-Gore said.

Magazines

BRUCE BLACKADAR

NO ONE HOME: You know what's miraculous? Not that there are perhaps other forms of life up there somewhere — but that Earth may be the only planet that has breathing beings happily buying Lotto 649 tickets and going to tanning salons.

Terence Dickinson, writing in *Equinox*, says there are, so far, no hints that life exists up there and therefore our own home turf could be "an oasis in a cosmic desert."

Helping prop up our curious situation is Jupiter, which manages to protect us from a "constant and lethal barrage of comets" and the very pleasant accident of our having a large moon, which prevents our axis from wobbling so that we would have three months of total darkness in winter and in summer Toronto would have 13 weeks of never-setting sun.

The case for ET rests on 5 billion trillion stars

Even the ancient Greeks believed there are others out there

Do you believe that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe? The odds are better than two-to-one that you do.

According to the Angus Reid polling organization, 70 per cent of Canadians responded either "definitely" or "probably" when asked if they think intelligent extraterrestrials inhabit other worlds. Twenty-eight per cent disagreed and 2 per cent expressed no opinion. A summary of the poll, conducted a few weeks ago, appeared on this page last Sunday.

This conclusion does not surprise me at all. I have taken similar polls of my astronomy classes and lecture audiences and the result is always around 85 per cent on the side of extraterrestrials. Of course, there is a selection effect at work in astronomy courses and talks that would explain the somewhat higher percentage. But I always suspected that those results must also reflect the

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views of a significant percentage of opinion at large.

Most people say that the most compelling support for the notion of alien intelligent life is the colossal number of stars in the known universe.

Images from the Hubble Space Telescope most eloquently tell the numbers story. They reveal the universe's content out to billions of light-years from Earth. From the numbers of galaxies seen on the Hubble pictures, astronomers estimate that — as an absolute minimum — there are 50 billion galaxies in the known universe. Since a typical galaxy contains 100 billion stars, the universe's cargo of stars must be somewhere around 5 billion trillion, give or take a billion trillion or so.

When faced with such staggering numbers, most people think it is more reasonable to assume that we are not alone. As the Greek scholar Metrodorus put it in the fourth century B.C., "To consider Earth the only populated world in infinite space is as absurd as

to assert that in an entire field sown with seed, only one grain will grow."

Nobody knows what Metrodorus would have thought about the idea of aliens visiting Earth, but we know from the Angus Reid survey what

Canadians think. Fifty-five per cent agree that it is

"very likely" or "some-

what likely" that Earth has been visited in the past. And 43 per cent think it is more likely than not that during their lifetimes extraterrestrials will visit Earth.

Although I think it is plausible, perhaps even likely, that during the Earth's 4-billion-year history creatures from planet Zgorf, or wherever, might have given our world an examination, I part company with the nearly half of Canadians expecting visitors from the sky to descend any day. I think there are compelling arguments suggesting that if they aren't here already, they're not coming. And I don't think alien abduction stories about bul-

bous-eyed little gray creatures — or any other UFO reports — offer any credible evidence whatever that we are being visited.

I think the high numbers willing to accept the idea that an alien

visitation might be imminent have been swayed

by the now ubiquitous TV "documentaries"

parading story after story of unexplained

sightings of UFOs, alien abductions and

events attributed to creatures not of this

Earth. It can make compelling watching,

but there is not a single case that offers serious evi-

dence that ET is here.

We may not be alone, but I think they long ago decided to keep their distance and designated Earth as a wildlife preserve.

Eureka!

U.S. scientists have found a tiny cell structure in a freshwater microbe (*Tetrahymena thermophila*) that serves as a garbage disposal for unwanted genetic material. The finding may help them understand how immune system cells prune their own genetic material to give the body immunity to foreign substances.

THE TORONTO STAR Sunday, October 20, 1996

'Zoom me up, Scotty' now credible

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Imagine an elevator stretching from Earth to an orbiting satellite 37,000 kilometres away.

