COURIER-IOURNAL

UFOS Draw Churches' tention According to a survey, recently undertaken in

Britain, more people believe in UFOs than in God.



Christians, too, are coming to believe in UFOs, and certainly to accept the possibility - and maybe probability - of intelligent life on other planets.

Theological treatises on the topic have appeared in highly reputed religious publications.

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President Jimmy Carter claims to have seen a UFO, and recently released additional government files on them baring some held to be classified for national security purposes by the CIA.

In Church circles, the possibility of life on other planets was until recently considered both far-fetched and faintly heretical.

Such theories were regarded as tending to disprove or diminish the biblical account of creation and more important — Christ's coming to earth to redeem mankind.

A broader view is now taken. If God is the master of creation, this includes all creation.

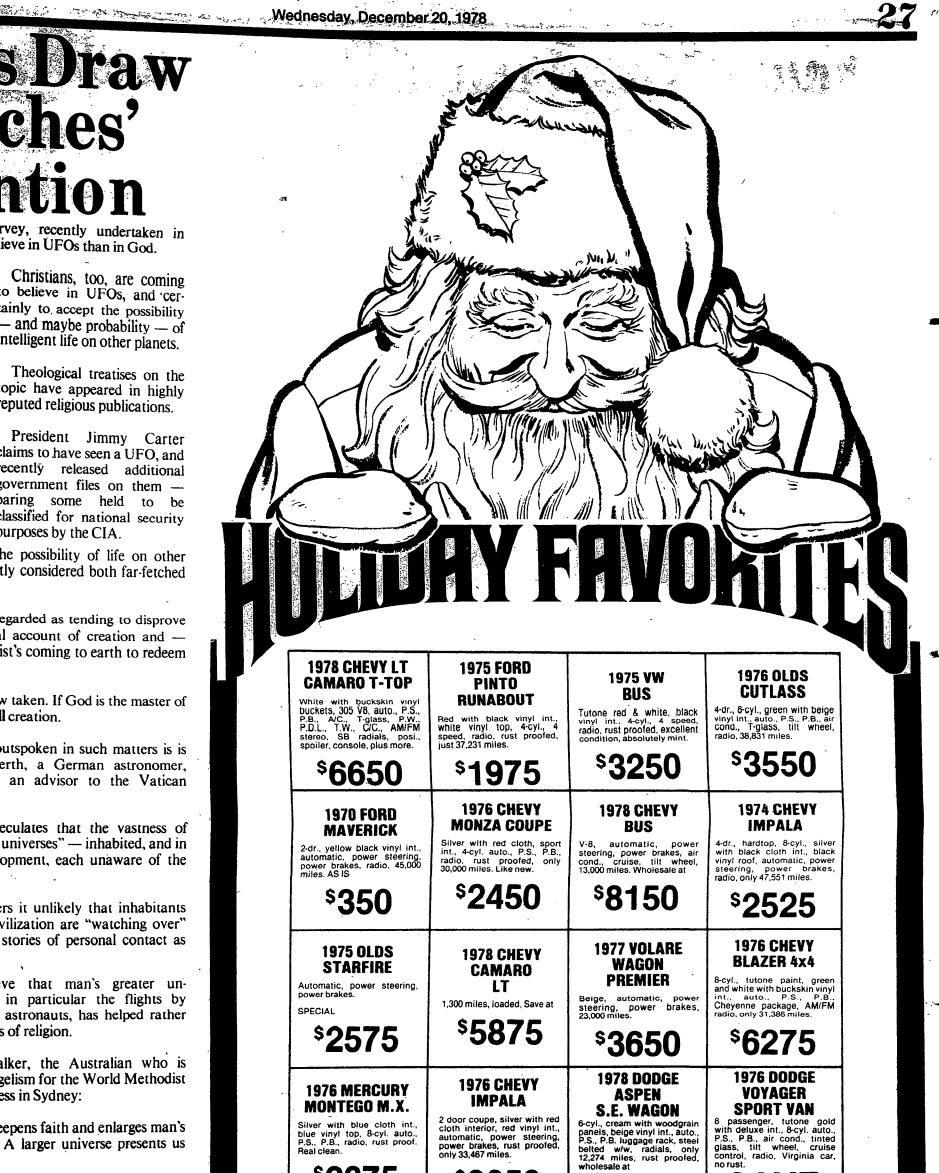
One person who is outspoken in such matters is is Father Bernard Philberth, a German astronomer, nuclear physicist, and an advisor to the Vatican in scientific matters.

Father Philberth speculates that the vastness of space contains "parallel universes" — inhabited, and in various stages of development, each unaware of the existence of another.

However, he considers it unlikely that inhabitants of a more advanced civilization are "watching over" the earth, and regards stories of personal contact as fanciful.

Many people believe that man's greater understanding of space, in particular the flights by American and Russian astronauts, has helped rather than hindered the claims of religion.

The Rev. Alan Walker, the Australian who is director of World Evangelism for the World Methodist Council, said in an address in Sydney:



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"Space exploration deepens faith and enlarges man's understanding of God. A larger universe presents us with a larger God."

The late Dr. Werhner von Braun, a key figure in the U.S. space flight program, once stated:

"Manned space flight is an amazing achievement, but it has opened for mankind thus far only a tiny door for viewing the awesome reaches of space.

"An outlook through this peephole at the vast mysteries of the universe should only confirm our belief in the certainty of the Creator."

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