

# UFO

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ROUTE 1 — BOX 220

PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 U.S.A.

CO-EDITORS: LUCIUS FARISH  
ROD B. DYKE

AUGUST 1986

NUMBER 205

VICTOR VALLEY DAILY PRESS, Victorville, CA - June 8, 1986

### Hesperia couple reports early morning UFO show

By WILLIAM COUEY  
Daily Press Staff Writer

HESPERIA — Theeey're baaaaaaack.

At least, they were last week, says a Hesperia man.

Mel Hardman and his wife, Fonda, say they watched for several minutes last Wednesday as an X-shaped UFO cavorted in the predawn sky over Hesperia. He called the *Daily Press*, he said, to see if anyone else reported it.

"It looked sort of like two frankfurters crossed to make an X, both of them inside an oval-shaped 'soft-light' lightbulb," the 60-year-old ex-Air Force man said.

"It wasn't an airplane and it wasn't a weather balloon. I don't know what it was, and I'd like to find out," said Hardman, who has em-

physema and spends most of each night watching TV from a reclining chair in his living room.

Hardman, whose apartment is near Balsam and Sequoia roads, said he sleeps in fits and starts in front of the TV, which is next to a picture window facing east toward the sunrise.

Wednesday morning, Hardman awoke about 5 and glanced out the window. There, hanging above the crescent moon in the brightening sky, was the UFO.

"It had a grayish framework that was kind of thick — thick like frankfurters, rather than sticks. This framework was surrounded by an oval-shaped white glow that had a defined outline. It was like looking at a 'soft light' bulb.

"There was no glare, no sound, no smoke and no noise. The thing was right above the moon, but it was much smaller," he said.

The UFO hovered in one place with a kind of wobbling or quivering motion, Hardman said. He watched it from 5:08 to 5:11 a.m., then yelled to his wife to wake up.

Fonda came in, and as the two watched, the UFO suddenly zoomed off to the south beyond the frame of the window and his line of sight. His wife picks up the narrative:

"It disappeared into some haze or clouds. Then it came back out, almost all the way back to the moon. Then it stopped, turned around, shot back into the clouds and disappeared," she said. They agreed it moved much faster than any jet they'd ever seen.

"You aren't going to make us look foolish, are you?" Fonda added anxiously. "We don't smoke or drink, and we're not kooks."

"I don't make these things up, believe me," Hardman said. "If I knew how, I'd write them down and make a lot of money." He added that he has good long-distance eyesight and only needs glasses to read.

Does he believe in UFOs? "I have no stand on them either way. I'm not politically bound on these things," Hardman added. He saw a recent report on television that UFOs had been spotted in Northern California, but he didn't pay much attention, he said.

Couldn't the object have been a weather balloon lit up by the predawn sun?

"I've seen weather balloons; it was definitely not a weather balloon. It was too quick and more abrupt. It seemed powered; its energy seemed to be coming from within rather than pushed by the wind," Hardman said.

Maj. Lloyd Patterson, a spokesman for nearby George Air Force Base, said his office had no recent reports of UFOs. Nor does a weather station there launch balloons anymore, he said.

The California Highway Patrol office in Victorville also had no reports of UFOs, but a spokesman noted the office doesn't take phone calls until 8 a.m.

Hardman's sighting was the second recently to involve an X-shaped UFO. On May 22, the Associated Press reported, a CHP officer and a radio station news director were among more than a dozen people to report seeing an X-shaped UFO race across the sky near Petaluma north of San Francisco. It was variously reported as black or orange, with white lights and tiny green ones.

DAILY NEWS, Tempe, AZ - July 11, 1986

## UFO ... or Mars?

### Pulsating red light tails travelers

#### Staff and wire reports

To a carload of people, the pulsating red light trailing them Thursday over western Arizona most certainly was real. The UFO Reporting Center in Seattle agrees.

But in Tucson, Carl Posey of Kitt Peak Observatory said the object almost certainly was the planet Mars — nearly 34 million miles from earth.

Astronomical data indicate Mars hasn't been so visible to the unaided eye for 15 years, Posey said.

He also said its appearance would match the motorists' description, and it would set like a sun, slipping below the horizon about 4:30 a.m.

Robert Gribble, a volunteer researcher at the privately financed UFO center, where the report was referred, said Mars is only one possibility.

"It's very hard to get an identification on just a light, but if it's a moving, maneuvering object, then of course that would eliminate any kind of astronomical body."

A woman, her two teenage sons and another adult were traveling along U.S. 93 near Wikieup, a town of 500 people 120 miles northwest of Phoenix, when they spotted the bright light, Sgt. Allan Schmidt, a Department of Public Safety spokesman, said.

The DPS officer sent to investigate also saw the mysterious light before it dived from view.

"It appeared to be sitting on a mountain ridge about five miles away," Schmidt said. "It then appeared to move and follow them along to the west as they traveled, coming within about a mile of them at one point."

Schmidt described the object as "about twice as bright and twice as big as a star."

"There were no alien beings, no ziggy rays or anything like that," he said.

The people who said their car was followed by the light called the DPS from a pay phone at Wikieup, and DPS Officer Veronica Minch was dispatched to investigate about 4 a.m., Schmidt said.

Though Schmidt declined to identify the people, he said, "they were agitated, excited, but not crazy people — not hallucinating, drunk or crazy."

He said when Minch arrived, the light was hovering just above the horizon.

"While she was there, it suddenly dropped out of sight below the horizon," he said, "but she discounted that due to tired eyes."

Officials at Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas, Nev., were contacted "to see if they had done any rocket work" that might have accounted for the light, but they said they had not, Schmidt said.

Gribble said he is trying to contact the people who reported the light.

"If the witnesses cannot describe a structured, wingless vehicle of any kind, and if it is just a light, we would classify it as unknown and probably never come up with an answer," he said.

Gribble, 60, said about 10 percent of the sightings are never explained and may represent "highly advanced civilizations and life from the solar system."

He said the center receives about six UFO sightings a day from all over the North American continent.

"We get very few reports out of Arizona, but that doesn't mean people aren't seeing things," Gribble said.

A spokesman for the North American Air Defense Command said officials were studying reports of the Arizona sighting.

Delbert Kindschi said NORAD often receives inquiries about objects that turn out to be satellites burning out as they re-enter the Earth's atmosphere.

However, Kindschi said the Arizona sighting did not seem to match the descriptions of incidents involving satellites.

A spokesman for the National Weather Service in Phoenix said the object sighted near Wikieup probably was not a weather balloon. He said balloons in Arizona are launched only from Winslow and Tucson.

NEWS, McKeesport, PA - May 28, 1986

## Where Are UFOs?

THE REPORTED SIGHTING of UFOs in the skies over Brazil recently brings to mind the fact that we haven't been hearing or reading much these days about this phenomenon.

The lack of news is a marked contrast to the 1950s and '60s, when reported UFO sightings were common currency of the news.

This leads to a question (holding in abeyance for the moment the jackpot question as to whether such things exist): Are there fewer UFOs around now, or are they just being seen less? One would like to have the opinion of J. Allen Hynek, an astrophysicist whose interest lent a gloss of scientific respectability to the matter — but alas, it is Dr. Hynek's death that has brought the subject to attention.

Our hunch is that he would have responded to inquiries along these lines: We don't know whether there are fewer UFOs or just fewer sightings, or maybe as many or even more UFOs but fewer sightings, or perhaps something else — so let's just study the relevant data, and meanwhile keep an open mind.

That was Dr. Hynek's theme. More knowledgeable than most, as a consultant to the Air Force UFO reports-assessment project, he argues for not dismissing reported sightings out of hand but applying rigorous scientific method to analysis of them. That is Allen Hynek's particular legacy.

It remains a good idea, one that puts to shame scientists who shrug off UFO reports as nonsense without having examined the evidence as they would evidence in their own fields of specialization.

There may be a new rash of reported sightings now that Brazilian officials and civilians are reporting seeing "pulsating, colored balls of light" that an Air Force pilot said "couldn't be anything now existing". Were that to happen, it would be good to know that trained minds were asking pertinent questions about the hows and whys of the phenomenon.

PATRIOT NEWS, Harrisburg, PA

July 15, 1986 CR: S. Gordon

**ADDENDUM:** Several weeks ago we fielded some questions — but didn't provide any definite answers — regarding a mysterious object which a number of persons claim to have sighted flying over the local area. Apparently, some copies of Answer Line found their way to an organization called the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, a representative of which called us last week. The association describes itself as a "scientific clearing house" for mysterious happenings and unidentified flying objects in the state. And, it takes its business quite seriously. In fact, we don't think they appreciated reading our remark about locking up our supply of Reese's Pieces. In any event, the association's files list other sightings in Pennsylvania this year that were similar to the object described by Answer Line readers — that being a large triangular-shaped object that made no noise and which didn't have the flashing lights commonly associated with airplanes. The association would like to hear more about the local sighting. It has a 24-hour UFO hotline, (412) 838-7768, and its mailing address is 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, Pa., 15601.

John Keasler

# The UFOs are back, just in the nick of time

Great! Just in time, too. An absolutely marvelous UFO story finally has shown up, just in time to get the warm weather months started right.

Frankly, we UFO addicts had been a little worried for the past several months.

It's been a long time since a good UFOer hit the wires. And even we true believers — and I take a back seat to nobody in being a true believer in UFOs — need a decent UFO report from time to time, to shore up our faith.

And this is a good one, as you may have seen in the papers. (Although newspaper editors still bury most UFO stories in the back pages, assuming they use them at all: This shows how cynical and hard-boiled they are. Aren't realists cute, the little devils?)

The right elements are here. The story is from far off (Brazil, in this case). It's always easier to believe UFOs in Brazil than when they are over, say, Yeehaw Junction. Or even exotic Jacksonville.

There is a good description of these UFOs. (Balls of multicolored light!) High-ranking people are quoted (the Brazilian air force minister himself, along with the air force press office.)

What happened is that tiny balls of multicolored light going 900 mph raced through Brazilian skies and, said the air force, saturated radar and interfered with air traffic one night this week.

The air force sent up three Mirage fighters and two U.S.-made F-5E jets to chase the objects, but instead the multicolored balls of light chased the planes. Brazil now has "ordered a probe" of this sighting.

Wonderful! Now that is a fine UFO story ... it gives me the strength to go on, gives all us believers new hope, and I should like to take this opportunity to thank the pilots of the multicolored balls of light.

I have been a UFO believer for 40 years this year, and it takes a story like that to start the summer off right. It will add zest to my midnight beach-walking, spring to my stride and a glow to the tired old eyes of this Intergalactic scout here. (My dog also gives thanks, as we will be going to the beach more nights, now that we again have something to look up for.)

Sometimes I have wondered how people get along who don't believe in UFOs. What do they hope to see when they look up? Do they look up?

UFOs added a lot to my life the minute I heard about them. The reports started coming in around the world in 1946, which happens to be the first year I was in the newspaper business. They were called "Flying Saucers" back then, and you were supposed to be crazy if you "believed" in them.

(That feeling would still exist widely if we didn't keep sending our own UFOs into space. In fact, and despite this, that feeling does still exist widely ... the world is full of people who secretly think you are flaky if you give any credence to UFO reports, despite our own space probes. To each his own.)

Over the years I've talked to hundreds of people — and interviewed dozens in detail — who saw UFOs. I believed most all of them. Why not? They saw something ... a flying object they couldn't identify. (Isn't that a UFO?) Also, except for a few shuck-and-jive artists trying to peddle a book or pull a publicity stunt, these people had nothing to gain. They were sincere.



Keasler

Anyway, UFOs are so important to us humans that if there were no such thing as UFOs it would be necessary to invent them.

What, Virginia? No UFOs? That's as bad as no Santa Claus. (Assuming it is different at all.) And, anyhow, there are all sorts of advantages to believing in UFOs.

We believers aren't as bored as cynics. We can always go outside and look up to see if the space aliens are up there. That means a lot to me, particularly on my beach walks ... there's only so much you can do looking at stars and trying, unsuccessfully, to see a bear or whatever.

But when you look up in the hope of noting an incoming spacecraft from Out There, it adds zest to your life. Also, there is usually something up there to make you wonder if it isn't a by-damn spacecraft! (No, more to the left, Nancy; flickering orange and green and just sort of hovering there. This may be it, kiddo ...)

People who know I have been scanning the sky for 40 years in the hope of breaking the space alien story often ask me if I have ever actually seen a UFO. Yes. I have seen hundreds of UFOs in my time. I have never seen one I could actually prove was full of space creatures, or which in fact held up to my own doubts the following day ... but who cares? In the cold light of tomorrow I may decide it was a cloud, Venus, or an airliner ... but the thrill was there every seeking night!

That's hundreds of very interesting experiences the non-believers didn't have ... and on the basis of the story out of Brazil I can assure you I will see at least one UFO tonight from the beach on Key Biscayne. So will Nancy, my dog. (She has a good grasp of astronomy and she thinks UFOs are from the Dog Star.)

Looking for UFOs is deeply satisfying. You might see one. Nancy and I are unlikely to see God, as we walk this Big Riddle mudball looking up at the enigmatic stars; we are not going to get a handle on infinity, nor figure out the human condition, or the dog condition either, for that matter. Cosmic mysteries will remain cosmic mysteries as we stroll the dark and lovely beach ... but, by golly, we might see a flying saucer! Hell, they saw 'em in Brazil!

This is called logic, and I like it.

I have been all over this country talking to UFO-seers, and written lots of their stories, and hope to do some more, and one thing is starkly evident. People who look for UFOs have more fun than people who don't. It's been a long arid spell for us true believers. Good UFO stories have been scarce to the point of non-existence. Even the supermarket tabloids have been running short, and, with summer coming up, I had been secretly worried. Had the UFOs gone back where they came from?

That is the secret terror of the UFO believer ... that all the stories will dry up, and UFOs will be relegated to a historical limbo of forgotten curiosities. (Then what would we be looking up for when we looked up?)

Ah, but they're back, they're back. Thank you, Multicolored Balls of Light! Thank you, Brazilian air force minister, radar stations, the wire service press and everybody else involved! It looks like a great UFO summer coming up, and I thank you. My dog thanks you, also.

## UFO group signs with Tucson firm

The Foundation for UFO Research recently signed a management services contract with Association Managers Inc. (AMI), a Tucson-based association management company.

The foundation is a non-profit tax-exempt corporation founded in 1982 to support UFO research performed by individuals and organizations. One purpose of the foundation is to raise money to help expert UFO investigators.

"One of the perennial problems in UFO research is a lack of funding," said Allen Benz, president of the foundation.

The foundation also aims to make people aware of "the UFO reality," Benz said. "Our premise is that something serious is going on that needs to be studied. WHAT it turns out to be doesn't matter to the foundation."

"Many people get wedded to a theory and pretty soon only see what they want to see," said Edward M. Biebel Jr., assistant to the president. "The foundation does not investigate sightings itself, but does turn reports of sightings over to competent individuals or organizations for investigation."

AMI, Arizona's oldest and largest association management company, is owned and operated by Phillip A. Gutt and Brent L. Davis, and will provide day-to-day business management services and office space for the foundation.

The firm provides similar services for many other Tucson trade, professional and homeowners associations from its offices at 3900 E. Timrod St.

## Officials doubt UFO sighting

Authorities said today they doubt a light spotted by a Nevada family and a state highway patrolwoman while it hovered in the sky over U.S. 93 near Wickenburg was a UFO.

Lt. John Tibbetts of the state Department of Public Safety said the family was "headed north from Wickenburg when they observed a yellowish-orange light on the horizon."

"They apparently felt they were being followed by this light," Tibbetts said. The light reportedly came within a mile of their car, he said.

The family, whose name was not released, stopped just before 5 a.m. to point the lights out to patrolman Veronica Minch, who was on duty in the area, he said. The patrolwoman saw the lights, Tibbetts said, but authorities are skeptical.

"The people are pretty confident in their mind that it was a UFO," Tibbetts said.

He said Air Force authorities at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nev., were notified of the sighting.

A spokesman at the base said today the Air Force had no information on the sighting and could not say what was seen.

"It's fairly often we get these reports," the spokesman said, "and we don't know what they see."

## GV family reports UFO sighting

By Rod Boyce  
Of The Union Staff

Something was definitely up — or, eh, hovering — over Leaf Lane in Grass Valley early Friday morning.

Jerry Short, 20, said he and four other family members watched about 1:30 a.m. as a brightly lit UFO hovered just above treetop level outside his bedroom window.

"I know it wasn't any airplane. I was just going to bed, and it looked like someone was shining a flashlight through the window," Short said.

"It had a bunch of colored lights on it, maybe four on the top and two on the bottom. Then I went around and woke everybody else up to see it," he said.

Like a scene from a science fiction movie, the five-member family stood outside and watched as the object, making soft "hovering noises," hovered for nearly five minutes before moving slowly due south, said Short's sister Kathy McMullen.

After first calling the Grass Valley Police Department, McMullen said she then contacted both Mather and Travis Air Force bases to see if either base had aircraft in the vicinity. Neither base had as yet returned McMullen's calls. Mather AFB does have a UFO sighting information center.

"It was kind of triangular and about 40 or 50 feet around," McMullen said. "And it had colored lights on it. The whole thing seemed to be made of light," she said.

McMullen said she and her mother often sit on the porch and look for falling stars, as they were doing when they spotted the glowing object.

"We just all stared at it," she said.

The Short's UFO report was one of only two or three recorded by the Grass Valley Police Department, Senior Dispatcher Sara Miller, who has been with the department for 15 years.

Miller said the police department at one

time gave telephone numbers for people to report their sightings.

"We use to even have an 800 number for people to call Beale AFB, but I guess they're not interested anymore," she said.

Project Bluebook, the Air Force's record-keeping program of UFO sightings, was discontinued in 1969, leaving no current count of UFO encounters, Capt. Clem Gaines of Mather AFB said.

"We get precious few sightings out here and we don't have a UFO sighting department here," he said.

"We had no aircraft out there (Grass Valley area) last night," he said. "I'd like to know if they thought it was a formation of aircraft or not, though," he said. "The only thing we do that's got anything to do with hiding an aircraft is the Stealth program, and I doubt it would be that," he said.

The Short sighting was only Mather's second reported sighting since January, said Mather's Chief of Community Relations Ginny Krieg.



# There's nothing alien about UFO phone line

By Marilyn Martinez  
Daily News Staff Writer

**S**emiase came from Planet Pleides to warn a Swiss farmer that the fate of Planet Earth was bleak. The blonde, female Pleidian told the farmer, Billy Mier, that Earth's clock was winding down and soon this planet would be history.

Earthlings can hear such reports of extraterrestrial visitations when they call the UFO Contact Newline, a 976 number that 31-year-old Paul Shepherd began in March. Even though the stories may be taken as entertainment, Shepherd sees the recording as spreading the word about visiting aliens.

"I'd like people to get an education. This is not only the latest sightings but gives in-depth documentation that exists behind face-to-face encounters with extraterrestrials," Shepherd said. Most of the material used in the recordings is documented sightings received by computer from the UFO Reporting Center in Washington, D.C., Shepherd said.

Sometimes, firsthand information will be used, when Shepherd travels to investigate UFO sightings. Last year he spent four days in Switzerland with Mier and plans to visit Brazil, where several sightings have been reported.

## Exploration for love

Just like the human species, aliens explore space for different reasons; some go out in the name of science and some in the name of love, said Shepherd. The Pleidians visit because "they are concerned about us as younger brothers. They feel our technical advances have surpassed our spiritual advances," Shepherd said.

And the extraterrestrials who kidnapped a factory worker in Mirassol, Brazil, and "forced him into a biogenetic experiment with an extraterrestrial woman" are looking for a hybrid base between humans and the four-foot-high, big-eared, pug-nosed alien species, Shepherd said. (Investigators know what the aliens look like from the kidnapped man's reports, Shepherd said.)

But the word Shepherd wants to spread is that Earth is being visited by aliens (extraterrestrials, Martians, space creatures — whatever the title) and that people should have access to legitimate information about their stays here on Earth.

## 'More open'

"People are more open and receptive to looking at documentation so they can make up their own mind," Shepherd said. The phone service, 976-UFOs, costs \$2 per call. Shepherd receives "a small revenue" from the business but said he loses \$20,000 a month on it and considers it mainly a "labor of love" for him and his partner, 28-year-old Rusty Weaver, son of actor Dennis Weaver.

