

UFO

NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

U.F.O. NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

ROUTE 1 — BOX 220

PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 U.S.A.

CO-EDITORS: LUCIUS FARISH
ROD B. DYKE

NOVEMBER 1989

NUMBER 244

UFOs seen cruising Queens skies

By Jim Custer and
Barrie Gellis

"There's been a tremendous amount of UFO activity on Queens and Long Island over the past year," said UFO investigator Bill Knell, editor of the New York UFO Report.

"A March 1989 sighting by about 20 passengers on a Queens bus led to a strange discovery in Flushing's Kissena Park," Knell reported. "And we're still investigating that incident."

According to Knell, at approximately 9 p.m., passengers passing the park on a Q-65 bus spotted several different colored lights hovering just above the ground near the lake. The driver stopped the bus and all watched the lights for about 3-5 minutes, and then continued on their way.

When Knell looked into the reported sighting he found two 15-foot circular configurations in the area where the lights were seen. The grass within the circles appeared to have been destroyed, with unusually jagged-edged black pebbles found on top of the circles.

One circle received much more damage than the other. Dr. William Fately of Kansas State University examined the most-damaged circle's dried soil and concluded that it had undergone an incredibly swift drying process which robbed it of all its moisture and nutrients. As of Saturday, Sept. 23, two soddings have failed to take root on the circle, which remains barren and sand-like, amidst a flourishing grassy meadow filled



Photograph by Barrie Gellis

Ufologist Bill Knell holds a sample of the jagged-edged black pebbles found on the circle. Inset, the 15-foot circular configuration of destroyed grass and nutrient-robbled soil was found at the location of the sighting.

with weeping willow trees.

The lightweight black pebbles were examined by Ted Benitt, a New York state licensed gemologist and mineralogist. He concluded that the pebbles were from a type

of volcanic stone found mainly in Aruba.

A Knell-led examination of the park found the stones were in no other park location, not even a few feet from the circles.

Photograph by Bill Knell

A first-hand report:

What was it in the night sky flying over Trumbull Aug. 31?

By ELLEN BEVERIDGE

For almost 40 years, I have followed reports of unidentified flying objects—ever since I read one of the first books on the subject, *Behind the Flying Saucers* by Frank Scully, published in 1950.

Through the years, my reactions have vacillated from fascination to skepticism. On one hand, I've talked with a man who has spent most of his life in the aircraft industry, including many years as an officer in the U.S. Air Force, who states unequivocally that UFOs do not exist.

On the other hand, about a year ago I was somewhat involved with a sighting when I interviewed and wrote in the *Times* about a Trumbull woman who, with her grown son, had seen something in the sky over the Tashua area she could not identify.

But, never was the subject brought closer to home than last Friday morning when I received a phone call from my daughter, Cynthia Miller, who lives with her husband and their two daughters in the vicinity of Unity Park.

Cynthia got right to the point as she related the details of her UFO sighting the previous night.

It began shortly after 11, she said, when a friend drove into the Miller's driveway bringing the older daughter home from a babysitting job. Cynthia went out to the car and the friend said to her, "We were coming down your street and saw a UFO." Cynthia continued:

My first reaction was one of disappointment. I wished I had seen it, too. Then, I walked out into the street and there it was, little white lights in what appeared to be a triangular shape, moving very slowly. It hovered over the street just above the tree line. The night was crystal clear, filled with stars and no wind.

I said, (to her friend) "turn off the motor," and then I could hear it—a low humming sound. The thought crossed my mind that the sound was so low, if I were inside the house I would not hear it.

Then, I could see that some of the lights looked to be sort of a red color. It stood motionless for almost a minute. I began to feel uneasy, a little frightened. I had the feeling that if we were standing there to watch it, then it was staying still to observe us. I wanted to get inside the house.

Cynthia went on to say that her friend (who lives a short distance away) phoned when she arrived home to say that the object seemed to follow her car. It hovered over her pool (which is lighted at night), then

continued in an easterly direction and disappeared.

Both Cynthia and I made investigative phone calls Friday. The Trumbull Police Department had no record of any call and the person who answered at Sikorsky Airport said the airport closes at 11 and they had no information.

But, two local radio stations confirmed numerous calls and the *Bridgeport Post* published a short item Friday titled "UFO" sighted over city stating that shortly after 11 p.m. in the downtown area a series of dim lights in a diamond-shaped pattern buzzed Lafayette Square for several minutes before disappearing "into the cloudy late-night sky," which flies in the face of the clear night Cynthia reported. Also, the article stated that in the past similar sightings were actually "local pilots having fun."

This explanation stretches one's imagination when weighed against Cynthia's description of what she saw and heard. What aircraft hovers (except a noisy helicopter) and makes a low humming sound, we both wondered.

Cynthia's conclusion: "I don't know what I saw—but I saw what I saw. I feel definitely that whatever it was, was not of this earth. Nothing I have ever heard has made that sound."

A few days later, she was still "profoundly affected by the experience. I have awakened every morning hearing that humming sound," she said "and whenever I walk outside at night I find myself searching the sky."

As for this reporter, I wish I had seen and heard it, too. And I wish, in my lifetime, there would be a resolution to this UFO controversy.

(Editor's note: The *Times* received several reports of similar sightings Aug. 31. Since no one can say for certain that UFOs do not exist, we feel this report is timely and appropriate. After all, there was a time when the earth was thought to be flat.)

Moss is the only thing that can grow on the circle. Knell suggested that rain-water runs off the circle towards the edges, providing the moist environment needed for it to grow.

Another unusual discovery was that the three lampposts near the circle were found to be highly magnetized, while no other park lampposts were in that condition.

He also pointed out that the side of a tree about 20-feet away from and facing the circles, had also died, with its branches extremely brittle, while the other side of the tree may be slowly atrophying.

"We speculate that as the object left the area, it brushed against that side of tree," Knell said.

On Saturday, Sept. 16, another UFO sighting was reported over the park. Five Flushing residents in the Parsons Boulevard/Oak Avenue section near the park reported seeing a bright object 75-to-100-feet above the lake with tiny lights randomly blinking around it.

The object stayed there from 1 a.m. to 4 a.m., when it just "blinked out," according to Knell. Upon visiting the neighbors, he had them each draw a picture of what they had seen that night. Putting them in separate rooms, their drawings were identical.

The Kissena Park circles are similar to those being found in corn fields in England. According to Knell, the British government is quite alarmed by the unexplained phenomena.

"This is not new. Unexplainable objects in the sky have been reported as far back as the 18th century," said Knell, a ufologist for more than 20 years.

"I get about 75 to 80 calls a year," he stated. "We screen the reports and end up investigating about half of them." Knell said some of the reports can be dismissed for various reasons like weather conditions, but many of them have no logical explanation known to man.

Knell, who works with his associate, Bob Atlas, a former member of NASA's lunar landing vehicle project, said that "even former president Jimmy Carter is on record as having spotted a possible UFO."

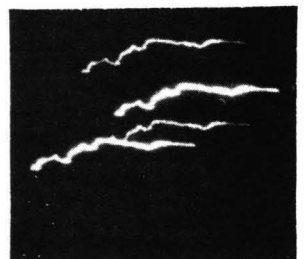
If you wish to report a UFO sighting, you can call the UFO Hotline at (718) 380-8644. The line is open 24 hours a day.

Balls of light return to Oklahoma skies

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — Those mysterious balls of light are back. Several people reported seeing colorful objects streaking silently southward through the eastern Oklahoma sky over Muskogee at about dusk Thursday, the police said.

Similar sightings were reported on several nights earlier this month in northeastern Oklahoma.

Witnesses said the lights came in a variety of colors, including green, blue, red and yellow. They were described as moving rapidly and creating no sound. (UPI)



????? (Photo by ?)

THE CONTROVERSIAL
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER!

COMMUNION

A TRUE STORY



WHITLEY
STRIEBER

author of TRANSFORMATION

You can no longer deny ...they are real!

Whitley Strieber's adventures into the unknown
are now on the phone!

Call 1-900-860-4UFO The Communion Hotline

Press **1** to hear best selling author
Whitley Strieber tell of his
amazing encounters.

Press **2** to hear from others who
have had their own
amazing encounters with
the unknown.

Press **3** to leave a message
recounting your own
unusual experience.

Now, for the first time, you can
interact with others who have
had unexplained encounters...
and realize you are not alone.

Dial 1-900-860-4UFO

because... *they are real and they are here!*

\$2 THE FIRST MINUTE. \$1 EACH ADDITIONAL MINUTE. BY 900 USASM

Lights Sighted

Five strange, colored lights sighted in the sky over northeast Oklahoma late Tuesday baffled police and residents alike.

"We don't what they are. We had received a call about 8:30 p.m. of a UFO around the Brunswick plant, and we thought it was a joke," said Commerce Police Chief Bob Baine. "But when officers arrived on the scene they saw what looked what lights that seemed to move in different directions."

"Just a few minutes ago I went out and took a scope and could see them sitting in kind of a pattern," Baine said. "There was nothing that I could specify as any shape. They were like spots or something."

Baine said the five lights were in a group of four, with the fifth a short distance away.

Larry Ruthi, a National Weather Service forecaster at Norman, said a check of area reporting stations indicated no unusual atmospheric conditions that might explain the sightings.

A dispatcher with the Ottawa County sheriff's office in Miami said county officers in the field reported seeing "strange lights."

"We thought it was just a hoax, but apparently it is real because I've got at least three, maybe four city units

TIMES-DISPATCH, Richmond, VA - Oct. 25, 1989

UFO reported in King, Queen

By Mark Holmberg
Times-Dispatch staff writer

No headless giants emerged, no green rays erupted. And no mysterious scorched earth has been discovered in King and Queen County.

But the Richmond area joined the swelling ranks of localities worldwide reporting recent UFO encounters.

"I feel like a space cadet," Sandy Taylor of Mechanicsville admitted yesterday.

Mrs. Taylor has felt a lot of things — excitement, fear, curiosity, embarrassment — since she, her two children and a relative saw an unidentified flying object for 30 minutes as they drove home from Tappahannock between 7:30 - 8 p.m. Monday night.

Her curiosity and excitement overrode her embarrassment. She called the Hanover police, Richmond International Airport, and finally, the newspaper. "I want to know if anybody else may have seen it," explained Mrs. Taylor, who has "never

seen anything like that before."

She was driving west on U.S. 360 in King and Queen County when she "... saw something out of the corner of my eye, a bright light." Moments later, the object appeared clearly, dead ahead.

"It looked like a pretty large star," 10-year-old Matt Taylor said. "But it started moving around."

"I saw a bright light in the sky," Stephanie Taylor, 13, remembered last night. "But then it just followed us all the way home from Tappahannock. I don't know what it was."

"We kept riding along the road," Mrs. Taylor said. "I was unnerved by the thing... at times it hovered right above the trees — it stayed ahead of us. At first it was on the right side of the road, then the left."

At one point, she said, the bright object "shot up in the air diagonally and met another object like it."

"Around Broadus Flats, maybe a little before, it looked like it was going to land. I really thought it was going to land on the road. It got



Staff photo by Masaaki Okada

FROM RUSSIA? — Sandy Taylor and her children, Matt and Stephanie, watched a strange light Monday night as they drove from Tappahannock to Mechanicsville.

bigger, larger, as it was going down."

Matt agreed. "It got pretty large at one time, but not close enough for details."

Mrs. Taylor admitted she's not good at estimating distances, particularly when upset, but she judged the object to be as close as several city blocks at one time and perhaps a mile or more away for the rest of the encounter. They lost sight of it as they approached Mechanicsville.

Last night she was still a little upset, but her children were taking it in stride. "I'd like to see one maybe a little bit closer," Stephanie said.

"I thought it was pretty neat," Matt added.

According to ufologists (those who study UFOs), the Taylors sighting is the most common, and of the type that usually has an earthly explanation.

But Henry Wellborn, administrative assistant of the Texas-based Mutual UFO Network, was intrigued by the sighting because of the huge numbers of recent UFO sightings in Florida, Alabama and Georgia.

"All over the Southeast," Wellborn said last night from Seguin, Texas. Typically, he said, the objects have been circular and red and have hung

in the air "stationary, hovering over trees, and zipping back and forth."

Sightings in Pensacola, Fla., represent "the largest case in modern UFO history with hundreds of witnesses and photographs," Wellborn said, not to mention close encounters of "the first, second, third and fourth kinds, maybe even a possible abduction. Some of the encounters have been within 10 yards."

The detailed photographs were thought to be "too good to be true," said Wellborn. But, so far, investigations have not exposed a hoax.

(With 2,000 investigators working, including one in Russia, the Mutual UFO Network is interested in investigating all sightings where witnesses are willing to fill out one of their reports and cooperate with investigators.)

Mrs. Taylor, a housewife who said she realizes some people may think she's daft, doesn't know whether the lights were an alien spacecraft or just unexplainable lights. But they certainly scared her.

"I feel like I've been in a dream," she said. "I wish I'd had my video camera... and I wish someone would explain it or admit they saw it too."

CR: B. Pittman

DAILY PHOENIX, Muskogee, OK - Oct. 28, 1989

UFO's origin a mystery

Thursday night's mysterious flying object was widely discussed Friday in Muskogee, but remained unidentified.

Apparently more than a few local residents saw the green lighted ball they said flashed over Muskogee shortly after 7 p.m.

