

Believers search sky for saucers

No sightings this time, but once, 30 years ago...

By JOCK HATFIELD
Of the Emerald

A small group of believers stood in the shadow of Mt. Rainier staring intently at the evening sky. "What's that there?" asked one member excitedly, pointing toward a star-like object speeding across the sky. "Isn't it moving too fast to be a satellite?" In an attempt to answer the question the group sent out a telepathic message: "Are you a flying saucer?"

It almost seemed plausible that the object's answer — a twinkle — meant yes, for all afternoon members of the group, the New Age Foundation, had been recounting their experiences with the extraterrestrial. Flying saucers no longer seemed out of the ordinary.

The UFO convention was presented last weekend, in a pine-surrounded Mt. Rainier retreat, to commemorate a flying saucer sighting exactly 30 years before. On June 24, 1947, nine disc-shaped crafts were reportedly seen flying, or rather "skipping

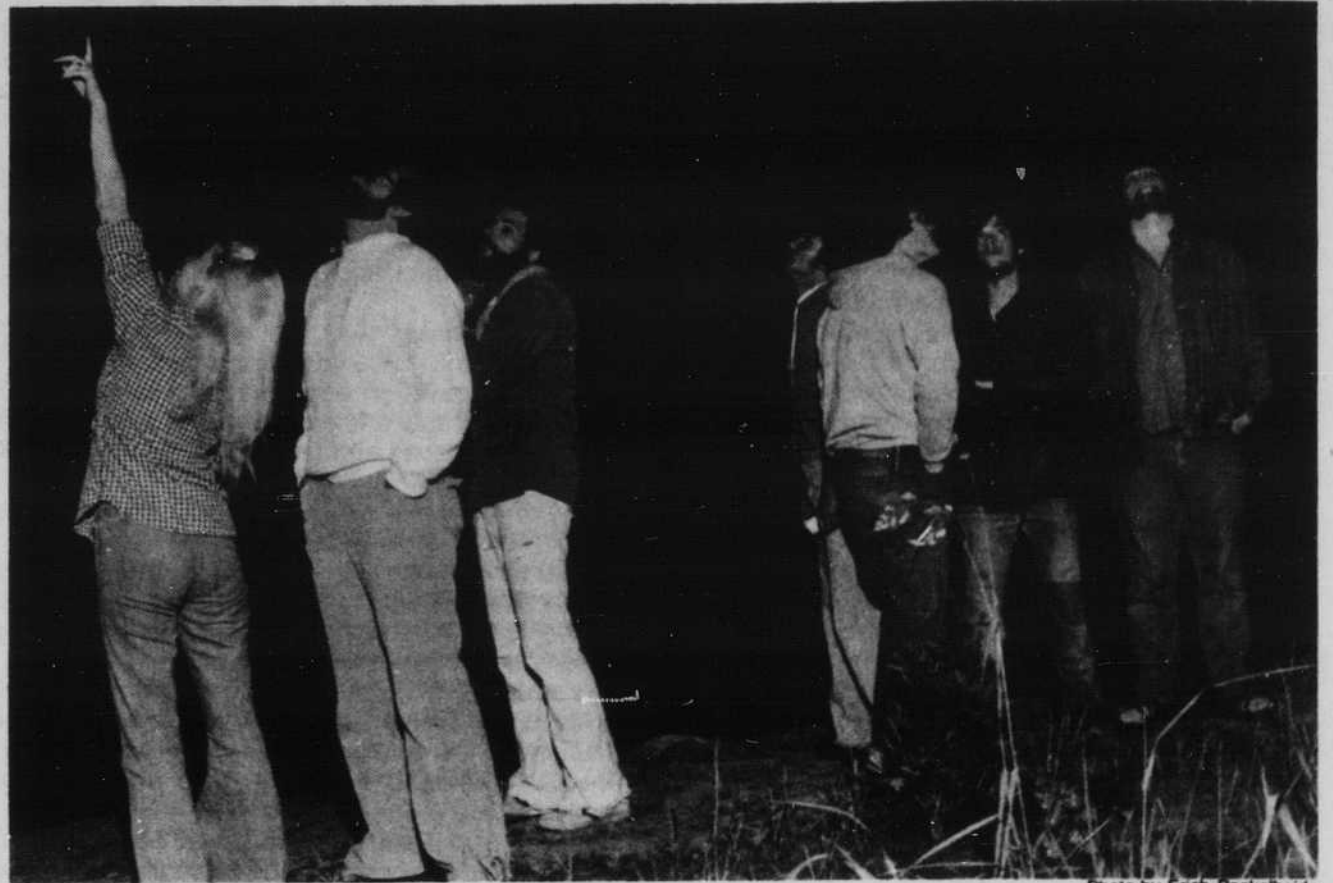
like saucers over water" between the snow-capped peaks of Mt. Rainier and Mt. Davis.

Though the group held an official "skywatch" last Friday, hoping for the crafts' return, it was not the purpose of the convention. "We're not up here expecting to have flying saucers appear again," explained the organization's head and founder, Wayne Aho. "We've come together to celebrate."

From the first meal at the convention, when members sat around munching on lettuce and sunflower seed salad, a communal and semi-religious atmosphere prevailed.

"Jesus is alive on Venus," foundation member John Prochaska told reporters. "He was originally sent from space to make us ready for removal. He is waiting to come back again."

Prochaska, a blustery yet confident man of over 50, does "former life" readings for a living, and calls himself a counselor in psychometry. Through the help of space dwelling "guardian angels" Prochaska reads the Akashic



It's a bird, it's a plane... but it wasn't a flying saucer, although these participants in last weekend's UFO convention were hoping it would be. Thirty years ago nine UFOs were sighted at that very spot, and members of the New Age Foundation went there to celebrate the sightings.

Record which is said to contain information on every man's former lives.

"I had one man who was deathly afraid of grasshoppers," Prochaska relates. "I read his record and told him that on a former life on a different planet he had been out on patrol, and came across gigantic grasshoppers."

Though he was armed, the grasshoppers overpowered and ate him."

Prochaska said after he revealed the source of this man's fear, the man no longer feared grasshoppers.

Prochaska said he has not only seen flying saucers, but has met their pilots — twice. "I've seen

two beings, one in Phoenix, Arizona in 1973, and a female in 1974. One was from Mars and the other was from a planet called Korendor. They look just like us."

A friendly and outgoing man, Prochaska is well aware of the impact his ideas have on the outside world. "You reporters will massacre me," he said with a smile.

Lidia Wolff, an 87-year-old woman who appeared to be

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