Documentation of the case histories and sightings reported on the call-in line will be mailed to listeners for a fee. Prices vary, but for a 250-page report on "daily reality" for beings from the Planet Koldar and 150 pages of documentation, the cost is \$15.95.

Radio announcer Bill Jenkins, who hosts the talk show "Open Minds" on 79 KABC-AM, is on the company's advisory board. Jenkins is interested in "maintaining a high level of credence" with the information dispensed through the number. "I think it's a service where people who call us will get valid information on a subject that gets no value," Jenkins said.



Lori Valosho/Daily News

"I'd like people to get an education," says Paul Shepherd of UFO Contact Newline.

## Tennesseans Say UFO Sighted

**CELINA, Tenn. (AP)** — Residents in this rural town along the Tennessee-Kentucky border say an unidentified object hovered over a local softball game and has made several other appearances in the past week.

The craft was first sighted by about 200 people at the softball game on Tuesday, said Donald Napier, publisher of the local newspaper, *The Clay Citizen*.

"It was making just a deafening noise ... Out on the field, the umpires, the pitcher, the batter and everybody just stopped what they were doing and just looked straight up. It got everybody's attention," Napier said.

Witnesses said the object was 250 to 300 feet long, with an octagonal shape, at least four outside lights and a beacon at the center.

"It looked just exactly like a jet plane and sounded like it was going to crash. It was going down at about a 45-degree angle right toward the river," he said.

Clay County Sheriff's Department officials said they have had numerous calls about reported sightings since Tuesday.

Dwight Goolsby, owner of a local barbecue restaurant and package store, says he saw the craft while sitting in his car.

"It had one big white light, spotlight-like, on each side shining down on the ground," he said. "You could see real good on the ground. It was just sitting there. I hollered a couple of times and I tooted the horn and it just eased off over the horizon."

Melba Burch, of the Chamber of Commerce, said the aircraft passed over her house.

"It sounded mighty darn low," she said. "My husband's worked around planes and I've been around planes all my life. This wasn't any light plane that came over my house."

J. ANTONIO HUNEES

## Scientists Dominating UFO Convention Dispel 'Kook' Image

UFO conventions are sometimes viewed as picturesque events where pulp writers, deluded amateur investigators and "kooks" peddle their wares. There is usually a room full of flying saucer pamphlets and memorabilia, together with fuzzy photos of alleged "extraterrestrial spacecraft," sculptures of aliens from drive-in B movies, and "free energy" devices courtesy of the "space brothers." It may be fun to attend if you are into "spaced out" events, but it surely is not a scientific meeting.

Many probably believe that UFOs, in fact, are never discussed in a legitimate scientific conference. After all, flying saucer conventions are always like the one just described. Right? Wrong! The subject of UFOs has been discussed at symposiums sponsored by organizations like the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). Over the years, there have also been annual symposiums sponsored by a few private UFO organizations that have had varying degrees of scientific credibility attached to them.

The 1986 Symposium of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), held a few weeks ago at Michigan State University in East Lansing, was definitely on the upper side of the scientific scale. Except for one teacher, all the speakers were bona fide scientists. Six hold doctorates in various fields of study and three are actively employed in our space program. Most of them are also MUFON officers or consultants. Walter Andrus, MUFON's Director, called the symposium "our very

best to date." Various aspects of UFO-related research, such as photographic analysis, reported abductions, field investigations, and the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI), were presented from a scientific viewpoint. Yet several of these papers severely criticized the manner in which science and scientists have distorted and mishandled the UFO phenomenon.

## Science Defaults

One of the thorough presentations was given by Dr. Bruce Maccabee, the Chairman of the Fund for UFO Research in Washington, D.C. and a U.S. Navy research physicist working on high energy lasers for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Dr. Maccabee addressed at length the problem of "science at default" with regards to UFOs. He gave a number of examples: from the Kenneth Arnold sighting that started the modern era of flying saucers in 1947, to the severe difficulties of publishing "UFO data for rational, open analysis" in reputable scientific journals. In a separate lecture, Dr. Maccabee gave a full account of the famous UFO sighting captured on 16mm color movie film by an Australian TV crew aboard an aircraft in New Zealand's Kaikoura coast on the night of December 30, 1978. The UFO was seen by multiple witnesses and detected on radar both by the aircraft and a ground radar station in Wellington. Dr. Maccabee has conducted an extensive investigation of this case and considers it to be one of the very best on record.

"I have been very interested, even fascinated, at the extent to which some scientists have gone to explain UFO sightings," said Maccabee. "My study of these

explanations has made me skeptical of the skeptics." He illustrated this point in detail, quoting extensively from old Air Force records and the books of the late Dr. Donald Menzel, a respected Harvard astrophysicist who was the first leader of the UFO "debunkers." Other speakers also tackled the reasons why scientists had been wittingly and unwittingly involved in what Maccabee called a "self-coverup" of the UFO evidence.

Marge Christensen, a teacher who heads MUFON's Public Information Public Education (PIPE) Committee, opened the symposium with her paper, "Scientists, UFOs, and Anti-Scientific Thinking." She quoted from the 1969 AAAS special symposium on UFOs, in which sociologist Dr. Robert Hall commented, "the point seems to be that scientists are human and behave according to the same principles of human behavior as nonscientists." The problem of science vis-a-vis UFOs was also addressed by Dr. Harley Rutledge, professor of physics at Southeast Missouri State University. His scientific field study of the UFO phenomena was conducted over a 7-year period and published in 1981 in his book *Project Identification*.

Dr. Michael Swords, a professor at Western Michigan University with a Ph.D. in History of Science and Technology, touched upon this issue, too. His entertaining and informative slide presentation was mostly devoted to the subject of extraterrestrial intelligence in the universe. He showed how the evidence from planetology and cosmochemistry, protobiology and evolutionary biology "point increasingly towards the conclusion that life and intelligence are inevitably in the galaxy on a broad scale." Swords also took a critical view of his peers'

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(continued from page 3 - TRIBUNE,  
New York, NY - July 31, 1986)

"prejudiced, fearful, and dense overkill" reactions toward UFOs. This was an unnecessary attitude, he indicated, since "the major hypothesis of ufology (the E.T.) is in total congruence with the leading edge of all 'establishment' science observations and theories."

The problems of scientists with UFOs were also discussed in an interview with MUFON Director Walter Andrus. "Scientists sometimes wear blinders," he said. "They are so involved in their own particular field of study that they haven't studied things specially outside their own fields." While this situation was understandable, Andrus added that the problem lies in the fact that these same scientists will accept uncritically (due to their lack of knowledge) negative statements made by colleagues who don't have "any knowledge whatsoever of the subject." Andrus argued that it wasn't a case of making scientists believe in UFOs, but only of asking them to examine the available data. He said that MUFON was studying the possibility of printing short pamphlets catering to scientists in specific fields such as electrical or mechanical engineers, biologists or chemists.

The serious discussions of the UFO symposium were also joined by space scientists. Dr. Richard Haines, Allan Holt and John Schuessler work for either NASA or for aerospace contractors in the space station program. It was stressed repeatedly that their long-time interest in UFOs was strictly personal and had nothing to do with their employers.

Dr. Richard Haines, an expert in psychology, behavior, and human perception, gave an expert demonstration of what is a scientific investigation of "an alleged UFO photograph." The 35mm color photo showed a classic dome-shaped, metallic-looking circular craft, in other words, a flying saucer, taken at daytime on October 8, 1981 on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Dr. Haines spent over a year working this case. Among other things, he inspected the camera, lens, film and processing; he made a topographic survey of the site where the photo was taken; he interviewed the photographer at length to appraise his credibility; he studied the physics of flares to see if a model was used; and finally, he subjected the image to such technical analyses as "linear and angular image measurements, microdensitometry scan results, and computer based contrast enhancement results." His lecture was a lesson on how to investigate thoroughly a single frame of film. His final conclusion: "The image has not been identified to date."

Allan Holt's pioneer research on "Interstellar Spaceports and Transportation Systems" will be discussed more at length in a future article since its scope really goes beyond the UFO subject; it deals rather with the future of our own space program, 100 or 200 years from now, if the process of R&D for certain far-reaching propulsion concepts is implemented today. This, he said clearly, would allow us to travel to the stars. Regarding the importance of UFOs, Holt said that "UFO research in a very real sense offers us an opportunity to study and examine the technology of the future; the technology which we will use in 20, 50, 150, or 300 years from now."

Finally, John Schuessler, a senior aerospace engineer with the McDonnell Douglas Corp. in Houston, Texas, covered the legal angle of the Cash/Landrum case, which he has investigated exhaustively since it occurred on a road in East Texas on the night of December 29, 1980.

At previous MUFON symposiums, Schuessler discussed the medical and other investigative aspects of this tragic case. For instance, Betty Cash, one of the witnesses, has been hospitalized 25 times and has undergone two cancer operations since the night she and her friend Vicky Landrum, and Vicky's grandson Colby, saw a huge diamond-shaped UFO on the Texas road. The object emitted an unbearable amount of heat and was the apparent cause of a series of medical injuries they unexpectedly suffered following the encounter. The plot thickens because both they and other independent witnesses saw that night a large fleet of helicopters flying in the area. The life of the witnesses has been literally ruined as a result of the encounter, yet no military unit of the United States Government has accepted any responsibility for the helicopters or the sighting itself. The Government has so far delayed and denied every motion in court. The witnesses, summed up Schuessler, "cannot understand why they have been treated so coldly by the officials of the Government they love and respect. They are ready for their day in court."

UFO abductions, one of the most controversial and potentially significant aspects of ufology, was discussed by Dr. David Jacobs, a historian from Temple University. His book, *The UFO Controversy in America*, is the most scholarly and accurate history of Project Blue Book available. "More knowledge about the UFOs can be obtained from a few abduction reports than can be derived from scores of sighting reports," said Dr. Jacobs, adding that "in their totality, abductions have the potential for being the Big Breakthrough for which UFO researchers have been waiting so long." Jacobs showed how abductions differed from the classic "contactee" cases, which had a basis in science-fiction stories; he demonstrated also that abductions were not caused by "hysterical contagion." If these cases of alleged kidnapping and medical examination inside an alien spacecraft are not true, yet "the claimants are neither lying nor pathologically disturbed," concluded Jacobs, "the abduction stories are of critical importance" for "psychiatry, psychology, and psychoanalysis" as well.

More than MUFON, the meeting was also supported and attended by members of the recently renamed J. Allan Hynek Center for UFO Studies, the still active CUFOS organization founded in 1973 by the late astronomer and ufologist, and the Fund for UFO Research. As explained by Walter Andrus, MUFON has "a very strong tie in their interlocking directorship and membership" with these two groups, so "we ought to deal as a group and work together." Mr. Andrus also outlined in an interview some projects, particularly with computers, in which MUFON is currently engaged. Noting that MUFON is "the world's largest membership UFO organization," Andrus thinks its "future looks very, very bright."

The symposium's final presentation, "Setting the UFO Agenda," was given by attorney Robert Blechman, who serves as MUFON's legal advisor and Connecticut State Director. As a lawyer, Blechman argued that there was sufficient evidence to prove that some UFOs are "somebody else's spaceships." Being this the case, he continued, it was up to the UFO community to "set the agenda" and take a new vigorous approach to pressure the Government release of UFO information through a professionally-orchestrated media publicity campaign.

TRIBUNE-REVIEW, Greensburg, PA  
July 28, 1986 CR: S. Gordon

## Newsmaker Q & A

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Whether it's an unidentified flying object, ice falling from the sky, cougars or Big Foot, the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained is interested in reports of the strange, the bizarre and the seldom seen. *Tribune-Review* staff writer Dave Lester spoke with PASU director Stan Gordon of Greensburg, who has been investigating strange phenomena for the past 26 years. An internationally recognized authority on the subject of UFOs and Bigfoot, Gordon gained prominence from his first-hand investigation into the 1973 Big Foot/UFO wave in Pennsylvania.

**Q: What type of people belong to PASU?**

A: PASU is an all-volunteer, non-profit, scientific research group that has been set up as the statewide clearinghouse for reports of alleged sightings of UFOs and other phenomena. Most of the people who belong to PASU are professionals. We have a lot of research specialists including scientists, technicians, medical doctors and many types of engineers who donate their own time and equipment to look into these reports.



Stan Gordon

**Q: Do most of your investigations consist of interviewing witnesses to an occurrence or do you spend a lot of time in the field gathering first-hand evidence?**

A: Our main purpose — if the case warrants it — is to try to have trained investigators get to the site of an incident while there is fresh, physical evidence. We've reorganized another specialized unit called the Phenomena Response Team. If something big happens, we will try to get the team to the scene to collect evidence. We also work with researchers throughout the world, including the Mutual UFO Network, the largest international group doing serious study. MUFON is based in Seguin, Texas.

**Q: What kinds of reports do you get from the public, police departments and other agencies?**

A: We get reports of all kinds of things, from objects falling out of the sky to unusual archeological finds, strange animal sightings and sounds, anything off the beaten track. We basically specialize in UFOs, Big Foot and other strange animal sightings.

**Q: How can people report an occurrence?**

A: They can call our research center at 412-838-7768. The mailing address is 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, Pa. 15601.

**Q: What percentage of your cases are classified as UFOs?**

A: When you say UFO a lot of people think right away of visitors from outer space — little green men — and that's definitely the wrong connotation. To the person calling in, it just means that they are observing something in the sky other than conventional aircraft. A lot of the reports of UFOs are naturally explainable objects that under certain conditions look unusual to the observer such as lights on planes, bright meteors, weather balloons and reflections of light off clouds. Some of the ones we've had around here have turned out to be NASA high-altitude research projects.

**Q: But you have noticed an increase in reports of UFOs?**

A: Around the country in the last 10 years there actually has been quite a decrease in reports compared to 1973, when we had the last major wave of reported sightings. However, we have never seen a real decrease here, probably because we have been very active in research and have established a very good grapevine. What I've tried to do is educate the law enforcement agencies, the news media and the public to the fact that we take these sightings seriously.

**Q: Have any theories been propounded to explain some of these sightings?**

A: Approximately 90 percent of the reports are naturally explainable. For a high percentage of reports there is a logical explanation.

**Q: Are most of the reports UFO sightings or do you get other weird things?**

A: We deal a lot with unusual animal sightings. People claim they see Big Foot and black panthers. But the highest percentage of reports refers to UFO sightings. Last year, for example, there was more than one case of ice falling from the sky. The incident in Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County, was on a clear, beautiful afternoon. There was no definite indication that it fell from an aircraft. Theoretically, it could have been pieces of an ice comet. A laboratory test indicated that it had zinc, iron and aluminum content much higher in concentration than what would normally be found in rainwater. We really can't be sure what it came from.

**Q: What about reported sightings of mountain lions, which are supposedly extinct in Pennsylvania?**

A: There have been reports of yearly sightings in Pennsylvania even though they have been classified as extinct in the eastern part of the United States since the late 1800s. There is mounting evidence that the cougar does survive in Pennsylvania and bordering states. The plaster cast we made in 1984 from Armstrong County is the first strong evidence. It drew nationwide attention. People saw it close; they heard animal sounds. We had reports of cubs and adults being seen in that area. There's no reason they couldn't be around.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Aug. 14, 1986

## Mysterious light in night sky

GAZETTE PRESS SERVICES

A mysterious light show across the night sky both east and west of the Mississippi sparked debate Wednesday with few able to agree on what caused it.

It was described as everything from a pinpoint to a moving spiral to a glowing cloud to "a big ball of fire," although astronomers said it probably was related to the annual Perseid meteor shower.

Residents of Clark County, Ky., east of Lexington, said they saw a bright flash at 9 p.m. (CDT) and then their houses shook when something went bump in the night with a bang like dynamite.

### Seen in LR area

Residents in the Little Rock area and in Louisiana also reported seeing a bright light in the sky about 9 p.m. But most of the reports came from states east of the Mississippi. "It was definitely not a meteor," Denise Sabatini, vice president of the Syracuse, N.Y., Astronomical Society, said. "Meteors burn off after seconds. This lasted five to

seven minutes. It was really quite spectacular."

Some speculated it was a satellite or rocket release of barium gas, used to study the upper atmosphere. But workers at Cape Canaveral, the North American Aerospace Defense Command at Colorado Springs, Col., and the NASA facility at Wallops Island, Va., all confirmed there were no launches Tuesday.

At Ohio's Bowling Green State University, Ronald Stoner, a physics and astronomy professor, said he suspected the display was caused by the Perseid meteor shower, produced by the remnants of a comet.

### 'Pieces of dust'

"It is caused by little bits and pieces of dust from the comet. They're very small," he said. "If there were a larger piece, and an icy piece of material, something about the size of a snowflake, it might well cause something like this. It would vaporize and leave a glowing cloud behind it."

(continued on page 5)



**Q: Do you feel that people have a reluctance or hesitation to report anything for fear of ridicule?**

**A:** Definitely. We're trying to break this problem down and the ridicule problem is not as bad as it used to be. Over the years there have been a lot of large opinion polls taken across the country and the high percentage of people today are more willing to accept the fact that there are things being seen that are not easily explained away. ... People are still reluctant in a lot of cases to call the newspapers or police because they are afraid their names or reputations are going to be damaged by it. This is why we want people to know we are interested in both recent and past cases and they can contact us without fear of ridicule or of their names being used.

**Q: So their names are kept in confidence?**

**A:** Right. People have always been of the opinion that only kooks report UFO sightings and when you consider the thousands of reported cases, you find only a handful who are what you might consider to be crackpots. ... Many of the reports we have each year come from trained observers — police officers, pilots, air traffic controllers, medical doctors, people from all walks of life.

**Q: You've been involved in this avocation since you were 10 years old. In that time, have you ever seen a UFO or other strange occurrence?**

**A:** I have never seen anything that I would consider unexplainable. Now I have many times over the years, especially during the Big Foot episodes of 1973 and other cases, been able to get to the site of an incident within a very short time of it being reported. Even though we didn't see anything, with a number of cases we did obtain physical evidence.

The most interesting thing we saw with the Big Foot cases were the animal reactions. It was probably the most convincing evidence. We'd go out to some of these farms and see dogs that were normally ferocious almost paralyzed in fear. They did not bark, they did not move, sometimes for several days. We saw cattle huddled together.

In cases over the years, including incidents in Westmoreland County, we've found fresh footprints in the ground and trees uprooted, evidence of a creature with great physical strength. We've been to alleged UFO landing sites over the years where we've seen burnt areas and depressions in the ground, reports of roadways burned and we have different types of residues which allegedly fell from the objects.

It's the same type of material that's been seen worldwide and studied in laboratories.

## Way We Were

A look at Chicago's past



1947: At Midway [then Chicago] Airport, airline pilot Capt. E.J. Smith uses a dinner plate to show stewardess Toni Carter how "flying disks" appeared to him on an Idaho-Oregon flight.

### It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's a flying saucer!

**I**t was June 24, 1947, and Boise salesman Kenneth Arnold was at the controls of his private plane flying at 9,200 feet near Washington's Mt. Ranier when it all began: "I saw flashes coming from a series of objects that were traveling incredibly fast," he told reporters the next day. "They were silvery and shiny. I counted nine of them as they disappeared behind the peak of Mt. Ranier."

Then Arnold described the flight of the objects as "like a saucer skipping across water." And with that, although strange flying objects had been reported off and on throughout history, a new phrase—"flying saucer"—entered the language, and the flying saucer flap of 1947 was born.

It took the saucers three days to reach the Chicago area.

On June 27 railroad engineer Charles Kastl of Joliet reported seeing strange objects in the sky. "They were flat, circular objects, like disks," Kastl told The Tribune. "They were weaving slightly in flight. They seemed to be being towed, but I couldn't see anything ahead." That same day A.S. Rotermund of Maywood reported that his mother had observed "several moons moving through the sky."

The first report of a flying saucer spotted from within the city limits came July 5 from Mrs. Nels Thor of Forest Avenue. Mrs. Thor said she watched a moon sized disk for 12 minutes as it hovered over Lake Michigan and then drifted behind a cloud. Another Chicagoan, Mrs. J.M. Harrison of Oakwood Avenue, reported observing a huge ball of fire five or six times larger than the moon. As the object moved northwest, it broke up into small disks that whirled rapidly in a circle, Mrs. Harrison said.