Robert Gribble, director of UFO Reporting Service, said about two dozen people called to report seeing

a green ball. He said late Friday its origin was still a mystery.

On Friday, more people publicly admitted seeing the green lighted ball after reading reports that others had seen it.

Craig Patrick of National Weather Service office in Tulsa said nothing appeared on radar screens Thursday night.

and one of my county units that have seen the lights."

The dispatcher said the lights were first reported in Miami and then moved north.

The Associated Press

Mystery lights reported

500 witness color display

Tribune Staff and Wire Reports

COMMERCE — About 500 Ottawa County residents, including 20 law-enforcement officials, reported seeing several lights of different colors dancing over Commerce and Miami, Okla., late Tuesday, said Commerce Police Chief Bob Baine.

Police and residents say they have no clue to the origin of the lights.

"They were really beautiful, whatever they were," Baine said. "I think basically it was something in nature we witnessed."

Commerce resident Fran Willmert said, "I couldn't see any kind of a shape to them at all."

However, Baine noticed that at one time, the lights "were in a 'W' pattern."

Willmert said, "I noticed they were changing color and went from red to white

to blue." Willmert said she saw the lights from her yard and never had "seen anything like that before."

Baine, who viewed the lights through binoculars and a high-powered telescope, said, "They were nothing that looked like an aircraft."

"We don't know what they are. We had received a call about 8:30 p.m. of a UFO around the Brunswick plant, and we thought it was a joke," Baine said. "But when officers arrived on the scene, they saw what looked like lights that seemed to move in different directions."

Baine said the five lights were in a group of four with the fifth a short distance away.

"I went out and took a 'scope and could see them sitting in kind of a pattern," Baine

said. "There was nothing that I could specify as any shape. They were like spots or something."

Larry Ruthi, a National Weather Service forecaster at Norman, said a check of area reporting stations indicated no unusual atmospheric conditions which might explain the sightings.

Ruthi said he contacted a weather office in Tulsa and the Central Weather Service Unit in Fort Worth, and both reported that no unusual weather conditions.

"An auroral display should have been visible over a larger area than just Miami," Ruthi said. "Frankly, I'm at a loss."

A dispatcher with the Ottawa County sheriff's office in Miami said county officers in the field reported seeing "strange lights."

"We thought it was just a hoax, but apparently it is real because I've got at least three, maybe four city units and one of my county units that have seen the lights."

Bosh said. "I don't understand why they sat there for a long time."

As the lights went away, they began blinking at the same time.

"Maybe it's a mating call," Darr said.

Bosh said, "It's an aircraft of some kind. God put us here, why couldn't he put someone somewhere else?"

Her son, 18-year-old John Bosh, said "Mom, you're crazy."

She replied by swatting him and telling him, "John, Mommy knows best."

Other lights were spotted moved slowly or not at all. No engine noise could be heard.

A van full of teen-agers from Commerce Southeast Baptist Church dropped by a parking lot next to the police station after services to watch a twinkling ball of red, yellow and green that sank slowly in the sky.

"I think it's a satellite that blew up," speculated Benji Stovall, 13.

Rick Scott, 14, said "It's a shooting star moving back and forth."

"It's the Russians" and "It's a UFO" were other popular theories.

Tulsa Fire Capt. Jim White spotted two of the flashing lights from his south Tulsa home.

"I'm sure they were stars," said White, who watched the lights from about 10:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Baine said the lights Wednesday night seemed further away than the ones spotted Tuesday night.

The strange sightings are not to be confused with the "spook light" near the state line in Ottawa County.

The spook light "is a moon at the end of a road that when you get close, it vanishes," Baine said. "Everybody around here has seen it."

While the spook light is old hat, nearly everyone seemed to want a glimpse of the unpredictable visitors in the sky.

Baine said, "I'm glad they came back so people could get a look at them."

TRIBUNE-REVIEW, Greensburg, PA - Oct. 16, 1989 CR: S. Gordon

Close encounters of the 'alien' kind

Interest in unidentified flying objects was heightened last week when the official Soviet news agency Tass reported that an unearthly craft had touched down 300 miles southeast of Moscow. For years, researchers of the paranormal have investigated UFOs and reports of alien abductions throughout United States, including southwestern Pennsylvania. In this two-part series, reporter Sharon Santus spoke with three area people who claim to have been victims of alien abductions.

By Sharon Santus

TRIBUNE REVIEW

For Jim Smith (not his real name), the day started out like any other: a short drive on the Pennsylvania Turnpike from Irwin to Monroeville to pick up some plumbing parts.

But instead of arriving at his destination in

the usual half-hour period, Smith found himself inexplicably in Zelienople. He also found that three hours had transpired in what seemed like a split second.

Smith knew he had experienced a time and memory lapse, but it wasn't until years later — after a similar experience — that he discovered what he believes happened to him during that missing period. Under hypnosis, Smith said he recalled being abducted by three unrecognizable beings who placed him aboard an unknown type of craft and examined his body.

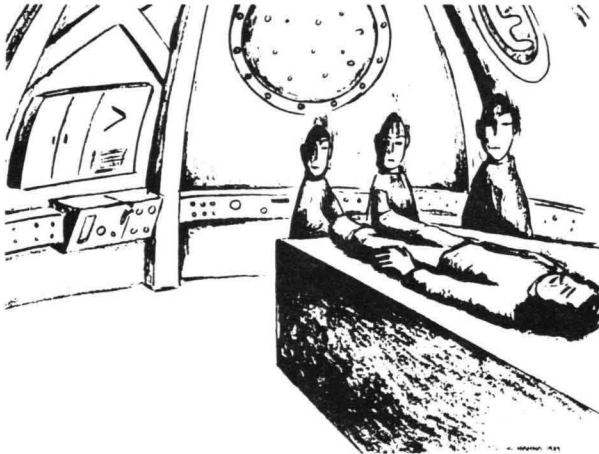
"You can't talk to anyone about something like this," said Smith, who has never told his story publicly. "People think you're insane. Until it happens to them, they don't believe it."

Smith, 46, is among thousands of people worldwide who claim to have been victims of alien abductions.

Reports of such abductions, originally scorned by most members of the scientific community and the public in general, have gained credence with the publication of such books as *Communion*, by Whitley Strieber. In the book, Strieber claims that in 1985 he was abducted from his secluded cabin in upstate New York, by short, stocky beings with wide faces and glittering, deep-set eyes. Strieber said he was taken against his will aboard a craft, physically examined and then released.

But long before Strieber's best-selling book, a handful of researchers across the country were investigating similar claims.

Among them is David Jacobs, professor of history at Temple University, who has been researching abduction phenomena for several years.



Artist's rendering of Jim Smith's recollections about his abduction.

Gordon arranged for Smith to be hypnotized.

"When Stan suggested hypnosis, I thought he was nuts," Smith said. "But I agreed and two weeks later I was put under and everything came out."

Smith said that through hypnosis, he recalled that while he was on the turnpike in both instances, the cab of his truck was invaded by white flashes of light and he blacked out.

He said when he regained consciousness, he found himself inside a circular room, about 25 feet in diameter, where he was placed on an examining table by three short beings who had pointy heads. He said the figures used a green light to give him an elaborate physical examination.

"It was cold and I was scared and doozy," Smith said. "It felt like I had been tranquilized."

Smith said under hypnosis, he also was able to go outside the craft, look down and see the earth below.

"The craft looked like two inverted, silver plates placed together," Smith said. "All of a sudden, I was back in my truck. That's all I remembered."

Smith, who said he has total recall of the experience since hypnosis, said he was shocked by his recollection.

Schwarz said those who come forward lack all motive for fabrication.

"I've seen marriages break up, lives wrecked," Schwarz said. "These people are reluctant to come forward. They don't want to be ridiculed by people asking, 'Are you on drugs? Did you drink too much?' They certainly aren't making any money from it because they refuse to be identified."

Among those shying publicity is Barbara Baker (also not of her real name) of Indiana County.

In 1974, after working the late shift at an Indiana department store, Baker, 55, was driving to her secluded home in rural Indiana County when she said she witnessed an event that changed her life.

"I was about a half-mile from my house, when I saw a triangular-shaped craft moving across a field at tree-top level," Baker said. "It had three blinking lights and there was no sound."

Baker said she reported the event to her sister, who dismissed it as a joke.

Several days later, in February 1974, Baker said she looked out her bedroom window and saw the craft hovering near a dam about a half-mile from her house. She said the craft, which she described as two pulsating lights, appeared each night in the same location for the next 19 months.

"I always felt safe and secure when it was around," said Baker who lives alone. "I knew if I tried to take a photograph or call the police, it would go away, and I didn't want it to."

Baker said that in September 1975, she watched the craft leave its usual spot by the dam and disappear.

"I knew I'd never see it again," Baker said. "And I didn't."

In April 1983, she contacted Stan Gordon. With his help, she attempted self-hypnosis at her home and said she learned she was a victim of alien abduction.

"I can even remember the coat I was wearing," Baker said. "There were two little men who held me by each arm. I'm sure it happened the night when I got home quite late for no unexplained reason."

The little men dragged me into the craft and put me in a chair. I couldn't move. There was a screen with a skull on it. It looked like a CAT scan."

Baker said the beings had gray/green skin, large heads and stood about 4 feet tall.

"They had slits for mouths and I don't remember ears or eyes," she said. "They were nothing like the pictures I've seen in any books. It took nothing for them to carry me in, no effort. There was a third man. He seemed to be in charge. He turned to me and looked at me. He had such empathy on his face. That's the last thing I remember."

Baker said she is convinced the beings were extraterrestrial and she was singled out for a reason she has yet to discover.

Gordon, who has been investigating paranormal sightings since 1959, said incidents like those reported by Smith and Baker are not unusual for the Chestnut Ridge and surrounding area.

"There appears to be what scientists call a 'window area' stretching 100 miles along the Allegheny Mountain system from Preston, W.Va. up through Fayette, Westmoreland and Indiana counties," Gordon said. "We do have a higher than normal occurrence of UFO and bigfoot sightings. Why? No one seems to know."

Gordon said one explanation for the nationwide increase in abduction reports is the willingness of alleged victims to tell their stories.

"They're not being laughed at like they used to," Gordon said. "The scientific and medical communities are starting to sit up and take notice."



An alien from 1953's "Invader From Mars."

■ **Trends:** Extraterrestrial beings have recaptured the public imagination—and not just in the United States.

By PATRICK MOTT

*E.T., phone your agent.
You're big, baby. You're everywhere. Books, movies,
TV. Tass!*

*Russia! You know you've made the big time when
you can get the Iron Curtain to go up on your act. Hey,
it's getting so people are expecting to run into you or
one of your pals every time they step out of the house.*

*You're saturating the market, baby! Keep this up and
you'll be bigger than the Smurfs! Only thing keeping us
from putting you on Burger King glasses is we can't
agree on what you look like...*

Indeed. Take your pick; short with big heads, tall
and skinny with little heads, gray skin, tan skin, big
eyes, little eyes, creepy, cuddly, nasty, nice.

It's getting tough to peg an extraterrestrial these
days.

Everybody seems to be trying, though.

of Moscow. There, in the city of Voronezh, a handful of towering, tiny-headed creatures emerged from their craft and went for a walk, terrifying several residents.

The landing, disclosed early this month, was confirmed by "scientists," said Tass, which reported that a large shining ball or disc was seen hovering over the park by residents. It landed. They saw up to three creatures similar to humans emerge, accompanied by a small robot, said the report.

The aliens, said to be from nine to 12 feet tall, soon re-entered the craft, leaving onlookers "overwhelmed with a fear that lasted for several days."

Vladimir Lebedev, the Tass reporter who covered the story, said later that he had not actually seen the UFO and had based his story on interviews with "about 10 youngsters aged 12 to 13."

A Guessing Game

The Tass report, as well as similar stories in the newspaper Soviet Culture, apparently have triggered widespread interest across the Soviet Union. In the *glasnost* era, such nationwide reports are something new.

But back in America—in the land of Steven Spielberg, George Lucas, Superman, Flash Gordon, Mr. Spock, Darth Vader, E.T., Buck Rogers and the Blob—alien mania, never far out of fashion, may be hitting one of its periodic apogees.

And once again the guessing game is: What do they look like?

Kenneth Johnson thinks they have no hair, larger-than-human heads, no external ears, two hearts and reproductive functions that oblige two males to impregnate one female.

Johnson, creator and executive

producer of 20th Century Fox Television's show "Alien Nation," also sees them as benign visitors who work at peacefully coexisting with Earthlings.

"You see them walking around on the street and it's pretty clear they don't come from here," Johnson said. "But in terms of their hearts and souls, they're a lot like us. To a limited extent, it's a science-fiction show. What I really wanted to do is to show what it's like to be the latest people off the boat—or the spacecraft as the case may be."

"I think people are always fascinated by the possibilities that face us when we look into the night sky," he added. "Whenever you have someone come here who is different from you, you have a lot of opportunity for questioning."

Conflict is also part of the scene, at least across town at Paramount, where the television series "War of the Worlds" is being produced.

'The Bad Guys'

Unlike "Alien Nation," "War of the Worlds" is just that, a battle between Earthlings and space creatures. And the characters, while advanced technologically and biologically, can adopt human appearances, though sinister.

Greg Strangis, the creator of the series and last season's executive producer, said he hopes real aliens aren't like his creations.

