

**THE GALLUP POLL**

# Only a third deny existence of UFOs, extraterrestrial life

By GEORGE GALLUP

PRINCETON, N.J. — For millions of American adults a "Close Encounter of the Third Kind" is a distinct possibility, with only about one in three flatly denying the existence of either unidentified flying objects or extraterrestrial life.

In a new Gallup survey, 50 percent express the belief that there are "people somewhat like ourselves living on other planets in the universe," while 34 percent are skeptical and 16 percent unsure. The current figures are virtually unchanged from those recorded in a 1978 survey, but considerably more now than in either 1973 or 1966 believe in extraterrestrial life.

Similarly, 49 percent of those who have heard or read about UFOs think they are real, while 30 percent are doubtful and 21 percent uncertain. Belief in UFOs is down slightly from its peak in 1978, when 57 percent thought they were real.

In the new survey, one person in 11 (9 percent) reports actually having seen something he or she thought was a UFO, statistically similar to the findings of earlier polls.

Belief in the existence of life on

other planets and in UFO's is substantially higher among persons who attended college than among those whose formal education ended at or before graduation from high school.

Men are more likely than women to believe in extraterrestrial life, 62 percent and 40 percent, respectively, but men and women share the same opinions about UFOs.

As a rule, people 50 and older are less convinced than their juniors that either phenomenon has a basis in fact, but more older than younger adults are undecided. Westerners are most apt to be believers; Southerners, least so.

Following are the questions, the trends and the latest findings among key demographic groups:

Respondents were first asked: "Have you heard or read about UFOs (unidentified flying objects)?"

The latest findings are based on telephone interviews with 527 adults, 18 and older, conducted in scientifically selected localities across the nation during the period Feb. 2-18. For results based on samples of this size, one can say with 95 percent confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects could be 6 percent.

(Credit and thanks to FSR Consultant Graham Conway of British Columbia who brought this interesting item to our attention.

EDITOR)

"Have you ever seen anything you thought was a UFO?"

**SIGHTING OF UFO**

1987	9%
1978	9%
1973	11%
1966	5%

"In your opinion, are UFOs something real or just people's imagination?"

**EXISTENCE OF UFOs**

	Real	Imaginary	Not sure
1987	49%	30%	21%
1978	57%	27%	16%
1973	54%	30%	16%
1966	46%	29%	25%

**EXISTENCE OF UFOs**

	Real	Imaginary	Not sure
NATIONAL	49%	30%	21%
Men	50%	31%	19%
Women	49%	28%	23%
Attended college	56%	26%	18%
No college	44%	33%	23%
18-29 years	53%	32%	15%
30-49 years	57%	21%	22%
50 & older	36%	39%	25%
East	52%	30%	18%
Midwest	48%	27%	25%
South	39%	39%	22%
West	62%	19%	19%

"Do you think there are people somewhat like ourselves living on other planets in the universe, or not?"

**EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE**

	Yes	No	Not sure
1987	50%	34%	16%
1978	51%	33%	16%
1973	46%	38%	16%
1966	34%	46%	20%

**EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE**

	Yes	No	Not sure
NATIONAL	50%	34%	16%
Men	62%	30%	8%
Women	40%	38%	22%
Attended college	57%	33%	10%
No college	46%	35%	19%
18-29 years	52%	36%	12%
30-49 years	56%	35%	9%
50 & older	42%	33%	25%
East	55%	29%	16%
Midwest	49%	34%	17%
South	38%	48%	14%
West	63%	21%	16%

## THE SPANISH SCENE

### 1. Alleged "UFOs" seen near Canary Islands claimed to be missiles from Soviet submarines

IN recent years many publications in various parts of the world have carried a report that on March 5, 1979, two UFOs were seen by hundreds of witnesses to rise out of the sea from an area lying 200 miles to the south-west of the Canary Islands (Lat. 29° 30' N., Long. 17° 00' W.) in the North Atlantic Ocean, and have printed some of the numerous photographs taken at the time. A brief account of the affair appeared in World Round-Up (p. iii) of FSR 25/2

(March-April 1979), reporting a lecture on the sighting by Spanish Ufologist Juan-José Benítez.

FSR Correspondent J. Plana Crivillén has now sent us the text of an article, 'OVNI, Destino Siberia' ("UFO" — Destination Siberia) by Carlos Yárnoz, which appeared in the Spanish newspaper *El País* of June 14, 1987. In this article the author states that preliminary findings of a special commission, set up at the time by the Spanish Air Force to study the events of March 5, 1979, now indicate that the two so-called "UFOs" seen by so many people that night were in fact two intercontinental missiles fired from a Soviet nuclear submarine towards a target-area in Siberia. (Enquiries made of the American authorities brought the reply that most emphatically no submarine of theirs had been involved.)