On July 9, 1947, in a "bulletin" printed in bold letters, The Tribune reported that a "metal disk, some 18 inches in diameter and 1/4-inch thick," had been discovered in the yard of the Arlington Heights home of Ralph and Ruth Waterbury. "Attached to the disk were some plastic parts, some porcelain parts and some wire that appeared to be copper," the newspaper added. "It bore the word 'Ceramicon' and the figures 'N750M,' '140MS' and '4.2.'"

The same day, Jack Werhand of Chicago Avenue reported a disk "600 feet up and bouncing" near Crawford [Pulaski Road] and Grand Avenue. And Reeda Verne Berenson of Estes Avenue reported objects "three to four times as bright as the largest stars."

Five other persons also reported sighting saucers on July 9, including Wayne R. Smith of Summit, who, in the words of The Tribune, "saw a sky traveler above Harlem Avenue and Irving Park Road."

Sightings, hundreds of them, were being reported worldwide, setting off what one writer called "platter panic." "The apparitions," The Tribune reported, "had scientific men trying to find an explanation."

Dr. Harold C. Urey, a nuclear researcher at the University of Chicago, "scoffed at the suggestion that the goings-on might be connected with atomic fission," but he "was impressed with the accumulation of evidence that something out of the ordinary ... has been happening."

Dr. Oliver Lee, director of Northwestern University's Dearborn Observatory, favored the notion that the saucers were new weapons undergoing tests. "We realize," Dr. Lee said, "that the Army and Navy are working on all sorts of things we know nothing about."

There were other explanations: mass hysteria, alien spacecraft, Russian secret weapons, clouds, stars, unusual but still natural phenomena and hoaxes. [Not surprisingly, the Waterburys of Arlington Heights turned out to be the victims of a hoax; the "metal platter" planted in their yard turned out to be a recording device used by radio stations.]

Sightings of saucers [now known by the more dignified term "Unidentified Flying Objects"] continue to be reported. Most turn out to involve natural phenomena. Nearly 40 years of investigation have turned up scant physical evidence and mostly fuzzy photographs.

On the other hand, a number of incidents remain unexplained. President Jimmy Carter said he saw a UFO, and a Gallup Poll in the late '70s found that 54 percent of Americans "believe" in flying saucers.

The late Dr. J. Allen Hynek, for years chairman of the astronomy department at Northwestern University and an authority on UFOs, was interviewed on the subject shortly before his death last April. "People want quick answers," Hynek said. "Where are they from? What are they doing here? 'I wish I knew.'"

## Skeptic insists UFOs exist

### Worley's 'failures' alienated him from old beliefs

BY JANET C. WETZEL  
The Cincinnati Enquirer

CONNERSVILLE, Ind. — Don Worley scoffed at reports of sightings of Big Foot and UFOs, and set out to prove the events could be discounted.

He failed.  
His research made him a believer.

That was more than 20 years ago. Since then, Worley, 64, has been scorned and ridiculed for his beliefs, and called everything from loony and weird to insane.

"I was a real skeptic, and I was determined to explain it all away," Worley said. "But I found way too many factors beyond explanation in the context of the environment we live in. ... I have a tremendous scientific curiosity, and I love a mystery."

He doesn't believe every UFO report, nor has he personally met an alien, but he is convinced that beings from other worlds have left a mark on this planet.

"Aliens have landed, they've abducted people, they've followed cars, and they can fly in and out of water," Worley said. "They are transitory, can appear and disappear instantly, and they're beyond comprehension of our idea of physics. They've deeply infiltrated the human race."

Worley has written for magazines in this country, Canada and England, and he has been contacted by people all over the world for information on unexplained phenomena.

He's interviewed hundreds of witnesses on 85 cases, primarily UFO sightings in eastern Indiana, and five reports of ape entities — Big Foot.

"I never got there in time to see a UFO or a Big Foot myself, but I've seen them through the eyes of over 350 other people," he said.

"In 1966 and 1967 a huge wave of UFO activity was over most of the United States and especially in this area. In the fall of 1966, one UFO landed two straight nights 1 1/2 blocks from the Connersville State Police Post. There were cone-shaped holes in a tripod design left in the ground."

Worley's employer is Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO), a Tucson-based organization that says it has 400 investigators throughout the world.



The Cincinnati Enquirer/Fred Straub

Don Worley of Connersville, Ind., was a skeptic but became a believer in unexplained phenomena, which he has investigated for 20 years.

Worley said there are reasons we don't know more about UFOs.

"All of this is covered up by the government. In this area we're under Wright Patterson Air Force Base radar, and it's shocking what went on under that radar."

He said 1966-1967 were peak years for UFO sightings. In 1966 alone he recorded 162 sightings in Fayette County, 69 in Rush, 19 in Franklin, nine in Union and 61 in nearby areas.

Worley said few UFOs have been sighted since 1973, but he thinks some sightings are often not reported for fear of ridicule.

"The aerial part is only the more visible tip of the iceberg. Ground level phenomena, such as: occupants, lost-time abduction (humans taken aboard space craft, or their minds taken over temporarily) ... ape entities and men in black ... are more important."

Worley said he has found that:

- Most UFOs are domed, disc-shaped craft.
- UFO occupants are generally one of three types: short and stocky, robot types, or similar to humans.
- There are thousands of lost-time abductees. A Madison woman's entire body was red and swollen after her encounter with an alien. Another woman near Connersville said an alien took control of her mind and ruined her life.

- Aliens are very intelligent, and most are "devilish types, but some try to do good."

# UFO Activity in Utah

by Cherie Huber

In May, UFO sightings were reported in Brazil and California. Local radio stations aired the stories.

But UFO sightings and possible contact are also happening in Utah. The following incident happened last year and has previously not been reported in the news. The information came from the files of Mildred Biesele, Utah's Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) director.

A Salt Lake couple were returning from a trip to Manti to pick up a load of hay for their horses from his mother's farm. They were driving a truck and pulling a four-horse trailer. Both the truck and trailer were loaded with hay. It was in the fall and the man had wanted to drive up Nephi Canyon to look for a good place to camp during the upcoming deer season. They had looked around and were headed back down the canyon toward the interstate.

It was about dusk. The wife closed her eyes and was almost asleep when there was a sudden flash of very bright light.

The husband remembers that he could see a tractor trailer ahead of him and when he saw bright lights in his rear-view mirror, he thought it was another large truck rapidly overtaking him. He pulled to the side of the road to let the truck pass. Instead there was a blinding flash of light that illuminated the entire area.

Two hours later the couple found themselves driving down an unfamiliar road and feeling very disoriented. They had no idea where they were until they saw a road sign that said "Delta 12 miles."

Two hours had elapsed that they cannot account for. And their car had traveled much further than would normally be possible in that period of time. While neither one of them can explain what happened for sure, they feel that they were abducted by a UFO and then later released.

The second case history has received national attention. In 1973 Pat Roach had just moved with her four children into a small home in Lehi. She awoke on the couch one night after midnight feeling that something was wrong. Thinking that the prowler who had been reported in the neighborhood earlier had returned, she called the police. The police could find no signs of a prowler but two of her young daughters told police that spacemen had been in the house. The police dismissed the girls' stories as nightmares and nothing more was done.

For two years Pat Roach worried about that night and what had happened. Then, under hypnotic regression, Mrs. Roach and her children were interviewed by Dr. James Harter and a reporter for "Saga" magazine, Kevin Randall, to help them remember what had happened that night.

Each person was interviewed under hypnosis separately but the stories are all the same. And they are eerie stories. Mrs. Roach told of being awakened by two smallish creatures. She had the impression that they floated her out to a craft where she was taken to a room with a table that also seemed to float. There she was given a complete examination including what seemed to be a probe of her memories. At the same time she recalled seeing her children and neighbors undergoing similar examinations.

When the girls were interviewed they recalled seeing their mother on the table. They described the creatures as being about five feet tall with a pasty complexion and dressed in suits of a shiny material, with gloves.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the researchers said that nothing had surfaced that would lead them to believe the incident was a hoax. There were no contradictions. Also the information paralleled other UFO reports that they had access to. The story was also researched for "In Search Of," a tv show.

Both incidents sound like the beginning of a good plot for a science fiction story. Actually these are just two of many cases that end up in the overflowing files of possible UFO sightings in Utah.

While these were no doubt scary and upsetting experiences for the Utahns involved, they eventually

became cases for UFO buffs to mull over. Were they actually kidnapped by a UFO? What other possible explanations are there for the chain of events?

Of the sightings reported, most turn out to be balloons, clouds, airplanes and planets. But those few that can't be explained may hold the secret to one of the world's most intriguing, and some say frightening mysteries.

When you talk to people about UFOs you are almost certain to get some kind of reaction. Some people are fascinated. Others get angry or irritated, and call the idea ridiculous. That's why UFO investigators say that 90 percent of the people who see what they think is a UFO never report it.

Nonetheless, according to a 1978 Gallup poll, more than 15 million Americans claim to have seen UFOs. The same poll said that 57 percent of the public accepted UFOs as real.

The Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) is a worldwide organization that attempts to discover what UFOs are by collecting and coordinating all the information on UFO sightings in a scientific manner.

Here in the U.S., MUFON has a director in each state who gathers the information from that state and sends it on to the MUFON staff for evaluation. MUFON takes these reports very seriously. Their field investigators are also required to take a lengthy test that covers a good deal of scientific material before they are sent out by the organization to interview people who have reported seeing UFOs.

Utah's director is Mildred Biesele of Salt Lake City. Anyone who thinks that people who are interested in UFOs might be either crazy or uneducated would have a hard time fitting Mrs. Biesele into that mold. Mrs. Biesele is a mature, well-educated woman with all her wits about her. And when she begins to read to you some of the reports she has compiled for the Utah area, she does it as dispassionately as a doctor might review a patient's chart.

Mrs. Biesele describes MUFON as taking "a nuts and bolts scientific attitude toward UFOs and is quite separate from the kooks and cults."

In case you wonder about the extent of the day-to-day activity in UFOs, she brings out her copies of the UFO Newscipping Service. This service which originates in Plumerville, Arkansas, combs national and international newspapers for mention of UFO sightings. Each month the subscribers receive copies of all the stories with translations of stories originally written in other languages. A recent mailing was 20 legal-sized pages.

According to Mrs. Biesele the majority of the UFO sightings here in Utah are out in the Uintah Basin. A book written by Dr. Frank Salisbury was published in 1974 called *The Utah UFO Display*, pertaining to this area. Interestingly, the majority of the UFOs reported in the Uintah Basin are boomerang-shaped as are those seen on the Connecticut and New York state borders.

Dr. Salisbury, who has been at Utah State University since 1968, withdrew from active investigation of UFOs when he began to question their real source.

Much of the material in his book, however, came from information gathered by Joseph Junior Hicks, a high school teacher of Roosevelt, Utah. People know of Mr. Hicks' interest in UFOs and report what goes on to him. According to Mildred Biesele, there are continual sightings in the Roosevelt area and on the Indian reservation nearby.

Mrs. Biesele points out that MUFON and everyone else interested in UFOs has access to a great deal more information now than they did in years past because of the Freedom of Information Act. Another book on her shelves, *Clear Intent*, by Laurena Fawcett and Barry J. Greenwood, published in 1984, compiles the UFO information recently released by the U.S. government.

Mrs. Biesele has many interesting stories which she has gathered from the field reports she compiles for the Utah area. For example, she brings out the report of a UFO citing in Salt Lake in February, 1983 that lasted nearly two hours and was reported by a couple who first noticed it, and called friends who



Jack Monson



also looked out and saw the object hovering against the mountains west of Salt Lake City. MUFON considers sightings by more than one person to be much more reliable.

Many people who have had some kind of contact with UFOs seem to have severe emotional problems as time goes on. Some of those people have felt better after hypnotic regression. Mrs. Biesele feels that is because really remembering what happened makes it easier to deal with. Mrs. Biesele has suggested to some Utahns that they visit Dr. Leo Sprinkle in Laramie, Wyoming who uses hypnosis to help people remember what went on during unexplained time lapses. Dr. Sprinkle has regressed about 80 people who perhaps were abducted and then released hours later with a loss of any memory of the incident.

Apparently these "abductions" are relatively common in the UFO annals. In 1981 Budd Hopkins wrote *Missing Time: A Documented Study of UFO Abductions*. Hopkins' book compiles the story of many abductees who believe they were collected by aliens as specimens and then released.

sometimes to be recollected for further study later. Under hypnosis the man in Mrs. Biesele's story told of being inside a strange building and talking to humanoid aliens.

Salt Lake does have a hotline to report UFO sightings. The number is 942-4350. The organization at this number is interested in all information on unexplained phenomena.

MUFON is also eager to have reports on UFO sightings. Each report is screened and evaluated. Bob Gribble of MUFON in Seattle, Washington has also placed his name and telephone number with sheriff departments across the country as a collector of UFO information. He calls Mrs. Biesele on cases in this area and she does the field investigation.

Although a MUFON group that meets monthly is no longer active in the Salt Lake area, Mrs. Biesele gives talks on MUFON and UFOs.

August 11-18th has been set aside as UFO Information Week across the country. During that week, MUFON organizations across the country will be

(continued on page 7)



(continued from page 6 -  
CATALYST, Salt Lake City, UT  
- Summer 1986)

trying to get serious UFO information to the public. The Salt Lake chapter will be scheduling speakers and displays. Watch the papers for more details.

"UFOs have not gone away although we read less about them than we used to," says Mrs. Biesele. "Sightings are seldom picked up by national news services. The Military only documents incidents over military installations.

"The private UFO organizations are asking the questions, 'What are they, where do they come from? Are UFOs from other worlds, or is it man from the future traveling backwards in time, or do we share our world with a parallel universe?'"

"You can probably come up with your own questions. UFOs are an enigma."

DAILY NEWS, New York, NY - July 12, 1986 CR: P. Bartholomew via W. Thompson

## EERIE LIGHTS BRING CALLS

# Fears were UnFOunded

By LARRY COLE and LARRY SUTTON  
Daily News Staff Writers

Bright lights puzzled the big city yesterday.

They shined in an eerie glow above the Bronx and Queens Thursday night. They soared beneath the clouds, heading for Westchester and points north, and scared the heck out of a lot of reasonable people.

"I'm a very reasonable person," said Eddie Toomer, 46, of the Bronx. "But I saw this thing Thursday night and the first thing I thought was UFO."

You're not alone, Eddie. Lots of other people saw the lights and thought

the Bronx had visitors from another planet. Many called the Daily News to see what we knew.

We called the cops. "We've gotten a few calls from concerned citizens but we don't know anything about this," said a Police Department spokesman.

We called the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies in Glenview, Ill.

### Not from UFOs

"Fascinating," said Nancy Conrad, center treasurer. "I'll alert our East Coast investigator to look into this."

We called the National UFO Reporting Service in Seattle, which spoiled the fun.

"The lights did not come from UFOs," said Robert Gribble. "We received a lot of calls. But at least four people identified the lights as belonging to airplanes, not UFOs."

We called the Dutchess County Airport. They were party poopers, too.

"There are a group of people who own single-engine propeller planes here who like to fly in very tight formations over Westchester County and the city," said Brad Whited, airport manager.

"Every time they do it at night we get reports of UFOs. They did it again Thursday night."

USA TODAY, Arlington, VA - Aug. 14, 1986

## Dazzling light show puzzles astronomers

Special for USA TODAY

A spectacular light show that pranced across the night sky east of the Mississippi had astronomers baffled Wednesday.

"It was the scariest thing I ever saw, but it was pretty; all

white," said Brenda Newton of Rochester, N.Y.

Syracuse, N.Y., air traffic controller Tim Jones saw three lights — red, green and white — hover and veer randomly.

Canadian astronomer Karl Kamper saw a star-like light

surrounded by a spiral cloud.

In Kentucky, a mysterious loud boom rattled houses.

Two astronomers credited the annual Perseid meteor shower; others discounted it.

Theories abound: "space trash," fuel from a satellite.

LIGHT, San Antonio, TX

Aug. 8, 1986 CR: MUFON

# LIVING TODAY

## Canvassing the Stars

Mike Abrego paints what he believes in: And that's UFOs

By NANCY PERDUE  
Staff writer

If seeing is believing, Mike Abrego believes in UFOs, and he is painting images on canvas to make believers of his friends.

Abrego, a San Antonio International Airport maintenance worker, claims he saw an unidentified flying object one night 16 years ago in Port Lavaca.

The 52-year-old amateur artist said he began painting flying saucers and space creatures shortly after his experience.

"If I'm crazy, I'm not the only one," Abrego said, "because millions of other people have seen them, too. Maybe I dreamed that I should start painting these sightings, or maybe they (UFO aliens) planted it in my mind."

Abrego said the UFO he saw appeared with a rumble that sounded like a fast-moving freight train.

The green, saucer-shaped disc lit the sky for about 15 minutes, he said, adding that it quickly disappeared — without any extraterrestrials appearing.

His wife, Maime, was not a witness, but she said she heard the noise that accompanied the reported sighting that made UFO an Abrego household word.

Abrego said he taught himself to paint his portrayals, many of which he gives away. His wife stores most of the others in boxes with UFO magazines Abrego collects.

He gets ideas for his paintings from magazine or newspaper articles about alleged sightings.

Six years ago, Abrego joined Mutual UFO Network, a Seguin-based organization that investigates UFO



SEEING IS BELIEVING: Mike Abrego holds one of his paintings. He is surrounded by books and magazines on UFOs.

sightings.

Walter H. Andrus Jr., 65, international director of the network, said 1,500 people are members of the group, which he said is the world's largest UFO organization. He helped establish the network in 1969 while working in Quincy, Ill.

When he was transferred to Seguin in 1975, the UFO network headquarters also moved to Texas. The main purpose of the organization, Andrus said, is to investigate sightings.

"Eighty to 90 percent of the reports that are called in can be explained as something mundane," Andrus said, explaining the others still remain a mystery.

"The most exciting answer we could give is that they are extraterrestrials," Andrus said. "But we aren't sure."

Abrego said although he has seen only one of the mysterious objects, he has helped investigate several unexplained sightings by pilots and airport radar monitors.



ASHBOURNE NEWS TELEGRAPH, Derbyshire, England - June 19, 1986 CR: T. Good

## PLEA FOR UFO WITNESSES

The UFO spotters of Nottingham may have another local sighting on their hands to investigate.

Mr Dennis Harriman of the National UFO Investigation Society has had a report from a man driving down Swinscoe Hill early in April of a classic encounter of the Ashbourne kind.

It was a Sunday evening at about 7.15 pm — either April 6 or 13 — when the driver saw several cars in the layby on the hill. Thinking there had been an accident he

pulled in to see if he could help.

His attention was then drawn to a cigar shaped object in the sky and the other car drivers and passengers were outside their vehicles looking at it. The object had a red light at the front and searchlights towards the back.

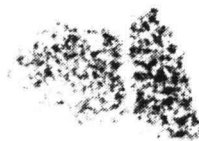
There were obviously a number of witnesses who have not yet come forward to report the sighting and Mr Harriman would be delighted to hear from them on Nottingham 730919.

**Riddle solved:**

**but policeman**

**snaps another**

A BLOW-UP of the mysterious object.



AS one mystery is solved, another remains unanswered. This picture was snapped by a local policeman as he cleaned his camera.

It was sighted over Stockport and other parts of Greater Manchester and has not been explained. It is on the files of the Manchester UFO Association who claim they are able to clear up most reported cases.

UFO expert and authoress Jenny Randles said: "Genuine sightings are very rare. There have been dozens of reports in Stockport but only a few are not explained after full investigations."

TIMES, Stockport, England  
July 4, 1986 CR: T. Good

# Reds' rocket rumbled



## PAT HILLS investigates

AN unidentified flying object over Stockport which caused world-wide alarm on New Year's Eve in 1978 when the sky burst into flames, has been finally explained.

Your TIMES can exclusively reveal the pyrotechnic spectacular was not an invasion by aliens from another planet but a Russian spaceship re-entering the atmosphere.

And the British UFO Association who received thousands of calls from the Stockport people who watched open-mouthed as a five-minute display shot across the darkness at 7.05 p.m. this week confirmed the sighting was part of a rocket exploding.

Local investigator Mr. Roy Sandbach, from Offerton said: "We were inundated by calls. We have now discovered it was a Cosmos breaking up in the earth's atmosphere. But at the time people thought earth was being invaded."

"Mostly burning debris lasts only seconds but this sky fire lasted for several minutes."



● AS we clear up one mystery of the skies, we present another... this was taken by a local policeman.

MAIL, Hartlepool, England  
July 8, 1986 CR: T. Good



MR JAMES LUPTON—saw three lights in the sky.