"For the purposes of drama in TV series, there are certain constraints," he said. "You have to have good guys and bad guys, and in this case the aliens are the bad guys. My personal feelings are that any intelligent life possessing the means and interest to pay us a visit would have much more in mind than to do Earth inhabitants any

harm."

In fact, he said, much of the current interest in matters otherworldly may have its basis here on terra firma.

"In a funny sort of way, it may be a reaction to some of the earthbound problems that we have," Strangis said. "Call it alien salvation. They may be seen as coming with solutions to our social, economic and spiritual problems. Where's the help coming from, since we don't seem to be able to do it ourselves? It's the Superman phenomenon."

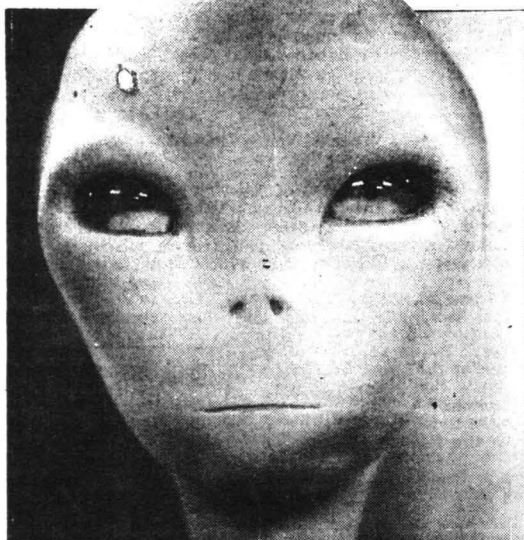
"I just wish they'd land in L.A. sometime so I could see them."

He just hasn't been in the right place at the right time, said Tim Beckley, editor of UFO Universe magazine, a periodical that reports on sightings, abductions and other UFO phenomena.

"There have been many sightings in Los Angeles and New York," Beckley said. "Actually, there's a constant kind of underground network that goes on between people in various parts of the world who exchange information and correspondence and stories about abductions and so forth. It's been going on since the early 1950s and it doesn't necessarily coincide with media attention on the subject. There isn't any particular part of the world that hasn't had UFO sightings."

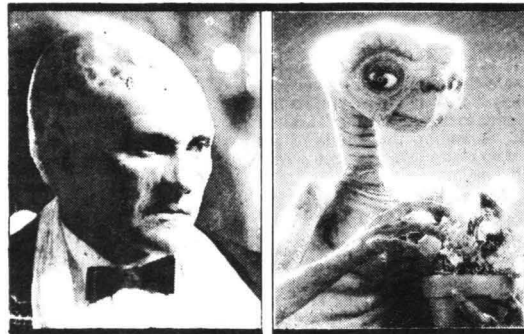
A sighting in the Soviet Union, he claimed, is not unusual. "The Russians have published articles and magazine stories about other sightings before this."

But the appearance of the Voronezh aliens is: "Their looks are unusual in that most of the beings are usually seen as relatively human-like. They might be able to pass for us, or they may be smaller, from 3½ to 4 feet tall with gray



A humanoid from film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind"

Galactic Glasnost



Actor Terence Stamp starred as an evil entrepreneur in the film "Alien Nation" at left; Spielberg's E.T. at right.



Aliens portrayed on TV's "War of the Worlds."

From the Hollywood sound stage to the Soviet Union, extraterrestrial beings are showing up on the A-list.

They star in films, populate television series, zip around in the night sky, and allegedly abduct people and return them shaken and dazzled.

And in the Russian city of Voronezh, they even reportedly take strolls in the park and make the evening news.

Whether it's all a cyclical fad, a coincidence or the real thing, Outer Space is in.

"I've noticed that the volume of calls I've received has increased substantially in the past six months," said Whitley Strieber, a New York author who claimed in his 1987 book "Communion" to have been abducted by "visitors."

"People are having more sightings, apparently," he said. "There's always the possibility that these stories can be true. Certainly they represent perceptions of an unusual nature, and we don't yet know the origins of those perceptions."

Even the Soviet news agency Tass was willing to report a recent landing. The origin of one prominent sighting, it said, was a park about 300 miles southeast

skin or very large foreheads. But these tall beings are rarer. They've been seen three or four times in South America. They're certainly not the most frequent visitors we've had."

But there appears to be uniformity in the purpose of the aliens' visits, Beckley said, adding, "If they have one particular message, it seems to be that we are in danger of destroying ourselves. Many of those who have seen the aliens have seen them as kind of space brothers, godlike, majestic beings come to save humankind from annihilation. Then, there are other people who say they don't see them as having any particular leaning."

Beckley told of a Soviet pilot who reportedly was forced to parachute from her plane and revealed later—after finding herself safe on Earth after blacking out for a time—that she had been taken aboard a UFO and warned about the dangers of nuclear proliferation.

"I don't think all these people are hallucinating," said Beckley. "They're not making up the majority of these stories. In 75%-80% of the cases, they're actually reporting what happened to them in a pretty sincere manner."

Beckley, who said he has sighted UFOs in the sky on three occasions, thinks we are closer to alien visitors than we may imagine.

"One theory going around that I subscribe to," he said, "is that they look so remarkably human because they're related to us. They may have come here and seeded Earth millions of years ago and now they're coming back for a look-see. They may be curious to see how their children have grown up."

It is a view decidedly not shared by members of the traditional scientific community, nor by the

American military.

A spokesman for Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena said all offices at the lab routinely refuse comment on UFO stories.

And at the Pentagon, Capt. Sigmond Adams, an Air Force public affairs officer, said the agency's official study of UFO phenomena—"Project Blue Book"—ended in 1969. It investigated 12,500 sightings in the United States, and, said Adams, "about 95% were explainable as meteors, satellites, aircraft, lightning." The other 5% showed "no indication of technology beyond our scientific knowledge or indication of extraterrestrials."

Since the end of Project Blue Book, the Air Force has not kept records of reported sightings and such calls have been infrequent, said Adams.

Still, tales continue to appear that fire the popular imagination. One of the most widely known—and commercially successful—of these was chronicled by author Strieber in "Communion" (he has since published a second book about his encounter and its aftermath, titled "Transformation").

In "Communion," Strieber claims to have been abducted on the day after Christmas, 1985, from his secluded cabin in Upstate New York. He called his captors "visitors," and did not specify where they came from. Throughout much of the abduction, he wrote, he was in a kind of dreamlike state.

"Communion" became a best-seller and Strieber has become a contact for many people who say they have encountered aliens. But he insists the beings who abducted him may not necessarily have come from space.

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)
- TIMES, Los Angeles, CA
- Oct. 26, 1989)

"I wrote about an unknown experience that was not understood," he said in a telephone interview. "All I can say is that there seems to be a strange set of perceptions people can have, the source of which is unknown. One hypothesis is that these things should not be dismissed out of hand."

And he doesn't. But, he acknowledged, sightings and alien encounters do increase after a newspaper report like the recent one from Tass.

A 'Major Unknown'

"When sightings are prominently reported in a paper, that generates reports of other sightings," he said. "People who have seen something and have not wished to report it are encouraged. There's a fear of ridicule; 99% of the sighting cases never appear in the press. For instance, there have been major sightings over New York City recently that were not reported in the press. The reports have come from so many different people, there must be something extraordinary..."

While Strieber admitted that "the average person can easily be misled by the sky—the night sky is full of illusions," he said that his experience has convinced him that "there is a very major unknown waiting to be understood. We have to do one of three things: revise our understanding of the way our perceptive systems relate to the world around us, revise the understanding of our own minds, or recognize that there are nonhuman intelligences moving about."

"It's happening on such a large scale now that it's almost inevitable that we are going to find the answer sooner or later."

Mott, an Orange County-based free-lancer, writes often for View.

COMMERCIAL, Pine Bluff, AR - Oct. 24, 1989

UFO Reported Over Chapel, Sulphur Springs Area

Bright Light Disturbs October Sky

By David Robinson
And Mark Minton
OF THE COMMERCIAL STAFF

It was an unexplained bright white globe with a red core that Cora Walker of Route 3 saw hovering in the darkness about 100 feet over the treetops near her home Monday night.

Jefferson County Sheriff's deputies also saw the unidentified flying object that was reported moving across the night skies about 8 p.m. between Highway 81-South and Sulphur Springs.

Sgt. Bernard Adams of the Sheriff's Office and Deputy Mark Bradley said they watched it until it disappeared somewhere over Watson Chapel about 9:30 p.m.

Ms. Walker said she watched the globe hover in the distance for about an hour before calling the Sheriff's Office to investigate.

"It came out from the northeast at a rapid speed, and it went to the southwest," Ms. Walker said. "Then it stood still." She started calling her neighbors.

"It was a bright light and then from it, it looked like a red flare," she said. "I've never seen anything like it."

After about an hour, the light started slowly moving out of sight, she said.

"It went straight down like a moon," she said. "I don't know what it was, but it was a strange object."

Sheriff's dispatcher Glen Hopkins said several deputies reported seeing the bright light moving from the west to the east and then back again. He said it was also seen in Grant County.

The Sheriff's Office notified the Federal Aviation Administration, but FAA officials had no radar contact with the object, Hopkins said.

Hopkins had no idea what the object was.

"All I can tell you is I had three officers who saw it," he said.

Adams couldn't identify what he was looking at, either.

"I don't know really what it was," he said. "Whether it was a weather balloon or a satellite or what, I don't know. To me, it was just bright lights in the air." Adams said it appeared to be moving southwest.

"It did move, and it completely disappeared afterward," he said. "It was real bright," he said. He also said it was a white light that, at least at one time, appeared to have red in it. Adams said Pine Bluff Arsenal employees also reported seeing the object.

Jack Palmateer of the Jefferson County Office of Emergency Services said the Sheriff's dispatcher notified him that deputies were tracking a strange object, but Palmateer said he never saw it.

Capt. Virgil Brown of the Sheriff's Office's Criminal Investigation Division said the CID investigator on call Monday night also saw the light, but that he had few details about it. Brown said he didn't know whether a police report on the sighting would be made.

Bradley was on patrol just south of Pine Bluff on Highway 81 when he saw the bright white light hovering about 150 yards above the treetops.

"Someone asked me if I had seen a UFO, and I told them I saw an object and it was unidentified and it was flying," said Bradley this morning. "When I put the binoculars on it, it was just a white light and every once in a while you could see some red mixed in it. The light was so bright you couldn't determine any shape to it."

Bradley said he called Adams

Field at Little Rock to see whether the object had appeared on radar there and was told it hadn't. "He didn't seem too concerned about it until he understood there was two of us looking at it," said Bradley.

Bradley said the light started to move west toward Watson Chapel, which ruled out the possibility of the object being a weather balloon, because the winds were from the south at the time, he was told. He sent a message to the Grant County Sheriff's office, figuring they might see it if stayed in that direction.

A spokesman for the Grant County Sheriff's office said this morning that deputies looked for the UFO but saw only lights from airplanes.

Larry Simpson, a disc jockey for KCLA Radio station here, said he was flooded with phone calls from people in the area who saw the strange light. When Simpson went outside to look for himself, he saw what he described as a bright blue light hovering about 200 yards above the trees. He described it as being similar to a police helicopter with a spotlight, but said the light moved much quicker than a helicopter could from low elevations to very high elevations.

"I watched an airplane light get closer and closer to it and then the (UFO) light went out," he said. Both Simpson and Bradley said when the light got high enough, it could not be distinguished from the stars.

Annual UFO Display Slated At Area Mall

On the night of Jan. 8, several witnesses near Avonmore observed a huge diamond-shaped object hovering low over a field.

On Jan. 21, a caseworker for the state reported that he was driving on Route 30 West, near Bedford, at about 9:30 p.m. when his eyes were drawn to the sky by a brilliant burst of light. In a matter of seconds, the light dropped and came directly at his vehicle, causing the driver to swerve into the left lane.

He was startled to see a large triangular-shaped object with rows of lights as it passed directly overhead.

During the early morning hours of May 17, two women reported that they observed a large, elongated object with large red lights hovering near Squirrel Hill, a suburb of Pittsburgh. Their description of the object was very similar to other Unidentified Flying Objects reported from many sections of the state in recent months.

On June 24, at 12:30 a.m., two passengers in a car traveling on Route 220 towards Altoona reported that they caught sight of a glowing object in the woods to their right. Suddenly the object came directly towards their car and passed over it at a distance of no more than two feet. This is a similar description of an object reported earlier that same night near Pittsburgh.

These cases are a small sampling of as-yet unexplained UFO sightings being reported to Pennsylvania

Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU) in 1989, a statewide volunteer, scientific clearinghouse which takes UFO sightings and other mysterious events very seriously.

PASU will be taking part in the fifth annual National UFO Information Week Aug. 13 to 20, and will hold, for one day only, a public UFO display at Westmoreland Mall, Route 30, Greensburg. There is no admission charge for the public display, which will take place Saturday, Aug. 19, from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Stan Gordon, PASU director, and other staff members will man the display to answer questions.

The group is an investigative unit comprised mostly of research specialists including many types of scientists, engineers, medical doctors, technicians and former military officers who conduct first-hand scientific studies of these reported incidents. It attempts to dispatch field teams around the clock if an important situation arises.

