

Part-time seaman talks about aliens

By JOCK HATFIELD
Of the Emerald

Each day, millions of people go to work, drive their cars and watch the clock. But there are some who experience less common activities and are thus termed "nuts." They believe they have viewed or communicated with extraterrestrial beings.

Viewing a flying saucer can be a traumatic experience, according to David Hibbard, who will speak Thursday at the Eugene Public Library at 7:30 p.m. Those who have viewed UFOs, he says, find it hard to assimilate their experiences into everyday living, and therefore "seem a little different."

Hibbard, a 38-year-old, part-time merchant seaman, is a researcher of the psychology of "non-ordinary" experiences.

"The landing of extraterrestrial beings on earth could have the same effect on our culture as the landing of the white man had on the culture of the Native American," he says. "The destruction it brought was astounding."

Hibbard hopes humanity will become used to the idea of UFOs to prevent nervous breakdowns if they visit. "We should be able to say to the UFOs when they land, 'It's nice that you're here, watch the grass as you land.'"

Hibbard, tall with a broom-sized beard and large penetrating eyes, describes himself as a left-footed merchant seaman. "There was a philosopher who once said, 'Do what you need to to live, but do it only with your left foot.'" With his right foot, Hibbard conducts his UFO research, which combines 14 years of interviews and meditations of the subject of UFO phenomenon.

On the basis of his undocumented interviews with UFO observers, Hibbard claims that psychic awareness is often increased after a sighting. UFOs were always described in the same manner, he says: "As ellipsoid lights bouncing their way across the horizon."

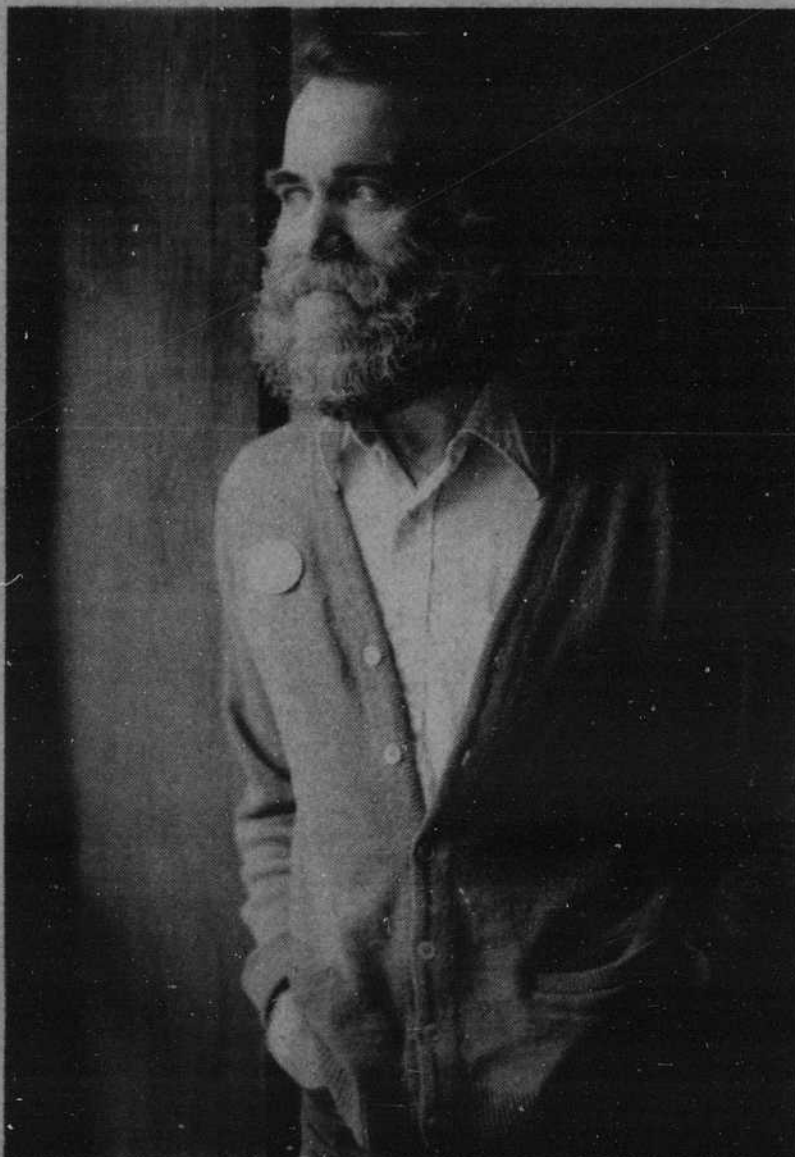
After these contacts, according to Hibbard, the viewers gained a new understanding of space-time. "We agreed to meet here at 4," Hibbard says. "That concept of space-time brought us together. But that is part of a much larger picture —