## UFO SIGHTING — 19 YEARS ON

UFO investigators plan to quiz a Hartlepool man about a strange sighting 19 years ago.

They plan to interview James Lupton, of Cameron Road, after he broke his long silence on a terrifying early morning incident.

He contacted a group which looks into sightings and details of the case have been published in a specialist magazine.

Mr Lupton told the Mail that he was walking back to his home, which was then in Edinburgh Grove, in the summer of 1967 when he saw three lights which he thought were navigation beacons.

Looking closer he saw the lights were on the underside of a dark circular object, he said.

He watched the craft until it drifted out of sight, he said, and then went home.

Mr Lupton said that as soon as he got into bed he became paralysed and a piercing voice began saying "You have a great secret."

Later the room was filled with a strong smell, he said, and despite refusing to shut his eyes he claims to remember nothing until hours later that day.

The case has been described in Northern UFO News and the magazine has asked investigators to contact Mr Lupton and to compile a report on the results.

The father-of-three, who has told few people of the incident, decided to contact the group after reading a book about UFOs.

"I didn't tell people in case they thought I was daft," he said.

"It still seems unbelievable to me. It has given me a totally new outlook on life."

WESTERN MORNING NEWS,  
Plymouth, Devon, England  
April 23, 1986

### Watch this space

AND before we leave the subject of unusual sightings, Marilyn Preston Evans, of Saltash, would like to hear from anyone who can identify a strange object seen flying over the town on Thursday night.

"It was about the size of an articulated lorry with about 20 bright lights on it and a triangle of red lights on the back. It flew over Saltash for a while then veered off towards St. Austell," she said.

"I've contacted the RAF at Mount Batten and St. Mawgan and the Royal Naval helicopter station at Culdroe but none of them know anything about it."

"I didn't see it myself but someone rang me and told me about it. They thought it might have been an UFO."

And what is Marilyn's interest in UFOs. "I'm a contactee for spacemen," she said. "I'm one of the people that people from outer space contact the Earth through."

CR: COUD-I

MIDHURST & PETWORTH OBSERVER, Sussex, England - July 3, 1986

## Lights in the sky

Did a U.F.O. pass over Stedham last Saturday night? That is the question being asked by Mr. and Mrs. Bishop, who live in the village.

It was about at ten p.m. when Mrs. Moira Bishop noticed something in the sky and called her husband, Allan, out into their garden at Yarborough Terrace, Stedham.

They saw three bright points of light, similar to magnesium flares, hovering low in the sky towards Woolbeding Woods.

The mysterious lights remained motionless for about five minutes. Mrs. Bishop pinpointed them in R.A.F. manner, as being at one, three, and six o'clock.

The couple ruled out firework displays. They say there was absolute silence, until a plane flying high passed over on its way to Gatwick.

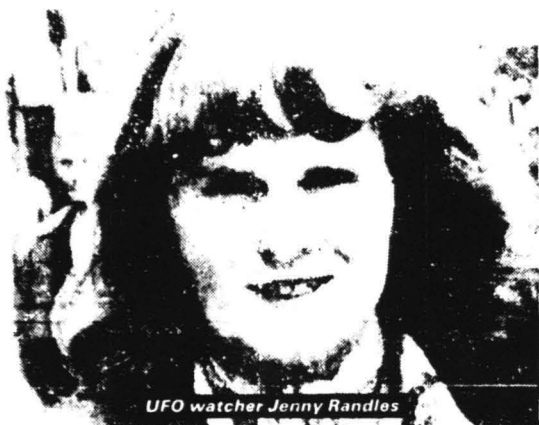
Then the three lights moved away northwards in a sweeping semi-circle.

CR: T. Good



# Owls that glow in the dark . . .

## ... THERE'S A PERFECTLY NATURAL EXPLANATION!



UFO watcher Jenny Randles

ONE tenth of reported and identified flying objects are not explained, but most are natural phenomena or aircraft from Manchester Airport.

Authoress and space expert Jenny Randles who is a member of the Manchester UFO Association said: "We strive to help people who have had harrowing experiences with the paranormal.

"Our primary responsibilities are to witnesses who have had genuine encounters and do not seek publicity. There are cases where eye-witnesses have lost their jobs, their careers and their marriages because they have gone public."

feel the earth tremors but a certain amount of straining and stressing creates electricity which in turn shoots out sparks.

These lights spin like Catherine wheels and are often mistaken for UFOs.

Some UFOs are a product of the earth and not the sky. And the Manchester UFO Association researches all cases within a 50 mile radius.

Miss Randles, formerly a teacher in physics, became interested in the paranormal after a wave of sightings in 1972. She found many people had been involved in brief encounters but were too frightened to talk about them because of possible ridicule.

"I realised they needed someone who would take them seriously. Very few people take sightings seriously."

Local investigator Roy Sandbach said many UFOs turn out to have the most obvious explanations.

Mostly they are aircraft approaching Ringway. "Sometimes when they throttle right back and there appears to be no noise coming from aircraft it can be quite spooky," he said.

Also flying ducks look chilling when their white bellies are lit up by street lights and all eye-witnesses can see are glowing bands in the dark.

And high flying aircraft leaving behind a condensation trail are always being reported as UFOs but they are quickly dismissed.

And she was keen to insist that her association had earned credibility with the police and Ringway who contacted members whenever there was a genuine sighting.

"We are nothing to do with flying saucers and little green men," she said. "We are a small group seriously interested in phenomena."

### EXPLAINED

Miss Randles explained that many aircraft like hot air balloons and hang gliders were often mistaken from UFOs.

But there was also other amazing explanations for sightings on the earth and in the sky.

Owls glowing in the dark can create an awesome sight. According to Miss Randles if they eat too much of a certain type of bacteria its body turns fluorescent.

"It can be quite scary," she said.

One strange atmospheric phenomena is ball lightning. This is a

One woman tried to swipe one which was bobbling round her fridge with a plastic fly swat. It melted the plastic.

Another phenomena are earthquake lights. These occur in fault lines in the earth crust and are not confined to places like Mexico City. They can happen in Stockport.

People would not

HERALD EXPRESS, Torquay, Devon, England - July 20, 1986 CR: T. Good



● Roger Tibenham and Pam Pook return expectantly to the spot where they sighted the UFO. Same place, same time, no flying saucer.

## Roger's UFO tumbles over Torbay

ALIENS from outer space may have been among weekend visitors to Torbay.

An unidentified flying object was sighted over Torquay by Roger Tibenham and Pam Pook.

Mr Tibenham had just closed the bar at the RAF Association club in Scarborough Road on Friday night and had nipped out for a breath of fresh air when he saw what looked like a flying saucer.

"I saw this thing in the sky over Chelston. It was a clearly defined circular shape with bright lights around the circumference," he said.

### WITNESS

"It was like a flat dish and it was tumbling over and over. It didn't make a sound and it was difficult to say how big it was."

The amazed bar steward said the UFO took about 10 seconds to fly from Chelston to St Marychurch. He rushed back into the club to get a witness and member Pam Pook got outside in time to see the flying saucer for herself.

"I don't know what it was. I haven't seen anything like it before," said Mr Tibenham. "I never believed in flying saucers but I now believe in the possibility of them. I would like to know if anyone else saw it."

"Some of the members believed me but most didn't — they just had a good giggle."

BURTON DAILY MAIL,

Staffordshire,

England - June 20,

1986 CR: T. Good

### Boom time

With the mystery boom increasing, the answer might be close at hand — a sonic boom caused by a UFO pilot with sudden acceleration crashing through the sound barrier.

UFOs are about again. — James Price, Station Road, Barton.



● TIMES cameraman CHRIS HILL has enlarged the object pictured by a local bobby.

## Schoolboy's too close encounter

IN November 1982, Damien Hulme was treated for shock after a terrifying encounter with a UFO in Hazel Grove.

The eleven-year-old had been playing space invaders with a pal and was on his way home when he saw a craft the size of two houses hovering 10ft above the trees.

Damien, of Sandown Road, Hazel Grove, said: "I thought it was a plane at first."

He made a sketch of what he saw. It was kite-shaped with blue and white beams, orange lights in the centre and a band of flashing lights around the edge.

### A FRENZY

"It didn't seem to make a sound and it didn't look like an ordinary aircraft," he said.

Described by his father as "a sensible lad," Damien was in such a frenzy over the

sighting that he tried to run in the house without opening the front door.

In June last year secretary Cheryl Kilcoyne, her husband John and three friends watched in amazement as a silver sphere appeared near a relative's home in Bower Avenue, Heaton Norris.

### SWOOPING

The UFO moved across the sky swooping from time to time then climbing again.

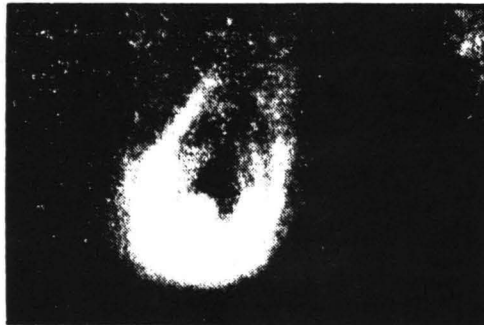
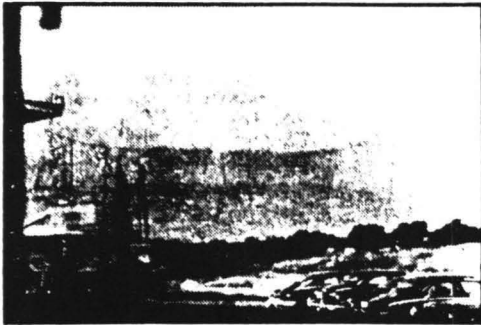
It was the second time 21-year-old Cheryl had sighted an unidentifiable sky intruder.

And even more curiously she had been describing the incident which happened nine years ago while she and her friends were dining.

"It looked exactly the same," she said.

# MAGAZINE

## UFO watchers flying high on mystery in the skies



Some of the incidents UFO societies around the world cite to back up their beliefs in extra-terrestrial phenomena ... white, circular objects (left) photographed in Massachusetts on July 16, 1952, a UFO (centre) photographed near Moscow in October, 1981, and mystery lights seen off New Zealand in 1978.

# Society with eyes like saucers

By NICK PLACE

IT must be among the top 10 late-night dinner-table conversations: Do Unidentified Flying Objects exist? Or even better, have you ever seen a UFO?

For most of us, that's all UFOs are — a tasty and occasionally fiery dinner topic, to be enjoyed alongside ghost stories for a thrill or a scare.

But some people take the subject far more seriously.

Mrs Judith Magee for example.

Mrs Magee was enthralled by planes (earthly) from an early age and surprised her school teachers by completing a major school project on the subject, which was considered to be a less than ladylike topic.

In 1942, Mrs Magee joined the air force and was involved in aircraft identification during the war.

After the war, she joined the Australian National Airline (later to become Ansett) and worked there until 1948.

Then her interest in flying objects moved into the realm of the extraordinary and when lawyer Peter Norris formed the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society on February 17, 1957, Mrs Magee joined up.

Almost 30 years later, the society is known as the Victorian UFO Research Society and Mrs Magee is president.

FUNDED by membership subscriptions and affiliated with UFO societies throughout the world, the organisation works closely with the air force to investigate or at least record any strong UFO activity, while the society's investigator, Paul Norman, travels the world.

The society's membership is about 300. Mrs Magee says membership swells and falls depending on how many sightings have occurred recently.

Mrs Magee says about half of the society's members are from overseas and are members of sister UFO research societies or have an interest in the subject.

They pay \$6 a year to receive newsletters giving updates on the latest scientific breakthroughs and details of recent sightings.

Mrs Magee says all the group can really do is try to analyse or interpret the latest evidence and listen to what the airforce or scientists came up with.

A few years ago, society members used to meet regularly on One Tree Hill in the Dandenongs and stay there wrapped in rugs and drinking from flasks until early in the morning, waiting for something to appear in the sky.

Mrs Magee admits this was rather optimistic, but she says two carloads of people arrived one night and separately said they'd seen a mysterious orange ball of light shaped like a football travelling away from the hills in the night sky.



It was about this big ... Mrs Judith Magee describes the UFO she sighted in 1962.

Any doubt in Mrs Magee's mind was stamped out on a clear March evening in 1962 when she went outside to open the front gates of her house.

There, about 45 degrees from the horizon in a westerly direction was a large and dazzling light which she thought must have been Venus.

"When I went back inside, though, I remembered all the planets were in conjunction with the Sun at that time — something which only happens every 2000 years or something — so they couldn't be seen. I grabbed the binoculars and ran back outside," she says.

"I thought it must be a helicopter but it hadn't moved and through the binoculars it looked like Saturn, with a ring around it."

Mrs Magee went back inside to check

the dinner and the light was gone when she returned.

MRS Magee says people are not as skeptical as they used to be about UFOs, although she says Australians are less willing to believe in extraterrestrial activity than other people.

"In South America, where there are a lot of sightings, they are much more aware of the subject. Australians are less willing to believe a good story probably because they are used to spinning yarns themselves, such as the servicemen who used to sell the Sydney Harbor Bridge while overseas," she laughs.

"In the early days if you said you believed in UFOs, everyone would look at you as though they couldn't understand and then they'd just roar with laughter.



Fred Valentich

## Missing pilot: a UFO kidnapping or an accident?

On the evening of October 21, 1978, a young but experienced pilot, Frederick Valentich, disappeared while flying to King Island from Melbourne.

Valentich, 20, radioed to Melbourne that he was being shadowed by a UFO, which appeared to be playing with his plane and was capable of tremendous speeds.

As Valentich described the UFO, a metallic thud was heard and the radio went dead. No trace of the young pilot or his Cessna plane was ever found.

A rash of sightings about the same time and even a photo supposedly taken a kilometre away and 20 minutes before Valentich's radio call which showed a metallic object rising from Bass Strait fuelled the debate about whether Valentich had been kidnapped by a UFO.

Mrs Magee was on side with those who had no doubt that Valentich had been taken.

Today, she is just as sure, pointing to about 20 other cases where people have supposedly disappeared while in contact with UFOs.

"Now they say, 'Oh yes, I saw a strange thing once,' or 'Oh, you believe in them do you?'"

But Mrs Magee and her society can handle the critics, although she says it will take a mass landing which is impossible to cover-up or ignore to settle the issue.

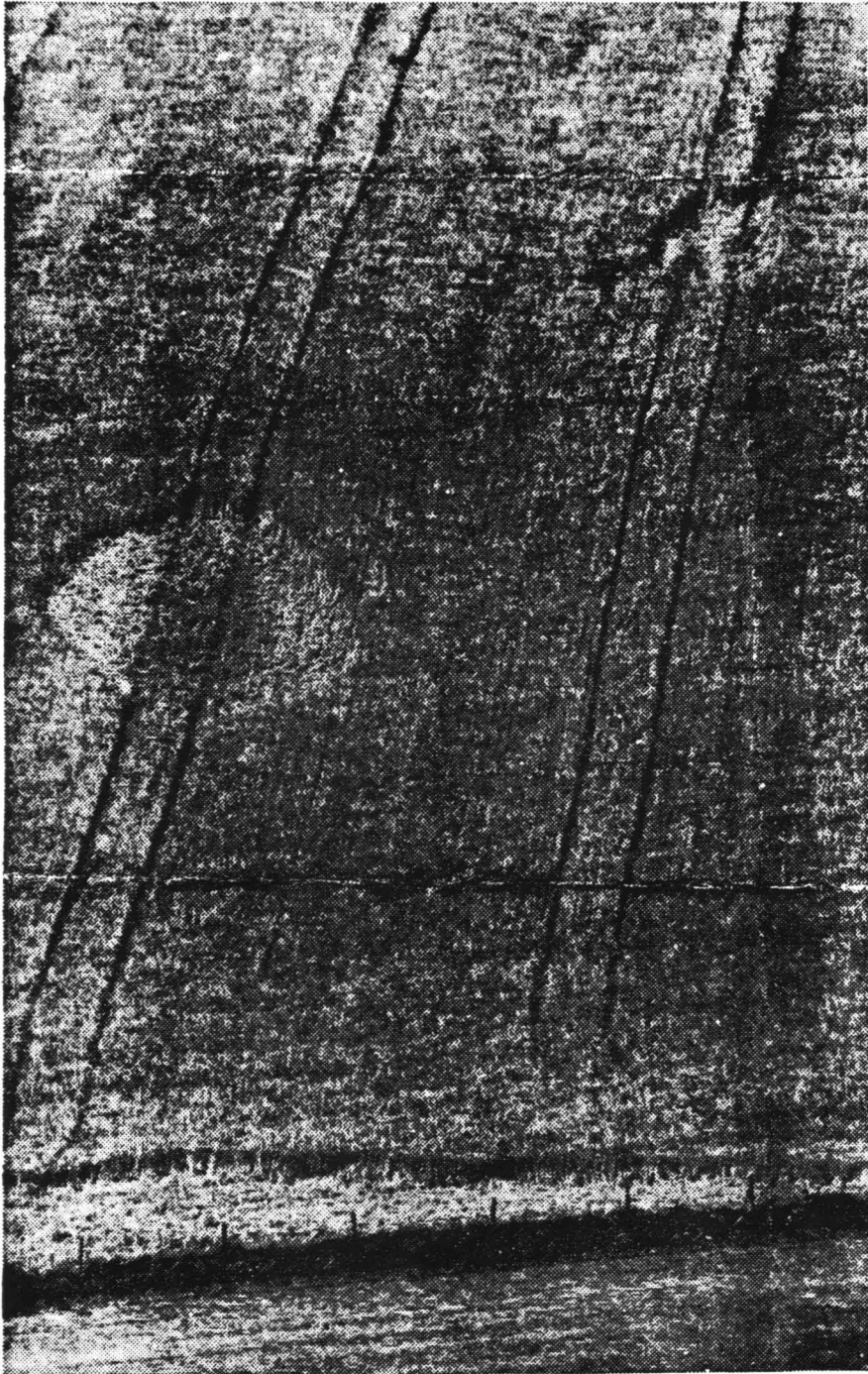
"I am convinced there is something out there which does not emanate from this planet and which is under intelligent control," she says.

"Man has tried all sorts of lights and sounds to contact them, but they haven't responded. It's up to them to contact us and when the time comes I think they will."

"When this world gets really bad they may come, ... who knows?"



# Making tracks for John's field of corn



HERE they are! The mystery markings which appeared, then disappeared, on a Sussex hillside exactly two years ago and are setting local tongues wagging again.

The rings are in the middle of a field of corn at Rathfinny Farm, near Alfriston, and once again theories are flying on what they are — and where they came from.

Have extra-terrestrials paid a second anniversary visit?

Or is there a more down-to-earth explanation —

an earthling with a wicked sense of humour?

Farmer John Mossop swiftly dispels any talk of UFOs in favour of a more natural explanation.

Not far from his mind are memories of the stam-pede of sightseers drawn to his land by the last mys-tery.

Brighton weather expert Mr Ken Woodhams does not think mini-whirlwinds could be the answer.

Strangely, or perhaps not so strangely, the rings both fall on tractor wheel tracks in the corn — easily accessible to pranksters.

BOURNEMOUTH EVENING ECHO, Dorset, England  
July 9, 1986 CR: T. Good

## COUPLE SAW UFO

THE Bournemouth coach driver who spotted a strange flaring light in the sky on June 17 is not alone.

Peter Charman, of Paddington Grove, has received phone calls from people as far afield as Winton and Blandford confirming the UFO sighting.

It seems that the strange light did not only limit its activities to the Tuesday night — one woman in Winton spotted it on the following Wednesday night.

"She called to her husband, who did not believe her, to come and look. The couple then spent about an hour watching the UFO from their garden," said Mr. Charman.

Other sightings report the UFO both moving and stationary.

Mr. Charman is still mystified over the origins of the light and said that he still has not sufficient information to identify it.

EXPRESS, Derby, England - July 24, 1986 CR: T. Good

# Experts puzzled by UFO reports

**E**XPERTS are baffled by sightings of cigar-shaped UFOs all over Derbyshire.

Mysterious pulsating lights have been spotted at Sinfen and there have been over a dozen other sightings.

On one occasion a bright white light shot out of the side of, well could it be ... a spaceship?

### Beam

Mr Denis Harriman, regional co-ordinator of the National UFO Investigation Society, said reports have flooded in from all over the county.