"In general, most UFO sightings reported can be traced to a natural source," Gordon said. "Bright stars and planets, meteors, space debris, a passing blimp, lights on aircraft and even NASA high-altitude experiments often provide an explanation. But every year UFO sightings occur for which no easy explanation is apparent, and these are the cases that make us wonder just what is occurring."

While the number of reports during 1989 dropped drastically from those reported in 1988, interesting UFO incidents continue to be reported on a monthly basis. PASU

has noted an increase in UFO incidents in the past year, occurring near large cities and more populated areas, but during hours when there would be little traffic.

PASU also continues to receive UFO reports and other odd incidents along the area of Chestnut Ridge. This mountain range, for some unknown reason, is an area where numerous strange incidents seem to occur on a yearly basis. PASU takes no stand as to what UFO sightings represent. The group conducts open-minded studies of these incidents, and exchanges information worldwide with responsible researchers and organizations.

The mall display will include UFO photographs, video presentations, alleged residues from UFO's, recent and historical government documents concerning UFO's as well as a variety of free handout literature. Also on display will be items related to other unexplained incidents that PASU investigates. These include recent casts of Bigfoot tracks from Pennsylvania, casts of tracks of the extinct Eastern Cougar but which is sighted yearly across the state, as well as a variety of other oddities.

The National UFO Information Week was started by Mutual UFO Network, based in Seguin, Texas. MUFON is the largest international organization taking a serious look into the UFO mystery worldwide. The purpose of the event is to make the public aware that UFO sightings continue to be reported on a regular basis, and that there are scientific organizations which they can report these sightings to without ridicule.

For more information contact PASU at 838-7768.

DAILY PHOENIX, Muskogee, OK - Oct. 27, 1989

Sky-watching residents report UFOs

By OWEN J. NICKELS

Phoenix Staff Writer

Green, blue, red and yellow balls of light were whizzing through Muskogee skies at high speeds Thursday night, anxious residents said.

Several called the Muskogee Police Department as well as the Phoenix newsroom. Most reports were of southbound fast-moving objects that made no sound.

"It was just a big glowing light," said Jim Davis, a maintenance worker at the C.N. Haskell State Office Building. He said he spotted the object when he went outside to take a break.

"It was up there," he said, pointing to the northwest. He said it had no flashing lights and did not resemble an airplane. It was bluish-white.

"I thought it was the Battlerstar Galactica," he said.

Paul Morris said his 10-year-old son, Strawbuck, came running in the house after the boy and a friend saw a "green ball with a tail." It went south of central Muskogee and then put on burst of speed before disappearing. Morris said his son saw the ball about the time a plane was flying north over Muskogee.

"I was over at my friend's house and it was to the south of the house," said Jarrod Fry of Muskogee, who saw two objects at about 7:20 p.m.

"One was red and one was yellow. They were moving real fast and then they just disappeared," he said.

Madelyn Joice, also of Muskogee, said she saw a bright blue lighted ball about 7:29 p.m. It went overhead as she was on the Columbus Street Bypass. It traveled quite fast just before disappearing.

Muskogee Police Cpl. Joe Randolph said a man driving on Peak Boulevard near U.S. 69 reported watching a green ball travel very fast in the sky from OG&E plant to Davis Field.

Randolph said there had been three or four reports of flying objects phoned to the police station Thursday night.

Muskogee residents weren't the only ones seeing flying lights. At least three others called the UFO hotline in Seattle, Wash. Robert Gribble, director, said two of the calls were from Tulsa and one from Broken Arrow.

The National Weather Service at Tulsa said nothing showed up on weather radar screens.

BULLETIN, Latrobe, PA - Aug. 2, 1989 CR: S. Gordon

Alien abduction: Fact or fantasy?

Interest in unidentified flying objects was heightened last week when the official Soviet news agency Tass reported that an unearthly craft had touched down 300 miles southeast of Moscow. For years, researchers of the paranormal have investigated UFOs and reports of alien abductions throughout the United States including southwestern Pennsylvania. In this, the second article of a two-part series, Tribune-Review reporter Sharon Santus tells of three area people who claim to have been victims of alien abduction.

By Sharon Santus
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Marion Richards (not her real name), a 39-year-old homemaker from Ligonier, said she believes she was first abducted as a 3-year-old in Mamont, and at various times since then.

In the first incident, Richards said she was playing with her brother and sister near Beaver Run Dam when she experienced a time lapse of several hours.

"One minute, I was playing with my brother and sister, and the next thing I remember is my father getting down off his tractor, looking very worried and running toward me," Richards said. "Apparently, I had been missing for several hours. Most of Mamont was looking for me. They thought I had drowned. When I was found, there was a chunk of my ear missing, like someone had scooped out a portion. It's quite noticeable."

Since then, Richards said she has regularly been visited by "the three little people."

"I've always seen them," she said. "When I was small, I thought everyone saw them. I see them frequently for a while, then I won't see them. But I've never gone a year between visits."

Richards describes the beings as 3½ to 4 feet tall wearing capes.

"They are so fast, it's hard to get a clear look at them," she said. "They have real big eyes, I can't remember a nose, and a little slit for a mouth."

Richards said the visits usually occur between 3 and 5 a.m.

"My husband is sleeping beside me," she said. "They approach me, very close to my face. They put a finger or a wand on my forehead and that puts me out. It's the last thing I remember."

Richards said she is convinced that each time she sees the little people, they tranquilize her, take her aboard their craft, examine her and then bring her back. Her ear wound as a child, she speculates, resulted from the alien examination.

She said the only piece of evidence of the visitations was a black metal rod-shaped instrument left behind in 1985. She said she put it on the windowsill during the visit, but by morning it was gone.

HUSBAND HASN'T SEEN

Richards said her husband has never seen her visitors.

"He doesn't disbelieve me," she said. "He's just never experienced it." However, Richards said, her husband and son shared in a similar experience in 1985.

She said she, her husband and son were returning from Loyalhanna Dam when they came upon a bizarre scene.

"It was between 10 and 10:30 at night and I was driving," Richards said. "I came up over the hill and there was something along the edge of the road. It was a clear cylinder about 9 to 12 feet tall, and there were sticks and twigs swirling around inside of it. It was a vacuum and it was picking up things. I nearly hit it. There was a creature in the tree and he was operating the cylinder. My son only saw the arm. It was huge, 8 to 10 feet tall and it was very muscular and well defined."

'When I was found, there was a chunk of my ear missing, like someone had scooped out a portion. It's quite noticeable.'

— Alien abduction victim

NO LONGER FEARFUL

Richards said she is no longer fearful of the strange occurrences that, by her accounts, have been with her since childhood.

"I used to be really afraid, but not anymore," she said. "It doesn't consume my daily thoughts. If it did, I would go crazy."

John Biondi, a school psychologist with the Hempfield Area School District and member of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, has conducted hours of interviews and hypnosis with people like Richards who claim to have been abducted by aliens.

"I believe they are being truthful," Biondi said. "They seem sincere. These people do not want the publicity. They don't want to be identified, so there can be no monetary gain for them."

Biondi said people who suspect alien abduction often step forward reluctantly.

"Sometimes they think they're going crazy," he said. "We try to reassure them there are other people saying they've seen the same things. Have they been abducted? That's difficult to say. I think it's possible."

JUST FANTASIES

For some researchers, the possibility of alien abduction is clearly impossible.

Paul Kurtz, chairman of the Committee for Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, said those making such claims are "fantasy prone."

"These people can be normal in all other aspects of their lives, but they have this fantasy about being abducted by aliens," Kurtz said. "Then they start acting it out."

Kurtz said people might read a book or see a movie about abductions and, under hypnosis, they repeat what they read and see.

"Not only what is real comes out under hypnosis," Kurtz said. "The imagination is at work, too."

Robert Basil, editor of *Not Necessarily The New Age*, a book that explores alien abduction, said hypnotists often suggest answers they want to hear.

PLEASE THE HYPNOTIST

"Some people will concoct an incredible, far-fetched tale as a way of pleasing the hypnotist," Basil said. "The hypnotists, instead of helping subjects to remember, are actually planting fantastic tales into their heads."

David Jacobs, paranormal researcher and professor of history at Temple University, agreed that an untrained or unscrupulous hypnotist can "uncover" events that never occurred.

"But we are very careful not to suggest abduction scenarios," Jacobs said. "Hypnosis is an irreplaceable tool for accessing the memory. It's the best we have."

Jacobs said he is aware of abduction scoffers, but said his years of research have brought him to an unmistakable conclusion.

"To say these people were abducted best explains all the data that we've gathered," Jacobs said. "Even if you dismiss all the physical data, there's still the issue of the missing time. There is no better alternative explanation."

MIRROR, Altoona, PA - Sept. 1, 1989 CR: S. Gordon

Slightly weird ... UFO sighted over Cambria

By Linda Hudkins

Staff Writer

EBENSBURG — It's a bird. It's a plane. It's ... it's ... gee, nobody's exactly sure.

Dispatchers from Mainline police and state police said Thursday that sightings of unidentified flying objects were reported about 9:30 p.m.

Jack Miller, a Mainline dispatcher, said he had two calls from Nanty Glo and one call from Carrolltown about "something in the sky moving quickly, jumping up and down."

The people who called would not leave their names, he said.

State police also reported a call from Mineral Point, in southern Cambria County.

Stan Gordon of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained — a group that investigates UFO sightings — said he had learned of the Cambria County sightings and said they occurred about one-half hour after similar sightings in Westmoreland County.

He said the sightings were of brilliant, yellow-white lights moving up and down, back and forth at a high

rate of speed.

They aren't the only recent sightings in the area. Gordon said that in May, a sighting was reported along Route 220 south of Altoona. Two people reported seeing a greenish glow in a wooded area. When it approached and passed over the car, he said, it was glowing fluorescent and shaped like a boomerang.

That incident was verified by another person from the Pittsburgh area who had seen and reported the same thing two hours earlier.

Gordon said the PASU is a volunteer organization staffed by professionals from many fields.

"I have been doing this (research) for over 30 years, and I have never seen one (UFO) myself," Gordon said. But what he has seen, he said, are many "hard-core skeptics become believers." In many instances, he said, emotional problems occur with people who see UFOs which can be dealt with by doctors who volunteer at the center.

People who may have had an encounter are urged to contact PASU at 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, 15601. Letters of description and sketches are appreciated, he said. Phone calls can be made to (412) 838-7768.

Astronomer: 'UFO' Might Be Planet Venus

By Mark Minton
OF THE COMMERCIAL STAFF

Sheriff's deputies and area residents described the strange light they saw in the night sky Monday much as a University of Arkansas at Monticello professor described Venus this morning.

The shape of the light varied in different accounts of the sightings, and some said it took on different colors. All agreed it was bright and appeared to be hovering low over the southern horizon before it disappeared.

Joe Gunter, a professor of physics

and astronomy at UAM, said Venus is particularly bright this time of year — so bright that, seen with the naked eye, it can appear to be only a hundred feet or so above the treetops.

He also said it was visible in the southern sky and that, at least once or twice every couple of years, people call him or other astronomers and report strange, unidentified lights that are later determined to be Venus.

Gunter said the range of colors — anything from red to blue — that residents and sheriff's deputies reported seeing in the light, could have been caused by light refracted by the atmosphere.

"The horizon sort of does strange things to your visual pattern," he said. "As you look through the atmosphere, it can sort of break up and refract the light. It depends on how turbulent the atmosphere is, but it might cause coloration like a rainbow effect."

He wasn't surprised that the light was first reported about 8 p.m.

"It would be the first object other than the moon that you would notice in the night sky," he said. "It gets real dark about 8, and it will stand out quite nicely."

Gunter also wasn't surprised that some people saw the light in the shape of a globe and some saw it in an indistinct shape.

"A round shape or sort of a fuzzy shape would be the two most common appearances (of Venus)," he said.

The apparent movement the witnesses described could have been Venus setting or rising, he said.

Venus, which revolves around the sun inside the earth's orbit, can rise or set more than three hours after or before the sun, according to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

Gunter wasn't ready to say for sure that what people had been seeing was Venus, however.

"It could be something we don't know about," he said.

COMMERCIAL, Pine Bluff, AR
Oct. 25, 1989

REGISTER, Des Moines, IA
Oct. 25, 1989 CR: J. Galinsky

Urbandale man sees UFO, no Martians, south of D.M.

By ALLISON HALL

Register Staff Writer

When Ron Pendergast says he spotted an unidentified flying object, he makes it clear he wasn't visited by little green men.

What he saw while fishing at a friend's farm near Cumming was an oddly shaped, multicolored object hovering in the sky.

"UFO. What's that mean? Unidentified, right?" said Pendergast, 29, 3901 67th St., Urbandale. "Well, it is unidentified. It's not a Martian."

He said he has described the sighting to his friends, who then either think he's a bit loony or tell him he should know a helicopter when he sees one.

But Pendergast, who owns and operates Butler Carpet Care out of his Urbandale home, said he's willing to risk looking foolish so he can find out whether others might have seen the same thing.

He said he's reassured about his mental health now that other Iowans have reported UFO sightings.

Such sightings occurred two weeks ago in Davis and Appanoose counties, and the Iowa State Patrol's Atlantic and Storm Lake offices each reported a half-dozen calls about bright flashes and balls of fire in the sky Oct. 17. Dave Krieger, astronomy professor at Creighton University in Omaha, attributed the latter sightings to motions of the planet Venus.