of dimensions in space and time beyond our comprehension."

Hibbard has made only one UFO sighting himself. "It was the usual, ellipsoid, glowing about 10 degrees above the horizon," he says. "It was moving extraordinarily fast. In this instance there was no psychic contact."

successfully based on a "conceptual model" that transcends "biological and social limitations."

Many UFO groups, according to Hibbard, have mistakenly centered themselves around a "religious coming" of the UFOs, rather than on self-improvement. "A potential reversal on a large scale could be



David Hibbard

Photo by Gregg Weed

But Hibbard considers his personal experience incidental. His real interest lies in quasi-scientific investigation into the experiences of others.

His interest in the phenomenon began with a study of groups that differ from the mainstream, which he calls the "emperor's clothes syndrome." This interest was gradually narrowed down to the "UFO phenomenon."

"Each of us tries to operate in our culture, through day-to-day living," he says. "But there is another dimension to our lives, and this kind of experience opens it up."

Hibbard believes once this enlightenment is achieved, human organization may be

a belief that non-terrestrial visitors will save us from our problems and biological limitations. It's up to us to grow."

Hibbard claims most disagreements, including a disbelief in UFOs, results from an unwillingness to disregard worn out "belief systems." He urges the "need to share in terms of similarities to transcend biological boundaries."

Hibbard admits he has had no contact with the considered authorities in the UFO field. "I would make no distinction between laymen and professionals in the area," he says. "Every individual has the power to find out for himself; we don't need to rely on so-called experts."

Student guide to be out soon

By KEVIN HACKETT
Of the Emerald

Student and faculty and staff telephone directories, which failed to make an appearance on campus fall term, will soon be distributed around the University.

The directory, also known as the "Pigger's Guide," and the faculty and staff directory, are usually distributed on campus during the latter part of November. But a change in the duplication process used to compile the faculty and staff directory has caused the delay in the printing of both publications.

In previous years, the University publications department has used a linotype printing process for the directory. This year the University switched to a computer for compiling the faculty and staff listings.

An entire new computer program had to be developed. Catherine Lauris, University catalog editor, says her staff was unfamiliar in working with a computer and the conversion to the new system turned out to be a "pioneering experience." The programs had to be redone several times before a complete and accurate version could be obtained.

"It has been a real learning process," Lauris says. "I was new at working with a computer staff and they were new at working with me."

Although there was a delay in the distribution of the directories this year, the conversion to the computer process should result in distribution of the guide at earlier dates in subsequent years, ac-

ording to Muriel Jackson, director of University Relations.

She says her office has been investigating methods for speeding up the publication process so the directories could be made available earlier in the year. She says only about a quarter of the faculty staff listings change each year. The computer process will allow revisions in the program from year to year without having to compile an entire new program.

With the linotype process, the entire directory list was reset every year.

Jackson is hopeful that in future years, the University will be able to distribute the directory in "late October or perhaps earlier."

The delay in getting the faculty and staff listings has postponed the publication of the student directories. Hal Smith, assistant director of the EMU, says the EMU annually distributes 5,000 students directories. Included in the directories are the faculty and staff listings.

Smith says Rice Directory Co. of Beaverton has contracted with the EMU to publish the directories for free. Rice is allowed to sell advertising space in the guide to cover its expenses.

The student listings are compiled at fall term registration. Smith says Rice has had the student listings since early October and has been waiting for the faculty and staff listings since then. Willard Rice, owner and general manager, says his company received the listings from the University, adding that the student directories should be available in approximately two weeks.

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