"Whatever it is seems to travel very slowly, has a red light at the front and a white beam at the back.

"From what I've heard it could be anything from

100-500 feet long," he said.

Some objects look like a star until seen close up and over Windley a craft of metallic appearance was seen which hovered over trees and shot away as the witness approached.

And a bright orange light has been spotted flying from Melbourne to Windley, reputedly as big as a Wessex helicopter.

A spokesman for the Derby Astronomical Society said the brightness of Venus in recent weeks could account for some sightings. Derbyshire Police confirmed they had received reports of strange sightings, but could offer no explanation.

by Express  
reporter

GUARDIAN, London, England - July 18, 1986 CR: T. Good

FRIDAY PEOPLE



Randles: Ruling out UFOs, leaning towards a new whirlwind

Ringing the changes

EVERY summer, as Fleet Street's corn stocks run low, little green eye-shades are directed at the West Country where giant rings of flattened crops have been appearing overnight for the past six years. Ere July is out Jenny Randles of the British UFO Research Association is usually blue in the face from explaining that they are not the landing marks of spacecraft. Which is why Ms Randles, the association's national investigations director, has co-authored a report examining a host of circle theories ranging from hoaxes to the mating habits of hedgehogs and parallel universes. The explanation she finds hardest to fault is almost as unorthodox as flying saucers — for which, incidentally, she believes no convincing evidence exists, preferring to talk of "unidentified" atmospheric phenomena. The exasperating feature of the circles — always slightly elliptical and 45-60ft across — is that the crop is undamaged but laid flat in a clockwise, swirled pattern. Although hoaxes have been proved, she believes this rules out heaving a long chain around the axis of a pole — a task rendered almost impossible by the crop's resistance. A complicating factor was the appearance in 1983 of

five-ring formations — a large circle with four smaller circles ranged geometrically around. This, she calculates, would require a team of five people performing complicated manoeuvres in the dark without leaving tracks. When such a set was found near Alfriston, Sussex, in 1984 Denis Healey materialised from his home nearby to snap them. "Healey's Comet", said a headline. Having dismissed helicopter downdraught, chemical weapons tests, force fields and drug dropping zones, Ms Randles leans towards a theory promulgated by the meteorologist Dr Terence Meadon. His "fair-weather stationary whirlwind" is apparently a short-lived phenomenon (a minute or so), almost exclusive to southern England between May and August, and capable of several wind funnels. But last month the wind advocates were thrown into a spin by the advent of huge concentric rings. Dr Meadon is now talking about a completely new form of whirlwind, says Ms Randles, who confesses that the circles' evolving patterns are "very suspicious." Last year an unusual greenish-white jelly-like substance was found in a central ring. The analytical verdict was "some kind of confectionery that had gone off". A Mars Bar? She insists not. "There's not the slightest evidence to explain the circles in terms of UFOs. It is wrong to try and explain one inexplicable phenomenon with another." All this suggests a symbiotic relationship between the elements and Fleet Street. The British whirlwind spell coincides exactly with the silly season.

TODAY, London, England - July 12, 1986 CR: T. Good

Flying circles around saucers

MONDAY is a big day for flying saucer buffs like myself. The British UFO Research Association is to reveal the result of a lengthy investigation into the Mystery of the Circles. For six years now, large symmetric circles have appeared at night in cornfields in the West Country and Home counties. There was a new crop in the Winchester area last week, one of them 68ft across. Could they be formed by flying saucers, electro-magnetic impulses, or simply a freak of the weather? My tip is that the investigators will put it down to mini-whirlwinds descending like a vacuum cleaner.

NORTH DEVON JOURNAL, Barnstaple, Devon, England July 24, 1986 CR: T. Good

Fiery 'UFO' seen

A FIERY "UFO" has been spotted over Combe Martin. Mr James Quemby, first saw the object over two weeks ago and has since seen it on five occasions always at about 11.30pm, above Yellaton Farm. "It is an orange disc like object, the colour of an oil lamp," he says. "It appears to rise from behind the hill known as the 'craggs' and then stay stationary in the sky for roughly an hour." Mr Quemby's daughter and three grandchildren have also seen the object, together with two neighbours. One neighbour, Mrs Beryl Irwin, says: "At first I thought it was a star, but then a brilliant light flashed and it disappeared."

TRANSLATIONS

City and country of incident: Uritorco Hill, Cordoba, Argentina  
Date of incident: March 12, 1986  
Name of paper and date of clip: LA TERCERA DE LA HORA, March 13, 1986  
City and country of newspaper: Santiago, Chile

[CREDIT: Jorge Anfruns - TRANSLATION CREDIT: Jane Guma]

SPECTACULAR EVENT TRANSMITTED DIRECTLY BY A RADIO STATION - UFO FLEET LANDED IN FRONT OF WITNESSES

Cordoba, Argentina, March 12 (AFP) - four UFOs landed in the early hours of this morning in a hilly area of Cordoba province, and many witnesses are on the spot watching the phenomenon, which is being transmitted directly by a local radio station.

The UFOs "have a big white light on one side and a red one on the other side," said the reporter who went to the landing place. The Cordoba radio station (located 710 kilometers to the north of Buenos Aires) interrupted its program at 03.10 GMT to transmit the news and describe "enormous saucers with intense red and white lights that came out of its windows."

A few minutes later a direct transmission was made from the La Cruz hill, which is located some 5 kilometers from the Uritorco hill (160 kilometers NW of Cordoba) where the UFOs landed.

A reporter said that one of the objects "took off and approached the place where the group of observers was, scaring us a bit."

He also added that the craft remained "motionless for several hours." The transmission continued at 11.15 GMT and the reporter said that a group formed by several UFO fans, three photographers and a nurse were accompanying him.

City and country of incident: Talara, Peru  
Date of incident: March 12, 1986  
Name of paper and date of clip: LA TERCERA DE LA HORA, March 14, 1986  
City and country of newspaper: Santiago, Chile

[CREDIT: Jorge Anfruns - TRANSLATION CREDIT: Jane Guma]

IT CROSSED THE FIELD AT AN ALTITUDE OF LESS THAN 30 METERS - A UFO PARADED IN FRONT OF 200 PEOPLE WHO WERE WATCHING A FOOTBALL GAME

Lima, March 13 (AFP) - The sudden appearance of a UFO last night stopped a football game that was being played in a stadium of the Peruvian city of Talara, 1,070 kilometers north of Lima, according to reports received today.

The strange ship flew over the field at an altitude of less than 30 meters above the ground, and was seen by some 200 people in the "Petroperu" stadium. "We could clearly see that strong red and green light beams were coming out of its front. It also irradiated a yellow light that turned into day the area it flew over," said Donald Duque, referee of the game that was being played between the local teams Alamo and Casa Gin.

The UFOs appeared around 8.05 PM on Wednesday night. According to some witnesses, the phenomenon lasted no more than 10 seconds.

This appearance is added to the report that four "flying saucers" landed Wednesday morning in a hilly area of Cordoba province, in Argentina, an event that was witnessed by many people. The spectacular landing was transmitted directly by a radio station from Cordoba, whose reporters went there after being alerted by the local residents.

The transmission described the ships as "enormous saucers with intense red and white lights coming out of its windows."

The reporter describing the spectacular event added that one of the objects took off and approached the place where the observers were, scaring them. Then the UFOs remained motionless for several hours.

City and country of incident: Corrientes province, Argentina  
Date of incident: March 21, 1986  
Name of paper and date of clip: LA TERCERA DE LA HORA, March 25, 1986  
City and country of newspaper: Santiago, Chile

[CREDIT: Jorge Anfruns - TRANSLATION CREDIT: Jane Guma]

THEY RESEMBLED MARTIANS DRESSED IN BLACK - FRIGHTENED FARMERS TALKED WITH UFO OCCUPANTS

Buenos Aires, March 24, 1986 (EFE) - Scared Argentine farmers from the area of Corrientes province bordering with Paraguay, claimed to having "talked" with the occupants of a "flying saucer" that landed there, it was reported today in Buenos Aires. One of them, Rito Melgarejo, told the Telam news agency that he saw how the "UFO descended and blinded him with its strong lights."

"Two of its occupants came out, they looked like small Martians. They spoke to me in a language I didn't understand, and signalled me," said the frightened worker.

"I told them I couldn't understand them and went away. When I turned around they were gone," said Melgarejo, in an account that was corroborated by other local residents.

Confessing he still has the headache he got since he spoke with the extraterrestrials four days ago, he described them as "small, wearing black, tight fitting clothes." Telam said that strange traces were found at the spot, such as burned grass in a 6 meter circle, and the remains of an eel that had not decomposed.

City and country of incident: Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Date of incident: March 28, 1986  
Name of paper and date of clip: LA TERCERA DE LA HORA, March 29, 1986  
City and country of newspaper: Santiago, Chile

[CREDIT: Jorge Anfruns - TRANSLATION CREDIT: Jane Guma]

UFO FLEW FOR TWO HOURS OVER THE BUENOS AIRES SKIES

Buenos Aires, March 28, 1986 (EFE) - According to reporters, an unidentified flying object in the shape of a saucer, which gave off multicolored flashes of light, was seen in the early hours of this morning over the Argentine capital.

The object, which was not detected by the radars of the local and international airports, was discovered in the Buenos Aires sky at 05.00 GMT by people trying to see Halley's comet.

The Telam news agency informed that "the object, somewhat bigger than (continued on page 13)



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a star, emitted green, white and red lights, giving the sensation of rotating on an imaginary axis."

They added that "the phenomenon was seen for two hours, while it flew over the southern part of the city."

Two weeks ago, residents of the Corrientes province on the border with Paraguay, said a "flying saucer" landed in a rural area and its two occupants tried to talk with a farmer.

Since the beginning of this year, Argentine authorities were informed of about 200 cases of UFOs being seen over the country.

City and country of incident: Azapa Valley, Chile

Date of incident: March 30, 1986

Name of paper and date of clip: LA TERCERA DE LA HORA, March 31, 1986

City and country of paper: Santiago, Chile

[CREDIT: Jorge Anfruns - TRANSLATION CREDIT: Jane Guma]

WITNESSES DESCRIBE THEIR EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE - UFO STOPPED IN FRONT OF AMAZED WITNESSES IN THE AZAPA SKY

Arica (By Juan Carlos Poli) - A UFO of medium size and very luminous, was seen early yesterday morning by more than ten people in the Alto Ramirez sector, in the interior of the Azapa Valley, where they had gone to have a better view of Halley's comet.

The spectacular sighting, according to witness Carlos Otarola, took place at 5.51 AM, and appeared in the sky as a big star that moved as a pendulum, which immediately called their attention due to its extraordinary brightness.

"We thought it was the comet, but, like a zoom, it began to come closer to where we were, increasing its brightness," added a very surprised witness.

Cigar Shaped

Civil employee Normal Rebolledo, who was also an observer, said: "It was something marvelous which really paralyzed us. Although we wanted to have such a sighting, the truth is that it scared us, since we never thought it could happen to us."

Referring to the sighting, he added: "We were in the upper part of the Alto Ramirez road, in front of the giant petroglyphs, when we saw a luminous star approaching in the dark sky. While it kept coming closer, it started to change its shape until it turned into an elongated body, similar to a cigar, that remained completely motionless in the sky."

Then he added: "It was extraordinarily luminous, silent, and its intense light did not change."

Two Minutes

Farmer Manuel Ceballos, a member of the group, said the strange phenomenon remained in the sky for two minutes.

"At first it moved like the pendulum of a clock, but then it remained completely motionless. After two minutes it started to climb and fall, turned to the left and disappeared at great speed towards the south, over the hills with the petroglyphs."

According to the farmer, all the time that the strange body was seen in the sky, the nearby animals were quite uneasy, and started running from one side to the other in their stables. Also, the dogs barked insistently.

According to worker Sergio Ponce, the event, which was witnessed by numerous local residents, is not a new one in that area that is 10 kilometers distant from Arica, since in the early hours of Sunday, March 16th, several farmers had a very similar sighting which they did not report for fear of being ridiculed.

Anyway, it can be seen that the presence of Halley's comet causes people to look more at the sky, and therefore the possibilities of seeing a UFO are greater. According to researchers, the UFOs are constantly moving around this part of the continent.

City and country of incident: Azapa, Chile

Date of incident: March 30, 1986

Name of paper and date of clip: LA TERCERA DE LA HORA, April 1, 1986

City and country of newspaper: Santiago, Chile

[CREDIT: Jorge Anfruns - TRANSLATION CREDIT: Jane Guma]

WITNESSES REPORT ON THE PHENOMENON - THE UFO THAT LANDED IN AZAPA LEFT A BIG STAIN OF OIL AND CHARCOAL

Alto Ramirez, Azapa Valley (By Juan Carlos Poli and Victor Macaya, special envoys) - A giant coffee-colored stain on the ground, with remains of oil and charcoal, is the only testimony a UFO left in this place when it stopped in the sky of this quiet valley for two minutes, while a group of Arica residents were out on an excursion to see Halley's comet.

This spectacular case, which is published exclusively by "LA TERCERA," caused real terror among the ten witnesses, who after the sighting returned to the city without reporting on the event for fear of ridicule.

It Must Be Divulged

But among the witnesses to this extraordinary experience is the driver of the bus, Pedro Moya Urzua, 30, who was a part of this group of explorers together with his wife.

Moya, still amazed by the sighting, said "I had not wanted to talk about this experience, but I know that "LA TERCERA" is a paper that will know how to treat the things that are happening with the seriousness they deserve."

He said he had left in a pickup truck in the early hours of Sunday morning, together with eight other people, to see Halley's comet. "A friend invited me, and we were happy to join the group. The truck went toward the Azapa Valley and then on to the Alto Ramirez sector, where it took a detour towards the hills where the petroglyphs are."

He says they got off the truck and started to look up at the sky to see the comet when a strange and surprising flying object appeared.

A Luminous Cigar

Pedro Moya, ratifying what was reported previously by witnesses Carlos Otarola, Norman Rebolledo and Sergio Ponce, stated: "What we saw first was a big star, much bigger than the others, that was approaching us at great speed. When it was above us, it was the size of an apple and it stopped in the sky moving from one side to the other, slowly changing its shape, to turn into an elongated cigar, which was extraordinarily luminous. It had a continuous light that changed from yellow to violet and green."

The report continues: "It was a spectacular sighting and the truth is, terrified us. The dogs were scared and barking, because the area was completely illuminated. We got scared, boarded the truck and returned to the city."

The witness added that the UFO remained in the sky for more than two minutes, and then it disappeared towards the south, flying over a hill with very old and giant petroglyphs.

Big Stain on the Ground

Together with the witness Pedro Moya, LA TERCERA went to the area where the sighting took place. It is a quite isolated spot, in the high part of the hills, in the Alto Ramirez sector, 14 kilometers from the city.

The area, which is practically uninhabited, resembles a lunar landscape, and is located at the foot of a giant hill that has a series of antique stone inscriptions, among which the shape of a strange being, for many an extraterrestrial, calls the attention.

We found a coffee-colored stain in a 30-meter radius in the spot where, according to the witness, the flying object hovered. When we took some of the soil in our hands, it felt like oil, with remains of charcoal, and it had a slightly burned smell.

According to the witness, when the place was completely illuminated, a very dark stain remained, which has slowly been changing into the original color of the ground.

Water Supply

According to the impressing report of the witness, during the two minutes that the giant luminous cigar stopped in the sky, it twice approached a water source in the desert, a big water collection tank that the local farmers keep there, hovering at an altitude of more than 300 meters.

"I do not want to speculate, but it gave the impression that the flying object was trying to obtain water from the tank, it could be clearly seen in the night. It seemed to be illuminated from above by a strong beam."

City and country of incident: Azapa, Chile

Date of incident: March 30, 1986

Name of paper and date of clip: LA TERCERA DE LA HORA, April 2, 1986

City and country of newspaper: Santiago, Chile

[CREDIT: Jorge Anfruns - TRANSLATION CREDIT: Jane Guma]

HE SAW THE FLYING OBJECTS IN ARICA THREE TIMES - UFO WITNESS CLAIMS THE EXTRATERRESTRIALS ARE INVADING US

Azapa Valley (By Juan Carlos Poli) - "I have always thought that the UFO subject must be treated calmly, without sensationalism, but with responsibility, in order to alert the world of the visits that extraterrestrials are paying us." These words, expressed with certainty and convincingly, belong to the driver of the pickup truck, Pedro Moya Urzua, 30, a witness to the appearance of a giant UFO early last Sunday, in the Alto Ramirez sector of this quiet valley.

This resident of Arica has a quiet and studious personality and has no doubt that we have been observed for a long time by extraterrestrial beings from other galaxies who are much more advanced than we are.

Something Special

For him there exists a group of people that have something special, it is easier for them to see flying objects in the sky. "I believe the saucers do not show themselves to anyone at random, they appear before those who believe and are unafraid of their presence," says Pedro Moya.

He said he had three similar experiences. The first one, on the road to Melipilla in Santiago, then three years ago at the entrance of Arica, and recently in Alto Ramirez, in the Azapa valley.

He says that something quite similar happened the three times. "The saucer approaches, balances from side to side, and then hovers in the sky as if it were starting a detailed observation from above."

Supply

The presence of the UFO last Sunday morning in the Alto Ramirez sector, has two clear reasons, according to Pedro Moya; one is to resupply the disk with energy, which it absorbs from the hills in the desert, and the other, to get water from an immense source in the area.

Also, for this Arica resident, the enormous petroglyphs on the hills above which the flying object hovered, were made by extraterrestrials, for them to be used as signalling and communication elements.

"There is even the figure of a strange being of enormous size, which is the image of an extraterrestrial," claims Moya.

Mission of Peace

The witness claims that the extraterrestrials are visiting us in a mission of observation that is completely peaceful. He says the world must change its position towards them. It must be considered that they are superior

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beings trying to avoid destruction of the Earth.

He says another disposition must exist to accept their presence on Earth, since sightings will begin to be more frequent.

City and country of incident: Azapa, Chile  
Date of incident: March 30, 1986  
Name of paper and date of clip: LA TERCERA DE LA HORA, April 3, 1986  
City and country of newspaper: Santiago, Chile

[CREDIT: Jorge Anfruns - TRANSLATION CREDIT: Jane Guma]

"TOURISTS" VISIT THE PLACE WHERE THE CRAFT LANDED - SCIENTIFIC GROUP WILL ANALYZE RESIDUE FROM THE AZAPA UFO

Alto Ramirez (By Juan Carlos Poli) - A group of Arica experts formed by academicians and professionals who thoroughly study the UFO phenomenon, will work in this place to examine the remains left on the ground last Sunday morning by a strange flying object.

The scientific group, called "Scorpion," will move to the area in the next hours to make a complete study of the remains found in a sixty meters radius, where a big oil stain can be seen with the naked eye. On it are charcoal remains which still have a noticeably burned smell.

Intense Studies

This local scientific group, which goes public for the first time, has been carrying out several studies about the UFO phenomenon for two years, but they keep the most hermetic reserve about them. Their members, well known experts from Arica, claim to have important theories about the appearance of flying objects in the area, which they jealously guard in a book they call "Silver Records."

Without identifying himself, a spokesman for the group said the presence of UFOs in the world is a verified reality.

City and country of incident: Cajon del Maipo, Chile  
Date of incident: April 12, 1986  
Name of paper and date of clip: LA TERCERA DE LA HORA, April 13, 1986  
City and country of newspaper: Santiago, Chile

[CREDIT: Jorge Anfruns - TRANSLATION CREDIT: Jane Guma]

THE BIG OBJECT HAS ALLEGEDLY FALLEN IN CAJON DEL MAIPO - BRIGHT UFO SEEN IN SANTIAGO'S SKIES

A bright UFO was seen yesterday a few minutes after noon by hundreds of Santiago residents; the body that some thought might be a meteorite, was big, elongated at the ends and oval on the sides, and emitted a very bright light.

The body was seen between 12.15 and 12.20 PM towards the SE over the Andes chain; tens of people called the media. In the afternoon it was learned that the UFO was also seen by tourists and other people that walked near San Jose de Maipo, and was seen falling towards the hills of the "Lagunillas" ski slope.

Very Luminous

The UFO emitted a very bright white light which, in spite of the noon brightness, was clearly visible; its large size was estimated by comparison with some clouds it crossed in the sky. A patrol from the police station of San Jose de Maipo, headed by Captain David Valenzuela, left in the afternoon towards the Lagunillas area to track the surroundings of the place where it is presumed the unknown body could have fallen.