"At least I'm not the only one seeing things in the sky," Pendergast said.

What he saw, he said, was no ordinary helicopter.

Pendergast was sitting in a boat fishing for bass on a still, clear night about three weeks ago. Then he spotted a white light at the edge of the pond. He watched it for about 10

minutes, then grew impatient.

"I was just sort of goofing around, and I said, 'What are you waiting for?'" he said. "And it started coming my way."

"It's probably coincidental, but when it came over, it really freaked me out," said Pendergast, adding it was the first time he had encountered any kind of UFO.

The object hovered about 200 yards above his head.

He said it was tough to judge the object's size, but it was somewhere between the size of a truck and a small house. And when it moved to float above him, it no longer was simply a white light. It was changing colors and rocking slightly.

"When it got up close, the lights kind of put on a show," he said. "It's like I knew I was watching."

The close encounter ended when the object flew away and joined three other glowing white dots on the horizon, Pendergast said. After watching the dots for a while, he went back to his fishing and caught six bass.

When he went home, he told his wife, Kristin, about the sighting.

She said she isn't sure what he saw, but she believes he saw something. "I wouldn't even want to guess what," said Kris Pendergast, 26.

Explanations

Lawrence Staunton, chairman of Drake University's physics and astronomy department, said many explanations are possible for unexplained lights in a night sky.

"The atmosphere acts like a lens," he said after the sightings two weeks ago. "It can bend light, and it can separate colors. All sorts of reflections and enhancements are possible."

CR: S. Gordon



Mick and Larry Murdock, their daughter Heather, bottom right, and their daughter-in-law Christa all say they saw a UFO from the porch of their Columbus, Kan., home. "Honest to God, I believe it's something from another planet," Larry Murdock said. (staff photo by Patrick Sullivan)

We are not alone

Several UFO citings have residents 'pretty jumpy' in Oklahoma, Kansas

By Matthew Schofield
staff writer

Welch, Okla.—Whatever they were, the two 9-foot, green, glowing, thin beings that may or may not have had heads certainly weren't Oklahomans.

And the England family—out driving when they say the things popped from a round object that decidedly was not a car—got mighty worried about that.

"We were driving down this gravel

road out south and this round thing with two red lights was blocking our way," said Shirley England, the mother. "Then these green, glowing things popped out. Me, Debbie, John, Sarah, the baby and a neighbor girl, we all saw it. I don't know what it was, but we're all pretty jumpy around here now."

The Englands are not alone. Between Oct. 8 and Oct. 16, more than 100 people in northeastern Oklahoma and southeastern Kansas

made official reports of seeing white, red, yellow, and green or blue lights zipping through the dark sky or hovering over trees or houses.

Only the Englands, who Craig County Sheriff Jess Walker said were not the type to tell tall tales, claim to have seen creatures.

But thousands of others—from police chiefs and sheriffs to county commissioners, morticians, television cameramen and newspaper reporters, schoolchildren and retired citizens—claim to have seen the lights.

"Folks were lining their cars along country roads and sitting out to watch the lights dance in the sky," said Police Chief Bob Baine of Commerce, Okla. "I'd say that around here, more people saw them than didn't."

The lights often flew high but frequently dipped to tree level or just below. For a week, they appeared every night between 8 p.m. and midnight. The lights appeared to rotate as they moved.

Those who say they observed this draw pictures of a ball-shaped or a partly deflated football-shaped ship. And though many people said they thought they were within a mile of the whatever they were, no one heard any engine noise.

Sightings have come from Cherokee County, Kan., to Ottawa and Craig counties in Oklahoma. The lights sometimes were stationary or moving slowly but often traveled about the speed of a small plane.

Occasionally, however, the lights "in the snap of your finger, or the blink of an eye, are across the horizon, and I guarantee you we don't have anything in our Army that could catch those buggers," according to Jack Young, an Ottawa County commissioner.

The overwhelming feeling in the region is bemusement. Was this some cosmic trick? Were secret weapons being tested? And, if not, just what the heck were folks seeing?

"I've read stories before about people who've seen this stuff, and I've always thought they were idiots," said Larry Murdock of Columbus, Kan. "But I looked at the lights through the binoculars, and I never was so shocked in all my life."

"There it was, the traditional flying saucer, spherical and turning. Honest to God, I believe it's something from another planet. I just hope no Barney Fife type decides to go shooting up whatever it is."

Jim Green, a police officer and Miami civil defense director, said craft from outer space might be going a bit far.

"If we had 12 witnesses to a robbery give stories this similar, we'd have a pretty good case," he said. "Something is out there, probably some experimental



aircraft.

"But here's what gets me. It rose as if going straight up, hovered over a house then took off with no noise."

Many say the lights might have been caused by a fast helicopter, a glider, a remote-controlled kite, or a military-controlled mini-balloon. But then they say the lights moved unlike any of those things.

And police said that during the sightings, radar controllers in Tulsa, Okla., said no planes were flying in the area.

Mark Paonessa, professor of physics at the University of Kansas, said the sightings could be accounted for by any number of natural phenomena. He said airplanes, rockets, bright planets, atmospheric conditions, a recent solar flare, methane gas or even secret military projects could account for the lights.

Cherokee County Undersheriff Earney Donaldson doesn't think much of those explanations.

"What I saw had nothing to do with planets—they moved too fast—or planes—they maneuvered too well and made no noise. But I don't like to talk about it. I don't usually see aliens."

COMMERCIAL APPEAL,
Memphis, TN - Oct. 12,
1989 CR: J. Komar

UFO makes its rounds in Delta

From Staff Reports
And Our Press Services

A UFO, or maybe two, vaguely similar to one that reportedly touched down recently in the Russian city of Voronezh has been spotted hanging around the Delta.

Lee Abide Jr., 33, said he saw a large orange spherical ball hovering about 10 miles northwest of Greenville, Miss., around 4:35 a.m. while he was driving to work—the second time he's seen the craft in less than six months.

Abide, a pilot, said, "I've been around airplanes all my life. This wasn't an airplane or nothing that had been made by man. This thing didn't come out of a bottle of vodka," he said, referring to some speculation that the Soviet witnesses might have been imbibing.

Pilot Bill Kimmel spotted a similar craft about 6 p.m. Tuesday while flying a plane between Clarksdale and Memphis. Kimmel said it was round, metallic, kept changing colors and was moving 800 to 900 mph at 3,000 feet some distance off his left wingtip. "There was no way it was a weather balloon because no balloon can travel that fast," he said.

Abide says other Greenville residents have seen the strange craft but are afraid to come forward.

The spacecraft that reportedly landed in Voronezh was described as a large shining ball or disc. Witnesses said that up to three tall creatures accompanied by a small robot emerged, according to Tass, official Soviet news agency.

Littleton writer's 1st book heavy on statistics

An Alien Harvest: Further Evidence Linking Animal Mutilations and Human Abductions to Alien Life Forms

By Linda Moulton Howe. Linda Moulton Howe Productions. 455 pages. \$55.

By Charlie Brennan

It was tempting to root for Linda Moulton Howe in her publishing debut.

For one, the Littleton resident published her book on her own, and it also represents a challenging switch in media. An award-winning producer of television documentaries, Howe waded courageously into a field that is no snap, even for people who've been at it for years.

More significantly, Howe's subject matter is one that many have engaged only at substantial cost to professional reputations. UFOs and strange little men in funny suits are topics many of us entertain only when they come safely dressed in the reassuring cloak of fiction—*E.T.* or *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

The subtitle also underscores that Howe is not out to reassure anybody—it promises "further evidence linking animal mutilations and human abductions to alien life forms." The word "further" refers to Howe's previous venture—she produced *A Strange Harvest*, the 1980 television documentary probing the rash of bizarre cattle mutilations across rural America, and possible links to extraterrestrial visitors.

Although *An Alien Harvest* picks up where the film left off—in graphic, color-plate

detail—Howe goes far beyond the film's frightening territory. Among the book's claims:

That aliens landed by invitation at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., in 1964, where the bodies of aliens killed in previous crash landings were exchanged for those of human pilots who had vanished previously.

Fully half the book is its index, including reproductions of sensitive government documents, newspaper reprints, and transcripts of interviews. The problem is, the other half of the book also is heavily dependent on similar material—fleshed out by two dozen graphic photographs depicting mutilated cattle.

With such documentation weeded out, Howe is revealed as a far more impressive researcher than writer. Her attempts to place all her material in context, and to draw supportable conclusions, appear cursory.

In fact, this problem appears to be addressed in the book's foreword by Jacques Vallee, a computer scientist and author of *Dimensions*, who notes: "In this hall of mirrors, are there alternative scenarios that may explain some or all of the fleeting images we see?"

Howe hasn't tried hard enough to see behind the mirrors—or, if she has, the book doesn't adequately show that such an effort has been made. Howe's first book is not great but is worth reading if only for the questions it raises—and leaves dangling.

Charlie Brennan is a staff writer for the News.

CEDAR VALLEY TIMES, Vinton, IA - Oct. 13, 1989

Close encounter

FYLINE—Several Iowans near the Missouri border were seeing things Wednesday evening.

What the "things" were is unclear, but the sighting of several unidentified flying objects in Iowa coincided with sightings across the nation.

The sightings follow several reports from the Russian News Agency Tass, which reported a

UFO landing in the Soviet Union this week.

Many residents of Exline saw bright lights in the sky which were far above the horizon. The lights from jets were minuscule in comparison and the lights apparently moved independently of one another, and changed colors as well. The UFOs were too high in the sky to be mistaken for farm machinery.

Weird lights spotted in skies by Miami, Commerce residents, officials

By PAM KEYES
News-Record Staff Writer

Tuesday.

Gregg Sweeten, a deputy for the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department, said, "I was in the Central Mill area near Cardin, and there was what looked like a star changing colors from red to yellow to white straight northeast of the mill. I saw it at about 8:15 p.m."

Sweeten said he and fellow deputy Troy Ragsdale both saw the lights.

Although the Miami Police Department and Oklahoma Highway Patrol officially had no reports

p.m., when a resident said there was a UFO hovering over the Bayliner Brunswick plant at North Miami. He said he thought it was a joke at first, until he and other officers saw what looked like lights going in different directions.

According to Larry Ruffi, a National Weather Forecaster at Norman, there were no unusual atmospheric conditions Tuesday night which might account for the lights. He said an aurora borealis effect would have been visible over a larger area than just Miami and Commerce.

of sightings, the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department received "several calls" from area residents who said there were as many as five lights at a time.

Baine, who used binoculars and a high-powered telescope to look at the lights, said "they were nothing that looked like aircraft." He added that he didn't think they were spacecraft. "There was no shape to them," he said.

Baine said the Commerce Police Department received its first call about the lights around 8:30

NEWS-RECORD, Miami, OK

Oct. 12, 1989

Strange lights reappear

By PAM KEYES
News-Record Staff Writer

The strange lights spotted Tuesday night over Miami and Commerce gave an encore performance Wednesday night here.

Residents throughout Ottawa County and southeastern Cherokee County, Kan., reported seeing unusual lights starting around 8 p.m. Wednesday. In Miami, a beacon-like light changing from red to blue to white to gold was observed in the western sky, while in the extreme northeast tandem streaks of gold, red and green were observed every four to five minutes from 8:15 to 8:45 p.m. The lights were visible until close to midnight.

Although a professor at Pittsburg State University and television weathermen have said the lights might be atmospheric illusions of Venus and Antares, local observers report that the lights were mostly across the sky from both the planet and the star. Venus and Antares are located in the southwestern sky.

John Martin of the Oklahoma Meteorite Laboratory, Stillwater, said this morning that there were no meteorite showers in extreme northeast Oklahoma, and that the description of the lights do not match those of either fireballs or meteorites. He said the streaking lights could be space debris returning to earth, but added that the intermittent occurrence of the streaks was not explainable.

Commerce Police Chief Bob Baine, who observed the lights Tuesday and Wednesday nights, said the Commerce Police Department again received many calls about the sightings Wednesday night.

"People were out everywhere watching them. All reports are consistent about the colors observed and areas where the lights were," Baine said.

A spokesman at the National Weather Service in Tulsa said there was no unusual weather Wednesday night in northeastern Oklahoma, nor did anything show up on radar in this area.

Another appearance of the lights is possible tonight, after dusk, as the skies are forecast to be clear. Interested watchers wishing to capture possible lights on film are advised to use high-speed film (ASA 400 or higher), set the camera lens aperture to wide open (4.5 or lower), and use as slow a shutter speed as possible, with a tripod to eliminate blur.

Sharp said his office received around 10 to 12 calls Wednesday evening, starting around 9 p.m. and ending about 1 a.m.

Baxter Springs Police Chief Jerry Nohren said his department didn't receive any calls he was aware of. He said one person called in and told him they had taken pictures of some lights. Nohren told them to get the film developed and he would look at the pictures.

Barbara Orender, Baxter Springs, said she was taking a friend home from church when she

first saw the unexplained lights around 9:15 p.m.

"Well, I was taking a friend home from church, and when she was getting out of the car when I looked back to the west and saw these two red lights in the sky," Orender said.

Orender, then west of town, said she went to the police station and told two policemen about the lights. She said Bill Carr and John Murray followed her out of town on 12th street.

"When we got back out there,

the lights had turned blue," she says. "They just set there and hovered for a while and you could hear a whizzing sound from them."

