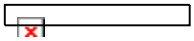
IN 1991 DAVID ICKE WAS RIDICULED THROUGHOUT THE UK FOR WEARING TURQUOISE AND STRESSING ITS IMPORTANCE IN THE NATIONAL MEDIA. THEY SAID HE WAS A LUNATIC.

NOW A SCIENTIST HAS REVEALED THAT TURQUOISE IS THE



BASE COLOUR OF THE UNIVERSE.

The Daily Telegraph (Britain)
Friday, January 11, 2002

"THE COLOUR OF THE UNIVERSE IS PALE TURQUOISE"
By David Derbyshire
Science Correspondent

SPACE is not black, but an elegant shade of pale green, a team of astronomers announced last night. After studying the light emitted by 200,000 galaxies, they concluded that the average colour of the universe is between turquoise and aquamarine.

The discovery that the universe has a colour, and that it would not look amiss on a bathroom wall, will come as no surprise to New Age followers such as David Icke, who wore turquoise because he considered it was the most natural colour.

Karl Glazebrook, of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, announced the colour to startled colleagues at the American Astronomical Society in Washington yesterday. "It is quite close to the standard shade of pale turquoise, although it's a few per cent greener," he said.

For those wanting to replicate the colour of the universe at home, it lies somewhere between Mexican mint, jade cluster and shangri-la silk in the Delux range. In the Crown Paint green collection, it appears to be a cross between soft khaki and cool aqua.

Although the finding could have implications for interior designers and artists, the discovery was part of a serious attempt to test theories about how stars and galaxies form.

The team used data from more than 200,000 galaxies collected by the Australian Galaxy Redshift Survey. Using the visible portion of the spectrum, Dr. Glazebrook and his colleague Ivan Baldry produced a chart they called the "cosmic spectrum".

This allowed them to work out the total amount of light emitted by the universe for any given wavelength, or colour. The information was used to check four different models of star formation. But it also allowed them to work out the "average" colour of everything as seen by the human eye.

"We believe that the survey is large enough, reaching out several billion light years, to make this a truly representative sample," said Dr. Baldry, who described the research as "a bit of fun".

They believe that the universe probably started with a "blue period", when young blue stars dominated. It is now in a "green period" and will eventually enter a "red period" when the older, redder stars will dominate.