Two young mountaineers camping in the slopes in front of San Jose said that at 12.15 PM, "when we were resting in the 'Baro' hill, we saw an almost blinding, bright light, similar to that of a welding machine, that moved at great speed."

Fabian Munoz Zapata and Agustin Silva Mondaca claimed that the UFO left a white trail behind and was lost near the Black Lagoon in the area known as "Olivares Glacier": "There was a storm in that place, and when the object fell, an electric storm developed because we heard thunder."

Carabinieri Patrol

The Carabinieri patrol reported on its return, after 9.00 PM, having tracked the "Guayacan" hill, which has an altitude of approximately 2,000 meters, and part of "Lagunillas," without any result. "We presume it could have been a meteorite," said a police officer.

A second patrolling will take place in the area all day today and in the same place where they searched yesterday.

Officers from the Los Cerrillos airport's control tower also admitted having seen the strange body, at the same time that the NASA station in Longovilo said it would investigate, in view of the many phone calls they received.

City and country of incident: Cajon del Maipo, Chile  
Date of incident: April 12, 1986  
Name of paper and date of clip: LA TERCERA DE LA HORA, April 14, 1986  
City and country of newspaper: Santiago, Chile

[CREDIT: Jorge Anfruns - TRANSLATION CREDIT: Jane Guma]

IT BELONGS TO A FIRE BALL THAT FELL IN CAJON DEL MAIPO - METEORITE APPEARED IN AN UNCULTIVATED PLACE IN SANTIAGO

Fragments that may have fallen from the alleged meteorite seen at noon last Saturday by hundreds of Santiago residents were found in an uncultivated place in the capital by two young students.

The fall was seen by neighbors of the area and when some pieces of rock were found, "they were still hot," they said.

The object was seen falling at great speed minutes after noon on Saturday, near the town of Lanahue, located between the towns of Americo Vespucio and Departamental. The neighbors began an immediate search, spurred on

by curiosity and by the fact that they had seen the strange "fire ball" that crossed the skies of Santiago almost at the same hour, disappearing in the Andes near San Jose de Maipo.

The Find

Two high school students, Mauricio Mejias and Felipe Montane, finally found some strange rock fragments, in a large uncultivated place that is usually used as a football field. When the object hit the ground, it broke into fragments, "it left a trace on the ground. When we found it, some 45 minutes after having seen it fall, it was still hot," claimed both youngsters. The version was confirmed by other local residents. One of the fragments that was exhibited measures around 20 centimeters in diameter and weights about two kilograms; but similar pieces remain strewn around in the area, all of which show notorious samples of mineral contents and something that resembles sediments. Today, the pieces will be handed over to experts for study.

Unsuccessful Tracking

Meanwhile, yesterday, a patrol formed by three police officers from the "Maitenes" station and a guide, covered part of the extensive sector where it is thought the bright object fell, that was seen between 12.15 and 12.20 PM last Saturday.

That night, patrol members told LA TERCERA that their search had been fruitless. The tracking, made on horseback, included part of the "Lagunillas" sector, which lies at a distance of some 16 kilometers from San Jose de Maipo and from Maitenes. Due to the rough terrain, Carabinieri said that a thorough search in the extensive area would take about a week.

City and country of incident: Cajon del Maipo, Chile  
Date of incident: April 12, 1986  
Name of paper and date of clip: LA TERCERA DE LA HORA, April 15, 1986  
City and country of newspaper: Santiago, Chile

[CREDIT: Jorge Anfruns - TRANSLATION CREDIT: Jane Guma]

SCIENTIST FROM CONCEPCION UNIVERSITY, LISTZ AVILA, CLAIMS: THE METEORITE THAT FELL IN CAJON DEL MAIPO COULD BE A PART OF "HALLEY"

Concepcion - (Mario Aravena M.) - The "fire ball" that allegedly fell in the Cajon del Maipo area last weekend, could be part (chips) of Halley's comet, thought Listz Avila Campos, a professor from the University of Concepcion.

Avila, who is a teacher in the Math Department, has been studying solar phenomena for more than thirty years, and was lately in charge of an intense local public program about Halley's comet. He also told LA TERCERA that he took postgraduate courses and met scientists from the Tololo hill observatory. He said, explaining his idea, that it is one of the hypotheses he is studying regarding the "fire ball," although, he warned, the possibility could not be ruled out that they could be remains from an asteroid and even from a UFO.

Avila said that according to scientific background known about Halley's comet, some fragments from its "tail" can become loose due to physical reasons - attraction of magnetic fields - and that is why a "shower of stones" or stars will take place next May 6th. Thus, the possibility could not be discarded that this "fire ball" could be related to this phenomenon. Finally, he added, it will be interesting to learn through chemical test, if remains of this matter are found, what their composition is.

He argued that "people talk about a meteor. Well, meteors originate in comets. Therefore, it is my hypothesis, starting from data known by all, that these 'shooting stones' may come from Halley."

He admitted that although Halley is still to be seen in the sky, studies referring to its close visit to Earth will last more than five years.

Avila also pointed out that if the comet should return in 76 years, it is difficult to predict now whether this will really occur, "since it could disintegrate before and I think its disintegration should be studied by man in order to avoid any future risk." Lastly, he announced that as far as sky phenomena, a moon eclipse is expected for the 24th of this month, and next June, Mars will reach its closest approach to Earth, that is, around 57 million kilometers.

Sedimentary Rock

On the other hand, Jorge Villegas, a teacher from the Physics Department of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Concepcion, denied yesterday that the remains found in the patio of a house in the Pedro de Valdivia sector in Concepcion, are remains from a meteorite.

Professor Villegas arrived at the house in Mauzhier 81, verifying that the remains are only sedimentary rocks with evidence of having been in a garden or a damp place. He split one of the pieces and verified also that other versions are not true. He declined to comment on the house owner's version of having seen a bright light last Saturday night.

City and country of incident: Various locations, Brazil  
Date of incident: May 21, 1986  
Name of paper and date of clip: O POVO, May 23, 1986  
City and country of newspaper: Fortaleza [?], Brazil

[CREDIT: Jean Alencar via Robert Pratt - TRANSLATION CREDIT: Wendelle Stevens]

UFOs AT CEARA: THE CASES ALREADY TOTAL 320

With the sightings of last Wednesday, Ceara recorded a total of 320 cases catalogued and investigated by area ufologists. The students of the Center for UFO Studies assured that they would continue appearing, "because the months of June, July and August are more propitious for this type of phenomena," said Lena Belloto of the Center. An explanation given by other ufologists is that the meridians open and permit the passage of the UFOs of different and unknown dimensions.

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It was in the month of June that the world recorded for the first time, the presence of these mysterious objects in our skies. In the U.S.A., the American, Kenneth Arnold, sighted, on the 24th of June, 1949 [sic], a strange object in the form of a plate crossing the skies of his city. From that time, the record of sightings has grown to the point that NASA, the North American space enterprise, became interested in studying developments in that sector of investigations.

Contacts of the 1st Degree

The appearance of last Wednesday has become the object of study by two entities connected to this type of phenomenon. The Center for Ufological Investigations, operating at rua Solon Pinherio 116, and by the Center for UFO Studies, under the direction of professor Jean Athayde, president of the Center. Some dozen persons connected with these organizations have in recent hours reported the sighting of a mysterious object flying above the city.

According to Reginaldo Athayde, the reports began arriving at the Center around 14:00 Wednesday and could be classified as contacts of the first degree. "The witnesses saw a passing object," he explained. To a student of this type of phenomena since 1958, this is very common in Ceara. More than 300 cases have already been investigated by this organization, some very curious.

In Quixada, on April 23, 1979, Luiz Fernando Barroso, a businessman of that city, said, "I was abducted, and when I returned to my house I began to regress mentally." Today, the whole world of Quixada knows of his case, when Barroso returned to the mental age of a child of one year. Another case catalogued by the Center happened to Joao Lyra Neto, a resident of Maraponga, on the 12th of August, 1983. On that date, at night, Joao was going home when his attention was called to a strange object above Lake Maraponga. The youth, upon trying to approach the object, was struck by an emission of light that left him unconscious. Two hours later, he came to in front of Bptran and remembered nothing that happened during that period. Athayde said he had studied the case.

The Center for UFO Studies, under the direction of Jean Alencar, also recorded many cases referring to sightings of flying discs. One of them, according to the records of that group, occurred in the city of Sao Goncalo do Amarante, involving housewife Jandira Morais Silva, on October 29, 1974. The woman was taking a bath in a lake in that city, when she saw a strange object coming toward her. It emitted a beam of light which burned the skin of the woman and left her unconscious.

Saw Object From House

Housewife Maria Alves de Oliveira, 52 years old, known there since birth, said that she saw a mysterious object that passed through the skies of Fortaleza last Wednesday. She was in the kitchen around two in the afternoon when she was called to the garden by her son Manoel Genesio Junior, 12. "He yelled that I must see something in the sky. I looked and was surprised. It had the form of a cigar; the first impression that I had was that it was like a terramycin capsule," said Dona Natividad who lives at Frei Odilon 189, in Alvaro Weyne.

"The strange object developed an impressive velocity floating above me. It had a dark lead color and reflected the sun. I was so frightened that I called my husband and other children to see it. I thought it was a piece of rocket falling." It was a kind of tube that rotated, and its path, according to a witness who saw it passing, was from sea to land. "It headed toward Piaui," said Manoel Genesio.

City and country of incident: Ceara, Brazil  
Date of incident: May 21, 1986  
Name of paper and date of clip: JOURNAL DO BRASIL, May 23, 1986  
City and country of newspaper: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

[CREDIT: Jean Alencar via Robert Pratt - TRANSLATION CREDIT: Wendelle Stevens]

"FLYING CIGAR" SEEN WEDNESDAY AT CEARA

Fortaleza -- Fortaleza Air Base confirmed having received numerous telephone calls concerning the apparition in the sky of Ceara of a cigar-shaped object, of dark color but reflecting the sun, at around 14:00 Wednesday, two days after the Air Defense Center in Brasilia dispatched F-5 aircraft to intercept unidentified objects detected in the skies of Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, and Goias.

The president of the Center for UFO Studies in Ceara, Reginaldo Athayde, believes that the object seen over the suburb of Alvaro Wayne in Fortaleza, and in the cities of Quixada, Pacaju and Santana do Acarau, was "a mother-ship from which came sondes and flying discs."

In Rio, the president of Petrobras, Colonel Osires Silva - who saw in Sao Jose dos Campos, one of the UFOs - on Friday said that, besides pilots seeing the unidentified luminous objects, it was the first time in Brazil that they had been detected by radar, which "shows that the light was emitted by a solid body."

Colonel Osires was piloting a Xingu airplane, of Embraer, returning from Brasilia to Sao Jose dos Campos, when he saw the UFO. His co-pilot, Commandante Alcir Pereira da Silva, described the object as being "much brighter than a star, yellowish-orange, which emitted a constant light at 2,000 feet altitude," seen about 20 kilometers from the airport of Sao Jose dos Campos, in the direction of Mogi das Cruzes/Sao Paulo.

Commandante Alcir said that, when they approached the airport, they were alerted by Sao Paulo radar control to watch for an object at 180 degrees. Later, Brasilia Control confirmed detection of the same object.

"At that altitude," said the Commandante, "we saw nothing. But when we descended to 2,000 feet, we saw a strong light and decided to verify it. We turned the airplane in its direction. The light lasted 10 to 15 seconds and then went out. It reappeared at another point. When we decided to abandon the chase and return to the airport, we saw the same light again

in another direction, south of Sao Jose dos Campos.

All the pilots and flight controllers involved in the UFO episode on Monday night were gathered late today in Brasilia by the Ministry of Aeronautics to discuss all that happened.

City and country of incident: ---, Brazil  
Date of incident: November ?, 1846  
Name of paper and date of clip: O GLOBO, July 22, 1986  
City and country of newspaper: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

[CREDIT: Cynthia Luce]

FLYING SAUCERS [Letter to Editor]

As long as 140 years ago, Flying Saucers were news in this country, for in 27/11/1846, the "Gazeta Oficial" published the testimony of the frigate Captain, Augusto Leverger about the then unknown subject. In his report, the future Baron de Melgaco and President of the Province of Matto Grosso who commanded an expedition of wagoneers from Cuiaba to Assuncion, was said to have observed on that night, a phenomenon that he'd never seen before (...) He said that he spoke with various other people in Assuncion that also witnessed the strange apparition.

Feliciano Moraes, Rio

City and country of incident: Nsimalen, Cameroun  
Date of incident: May 13, 1986  
Name of paper and date of clip: LIBERATION, July 31, 1986  
City and country of newspaper: Paris, France

[CREDIT: George Andrews]

AN APPARITION OF MARY IN THE VIRGIN FOREST by Gerard Dupuy

The Virgin Mary has appeared on a tree in the middle of the jungle in Cameroun, provoking a mystical frenzy among the population. However, local Catholic priests remain skeptical.

The apparition of the Virgin Mary in the jungle has caused major disturbances here. It happened at Nsimalen, about 20 kilometers from Yacunde, in the midst of the lush greenery of the tropical forest. Last year a mission of Lazarite priests celebrated their fiftieth anniversary there. It was on May 13 of this year that the Virgin Mary appeared. Since then, crowds of pious pilgrims have been flocking to the base of the tree on which she appeared. With an improvised camping-ground and non-stop prayers, Our lady of Nsimalen came into existence. However, not everyone is happy about it.

It all began with a group of children at play during the noon recess from school, who saw "white shapes," the number of which varies from witness to witness. The children threw stones at them, thinking that they were ghosts. However, after a local religious teacher pointed out their error to them, they realized that it was the Virgin Mary accompanied by angels. Vexed but indulgent, the Virgin Mary retreated about a kilometer across the jungle to the top of a tall tree, which dominated the surrounding landscape.

News of the apparition spread quickly throughout the region. From all over Cameroun, crowds of people flocked to the tree. And they were not disappointed! For the Virgin Mary, instead of disappearing, remained and made signs to them. Extraordinary phenomena were witnessed by thousands of people; the sun danced, and light shone from the base of the tree. Not everyone sees the same thing at the same time, but there is no doubt that this tree deep in the jungle is attracting supernatural phenomena like a lightning rod attracts lightning.

There is at least one person who is not enthusiastic about these developments: Father Mark, head of the mission of Lazarite priests. He is annoyed by the so-called "miracles," and carefully refrains from endorsing them, saying: "With the Eucharist, we know what is going on, but these apparitions are subjective." He is more interested in organizing work projects for the young people.

We asked Father Mark if he would show us the way to the tree. He answered: "Someone cut it down. I don't know who. It's in that direction." He made a vague gesture with this hand.

We encountered a pilgrim who showed us the way. It was his third trip to the Tree. On his previous visit, he had seen "a horse, a lion and something like the Holy Sacrament, shining very brightly" appear in the Tree. It is not easy to find the Tree, but at last we came to a clearing in the forest, where there was an altar presided over by a girl in her twenties, named Philomene. She wore modern clothes. There were about twenty people with her. She seemed to be in charge of them. She stated that she had come here soon after the first appearance, and that she had experienced a revelation: the Virgin had taken her into her service, and beneath the Tree had bestowed on her the ability to heal the sick. She has decided to remain permanently in this place, becoming the priestess of a new cult.

We asked her if the Tree had been cut down. She answered: "Yes, it was cut down by a white man accompanied by four youths, but the Virgin just moved to a different Tree." Philomene described mutes whose speech had been restored, blind people becoming able to see, the sun dancing, stars coming down from the sky to make a crown for the Virgin.

Philomene's friend, Marie-Praxede, at first didn't believe the children when they told her about the apparition. The Virgin was suspended in mid-air about half-way up the Tree when she first saw her. However, a companion she was with was unable to see the Virgin. Some see the apparition, others do not. A person who sees it can turn away for a moment, and then become unable to see it. Marie-Praxede found it disgusting that neither Father Mark nor the Bishop of Yaounde would even come to look at the Tree. As to the objection that this is not how the Virgin manifested at Lourdes, Marie-Praxede replied: "This is Africa, and the Virgin understands our mentality. Why shouldn't we Africans have our Virgin?"

During our visit, we did not see the Virgin or anything paranormal.



## Follow patent procedure

Mississippi inventor Joseph Newman has come up with something he calls an "energy machine," and more than 30 experts believe it turns conventional theories about electromagnetism and thermodynamics upside down.

Newman says his machine produces more energy than it takes in by tapping the inexhaustible energy sources Einstein proved are locked inside all matter.

That may be true. Newman's machine may be the greatest thing since sliced bread. And it's easy to understand why he is upset at not securing a patent from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, where he first filed an application six years ago.

However, Newman seems to have misdirected his wrath. He

has mounted a public-relations campaign against U.S. Rep. Robert Kastenmeier, D-Wis., for refusing to advance "private patent" legislation designed to circumvent the process. The bill is sitting in Kastenmeier's Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties and the Administration of Justice.

In short, Newman wants Congress to give him a patent. Has Newman exhausted all other administrative or judicial remedies? The answer is "no," his case against the patent office is pending in U.S. District Court.

The long history of the patent office is not perfect, but Congress should think twice before second-guessing the court or rejecting the expert advice of the agency it created to consider such matters.

## Dragon spotting day has arrived

-The  
Morgawr  
-Diary

TODAY is, of course, St. George's Day and by way of celebration we are conjuring up a dragon in Cornwall.

Documented legends of the Morgawr, the nearest thing the region has to a decent folk tradition of dragons, date back to 1876 when there were newspaper reports of one of the creatures being caught at Portscatho.

An unidentified 20 foot creature with an eight foot tail was trawled up in Falmouth in the 1920s, a similar carcass was washed up at Praa Sands in 1933 and in 1949 two of the

creatures were seen hunting fish at East Looe.

In 1976 a Morgawr appeared again at Trefusis Point at Flushing and the last sighting was by the Cornish wizard Doc Tony Shiels at Ponsanooth in May last year.

It was to the Doc we turned to conjure up an appearance today. We found him in his local the Stag Hunt Inn musing over the mystic powers of a pint of Guinness.

The Doc — he bought his doctorate in America for five dollars — is a psychic, has lured the creature from the waters before and once even took part in an expedition that brought the Loch Ness monster to the surface.

"I would be delighted to bring the Morgawr to the surface on such a momentous day as St. George's Day to frighten the English," he declared.

"The Morgawr is more of a sea serpent than a dragon. It's a decapod with a giant proboscis, in some ways a sort of giant squid. They are extremely frightening creatures.

"It is a salt-water cousin of the Loch Ness monster. The actual invocation of a Morgawr involves using psychic powers to draw them near to you."

The Doc says the Morgawr will make its appearance today in Falmouth Bay somewhere between Pendennis Point and Gweeb Point. Keep your eyes peeled.

## Champ watching popular pastime

By CAROL REYNOLDS

You're sailing on Lake Champlain. Your mate's eyes widen, his mouth opens, he points, and you find yourself looking at a series of three large bumps protruding from and rolling through the water at an even pace. A horse-like head, turning to face you, emerges on top of a long neck.

The neck dips back into the water, the bumps submerge, and the creature — whatever it was — is gone. There's a chance that what you just saw, if the Bloody Mary's aren't playing tricks on your senses, was Champ, the renowned, if elusive, resident mystery creature of Lake Champlain.

Champ watching has gotten to be a favorite pastime among residents and tourists in the Lake Champlain area. Just two summers ago, most of 70 people aboard a local excursion boat shared a sighting of three humps sliding along the lake's surface next to the boat for about 3,000 feet.

There have been 237 reported sightings in all. The earliest was Samuel de Champlain's, French explorer and discoverer of Lake Champlain, in 1609.

Alleged sightings have occurred mostly in the summer and all over the lake, so if you put Champ watching on your itinerary this summer, any spot will do. Your best bet is to plan some water or lakeside activity, and while you're busy with that, keep your eyes peeled and your camera loaded and ready.

Be watching for the humps or a long neck sticking up out of the water. The head has been described as either horse- or snake-like. Joseph Zarzynski, Champ phenomena researcher,

says the creature is probably 20- to 30-feet long with four flippers, a heavy body, and might have two horns on its head.

Zarzynski believes Champ to be an example of a supposedly extinct dinosaur, a plesiosaur. He also believes that there is more than one Champ, and that the ancestors of the creatures reportedly seen today somehow survived, though other dinosaurs — Champ's relatives — died out.