"What I saw was not an airplane. They weren't that far away, and you could see them real well. When I first saw them, they were real close and they just went around and around."

Sharp said the first light he saw was flying at a low attitude of about 4,000 feet. He said the light was making a 360 degree rotation.

TIMES, Bayshore, NY - Oct. 2, 1989 CR: LIUFON

Long Island a hot-bed of UFO activity, speaker claims

By Louis Grimaldo
Staff Writer

For George McLain, UFOs have taken on a religious significance. McLain preached the word on UFOs at a meeting of the Bay Shore Historical Society at the Bay Shore/Brightwaters Library last week.

George McLain, an investigator for the Long Island UFO network and an English teacher at SUNY Farmingdale, has been studying the UFO phenomena for 40 years. He said he has seen two UFOs in his lifetime: one at the age 16 and the other at 31. His lecture was accompanied by a video and sketches of sightings made in Bohemia, Smiths Point, Mastic Beach and Lindenhurst.

"UFOs have visited different parts of the earth," said McLain. "I think they visited this earth during the times of Jesus and Buddha." McLain attributed the story of Sodom and Gomorrah to the interference of aliens. "Sodom and Gomorrah were turned into pillars of salt the same way as the people in Hiroshima after the bomb."

With over 300 sightings in the past year on Long Island, LIUFON has reported an increase of activity again. McLain said that a large percentage of sightings have taken place near water and places with high energy activity. In one case, a guard working at the Shoreham plant observed a long cigar shaped object.

"There is one case of a man who was driving on Sunrise Highway when he was hit by a beam of light," according to McLain. He passed out and later awoke in a wooded area in Nesconset. The cops had to chop some

trees down to get his car out."

In one of the most unusual cases, McLain recounted a sighting made by 100 people at Smith's Point Beach. According to McLain, about 100 people spotted a cigar shaped object enclosed in a clear bubble. The object hovered near the shoreline for about an hour. Two airplanes that had passed by the object where dwarfed by it.

A woman in the audience relayed a story about driving back home from the Adirondacks with her husband when she saw "a huge spaceship which was red and yellow. Someone in the town had seen the same thing at the same time that we had."

The Long Island UFO Network is comprised of volunteers such as McLain who document sightings on Long Island.

"Everytime we think we know everything there is to know about something, we're in trouble," said McLain. Europeans at one time thought Europe was the only continent. It is hard for some people to admit that there is something more out there than their egos will allow."

"The more I look into it, the more they [government] want to cover-up any UFO incidents from the public because of the panic factor," said McLain. "The government is trying to get us used to the idea."

"It was stimulating," said Margery Marota of McLain's lecture. "I think it's arrogant of us to think we're the only ones in the universe."

If anyone has seen UFOs, call the Long Island UFO Network Hotline at (516) 286-3212.

TIMES, Sewickley, PA - Aug. 23, 1989 CR: S. Gordon



Barbara Solow

Mystery keeps woman going

As a girl growing up in Utah, Evelyn Schurman had an experience she couldn't explain.

One night, while camping outside with some friends, she saw a large, bright light moving back and forth across the horizon.

"There was no radiating glare from the light," said Schurman, who now lives in Edgeworth. "It was just travelling from one end to the other and back. We went inside and called the airport, but they said they hadn't seen anything unusual."

In the years since she left Utah, Schurman has read numerous books and scientific papers on UFOs. Last year, she joined the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, a volunteer clearinghouse that documents mysterious events ranging from creature sighting to unusual animal killings.

As an interviewer with the PASU, Schurman has spent hours listening to descriptions of flying objects and encounters with alien beings. "There's no real common denominator to what people see," she said. "That's what makes it all so fascinating."

One of the more memorable stories Schurman has heard came from a woman who saw a craft carrying two "alien creatures" hovering over a field in Ambridge. Another caller reported seeing a large flying object dangling what looked like a hose over the Ohio River.

Not all of the sightings are unexplained. At

the end of one recent interview, Schurman realized that what the caller had thought was a spaceship was actually the moon.

But there is enough mystery to keep her going. "The people I know and trust who have definitely seen something have kept me on the fence post about all this," Schurman said.

Unlike some other groups that study the unexplained, PASU members are all research specialists, said Stan Gordon, a Greensburg electronics technician who founded the organization in 1981.

He noted that many of the events recorded by the group have come from professional observers, such as airline pilots, who do not want to make official reports for fear they will harm their reputations.

Asked whether films like "E.T." and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" have helped temper skepticism about life on other planets, Schurman gave a mixed response.

"I think the younger generation doesn't have the same fear about those things," she said. "But now I'm thinking, maybe I don't want our children to be endeared to [alien beings]. You do hear stories about people who've been abducted and have gone through mental and physical stress. I don't want our children to be hoodwinked into thinking that's something they want to do."

Perhaps more powerful than the Hollywood images is the air of secrecy surrounding government studies of the unexplained, the PASU believes. "We can see from internal government documents that the government is extremely interested in this area," Gordon said. "But they consider it to be a national security matter" and will not disclose information.

Although she has not yet made up her mind about the reports she has heard, Schurman is keeping her eyes and ears open. Someday, she hopes to write a "true ghost story" about the Ohio River valley for her grandchildren.

"Nothing like what happened in Utah has come my way again," Schurman said. "But I'd really like it to."

Information about the PASU is available by calling the group's UFO hotline at 838-7768.

Barbara Solow's "Just Looking" appears occasionally in The Times.

Baxter experiences unexplained

CITIZEN, Baxter Springs, KS - Oct. 13, 1989

Although police and residents saw the strange lights over the Baxter Springs area Wednesday evening, Cherokee County Sheriff Chuck Sharp believes they were just airplanes.

"I think it's just airplanes," said Sharp. "It appears that the sky was very clear, and we had a lot of moonlight from the full moon."

"When it's a real clear night, you're able to see flying objects more detailed. We were trying to get as close as we could to determine what they were," he said.

"It would be hard for a regular aircraft to do that," he said. "Unless it was a stunt aircraft or a helicopter."

Sharp thought maybe it was pilots flying around doing tricks. He said there was no indication to prove otherwise.

On the lighter side Sharp said "I think they're from Melmac. I told them (other officers) that Alf would come sooner or later."

Flying disk seen elsewhere, UFO center says

BY JAMIE WISE
Democrat Staff Desk

A spokesman at the Seattle-based UFO National Reporting Center said Friday that sightings of a bright, circular flying disk reported Thursday night in Arkansas could be the same object seen elsewhere in the nation.

"It sounds familiar with calls I've gotten from Knoxville, Tenn., and Oklahoma," said Robert Gribble of the UFO Reporting Center. "From the descriptions I've heard, it definitely isn't a meteor or satellite."

"We might have a real UFO on our hands this time."

A "cone-shaped" object with bright flashing lights and a red tail that flashed across the night sky was reported by several law enforcement officials and residents in seven counties.

The reported sightings began about 6:55 p.m. near Newport (Jackson County) and continued through 8:30 p.m. in Mountain Home (Baxter County).

The first sightings Thursday night were reported by two Arkansas State Police troopers at

Newport. Sightings were also reported in Brinkley (Monroe County), Forrest City (St. Francis County), West Memphis (Crittenden County), Batesville (Independence County), Pocahontas (Randolph County) and Mountain Home.

Witnesses interviewed by the *Arkansas Democrat* in six cities all said the night was "clear as a bell" and moonless. They also gave similar accounts of the object.

The best description came from Paul Farrell, a Brinkley engineer. Farrell said he was talking with his cousin near

some Brinkley railroad tracks when he saw the flash of light about 7:30 p.m.

"I don't know what it was, but it definitely wasn't an airplane because it didn't have wings, and it wasn't a meteor because it wasn't fiery enough and it was flying too low," he said. "I've never seen anything like it before in my life, but I'll tell you, it was beautiful."

Farrell's cousin, who requested anonymity, described the object.

"It was moving east to west and had a whitish light and

was flying at a relatively low altitude," the cousin, a Brinkley attorney said. "It was disk-shaped, and I saw blinking lights, and it had a steep trajectory and a red tail."

The men also said the object made popping noises — like static electricity — before the tail disappeared.

"The first thing I had to do was sit down and try to rationalize the thing and to figure out what we saw," the cousin said.

"The first thing I did was sit down and draw it," said Farrell, an engineer. "I didn't want to forget what it looked like."

The cousins' second step was to go toward the center of Brinkley to see if anyone else saw the object. They ended up at City Hall where two men were standing on the steps.

"When we got there, these two guys were there and we asked them what they saw," the lawyer said. "Without telling them what we saw, they described the same thing — exactly."

Sentinel celebrates 2nd anniversary of UFO sightings

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - Nov. 9, 1989 CR: E. Walters

Saturday, November 11th is Veterans Day, a day when we pause to thank our brave soldiers and sailors who fought to keep America Free.

In Gulf Breeze, Veterans Day is also the anniversary of the first photograph taken of the Gulf Breeze UFO.

It will be 2 years Saturday since Charlie and Doris Somerby saw the UFO over East Bay, Linda Lube saw it while driving on Highway 98, and Ed Walters photographed it from his front yard.

Little did we know, when we ran the pictures in the *Sentinel*, that the Gulf Breeze UFO would become one of the best documented, most studied UFO cases in history.

Although the Gulf Breeze UFO did not attract thousands of curiosity seekers the way the Fyfe, Alabama, sightings did, we have seen a steady flow of serious UFO enthusiasts as well as reporters from all sorts of media world wide including Robert Stack with "Unsolved Mysteries."

Just last week, another TV crew, this one from "A Current Affair," came to Gulf Breeze to interview witnesses again, two years after it all first started, November 11, 1987.

We have received over 1,000 letters requesting copies of our stories. In order to meet these demands, we have produced a Gulf Breeze UFO packet featuring our complete coverage of the UFO stories. It is sent out worldwide.

The *Sentinel* is looking forward to future books being published documenting the Gulf Breeze UFO.

We asked Ed Walters to tell our readers how he feels about it all two years later...

Fascinating and Astounding are the only words I can use to describe those events that I witnessed two years ago. Many area residents have continued to report odd lights and strange objects in our skys. Most recently, (Sept. 12, 1989) I watched a red boiling object ascend out of sight into the night. With me, were dozens of others who also could not explain away what we saw. The two photos that we took of this object show an ellipse of red "energy" surrounding an orange core. What was it? An experimental craft from Eglin A.F.B.? That would certainly be less troubling and controversial than the UFO option. So, believe what you will, it is a fascinating mystery. All the photos from the various witnesses are being put in a book and published by Morrow & Co. (March 19, 1990).

Two years later, it still remains a mystery.



Number one of the first five UFO photos published in the *Sentinel* two years ago.

UFO Sightings in Brinkley Thursday

ARGUS, Brinkley, AR - Oct. 29, 1989

Several Brinkley citizens, Ralph Clifton, P. J. Farrell, and Clinton Burnett, a trustee at the city jail, reported to the Brinkley Police Department the sighting of a UFO Thursday at around 7:30 p.m.

The report from these sources was that the object had bright lights with reddish-green tail, was close to the ground, moving at a high rate of speed, and in one direction.

Several other sightings have been reported in different parts of the state.

UFO observer provides details of strange sighting

Regarding "UFO? sighted" (H-H 10/4/89), the article glossed over the sightings with apparently little research. Only a brief account was given with the typical probable explanation. The explanation was based on incomplete information and requires clarification.

The morning after the sightings; KTIL broadcast some eyewitness reports of mysterious lights being seen over the ocean, Sept. 28. One eyewitness report was from KTIL station owner, Van Moe. Many people witnessed the occurrence.

After hearing broadcast, I called KTIL to find they had received 35-40 calls. Probably many more kept their observations to themselves. Viewing perception differed among observers depending on angle of view and viewing point. Basically the sightings were made between Cape Lookout and Nehalem.

My curiosity led me to call the H-H to inquire if an article on the sightings was being compiled. This resulted in my observation being published, which was not the intent of my call. I felt there were better observations than mine. For instance, conversation with my neighbors, Fred and Helga Thone, I found they had one of the more interesting observations:

The observation noted through binoculars a cluster of six to eight hemispherical shaped lights pointing down over the sea; similar to waterdrops on the underside of a horizontal plane. Some of the lights overlapped each other. Brightness was more intense at the outline, whereas a slight orange hue was noted at the base along with what appeared to be a faint outline of a dark rim.

The cluster would emit a beam of light horizontally (east in this instance) terminating in a single bright spherical shaped light. Beam

distance equaled about three times base length of the light cluster. Beam would then collapse, creating some sparkle, yet the single and cluster lights remained on. Next instant, all lights turned off at the same time.

The light cluster would then reappear in a different location, repeating same sequence of events, several times. During the lighted cycle, the objects seemed stationary or slow moving. Movement north appeared most during lights off cycle. After approximately one and one-half minutes observation, the objects moved out of view. Maxwell Mountain blocked further viewing, indicating a low altitude.

KTIL reported a Coast Guard theory that suggested an aircraft with its beacon bouncing off of smoke-haze from a slash burn that day. Also no ships had reported any sightings?

Our opinion and others, is that this occurrence was not attributed to any conventional aircraft, due to following observation: on the evening of Sept. 28, visibility at Oceanside was clear to the horizon, no smoke or haze. It was not dark, the horizon sky had a pink glow. Any aircraft in proximity of the lights would have been readily seen and/or heard.

