'Fire in the Sky' flames out short of mark

By Gerri Pare Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — A reported 1975 UFO incident forms the basis for an only mildly intriguing Paramount movie, Fire in the Sky.

The movie opens as five worried Arizona loggers arrive back in town one November night without one of their own, Travis Walton (D.B. Sweeney).

Crew leader Mike (Robert Patrick) calls the sheriff and the five men all swear they saw a flying saucer hovering above them in the forest. Travis left the safety of their truck, was hit by a bolt of light and they panicked and drove off. When Mike guiltily drove back shortly after, both Travis and the

UFO were gone.

Enter James Garner as a seasoned lawman who smells murder and is out to break their story.

In fact, most of the movie is bogged down in the mechanics of the inquiry and the loggers' frustration that the townspeople can't believe Travis was abducted by a flying saucer. (Would the loggers have believed such a story from any of their neighbors?)

Five nights later Travis is found cowering at a gas station, with little memory of what happened. In time he recalls waking up in a gluey, coffinlike chamber followed by a terrifying encounter with mute, wrinkled aliens who experimented on him as if he were just another laboratory rat.

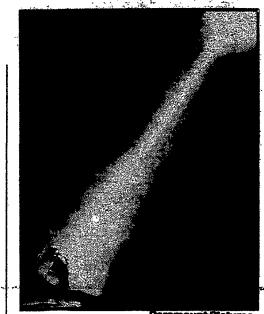
Director Robert Lieberman draws no

conclusions from all this and fails to develop much drama from this supposedly well-documented event.

Special effects in the alien sequence are so spooky the scene would play well in a horror movie. Yet, happening so late in the narrative, only diehard UFO devotees will still be watching with bated breath.

Before it ever really reaches outer space, Fire in the Sky simply flames out.

Due to a scene of menacing aliens physically abusing the main character, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II.— adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



Travis Walton (D.B. Sweeney) is struck by a mysterious bolt of light in Fire in the Sky.

Fictional Gospel presents vision of women's roles and experiences

The Gospel According to Mary, by Miriam Therese Winter; Crossroad (New York, 1993); 143 pages; \$10.95.

By Monsignor William H. Shannon Guest contributor

An exciting event has taken place in the Christian world. A new Gospel has recently been "discovered." The name of the work is *The Gospel According to Mary*. It recovers what in the four canonical Gospels is unspoken, perhaps even carefully hidden, namely, the story of women's role in receiving, presenting and keeping alive the vision Jesus entrusted to his followers.

This Gospel was written by the granddaughter of Mary, the mother of John Mark, who presided over a house church in Jerusalem. For sources the author of this Gospel had three other woman named Mary: Mary, the mother of Jesus, Mary of Bethany, and Mary Magdalene, as well as other women whose lives Jesus had transformed.

This sounds quite exciting doesn't it? But I have to admit that I have been

carried away with enthusiasm and have used the word "discovered" in a very wide sense — maybe even strained it beyond limits toward the very borders of the word "inaccurate." True, a document called *The Gospel According to Mary* does exist, but it is not a document "discovered" from the past, but one created in the present (though actually you can "discover" it in your bookstore).

But what I must admit is that this Gospel is an imaginary one. Mary, its author, is an imaginary woman.

The book is an attempt to do what the Gospel-writers would never even have thought of doing, namely, retelling the Gospel in terms of women's experiences. Thus, Mary Magdalene and other women, as well as the men, are called to be disciples. Women are the principal characters in Jesus' parables.

The story of the prodigal, for example, becomes the story of a delinquent daughter, who leaves home, spends all her resources, ends up a prostitute and finally gets pregnant. She repents, re-

turns to her loving mother who receives her with tenderness and puts on a joyful party celebrating her daughter's return to life.

An interesting twist is added to the story: this loving mother admits to her elder daughter that she had taken her too much for granted and begs her forgiveness. Yet another story concerns the young maid in Caiphas' palace. She had heard of Jesus' words and wondrous deeds. After she had put the questions to Peter about being Jesus' follower, she heard his denial and felt sorry for him in his weakness.

The importance of Miriam Therese Winter's book should not be underrated. It is not just a pretty story from the land of make-believe. It would be a serious mistake to think of it as simply an imaginary picture of what might have been but actually was not.

While it would perhaps be too strong — though maybe salutary — to say that she is exposing a cover-up in the Gospel narratives, it is not too strong to say that she is correcting a one-sided emphasis on Jesus' male

disciples. Her "Gospel" makes much more explicit the place of women in Jesus' story and in the church's ministry — a place only begrudgingly acknowledged in the canonical Scriptures.

This is an important book. It says in a kind of poetic way what feminist theologians have been saying in prose: namely, that women's role in the Gospel narrative is much more significant than we have been willing to admit and that women's role in the church today needs to be acknowledged as one equal to that of men's.

More than that, it is a lively book. It opens up new insights into the gospel story as we have known it. In both message and style, it makes for fascinating reading. In fact, it might make a wonderful Easter gift for someone.

Once you have begun this book, you will find it difficult to put down. Don't miss it. It speaks to all of us — women and men — even as it delights.

Monsignor Shannon is professor emeritus at Nazareth College of Rochester.

Dining Around the Diocese

AVON INN 55 East Main Street Avon, NY 14414 (minutes off 390, exit 10) 716-226-8181

The Avon Inn welcomes all to experience the timeless elegance of this 170 year old Greek Revival Mansion. With five cozy parlors, each with a fireplace, the Inn offers a comfortable setting for dining and overnight lodeing.

