

THE TRUTH IS NOT OUT THERE

By Fred Hobbs

Imagination is a wonderful attribute. Inventors, scholars, poets, novelists, scientists, and certainly today's computer wizards continue to employ various types and amounts of imagination that benefit the world or some segment of its population.

Imagining what might be or what could be normally is a pleasant past time as well. Kids employ the technique at play, maybe in a group, often alone.

This is perfectly normal. Sometimes, however, imagination can run amuck.

Kids can become truly frightened by imagining ghosts or monsters under the bed.

And some adults let their imaginations lead them to believe in such fantastic notions as men arriving from Mars in a spaceship; (notice by the way it's always *men*, not women.) More common are the supposed sightings of extra-terrestrials (ETs) hovering above or whirling about in an unidentified flying object (UFO) usually illuminated by a blinding light. Great stuff for sci-fi movie buffs, but not for realists such as Evan Davis of Britain's BBC who has written an article titled, "The Truth is Not Out There."

While confessing continued interest in reports of UFOs, Davis declares: "I do not believe in alien UFOs...there is no evidence you could cite that would make me change my mind." Being completely close-minded on the subject is almost as irrational as those who claim little green Martians actually exist and will one day land and alight from one those silvery discs.

However I do agree in principle with Davis. My education and training as a journalist causes me to be highly skeptical about ETs and UFOs. How come most of the "sightings" occur not only on a dark night, but out on a deserted highway somewhere? To the best of my knowledge, none have been reported, for example, by any of the 76,000 people seated in Mile High stadium for an evening Denver Broncos game.

The most celebrated UFO controversy revolves around an incident in Roswell, New Mexico in July 1947. The U.S. Air Force reported that a military surveillance balloon crashed near the town. Wreckage was recovered on the ground. Over-zealous UFO believers and conspiracy theorists claim that an alien spacecraft crashed, its occupants were captured and the military has engaged in a massive cover-up.

Too bad that such imaginative, but utterly unbelievable nonsense survives today in some quarters. Isn't a time frame of 67 years sufficient for the statute of limitations to have expired?

Of course to be totally objective on the subject, anything is possible. And, if little green men did land in New Mexico, might a couple of them have escaped from their military captors, disguised themselves, moved to a neighboring state, say Colorado, and later settled down in a nice

retirement community?

Evidence is strong that the truth is not out there, but just asking.