Another theory propounds that Champ and his cousin, the Loch Ness Monster, are zeuglodon, primitive whales that are believed to be extinct, unless, of course, Champy is one. And although people who claim to have seen the "monster" swear it can't be a fish, still other theories suggest that Champ is nothing more than an overgrown eel or lake sturgeon coupled with a viewer's lively imagination.

Zarzynski himself has conceded that many of the reported sightings "probably fall within honest misinterpretation categories," but he believes that at least some of the reported sightings are legitimate, and he asserts that "There does indeed exist a breeding herd of unidentified animals in Lake Champlain."

If you're lucky enough to spot the elusive Champ, whatever he may be, don't be afraid; he has never been known to hurt anyone. And be careful not to hurt him either — he's protected by law on both sides of the lake.

Factual information and quotations for this article were taken from Press-Republican articles "Book looks into the legend of elusive Champ," Dec. 17, 1984, and Press-Republican, "Sightings of Champy draw crowd at last," July 31, 1984.

CR: COUD-I

WESTERN MORNING NEWS, Plymouth, Devon, England - April 30, 1986 CR: COUD-I

-The  
Morgawr  
-Diary

## Morgawr is sighted!

PREPARE to be confounded, all you sceptics who doubted the power of this column to summon up dragons from the depths.

On St. George's Day, you might recall, we called on the Cornish wizard Doc Shiels, of Ponsanooth, to conjure into view a Morgawr, an ancient Cornish sea monster.

The Doc, suitably fortified by a few draughts of Guinness, agreed to oblige and all interested parties were urged to keep their eyes peeled on Falmouth Bay.

Other duties prevented me from spending all day myself gazing out to sea, but I have now received unsolicited confirmation that the Morgawr did indeed rise.

Mr. G. M. Morris of Nansavallon Road, Truro, has written: "You will be pleased to hear that your dragon-raising was successful. At about 3 p.m. on April 23 my wife and I witnessed the Morgawr in Falmouth Bay."

"It was a huge animal, exactly as Doc Shiels described it, like a giant squid with a kind of elephant appendage. The creature surfaced for half a minute then took off at high speed before diving below the surface. Congratulations."

I can see we are going to have to investigate this subject a little more fully at some other time.

IN MARCH this year cometary theories were put on the line. The European spacecraft Giotto was set on a course that was to take it within 500 km of the core of Comet Halley. The payload of Giotto contained a variety of scientific experiments designed to probe this comet, including a video camera that was intended to send back colour pictures of the nucleus at a resolution of some metres.

Earlier in March, the Russian spacecraft Vega 2 had already completed its own rendezvous with Halley. From a distance of several thousand kilometres, the Russian pictures showed some tentative indications that the nucleus may be split into at least two fragments. Giotto might have been able to settle this matter once and for all but for a breakdown of communications that occurred seconds before closest approach. In the event, the best pictures we have from all the March missions is of nuclear region immersed in a peanut shaped veil of obscuring dust.

The lack of a picture at close quarters still leaves some lingering doubts as to whether the nucleus, the heart of the comet, is a single large object or a collection of small pieces. A theory put forward by R. A. Lytleton in 1948 is that comets are aggregates of cosmic dust particles which are rounded up by the gravitational pull of the sun. Some degree of coagulation could occur to form larger sized particles than cosmic dust grains, but in essence Lytleton's model of a comet

## At the blackest heart of Halley's comet

Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe believe the signal from Halley's comet proves their theory that it is a bundle of dried bacteria

is one of a flying swarm of cosmic grains in orbit around the sun.

Data accumulated during the 1950s and 1960s made it difficult to maintain this model, at any rate in its original form. The main difficulty arose from the observation that gaseous material expelled from a comet as it approached the sun was concentrated towards a sharp point that defined a presumptive core. However, a comet comprised of thousands of metre sized pieces jostling with each other in close proximity within a small volume of space cannot be ruled out from general astronomical considerations.

Fred Whipple's dirty snowball model of a comet first proposed in 1950 grew in stature over the years at the expense of Lytleton's rival theory.

In this model the cometary nucleus is considered to be a single large object some 5-10km in radius. Molecules of various sorts and solid par-

ticles resembling household dust are supposed to be trapped loosely within a matrix of frozen ice — mainly water ice, ammonia ice and carbon dioxide. When the comet approaches the sun, the matrix is disrupted at the surface, releasing the trapped molecules, dust grains and particles of ice.

In the early 1970s it was discovered that the gas streaming out into the tail of a comet contained large amounts of the hydroxyl radical (OH) and the hydrogen atom (H). Because H and OH can add to H<sub>2</sub>O, this observation was widely considered an unequivocal vindication of Whipple's dirty snowball.

While it is obviously true that water is one possible source of these molecules, it is by no means the only source. Organic molecules can also provide a source for these components, and it can be argued that this is more likely for the reason that a number of carbon-bearing molecules and fragments of molecules, including C<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>3</sub>,

CN, CH had been observed in cometary environments for a long time. Moreover, in recent years searches for an infra-red signature of water ice (at a wavelength of 3.07 microns) had consistently produced negative results.

The organic theory of comets described earlier began to emerge as a strong contender in the field immediately following the observations of Comet Kohoutek in 1973/74. The first clear-cut detections of organic molecules (hydrogen cyanide, HCN) and methyl cyanide CH<sub>3</sub> CN came from this comet, and also a broad emission feature centred on the infra-red wavelength of 10 micrometres. Although most astronomers were inclined to identify this latter feature with a spectral property of inorganic mineral particles, the way in which the feature declined and effectively disappeared when the cometary dust became heated above 300C indicated that it must rather arise from particles comprised of organic polymers.

The organic theory of comets predicts that cometary nuclei must develop a highly porous mesh-like surface layer of polymeric particles. Evaporation of material on a large scale can only occur from places on the surface where this surface layer becomes abraded or broken, possibly due to jostling encounters in closely adjacent fragments. A consequence is that cometary nuclei must have exceedingly black non-reflective surfaces, a property we predicted only weeks before the Giotto

encounter.

The Giotto pictures showed a few places where the nucleus could be seen through "holes" in the dust halo, and the surface showed up to be amazingly black. Giotto investigators described it as being "blackier than the blackest coal," and this was a triumph for the organic model.

More triumphs were to follow. Giotto's particle impact analyser was equipped to determine the chemical make-up of the cometary dust particles by measuring the distribution of the masses of atoms within them. J. Kissel, the principal investigator on this experiment reported on March 17 that analysis of 1 per cent of the total data record indicated that the dust was made up of the elements carbon, oxygen, nitrogen and hydrogen with very much smaller amounts of other chemical elements.

There are two logical possibilities that follow from this data. These atoms can exist in the form of volatile ices such as water, carbon dioxide and ammonia together with simple hydrocarbons such as methane. Or, they could occur in the form of highly stable organic polymers.

Because in other experiments (ground-based measurement of infra-red colours) the temperature of these particles came out at about 125C, well above the boiling points of ices and simple hydrocarbons, it follows that the cometary particles could only be made of organic polymers.

Scarcely two weeks after

the Giotto rendezvous an important observation of the comet was made in the infra-red region of the spectrum by D. T. Wickramasinghe and D. A. Allen. These astronomers used the 154 inch Anglo-Australian telescope at Siding Springs, New South Wales and discovered remarkably strong signals due to emission from heated organic dust over the wavelength range from 2.4 micrometres. Basic structures of organic molecules involving linkages between carbon and hydrogen atoms (CH bonds) absorb and emit radiation at wavelengths near 3.4 micrometres, and for any assembly of complex organic molecules such as a bacterium this absorption band is in general very broad and takes on a highly distinctive profile. The most remarkable fact was that the profile of this emission from Halley's comet matched precisely the behaviour of a dried out bacterium as measured in the laboratory.

Although a complete appraisal of the recent observations of Comet Halley cannot yet be offered, several remarkable facts have emerged. The comet is not an inorganic dirty snowball as most astronomers had held with great tenacity and against all the odds. A major scientific paradigm has had to be overturned.

Finally, the organic material of the comet occurs predominantly in the form of particles whose absorption properties at infra-red wavelengths, sizes and densities are identical to the predictions of a bacterial model.

GUARDIAN, London, England - May 2, 1986 CR: COUD-I



# Perpetual problem

## Inventor fights to get patent on his energy machine

By FRANK A. AUKOER  
Journal Washington bureau

Washington, D.C. — It's the sort of story everybody would like to believe.

A country inventor, unschooled in science, creates a machine that produces more energy than it uses. If true, it could change the world, providing practically free energy for everyone.

But he can't get a patent. The United States Patent and Trademark Office has refused to give him one, saying his invention is a perpetual motion machine. Since 1918, US patent law has excluded perpetual motion machines from consideration for patents as impossible, something-for-nothing violations of two fundamental principles of physics, which state that energy cannot be created or destroyed, and that when energy is used some is always wasted.

The inventor, Joseph W. Newman, has taken his case to the courts, Congress and the news media. In the process, he has produced a giant headache for Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier (D-Wis.), who is chairman of a

Newman lives in Lucedale, Miss., a community of about 2,500 between Hattiesburg, Miss., and Mobile, Ala., where he has demonstrated a larger version of his energy machine. He claims that 30 prominent engineers and scientists have tested the energy generator and swear that it produces more energy than it uses. He also has appeared on national television.

The generator is not a perpetual motion machine, Newman says. He claims that it captures subatomic "gyroscopic" particles and releases electromagnetic energy. He says the effect is to convert mass to energy.

But critics say that because the machine has no external fuel supply, it could produce energy only if part of the machine itself were consumed as fuel.

Besides the seven congressmen who have introduced bills on his behalf, Newman has received support from William E. Schuyler Jr., a former head of the patent office who was appointed a special master by Judge Jackson. Although Schuyler did not endorse Newman's theories, he did say Newman was entitled to a patent. To win a patent, an inventor must demonstrate that his device is new, non-obvious and useful.

Complicating Newman's efforts for special legislation is a congressional rule that private bills must pass by unanimous consent. But the US Commerce Department is opposed to the Newman bills.

TRIBUNE, Salt Lake City, UT  
July 2, 1986 CR: M. Bieseke

## Cow in Escalante Killed, Mutilated

Special to The Tribune

ESCALANTE — Garfield County sheriff's deputies are investigating the mutilation of a black cow found some six miles south of here.

The animal, devoid of blood and its sex organs removed, was discovered by owner Sally Davidson only hours after it was apparently shot.

Davidson and her husband were checking cattle after losing one to a lightning strike two days earlier. They own the Strath Kay Ranch here.

"I'm not against the idea of an invention to save or create energy. But I do know we in the Congress are not competent to judge."

— Rep. Robert Kastenmeier

House Judiciary subcommittee with jurisdiction over the Patent Office.

Kastenmeier has blocked action on private bills introduced by seven House members that would order the Patent Office to grant Newman a patent for his energy machine.

Kastenmeier says Congress is not competent to substitute its judgment for that of the Patent Office. If it opens the door for Newman, he says, it could wind up trying to resolve hundreds of thousands of disputes between inventors and the office.

"I make no judgment about whether his invention is valid or invalid," Kastenmeier said in an interview. "I'm not against the idea of an invention to save or create energy. But I do know we in the Congress are not competent to judge."

"I very much resent the sort of campaign this man has put on. It's basically public relations, with implied threats that they'll go after me politically in my district. I just don't want to spend the time responding to all this harassment, and it really has been harassment."

Kastenmeier said Newman and his supporters had sought every forum they could find in his central Wisconsin congressional district. He said they were almost cultish in their approach, and resembled followers of Lyndon LaRouche, who leads a fringe political group.

Among other things, Kastenmeier said Newman and his supporters had accused him of being "in the pockets of the utilities." He said the charge was laughable.

"So much of this has become such an obsession with Newman and his followers," Kastenmeier said. "That's been very difficult to deal with, but I refuse to be intimidated by Newman or anybody else."

Besides getting members of Congress to go to bat for him, Newman filed suit in Federal Court here to force the Patent Office to grant him a patent. Last March, Newman's lawyer, John Flannery, was held in contempt of court and fined \$500 for insisting that the judge explain why he would not disqualify himself.

The judge, Thomas P. Jackson, has ordered a test of Newman's machine by the National Bureau of Standards. A bureau spokesman, Mat Heyman, said the tests on a version of the machine provided by Newman would be completed at the end of June. Under an agreement by all the parties aimed at protecting the invention, the results will be sealed and transmitted to the judge.

Heyman said the bureau had told Newman he could observe the tests, but he has not done so.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - June 28, 1986

## 'Energy machine' doesn't produce more than it takes in, NBS reports

Tests on country inventor's device come as blow to his supporters

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The National Bureau of Standards concluded Friday an "energy machine" designed by country inventor Joseph Westley Newman does not produce more power than it takes in — and doesn't violate any of the known laws of physics.

The NBS report on tests made between March and June on a device submitted by Newman came as a blow to supporters who believe the machine puts out more energy than it takes in.

"The Bureau of Standards has established a new standard and said Joe's machine doesn't meet it," John Flannery, Newman's Washington-based attorney, said.

Flannery, pressing a suit against the Patent and Trademark Office in an attempt to force them to register the device as an energy-producing machine, said he may seek a court order allowing him to test the equipment the NBS used to test Newman's device.

Newman, who lives in the pine

woods outside Lucedale, Miss., was not immediately available for comment. Flannery said the inventor has obtained affidavits from a number of engineers and scientists who say the machine does in fact produce energy.

The NBS concluded otherwise.

### 'Exceeded output power'

"For all conditions tested, the input power from the batteries exceeded the output power from the device," according to a summary of the test results.

"The NBS results show that the device behaves in a manner which is entirely consistent with the well-established laws of physics," it said.

The device was described in the summary as "a battery pack, a commutator connected to a permanent magnet and a coil of wire. The permanent magnet is rotated by the varying magnetic field produced by the coil."

"The device drew energy from a

battery pack, stored some of that energy and wasted some of it, with the remaining energy serving to power the device."

"To support the inventor's claim, the device would have had to show an efficiency of greater than 100 per cent," it said. "In none of the NBS tests did the device's efficiency approach 100 per cent. The efficiency ranged between 27 and 67 per cent."

### Designed experiments

The NBS designed a special series of experiments to test the device and put together and calibrated a variety of measurement devices to insure accuracy and reliability, the report said.

The testing was undertaken in accordance with several court orders, including an order based on a request for information from the Patent and Trademark office. The findings could result in dismissal of Newman's claims against the office.

POST-STANDARD, Syracuse, NY - July 17, 1986 CR: R. Barrow

## A Bird? A Plane? No, Ice

To the Editor:

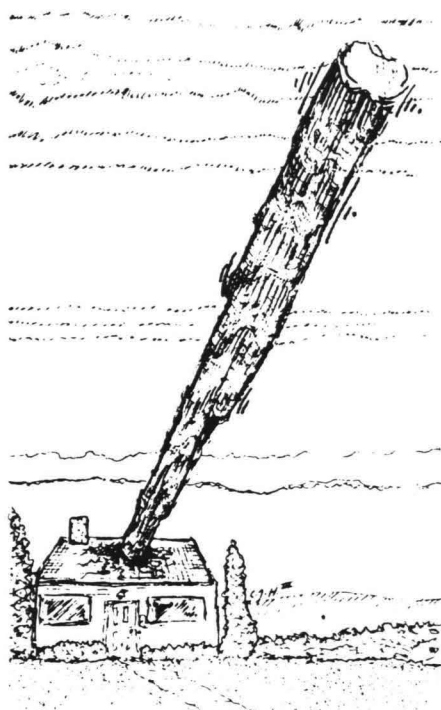
This concerns James Ehmann's July 7 article on space physicist Louis Frank and his colleagues, who have proposed the remarkable theory that comets have brought (and continue to deliver) water to Earth.

In a society increasingly pleased with making certain that all of its citizens think and act alike, how refreshing it is to discover the rare phenomenon of a scientist who publicly holds himself up to the spotlight.

Social comment notwithstanding, however, a potentially important observation should be brought to the scientists' attention. The not-so-mainstream literature, as well as newspapers — including your own — have, for as many years back as one can reach, reported instances of chunks of ice crushing into homes, fields and assorted other locations. This occurs internationally and, without question, the force of an icy impact is always significant enough to be life-threatening.

In April 1985, after a jet airliner lost an engine somewhere over New Mexico, investigators who recovered it speculated that a block of ice might have knocked it off — and, since various authorities are usually all too quick to announce that falling ice "must have" dropped from passing airplanes, the fact that there would hardly have existed a higher aircraft to drop the New Mexico ice makes such a timeworn explanation highly suspect. In fact, the source of most ice falls can rarely be detected, and there frequently and most definitely are no aircraft flying over areas of impact.

Which leads us again to the comet theory laid out so nicely by Mr. Ehmann. Could such comets not explain various ice falls? Maybe — just maybe — these potential comets don't all turn into harmless vapors. Of



course, the literature abounds with tales of all sorts of "falls" from the sky, but scientist Frank and fellows might have unknowingly helped solve part of a very old, troubling puzzle.

If the jaws of the scientific bureaucracy don't chew these guys into invisibility in short order, perhaps some solid knowledge will result.

R.E. BARROW  
4167 Cleveland Road

# America's Scientific Illiterates

## Survey Finds Basic Concepts Misunderstood

By Cristine Russell  
Washington Post Staff Writer

PHILADELPHIA—Roughly half of all Americans reject the theory of evolution, believe that UFOs carry visitors from outer space, say that some people have lucky numbers and think that scientists have knowledge that makes them dangerous, according to a survey for the National Science Foundation.

Large numbers of Americans also do not understand basic scientific terms such as "molecule," "DNA" and "radiation." But substantial numbers believe in astrology, and about one in 15 has changed his or her behavior because of advice in an astrology column.

The survey results show a surprising degree of "misunderstanding of science in the American pub-

lic" and difficulty in distinguishing between science and pseudoscience, said Jon D. Miller, head of the Public Opinion Laboratory at Northern Illinois University.

His findings underscore a growing national concern about widespread scientific illiteracy in the United States. They are the latest indictment, Miller said, of the failure of the public pre-college educational system to prepare Americans for an increasingly scientific and technological world.

Miller, who spoke at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) meeting here last week, said his survey involved a random, representative national sample of 2,000 American adults reached by telephone last November and December. The

margin of sampling error in a national survey of this size is about 2½ percent in either direction, Miller said.

The survey indicated, Miller said, that scientific illiteracy is greatest among those with the least education, among the very young and the very old, and among women.

Miller said that astrology—a pseudoscience purporting to show the influence of the positions of the moon, sun and stars on human affairs—is taken seriously by many American adults. He found that almost two-thirds read astrology reports periodically and 15 percent said they read them regularly. While three of five rejected astrology as "not at all scientific," nearly two of five gave it some scientific credibility.

The survey also found that about 7 percent of Americans—the equivalent of 12 million adults—said they had changed their behavior because of advice in an astrology column, with 20 percent of high-school dropouts saying astrological advice had influenced them.

The survey's questions on public acceptance of basic scientific theories got mixed results. Seven of 10 participants agreed with the theory that "in the entire universe, it is likely that there are thousands of planets like our own on which life could have developed."

There was also strong agreement—eight of 10 adults surveyed—with the scientific view of "plate tectonics": that "the continents on which we live have been moving for millions of years and will continue to move in the future."

But on the question of evolution, Americans were almost evenly divided on the statement that "human beings as we know them today developed from earlier species of animals."

Superstition also was strongly linked to lower levels of education. Forty percent of adults surveyed agreed that "some numbers are especially lucky for some people." The figure was 60 percent among those who did not have high-school diplomas and 28 percent among college graduates.

On the question of extraterrestrial visitors, 43 percent agreed that "it is likely that some of the unidentified flying objects that have been reported are really space vehicles from other civilizations," while 46 percent disagreed. In this case, there was little difference in views among the sexes or by educational level.

One indicator of the degree to which the public feels comfortable with science is in understanding of its basic vocabulary. The survey found that:

■ Only one-third of adults said they have a clear understanding of what a molecule is. Forty percent said they have a general sense and 28 percent said they have little understanding. A molecule is the smallest particle of an element or compound that can exist freely and still retain the characteristics of the element or compound.

■ Only one in six adults surveyed claimed to have a clear understanding of DNA and 57 percent acknowledged that they have little or no understanding of the term. DNA is short for deoxyribonucleic acid, the chemical responsible for transmission of hereditary information in genes.