Sightings have been reported in our hemisphere since about 1947. Now we find there is strong documented evidence, indicating our government has been suppressing information from the public, since the outset. The Roswell, N.M., happening of 1947 and others, bear this out. Was it due to fear the American public could not handle such information?

Apparently the current sightings was a first in the Northwest of this magnitude. Russia's more recent announcement, if true, gives another

question to ponder. Their announced occurrence happened on the evening of Sept. 27, ours the following evening, Sept. 28. Was there a relationship, or was it coincidental?

Regarding our sighting, the only information given to the public was by KTIL and a disappointingly brief account by H-H. The detailed observation in this letter is a further attempt to document what occurred.

The media gave little or no mention of the event, therefore missing something out of the ordinary. The public deserves more. I attribute part of this due to the probable cause statements given, based on incomplete facts, by those we rely on. In many cases the easy logical, putdown explanation is given. It downgrades the occurrence immediately to just another case of people imagining things. It also destroys any further investigation.

Understandably, most people are reluctant to report anything unusual. An observation can be turned into ridicule or a joke easily. Burden of proof is upon the observer. Unfortunately, no one captured this one on film to my knowledge.

You don't have much reaction time when something like this happens, we were caught off guard. Quite an unusual and unforgettable experience indeed, for those who observed.

This letter was difficult to put together and became lengthy. I did not intend to become so involved, but something more needed to be said to alleviate any misconceptions that may have been created due to limited reporting and analysis of a very strange happening as seen by many.

Gene Elliott, with assistance from Fred & Helga Thone Oceanside

UFO? sighted

Coastal observers reported a strange sight Thursday night.

According to reports received from a number of people, a strange light appeared in the sky near Oceanside and continued to move horizontally northwards.

Gene Elliott of Oceanside first saw it between the Three Arch Rocks and Maxwell Point. He said it reminded him of an aerial fireworks display with the light moving horizontally in and out of sight like a rubber band.

Kevin Miller of Garibaldi thought it was a comet or an airplane on fire when he first saw it near Barview. He saw it appear and disappear six or seven times, then become a big light and explode.

It was also spotted by Libby and Angela Myers of Nehalem who felt the lights could not come from an airplane. They described the lights as a "trail of fire."

Robert Gribble, director of the UFO Sightings Reporting Center in Vancouver, Wash., said his agency had not talked to any of the witnesses or heard any of the reports. About 80 percent of all UFO sightings at night are from airplanes.

"There are all kinds of aircraft operating out there without any record of them," Gribble said.

HEADLIGHT-HERALD, Tillamook, OR - Oct. 18, 1989 CR: J. Deardorff

CR: R. Collins

Readers respond to UFO story

By ELLEN BEVERIDGE

Numerous phone calls have added confirmation to the story about an unidentified flying object in the skies over Trumbull Aug. 31, published in last week's issue of the *Times*. The first came at the office last Thursday afternoon, the day the newspaper was published.

It was a young woman, Jane Marella, who lives with her husband Victor in Bridgeport. She had just read the story and was obviously very excited and wanted to corroborate the information with her own experience.

About 11 p.m. Aug. 31, the Marellas were traveling home from Monroe on the Rt. 25 connector when they got a flat tire and pulled over to the side of the highway in the vicinity of Daniels Farm Road. Another motorist stopped to help them. Mrs. Marella continued:

The men were changing the tire and I was watching out for traffic when I saw it—a bright light in the distance. I thought it was a plane. It slowly got closer and closer. Then I could make out a series of lights in a "V" or boomerang shape. It was like nothing I had ever seen before. We all saw it. The man (who was helping with the tire) said, "That's not a plane."

It slowly turned and seemed to stop over the road. Then I could see red lights blinking. It was traveling slowly. There was no sound. We were near the high cliffs (rock formations cut through when the road was constructed) and it disappeared behind them. Then it reappeared. I was so scared. I was shaking and crying. I thought I'd pass out. I said to my husband, "Hurry up. I want to get out of here." And we did.

A short time later, a call came in from an older woman who lives on Daniels Farm Road near the intersection of Whitney Avenue. She also was excited, perhaps from a feeling of vindication with regard to a UFO sighting.

She hadn't finished reading the article before she phoned because, when she got to the description of the bright rows of lights, she couldn't wait to relate a similar sighting about three years ago. At that time, she had called a neighbor, the police and Sikorsky Airport with little or no satisfaction. Although the experience had left her "astounded" and deeply moved, she had quietly lived with the profound affect it had on her ever since. She related her experience:

I was standing, looking out my picture window in the living room. It was about 11 o'clock at night. I saw what I thought was a double star—it was so bright. It came along the road and suddenly dropped so low I could see a series of white lights. It came near the house. I live alone and I was astounded, frightened. I had a feeling of terror. There was no noise (that she could hear from inside her house) and I felt like it was watching me. It came very slowly and was almost stationary. Then it finally disappeared over the pine trees across the street. I have flown in helicopters and planes of all sizes and I have never seen anything like it in my life.

Another phone call was from Mark Packo of Stratford. First, he complimented the *Times* for publishing the article. Packo has never seen a UFO but has been following reports of sightings in the area for about six years.

Packo discussed numerous sightings he has recorded in the Danbury and Hudson Valley areas; on Rt. 95 traveling towards Milford; over Remington Woods (a large area in west Stratford that borders Bridgeport); and over the intersection of Barnum Avenue and Main Street in Stratford.

He recommended reading *Night Siege*, published in 1987, that describes sightings, especially in the Westchester County and Taconic Parkway areas. Packo continued:

The descriptions are always of lots of lights; of winged shapes. I personally know of three high-ranking officers in the Stratford Police Department who have seen them.

Then Packo related information that was the most corroborating to the description in last week's article:

I've talked with a mother and daughter who were in the area of Colonial Caterers (north Stratford near the Merritt Parkway) the night of Aug. 31. They both saw an object about 100 feet in the air, just above the trees. It was not moving and they could hear a humming sound.

I also spoke with a young man who, with his girlfriend, was driving from Seymour to Fairfield about 10:45 that night. They were on Rt. 8 going toward the Merritt Parkway. He described what they saw:

At first I thought it was a plane, but it was moving so slowly. The lights were in a "V" shape with two blinking red lights in the back.

I stopped the car and got out. Another motorist and a motorcyclist had stopped, too. We all saw it. It was quite high in the sky and traveling in the direction of Danbury.

Two phone calls were received Tuesday. The first was from a long-time acquaintance of mine, Beryl Kaufman of Lantern Hill Road. She began:

I want to thank you for writing that story. I saw something, too, but my husband doesn't believe me. My daughter and I were driving on the Merritt Parkway at about 11 p.m. (Aug. 31) when we saw this circular thing in the sky with white lights.

What alarmed me was that it was stationary—hovering. I said to my daughter, "Look at that, it's not moving!" It seemed to be rather low. Then we lost it behind some trees and didn't see it again until we were going up Madison Avenue in an area where there is open space. This wasn't the first time I've seen something strange in the sky; I've seen something I couldn't identify several times through the years.

Still another call was from Beth Pfaff, of Fresh Meadow Drive, whose information was consistent with the others except for the time difference.

It was about 9 p.m. (Aug. 31). I was out walking and I saw it in the sky off Tashua Road. I walk a lot in the evening. I've very familiar with the sights and sounds in the area and it was nothing like anything I had ever seen or heard before.

It was very unusual. I could hear a sound that I can only describe

MOVIE REVIEW

Walken Has Purported Close Encounter in 'Communion'

By KEVIN THOMAS
TIMES STAFF WRITER

'Communion" (citywide), a serious, often persuasive attempt to dramatize writer Whitley Strieber's purported contact with aliens, affords Christopher Walken his showiest role to date.

As the life-loving, happily married Strieber, Walken is a prankish, playful charmer whose wife Anne (Lindsay Crouse) laughs a great deal but is in fact a solid, sensible type. They're smart enough to know they have it all, including an adored small son Andrew (Joel Carlson) and a chic Manhattan apartment.

They also have a large, equally chic cabin in the mountains. On a weekend in October, 1985, Strieber, his son and another couple (Andreas Katsulas, Terri Hanauer) are awakened by a blinding

light. In short order Strieber seems to be hallucinating and sinking into paranoia. A calm, dedicated parapsychologist (Frances Sternhagen) tries to help, but he tends to resist her.

Under the assured, easy direction of Philippe Mora, working from Strieber's adaptation of his own best seller, Walken dazzles, giving us an intelligent, talented man caught in a nightmare and fearing for his sanity. Crouse matches him as a strong woman determined to put up a ferocious fight to help her husband and save their marriage. Mora and his stars take "Communion" far above standard sci-fi schlock, yet the film stumbles in its presentation of the aliens.

Even those open to the possibility that Strieber did have a series of close encounters of the third kind with a bunch of jolly blue gnomes and some spindly, doe-like crea-



Christopher Walken portrays an author who has a close encounter with aliens in "Communion."

tures with Keane eyes may have a problem with the literalness with which these aliens are presented. They seem right out of the pages of the *National Enquirer*. Clearly, Mora means to be faithful to Strieber, but a more ethereal approach to the non-humans might have been more effective.

Even so, "Communion," a most handsome production, does take us on an incredible journey that comes full circle in satisfying fashion. And Walken and Crouse are terrific.

COURANT, Hartford, CT - Oct. 11, 1989

CR: J. White

Space aliens look foreign to skeptics

By DAVID JACOBSON
Courant Staff Writer

The world is getting a big laugh out of an official Soviet news agency report that 12-foot-tall space creatures landed in a Russian city park and went for a stroll.

But state and national investigators who take Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) seriously are skeptical for another reason: The Soviet aliens do not fit a carefully described pattern of appearance and activity.

"I'm certain this is a hoax," says Jerome Clark, vice president of the Chicago-based Center for UFO Studies and editor of the *International UFO Reporter* magazine.

"Any serious person who studies the evidence [for UFOs and extraterrestrials] finds the one thing that's

most impressive about it is the pattern," Clark says. "If there weren't patterns, I think we would readily conclude that we were dealing with a collection of random fantasies."

Thousands of relatively more reliable sightings have described space visitors as 3 to 4 feet tall with large heads and spindly bodies, Clark says.

"The reports are remarkably similar down to the smallest of details," says Clark, who is writing a multi-volume encyclopedia of "ufology."

Because his organization uses certain details of alien anatomy as a litmus test for sightings, Clark is reluctant to give them all out. But he says most observers agree: "They [aliens] don't seem to have a muscular structure that enables their eyes to move. They're just sort of, there."

While the ball- or disc-shaped vehicle described in the Tass report does fit UFO patterns, "we don't have a pattern of 10- or 12-foot occupants with pinheads," Clark says.

Some state UFO buffs were somewhat excited over the Soviet report.

"The official government line in Russia for years has been, 'Ho, ho, ho, our peasants have been drinking

again,'" says George Earley, a retired aerospace administrator and former head of a state UFO investigating group.

"Perhaps the government of Russia has looked into this sighting in some depth and feels so far that it's credible," says Earley, who recently retired to Oregon.

Another state investigator, John White of Cheshire, who has written 15 books on paranormal experiences including UFO sightings, describes his gut reaction as "hopeful skepticism."

It is not only the rarity of sightings of Bigfoot-size aliens but also the behavior of the Soviet trio that raises doubts in his mind. The aliens reportedly strolled through a park in the Russian city of Voronezh, accompanied by a small robot.

"The notion that beings who are capable of developing a technology to traverse space would so carefully land in a park, promenade and leave without any attempt to contact the local inhabitants or give a message or anything of that sort, it either indicates hoax or some sort of mass hysteria," White says.

"I mean, did they just make a pit stop or what?"

Indeed, the urban site of the purported landing also stands apart in a UFO lore largely dominated by rural sightings.

"This is consistent with the hypothesis that we're dealing with an intelligence that is trying to conduct its business unobserved," Clark says.

Reports of UFO sightings undoubtedly hold some appeal for the American public. A national Gallup Poll, done in July, found that 41 percent believed in extraterrestrial life.

Some investigators worry that the Tass report, together with the upcoming movie version of the best-selling book "Communion" (Avon Books, \$4.95), about abduction of humans by aliens in spaceships, will spur false reports that will cloud UFO investigations.

Many overseas reports in the past have proven apocryphal, with actual witnesses and physical evidence elusive, says Philip Imbrogno, a science teacher and author from Bethel who has investigated some 350 UFO sightings in the Connecticut, New York and New Jersey areas.

As for this sighting report, "I think it both helps and hurts," he says. It helps by generating publicity that increases funding through book sales and lecture attendance for independent investigators like himself.

"It hurts in another way, because it'll start generating a lot of false UFO reports. People will start going out and looking at the sky and stars and reporting everything from planets to meteors to planes."

as a monotone. I knew it was not a plane. It would hover and then shoot off in another direction. I watched it for about 15 minutes.

The last corroborating call was received yesterday from a Monroe woman, Marge Brenna, who had not heard about the *Times* article until Tuesday night. An Emergency Medical Technician for Monroe, Brenna was traveling in the town ambulance with three other EMT volunteers about 11 the night of Aug. 31. They were on Rt. 8 on their way back to Monroe. She described the circumstances:

The two men sitting up front saw it first and told us (another woman sitting in the rear with Brenna) to look out the rear window. We saw it sort of coming toward us head-on. There were lot of little lights and they seemed to indicate a shape like a saucer. It hovered and didn't seem to be going anywhere. It wasn't very high up.