Join us for our Special Get-Away Package. It includes a room for two, \$25 dinner certificate, a bottle of champagne, and a continental breakfast. Only \$49 + tax Sun., Tues., Wed., and Thurs. and \$69 + tax on Friday and Saturdays. Valid through April 30th, 48 hour advance reservations required.

EASTER Sunday is just around the corner, April 11th. We will be serving our traditional Easter buffet from 10:30-4:00 P.M. \$10.95 + tax for adults and \$5.95 for children under 10. Reservations required.

The Avon Inn is the perfect place for Wedding Receptions, Showers, Meetings and Anniversary Parties for up to 200 guests.

Make plans to visit the historic Avon Inn today.

BOSDYK'S Restaurant & Lounge 430 Spencerport Rd. (corner of Long Pond) 716-247-7690

Open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner, we offer a relaxing, comfortable atmosphere and reasonable prices. Whether you choose from our complete menu, or from one of our daily lunch or dinner specials, we're sure to please your palate. Serving Fish Frys 7 daysaweek. Our party room is available for gatherings of up to 60 people. We hope to see you here!

CINELLI'S Country House Restaurant 6007 Lake Rd. (Rt. 18) Sodus, New York 14551 (315) 483-9154

One of Wayne County's finest restaurants and Party Houses, Cinelli's Country House Restaurant is a really special place! Fine service, great view, wonderful food, and a marvelous menu are just the beginning.

A big, beautiful California-coast-style solarian dining room with real wood arches and glass commands an unparalleled panorama of orchards, farms, old woods, and Lake Ontario.

In addition to our extensive lunch and dinner menus, you may also choose from between 10 and 12 daily specials. Sunday Specials from our country oven include: Roast Leg of Montana Lamb, Fresh Roast Pork and Fresh Roast Turkey served with country dressing and pan gravies.

We'll be serving traditional Easter Dinners, Sunday, April 11th; 12 noon-7:30pm. Reservations Appreciated.

For your reception, banquet or dinner for two to be truly special, choose a really special place. There's no better choice than Cinelli's!

Beginning Tuesday, April 6th we will resume our regular hours. Serving lunches Tues.-Friday, from 11:30am; dinners Tues.-Sat. from 5pm; Sunday 12:30-8pm. Closed Mondays. Reservations are recommended. "A big city menu at country prices."

IRONDEQUOIT TOWN LOUNGE 705 Titus Avenue (716) 342-3465

Serving lunches 11:30-3p.m. daily except Sunday. Featuring a Early Bird Special every night but Friday. Fish Frys every Friday. Our party room can accommodate up to 60 people for your next gathering. Clip out this ad and receive \$5.00 OFF TWO DINNERS (not valid on dinners under \$8.00 or Early Bird Specials), offer good Sunday thru Thursday, during the month of April. Please present ad when ordering.

MR. DOMINIC'S ON THE LAKE 4699 Lake Avenue (716) 865-4630

If you're planning lunch or dinner out, take a drive to Mr. Dominic's at the Lake. Noted for their fine Italian cuisine, they offer delicious appetizers, wonderful soups, 11 veal dishes, vegetarian, chicken and fish specialties, and homemade pasta. Early bird dinner specials are served Sunday-Friday. Also offered is a 10% senior discount. Delivery is available for your luncheon group of ten or more. Lunch hours from 11a.m.-2p.m., Tuesday-Friday. Dinner hours Monday-Friday 4-9:30p.m., Saturday 5-10p.m., Sunday 3-9p.m.

PETALS at the Marriot Thruway Hotel 5257 W. Henrietta Road 359-1800

Petals offers a rich wood and brass decor, serving traditional American cuisine. Popular for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Lunch, Mon. - Sat., 11:30a.m. - 2p.m. Dinner, Mon. - Sat., 5 - 11p.m. Sunday Breakfast Feast served 11:30a.m. - 2:30p.m.



VESUVIO ITALIAN AMERICAN CUISINE 58 University Ave. (corner of Gibbs) (716) 454-6620

Located one block from Main St. in the cultural district and two blocks North of the Eastman Theatre, you'll find the best homemade Italian food Rochester can offer. Relax with friends-enjoy professional service. Plenty of food and your favorite wine make Vesuvio a place you'll want to come back to. "That's Italian!" says Al Pacino (of Buffalo). Don't take his word for it, find out for yourself. Live Italian Music every Friday Evening 8-11, and Sundays 6-9. Serving Lunch: M-F 11:30-3; Dinner: M-Th 3-10; Fri. til midnight; Sat. 5-midnight; Sun. 4-10.

Bring in this ad and receive 15% OFF your guest check during the month of April. Good for lunch or dinner.

THE VILLA CARLO Genesee Valley Shopping Center Geneseo, NY (716) 243-5330 55 Main St., Mt. Morris, NY (Mt. Morris entrance) (716) 658-2204

Before or after enjoying a day at Letchworth State Park, come and experience the casual dining pleasure of the Villa Carlo. Enjoy a cup of Cappucino after a meal featuring all homemade soups, bread, pasta and dessents. Cooked to order for your dining satisfaction by our owner/chef. Full service bar. Reservations are appreciated. Open Tuesday-Thursday, 11:30am-9pm, Friday and Saturday, 11:30am-10pm, and Sundays, 12N-8pm. Closed Mondays.