■ Fewer than one-third of adults surveyed think they have a clear understanding of radiation, and one in five admits to little or no understanding of the term. Radiation is energy, in the form of particles or waves, emitted by atoms undergoing internal decay.

Miller concluded that "a substantial majority of Americans do not have a sufficient vocabulary or comprehension of concepts to utilize a wide array of scientific communication . . . . If terms like molecule and DNA are not acquired during formal schooling, it is unlikely that they will be acquired later through the media or other informal education channels."

One of the most striking overall conclusions of the survey, Miller said, was the impact of scientific illiteracy on the least educated. About 15 percent of American adults—about 25 million people—did not complete high school. Miller said he believes that greater misunderstanding of science and more superstition in this group has contributed to a feeling that they have "little control over their own fate."

Nearly half of the least-educated agreed with the statement that "it is not wise to plan ahead since many things turn out to be a matter of good or bad luck anyway." Only 6 percent of college graduates felt this way.

And how does the public view scientists? More than half of all adults, 71 percent of high-school dropouts and 38 percent of college graduates agreed that "because of their knowledge, scientific researchers have a power that makes them dangerous."

Nonetheless, 57 percent of adults said they agreed that "in this complicated world of ours, the only way we can know what is going on is to rely on leaders and experts who can be trusted." While 81 percent of the least-educated believed they had to depend on experts, Miller said, a majority of college graduates rejected the notion, apparently feeling that they can make some sense of the world on their own.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - Aug. 8, 1986

## Reports say Chinese lake hosts dragon

The Associated Press

CHANGBAISHAN, China - People have been talking about the "monster" ever since hunters a century ago reported seeing a gold-colored creature with a large, horned head on a long, hairy neck rise up out of Tianchi, a spectacular crater lake.

The hunters were convinced it was a dragon.

About 500 people since then have reported seeing odd-looking creatures in the lake, said Dong Dehui, who has worked for seven years in a weather station overlooking Tianchi on the Chinese-North Korean border.

### No proof yet

But so far no one has come up with proof that the "quai wu" (strange beast) exists.

A few decades after the hunters thought they saw a swimming dragon, six people said they spotted an animal the size of a small cow that let out a deafening howl when they shot it in the stomach. The creature sank below the surface and disappeared.

Some people say that not even a monster could survive in Tianchi because it is frozen about nine months of the year and supports no known life forms except for micro-organisms.

Tianchi, or Heaven Lake, is atop Baitou Mountain, a dormant volcano in China's frigid northeast, about 220 miles from Pyongyang, the North Korean capital.

The volcano last erupted in 1702, and Tianchi was created by rainwater, melting snow and springs. Near the waterfall running off the lake, hot springs reach temperatures high enough to boil eggs.

### Large seal

Dong said most of the people, including some of his co-workers at the weather station, describe the thing they have seen as being the size of an ox with a head like a seal's, and black with a white belly.

"It is not afraid of people," Dong said. "My co-workers threw rocks at it, but it swam toward them. Then it stopped and dove straight down into the water."

A Chinese book published this year called "Wonders of the Changbai Mountains," describing the range to which Baitou Mountain belongs, says two animals were seen in 1962 chasing each other through the water.

In this account, they had dog-sized heads and were a brown-black hue.

The book says that in 1980, a worker from the weather station reported seeing a beast rise 12 feet out of the water, with a head like a cow, a body like a dog and a bill like a duck.

### Or is it a snake?

It adds that others have claimed it has a head like a snake and eyes as round as chestnuts.

It also says a reporter photographed the monster in 1981, using a telephoto lens, but it does not say if the picture showed anything conclusive about the creature. Dong insists that a clear photograph of it has yet to be taken.

"People have set up cameras by the lake, and waited and waited for a glimpse of the monster," said Jin Yinhua, a local tourism official. "Skeptics say it's all in the imagination, or just a floating volcanic rock."

The book speculates: "Perhaps it is the kind of reptile that roamed the earth more than 65 million years ago—a descendant of the Plesiosaurus. But some people have raised an objection. The volcanoes of the Changbai Mountains were formed only 2 million years ago."

## MEASURES OF SCIENTIFIC ILLITERACY

The data in this chart is from a national telephone survey of 2,000 adults, conducted by the Public Opinion Laboratory at Northern Illinois University. The interviews were completed in November and December 1985. Figures are rounded.

### Self-reported understanding of DNA

Clear Understanding	General Sense	Little Understanding
16%	27%	57%

### Belief that astrology is:

Very Scientific	Sort of Scientific	Not at All Scientific
7%	29%	61%

### Acceptance of evolution: "Human beings as we know them today developed from earlier species of animals."

Agree	Not Sure	Disagree
47%	7%	46%

### Belief in lucky numbers: "Some numbers are especially lucky for some people."

Agree	Not Sure	Disagree
40%	4%	56%

### Belief in extraterrestrial visitors: "It is likely that some of the unidentified flying objects that have been reported are really space vehicles from other civilizations."

Agree	Not Sure	Disagree
43%	11%	46%

### Attitude toward scientists: "Because of their knowledge, scientific researchers have a power that makes them dangerous."

Agree	Not Sure	Disagree
53%	4%	44%

SOURCE: PUBLIC OPINION LABORATORY, NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
BY JAMES SCHWARTZ—THE WASHINGTON POST



# Our scientific communication progress is out of this world

By DONALD L. RHEEM  
Christian Science Monitor

Recent advances in science have vastly improved mankind's ability to communicate with extraterrestrial intelligence — presuming it's there.

Galactic colonization, probes to other stars, and laser communication could hold a promise of new possibilities for interstellar contact and travel, according to scientists attending the recent annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"Between now and the end of the century is when the first message should come in," says Robert Jastrow, and "it will be from a very advanced civilization."

"For the first time in the history of this planet we have good reason to expect to hear from them — if life is common in the universe," the Dartmouth astronomy professor continued.

Dr. Jastrow bases his forecast on the fact that our culture has been broadcasting television signals into space at the billion-watt level for more than 20 years. This is long enough for any inhabited planets in other solar systems to learn of our presence. Presumably it would take just as long for them to respond, which would be sometime in the next 20 years.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is fund-

ing a project that seeks to develop the digital equipment necessary to pick up artificially generated signals at microwave frequencies. These are signals similar to what we use for communication purposes, such as long-distance phone calls.

Jill Tarter, a research astronomer working on the project at the University of California at Berkeley, says, "Should we detect such signals, we will either have uncovered evidence for extraterrestrial technology or developed a whole new branch of astrophysics."

Scientists have asked NASA for \$77 million over the next 10 years to develop the necessary equipment and place it on large telescopes around

the world by the end of the next decade. If successful in getting the money, the first systematic search for artificial signals will begin.

Dr. Tarter, however, is not convinced we will hear from another culture soon. "I am extremely optimistic that eventually signals will be detected. I am not at all sure that it will be in my lifetime," she says.

Even if intelligent beings do exist on another planet, some scientists question whether they would let us know they exist. History has shown that radically different cultures often clash. If this holds true for different life forms, they might actually avoid outside contact. This, according to

some experts, may explain the "great silence."

"We should not be so afraid that a future attempt to broadcast our presence will bring no results, as that it might bring far too many," Adelphi University Prof. Charles R. Pelligrino cautions.

Other explanations for the silence are that extraterrestrial life forms are not sophisticated enough to hear or respond to our signals, or that they simply do not exist.

Detecting evidence of other intelligence is just the first part of the equation. Some experts wonder if we will be able to "decode" messages sent from vastly advanced cultures.

Others wonder about the effect on people here of knowing that there is intelligent life elsewhere in the universe. "The impact will not be so much scientific as political," Jastrow says, "because these people, with the best of motives, may give us some very dangerous toys which will hold the key to political power."

One might wonder why, with all the other pursuits available to a well-trained scientist, some would choose a career more typical of movie producers and science-fiction writers.

"It will answer a question that the species as a whole has been asking for thousands of years," Tarter says. "Are we alone?"

DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - May 14, 1986 CR: J. Moseley

# Bigfoot leaves imprint on small Ohio town

It was the only residence along the tranquil Newcomerstown street sporting a lawn jockey painted green. That should have been a clue, for the house at 535 Heller Dr. is not simply home to 23-year-old Don Keating and his mother, Jo, but headquarters of the Eastern Ohio Bigfoot Investigation Center.

Bigfoot? Perhaps it is more accurate to say Bigfeet.

"Well, obviously," Keating explained in a recent interview at his home, "there is more than one, especially in Ohio. There are a half-dozen within a 20-mile radius of Newcomerstown."

So once a month, Keating and a handful of Bigfoot devotees meet in the banquet room of Bud's E-Z Pizza Shop and Drive-thru. They compare notes on sightings and "footprints" they say were left by a beast variously described as either black, gray or white (depending on the witness), smelling of Limburger, sulphur or road pizza (based on the nose of the beholder). Darwin's

## Mike Harden IN ESSENCE

missing link, some say; an extraterrestrial, contend others.

"IT IS a large primate," said Keating, "that walks upright and looks a lot like a human other than it is covered with hair. The one I seen (last) September was white, but they vary in colors."

That sighting, a straight-faced Keating explained, occurred one autumn night during a Bigfoot stakeout on a farm near the Tuscarawas-Guernsey County line. He swore he saw a hairy, white primate approaching a chicken pen. Further, Keating claimed that since the first alleged Bigfoot encounter near Newcomerstown more than two years ago, "there have been approximately 25 sightings by probably at least 20 different people."

From a room adjacent to the one in

which Keating recently entertained a visiting columnist's questions, he produced a pair of plaster casts he said were taken from footprints thought to have been left by the object of his avocational obsession. To the skeptical observer, the "footprints" resembled what Keating suggested only if one was willing to make a standing broad jump across a rather formidable abyss of logic.

YET ON the evening of the day he displayed his plaster casts, Keating was back out in the outback looking for Bigfoot with another member of his study group.

"We took a 35mm Minolta," he later explained of the trek, "and a tape recorder. We were in an open field close to a house where these creatures had been seen before. We just sat there for a while and listened for any loud noises or movements in the weeds. We took a prerecorded tape that was recorded (in California) from the actual creatures.

We played it . . . It's really just a bunch of grunting noises."

If he was worried about the reputation a 23-year-old man might earn sitting in a weed field on Saturday nights aiming taped grunts at a phantom primate, he didn't say so.

Sure, he takes his licks from the local skeptics. They shout, "Look! Bigfoot!" from passing cars, dial his number and grunt into the receiver."

"It just goes in one ear and out the other," he said. His detractors probably would argue that criticism traveling from one of Keating's ears to the other does not meet a lot of hurdles along the way.

He seems to have developed a certain immunity to the skepticism. At Bowman's sporting goods store on Newcomerstown's Main St., one can buy a T-shirt boasting, "Newcomerstown. Home of Bigfoot." Keating asked that

vendors not sell them outside his Bigfoot meetings.

At nearby Tony's Bar, in Newcomerstown, one could get an earful of Bigfoot jokes if he lingered long enough over a beer.

THE WHOLE thing is something the town seems to regard with a mixture of mild curiosity and bemusement. Certainly, Keating may not be the only believer in town, but there seems to be no real danger that Newcomerstown is about to ask the governor to call out the National Guard, though one might want to think twice before walking a lonely country road to a masquerade party dressed as a gorilla.

Seated on the couch in the living room of his Heller St. home, Keating opened an album of photos of what he suggested were Bigfoot footprints, along with a few prints of strange lights in the night sky.

"Don't start talking about UFOs," warned his mother, Jo. "They'll think you're crazy."



The Dallas Morning News: Juan Garcia

Carl Baugh is still pursuing the "mantrack" search near Glen Rose despite retractions of claims by other prominent creationists.

# Troublesome tracks

Dispute still simmers over Glen Rose fossil prints

By Gayle Golden  
Science Writer of The News

The hand-lettered sign has always been an oddity on the road that runs out of Glen Rose along the Paluxy Creek:

"60 men and dinosaur tracks. 1 mile."

These days, however, that message seems even more at odds with the national attention recently aimed at the small town of Glen Rose, 60 miles southwest of Fort Worth.

The news? According to a recently reported study, footprints of humans — a species that appeared on the Earth about 3 million years ago — are probably not embedded in the more than 65 million-year-old limestone along the Paluxy.

For nearly 30 years, creationists interested in debunking the theory of evolution have flocked to Glen Rose to claim that elongated "mantracks" exist in the same Paluxy limestone that holds three- and four-toed dinosaur tracks.

To creationists, the equation was simple: man plus dinosaur in the same-age rock equals support for the theory that the world was created in approximately six days no more than 10,000 years ago.

But in May, an amateur paleontologist from Ohio, Glen Kuban, told paleontologists at the First International Symposium on Dinosaur Tracks, held in Albuquerque, N.M., that the elongated tracks were actually made by dinosaurs walking with a gait unlike any ever attributed to dinosaurs.

Kuban's study has prompted a near-retraction from a leading creationist who has advocated the mantrack claims. He now admits he mistakenly interpreted some of those elongated prints as human. But other creationists are not declaring defeat, and from their enthusiasm, the Paluxy footprint controversy may be around at least through this summer.

Disputes about footprints are nothing new to the Paluxy, and indeed have given the area a certain notoriety since the 1930s, when naturalist Roland Bird unearthed several of the large dinosaur tracks and carted them off to the New York Museum of Natural History — an event that caused controversy in itself.

The tracks were formed more than 65 million years ago, when dinosaurs trooped through limey mud that was quickly covered with claylike sediments. Eons later, after the mud hardened into limestone, the clay washed away and left the tracks intact. Some of the tracks have looked startlingly human-like, about 15 inches in length with rounded heels and indistinct toe areas.

Kuban, a computer programmer from Brunswick, Ohio, who began studying the area five years ago, focused on a set of elongated footprints declared human by creation-

ist Rev. Stanley Taylor in 1968. Taylor included those tracks in his 1972 documentary of the Paluxy tracks, *Footprints in Stone*. Eight years later, in the book *Tracking Those Incredible Dinosaurs ... and the People Who Knew Them*, creationist John Morris declared the so-called Taylor track one of "four or possibly five clear human trails."

"This (the Taylor Trail) was really creationists' strongest piece of evidence," said Ronnie Hastings, a science teacher at Waxahachie High School, who has worked with Kuban on the footprints for the past two years.

During the particularly dry summer of 1984, when the Paluxy was drier than it had been in at least a decade, Kuban and Hastings cleaned off sections of the tracks and discovered blue-gray to rust discolorations at the top of each footprint. The discolorations clearly showed the outline of three dinosaur toes, which suggested the toes were filled in with sediments different from the rest of the track. Only after exposure to the air did the iron on the surface of that deposit change color.

Kuban has also proposed that the elongations were made by dinosaurs that walked differently from the way many paleontologists have supposed: by placing the weight on the whole foot instead of walking on its toes, as most paleontologists assume dinosaurs walked.

James Farlow, a paleontologist at Indiana University in Fort Wayne who has specialized in dinosaur footprints, called Kuban's work "very significant" — particularly the discovery of the discolorations, which also appear on dinosaur tracks near Clayton, N.M., and on the Alameda Hogback outside Denver.

But based on extensive surveys of dinosaur footprints in Texas and across the country, Farlow questioned Kuban's suggestion that the unusual gait may have been common among certain types of dinosaurs. Farlow suspects it may have been idiosyncratic to a few.

A summary of Kuban's study is published in the current issue of *Creation/Evolution*, a journal that skeptically examines creationist claims. Kuban is finishing a book on the Paluxy and plans further studies of the area.

Although his theory about dinosaur locomotion is scientifically important, it isn't the most surprising result of his work. To the amazement of all who have followed the Paluxy mantrack controversy over the past few years, Kuban convinced Morris — one of the most noted creationist advocates of the Paluxy mantracks — to admit publicly that the claim might be a washed-up idea.

In the newsletter *Impact*, published by the Institute for Creation Research in San Diego, Morris wrote that "none of the four trails at the Taylor site can be today regarded as unquestionably human." And in a telephone interview last week, Morris admitted that the Kuban disclosures had been a bit of an embarrassment.

"It looks bad," Morris said. "It looks like we made a mistake. And it looks like we better stop using them (the tracks)."

Meanwhile, Paul Taylor, who now has rights to his deceased father's production, *Footprints in Stone*, has pulled the film from distribution.

"All this is no small achievement," said John Cole, who spent two summers documenting other "mantrack" claims along the Paluxy with Hastings, Houston geologist Steven Schaefersman and Laurie Godfrey, an anthropologist at

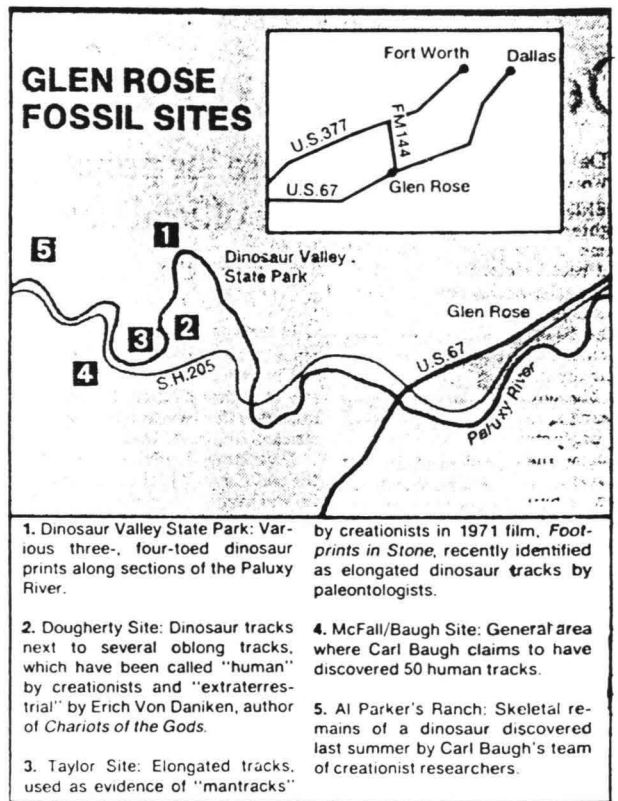
the University of Massachusetts.

The group, which called itself "Raiders of the Lost Tracks," showed "mantracks" had reversed insteps, too many or too few toes, and other anatomical inconsistencies. They produced a documentary of their own called *Footprints in the Mind*. But Cole said their work was received much like "dropping a stone down a bottomless well."

But there is still some question whether Kuban's study will halt creationist activity around the Paluxy. Morris said he has taken several core samples from the discolorations and is analyzing them for evidence of paints or stains — a possibility he has not ruled out, he said.

And the latest of a number of mantrack seekers, Carl Baugh, is still living in Glen Rose trying to raise the \$1.1 million he needs for a modest creationist museum. His larger goal is to build a \$5.5 million museum in the shape of Noah's Ark. Baugh claims to have found 50 human footprints in excavations during the past five years.

"I reject the concept that (Kuban's evidence on the Taylor trail) removes the possibility that there are other human tracks in the area," Baugh said, adding that he has brought in a bulldozer and a backhoe for more excavations this summer.



The Dallas Morning News: Ed Owens

UNION BULLETIN, Walla Walla, WA - July 6, 1986



**Vance Orchard**  
Blue Mountain Ramblings

SEEN A SASQUATCH? — Or, not having seen one, can you write of an imaginary encounter with the hairy manlike creature?

If the answer to the above is yes in either case, maybe you should consider entering a contest being sponsored by the Edmonds Arts Commission Sasquatch Sighting Writers Contest.

Now, most will recall we had such a sighting right here in our "backyard," in the Blue Mountains in and on the edges of the Mill Creek Watershed in 1982. This sighting,

claimed by watershed rider Paul Freeman, should be enough vehicle for enterprising — or "budding" — authors to traipse to the nearest word processor and start pounding away.

There are several points to observe in the rules for the writing, but one should "be original, but within the accepted 'facts,' about the Sasquatch, or Bigfoot." And, there's also this:

"Entries can be humorous, sad, serious, funny, scientifically oriented, inspirational, compassionate, but they should not ridicule the idea of such an animal existing. No one has proved that the Sasquatch exists, but no one has yet proved that the Sasquatch doesn't exist."

For more info: send a stamped, self-addressed, legal-sized envelope to Ann Saling, Sasquatch Contest, 8620 Olympic View Drive, Edmonds, Wash., 98020.