Sound like science fiction? Well that's exactly what it was in 1978 when Arthur C. Clarke proposed a space elevator in his novel *Fountains of Paradise*. Today, researchers at North Carolina State University and Rice University in Houston say the idea may not be so far-fetched after all.

In working with man-made carbon structures called nanotubes, the scientists discovered that the honeycomb-shaped material has extraordinary strength — 10 to 12 times the strength of steel. And because it is made of car-

bon, it is extremely light.

"One wins both ways; first because of the exceptional strength and second because of the light weight," says Jerry Bernholc, a physics professor at N.C. State. "It is almost perfect for aerospace applications where you pay dearly for every extra ounce."

One of those applications could be the space elevator. Other known substances would collapse under their own weight well before they reached the 37,000 kilometres to a satellite in synchronous Earth orbit. Computer models indicate that nanotubes, by contrast, are as strong as a one-millimetre thread supporting a 20-tonne load.

But scientists agree that, as romantic

as the notion of an elevator into space is, the material is likely to have much more mundane applications in the not-too-distant future.

"One could think of a range of improved applications — stronger car parts, stronger textiles, bullet proof vests, better shoes, better tennis rackets, lighter rockets, better planes. It could be used everywhere where strength and weight is an issue," Bernholc says.

Although researchers have been able to make some macroscopic samples of nanotubes, they have dealt mostly with microscopic quantities. If developments in the field continue at their cur-

rent pace, the first products to benefit from nanotubes could be available in five years, Bernholc says.

Nobel Prize winner Rick Smalley, a Rice University physicist, is working with others to convince federal officials that developing the material is a worthwhile cause. They hope to pursue aerospace and other applications where the benefits will outweigh the cost of producing the material.

"One can think of one nearly impossible application — the space elevator," Bernholc says. "But the point is that before one can even think of a space elevator, already the material will be good for common applications."

NASA RECEIVES RADIO

SIGNALS FROM CENTER OF EARTH

By CHARLES GEORGE / *Weekly World News*

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA is receiving radio transmissions from hundreds of miles below the Earth's surface

— and experts say the signals are being sent by an intelligent, highly advanced life-form!

"It's clear that someone or something down there is communicating with us," said a highly placed NASA source who requested anonymity. "And whoever it is has the technology to send signals to the surface through hundreds of miles of soil and rock."

Scientists first detected the signals on May 6 with the aid of sophisticated satellites, and transmissions have been received at intermittent intervals ever since, the source said.

He said the transmissions are in the form of a complex mathematical code, further convincing scientists that they are in touch with a colony of beings whose intelligence far outstrips ours. The source at NASA said scientists had little trouble decoding the messages, but he steadfastly refused to disclose their contents.

"I wouldn't say the transmissions were of a hostile nature, but their contents could be a source of concern and controversy," he said.

"Since so much depends upon interpretation, I think it's wise to let the experts wrestle with this one for a while before releasing any information that might unnecessarily alarm the public."

The source said scientists are frustrated by the fact that they've been unable to determine the exact location of the subterranean civilization and that they lack the technology to respond to the beings' messages.

"Whoever they are, they obviously know far more about us than we know about them," he said. "For one thing, they have found a way to communicate



HOW NASA monitors the underground civilization: Radio waves shooting out from sources deep inside the Earth emerge around the world. Breaking free of the planet's surface (shown in circles), the signals head into space. Tracking satellites capture the signals and relay them to NASA.

Secret civilization lives beneath world's surface!

with us on a regular basis, but we have little or no inkling how to communicate with them in return.

"And for another, their transmissions have displayed a thorough understanding of life on

Earth while we have no idea how intelligent life could form and survive without sunlight or oxygen."

The source said scientists agree that this is the most startling and important discov-

ery of the century. "We have long thought that space was the final frontier, but now we realize that inside our own planet lies uncharted territory that could prove to be far more important to our future."

PHOTO: Pacific Rim Press