

# Engineer writes of 'intergalactic intrigue'



**Dayton Daily News, Dayton, Ohio**

**Written 11:35 AM Wednesday, January 6, 2010, Provided on January 7, 2010, Community Section, Beavercreek Neighbors, page 2RF.**

There has been a book, actually a series of books, lurking in the back of Stephen Baker's brain since 1976, when he saw the first "Star Wars" movie.

The Beavercreek resident recently published the first of his four-part series, "United Worlds Authority."

"I am retired from civil service and pursuing a career in writing novels. My first love is science fiction and then military history.

"The first book of a series of four is complete," he said of "United Worlds Authority: Book 1, Wrong Time and Place."

He started mentally formulating his story because of "Star Wars" and the shortcomings he found in the movie.

"The design of the spacecraft was laughable to me. I made a 24-inch diameter spacecraft out of scrap aluminum."

"During a most memorable lunch period, the flying saucer flew in a wind tunnel. Its flight was wobbly, but it flew, which is more than I can say for the chances of Hollywood's creations," said Baker, describing his book series as "a unique blend of international and intergalactic intrigue."

The series' symbol, which appears on the book cover, is a white stylized eagle on red, a design he made in his junior high school art class in 1957.

"I like creating things and that includes images through stories. UWA is copyrighted as of 1983, but was not a full-time effort until 2007 when I retired," he said, explaining that he decided to self-publish when he couldn't find a publishing house willing to give a new author, at age 66, a chance.

“You can believe me when I say it is an exhausting task,” he said, explaining that getting the book written was only part of the task.

“There was a multitude of struggles and unending frustration, most of which was due to learning what to do and not to do. ... You are everything, not only the author, but solely responsible for marketing, Web site, dust cover and chapter lead graphics, financial management, printing company selection, and you name it.”

The second book of the series is half done, the third is about 15 percent completed and “the last five paragraphs of the last book are finalized,” said Baker, who describes himself as “an engineer by trade and heart.”

“We are a precise lot and like things to go smoothly. UWA does that while being very entertaining — the prime reason for reading science fiction, or any relaxing book.”

“UWA does not have strange creatures or weird planets. The bulk of the story is on Earth.

“The other world prominent in the novel is very Earth-like. What varies are the characters in situations we would never experience,” said Baker, who moved to Beaver Creek in 1978, with his wife of 42 years, Angela, when he took a job at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.