We kept it in sight all the way while we drove up the connector. There were quite a few motorists who stopped along the side of the road to look at it. We finally lost it behind the trees when we turned onto Rt. 111. We were all shocked and thought it was a UFO. I came home convinced I had seen something very out of the ordinary.

There was one call that refuted the UFO theory. It was from a motorcyclist traveling on Rt. 8 in Huntington about 11 p.m. Aug. 31. He said he saw a group of lights and at first could not explain it. Then, he said, he "realized" that there were five small airplanes flying in various formations.



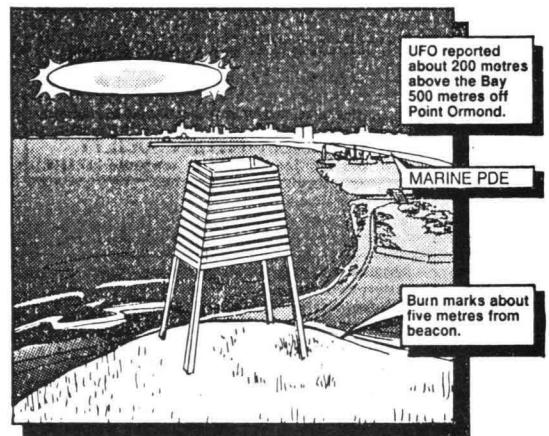
What appeared in the sky over Trumbull the night of Aug. 31 is captured in these two photos (also the one published in last week's issue of the *Times*) taken by a resident in the Daniels Farm Road area.



Picture: WILLIAM WEST



Sergeant Jeremy Oliver (left) and Sergeant John O'Connor inspect the area near Elwood Beach where the UFO was reported to have been sighted.



Friday 13th kicks off with report of a UFO

By JO CHANDLER

Friday the 13th got off to an appropriately eerie start at the St Kilda Police Station, where the phone ran hot with reports of an unidentified flying object hovering above the bay.

Police sent to Point Ormond on Elwood Beach were met by two men who told them they had seen the UFO. One was a 60-year-old retired major from Britain, said Constable Jeremy Oliver of St Kilda police. He had reported the sighting to a night-shift officer who was unavailable yesterday afternoon.

Constable Oliver said the retired officer, who did not want his name made public, struck police as "quite credible". They were "not so sure about" the other witness, described as a public servant.

"Apparently the ex-major was in his flat, and went outside when he saw it. He said it was cigar-shaped, with two balls of fire, one at either end, and sort of dark in the middle. It was hov-

ering above the water, about 500 metres offshore and about 250 metres above the water."

St Kilda police received about 20 reports of the UFO from about 3 am. Another police station received 12, and a number of other calls were been made to D24, the police radio centre, but no figures were available yesterday.

Constable Oliver and Constable John O'Connor inspected the scene when they started duty yesterday morning and discovered a burnt patch of grass near the Point Ormond marker. They said they had doubts about the authenticity of the marks on the ground, but were intrigued by the large number of reports.

The Planetarium reported nothing unusual in the heavens last night — no meteor activity or the like. The Bureau of Meteorology reported a relatively clear sky and could not find an explanation in weather patterns.

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority said no other air traffic was reported in the area at that time.

SUN, Melbourne, Australia - Oct. 14, 1989 CR: P. Norman

Great balls of fire, and bay's abuzz

By ANDREW MEYISSEN

ALIENS picked the right day to spook sleepy Elwood residents.

It was Friday the 13th and an orange cigar-shaped UFO called in.

After an early-morning tour of Port Phillip Bay lasting two hours, the intergalactic guests, shy of daylight, headed home leaving behind bewildered police, more than 50 new believers in alien life and a possible calling card.

The UFO sighting even left brazen skeptics at St Kilda police station with open minds about life in outer space.

More accustomed to probing the sordid world of drugs, violence and drunks, St Kilda police yesterday were given the daunting task of investigating more than 50 reports of a UFO buzzing around the foreshore.

"The reports came from all around the bay, from Geelong to Frankston and round to Elwood," Constable Jeremy Oliver said.

"Most people said they saw a bright, long cigar-shaped object with orange fireballs at both ends hovering 250 metres above the water and about 500 metres offshore," he said.

"We have two credible witnesses too — one a 55-year-old retired major from the British Army living in St Kilda.

"Many people reported



hearing humming noises."

Constable Oliver said the sightings, which occurred between 2.45 am and 5 am, had been linked to a mysterious patch of scorched grass which appeared yesterday near the Point Ormond beacon at Elwood.

The mystery deepened with reports from the police helicopter branch and the RAAF that no aircraft were operating in bayside areas early yesterday.

Reports from the Soviet Union earlier this week that scientists believed aliens had visited Voronezh, 600 km south of Moscow, fuelled speculation among UFO believers that the aliens had travelled to Elwood to see how the Westerners live.

A Civil Aviation Authority said no unidentified flying objects had been spotted on radar yesterday.

For omen punters, the top two fancies for today's Elders Mile at Caulfield are From The Planet and Planet Ruler.

STAR-PHOENIX, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada - Oct. 26, 1989

Are the aliens checking us out?

By Dave Yanko of the Star-Phoenix

At least a dozen people say they have spotted UFOs in the Langenburg district over the last two weeks, with one man making their viewing a nightly ritual.

"I've seen them every night since last Wednesday night," says Colin Rosin, a 36-year-old insurance agent in the community about 80 kilometres south-east of Yorkton.

Rosin and his daughter Jade were talking about UFOs during their half-hour drive to Jade's organ lesson in Esterhazy last week when the nine-year-old spotted something in the sky.

Rosin stopped the car and the two got out.

"It went coasting across the highway, right above our heads. There was no sound at all," said Rosin.

The craft sported flashing,



colored lights and was as wide as the length of a single-engine aircraft.

Every night since, Rosin watches similar objects as they move high above his home.

"I saw three last night and five the night before."

Rose Neumeier was talking on the phone and peering vacantly out the kitchen window of her farmhouse in the mid-morning of Oct. 13, when she spotted a UFO above the shed in her back yard.

"Holy shit!" was her reaction to seeing the oblong object hovering 10 to 15 metres above the shed.

"The top of it was flat, like if you took a pie plate that had grandma's old pie in it and turned it upside down," said Neumeier, who calls herself a UFO skeptic who's now a lot less skeptical.

"The bottom was kind of rounded and around the centre

was a very, very, brilliant light," she said.

Paul Goddard, 12, and four elementary school friends were skateboarding in the town park on the evening of Oct. 11 when they noticed red, yellow, white and blue lights moving toward them at a height of about 150 metres.

"It sort of came down when it saw us. It seemed to come to a stop and then it took off."

The boys ducked down in the grass, fearing abduction.

"I didn't really want to go up, 'cause people say they go up and it seems like an hour and it's really a week."

Langenburg RCMP Sgt. Herman Fogel says there were no aircraft scheduled to be in the area at the time of the sightings but some small-aircraft pilots don't file flight plans.

TOPIC OF THE DAY

ALIENS VISIT VORONEZH EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS

The latest sensation (according to "The New York Times", the news of the century) comes from the Russian city of Voronezh. In late September-early October numerous witnesses said they saw unidentified flying objects (UFO) within the city limits, and watched them land and their inhabitants come out. We went to the scene of events to follow up these reports.

first secretary of the regional committee of the CPSU, people's deputy of the USSR, a competent commission was set up, with scientists, criminologists, medics, meteorologists and enthusiasts-UFOlogists as its members.

But let us return to the South Park. There was everything here — serious work by experts and crowds of curious

of children. "Are you journalists? Will you question witnesses?" "We would like to," we replied. "But where can we find them?" "We're the witnesses and we'll tell you everything," cried the boys, their eyes burning, excited. Despite the fact that classes were going on in the nearby school, the "friends of the aliens" seemed to have temporarily resettled on the "UFO-

were a few of them — walked near the craft for some time, examined the plot, and seemed to take soil samples. This is what the boys told us (and not us alone).

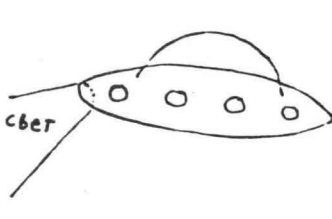
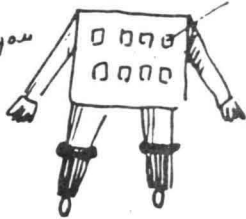
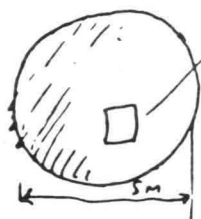
And the adults? We have no doubts that the children did not invent all this. Incidentally, the same view is held by Mayor Viktor Atlasov, who carefully studied the video recording with the

reaction was interesting: he decided not to tell his acquaintances and colleagues at once. "They might have thought: a militiaman doesn't have such fancies..." Sergei Matveyev made up his mind only when the local press urged the city's inhabitants to report any strange things they might have seen. It must be said that his superiors took young officer's story in real earnest.

We also spoke to two women witnesses. On September 29, at 7 p.m., Olga Poludneva, an assembler at a local industrial plant, saw a luminous ball flying at a great altitude in the openings between houses. According to her, the flight lasted about 10 minutes. Her friend Lyudmila Kupriyanova said that she was at home at that moment, and she heard cries outdoors: "A saucer is flying!" She ran into the street and only managed to see a luminous trail from the mysterious body. There were many people near the house, everyone greatly excited by what they had seen.

It is characteristic that for some time afterwards many witnesses of the mysterious phenomenon experienced an inexplicable feeling of fear and unusual sensations: heaviness in their feet and restraint in movements. But these are only emotions.

Now comes the turn of profes-



1. On September 23, at 9 p.m., I was returning home and saw a red round object with a black hatch the size of a door in the sky. It was about five metres in diameter. At the moment of landing four legs were ejected, whereupon the hatch opened and a "robot" drove down the ladder. (From a story by the author of the sketches, Roma Torshin, a sixth-former of School No. 33, Voronezh.) 2. On September 26 or 27 (the boy doesn't remember exactly), at 7 p.m. and in the same place, Zhenya Blinov, a classmate of Roma Torshin, saw an object with portholes. Someone about three metres tall emerged from it. "On his head," the boy describes, "I saw two eyes and slightly above them a red lamp. On his breast there was a disk with three spots of different colours, and slightly below it there was a rectangle which started sticking out from the body." Zhenya drew the "extraterrestrial's" ship and its "crew". 3. The head of an extraterrestrial was depicted by Oleg Chebotaryov, a third former of School No. 33 in Voronezh, who in the last days of September went with other boys to the place where "saucers" had been seen landing. The boy was lucky — he also witnessed the landing of a saucer 8-10 metres in diameter. He remembers that the "hairs" on the creature's head were of different colours: light-blue, red and navy blue.

by the inhabitants of the Konantsevo village in the Kharovsk District (Vologda Region).

However, an eyewitness account is one thing, the objective readings of instruments is something different. On the site of the UFO's supposed landing numerous dents were found in the soil which could have been made by the "saucer's" feet. Their diameter is 25-30 cm, their depth from 20 to 25 cm. The "unofficial" enthusiasts say that, according to their calculations, the approximate mass of the body which exerted pressure on the ground in this spot was 11 tons. But, more interesting, in some of the dents the "incorruptible" dosimeters recorded a definite increase in the background of gamma-radiation in comparison with neighbouring sites some two-three metres away. Whereas the usual level here amounts to 10-15 micro-roentgen an hour, in one of the dents they recorded 30, and in another — 37 micro-roentgen an hour (it was this particular dent that Vladimir Cherik-zov, senior expert of the Voronezh Administration of Internal Affairs, photographed).

Specialists are not concerned about such radiation, as it poses no threat to people's health. Prudence, however, is always welcome. "Such things mustn't be taken too lightly," we were told by a spokesman for the local Administration of the USSR State Security Committee at the site of the event. "We must accumulate information on any abnormal phenomena, wherever they take place, and carefully study them. This is primarily a task for scientists. For the time being, at the first stage, the investigation was mainly carried out by enthusiasts. We are here to take steps — if necessary — to ensure citizens' safety."

During our two days in Voronezh we met with many representatives from the city and regional authorities. The city's Mayor, Viktor Atlasov, played an active part in organizing research, along with his first deputy, Alexander Tsapin, the leaders of the Voronezh Administration of Internal Affairs, ranking officials of the regional Party committee, including Valery Daryabin, head of its socio-economic department. On October 12, at the initiative of Gennady Kabasin,

people, both those who believed in the "aliens" and sceptics. There was even an excursion — we saw a bus drive in, bringing a group of vocational-school pupils: who longed to see everything with their own eyes. And Voronezh, with a population of nearly a million, was filled with rumours. Some even said that the Father Superior of one of the Orthodox churches sanctified that place and believers now come to the park to pray. We contacted the Voronezh diocese. "This doesn't come from God, this is the work of Satan. A real Christian will never go to pray there," was the peremptory reply.

...When still on our way from Moscow, we wondered how to find eyewitnesses of the events as quickly as possible. We were preparing for the most difficult "operation", but everything turned out to be much simpler. As soon as we came to the park, we were surrounded by a flock

rome": classes could wait a little.

Denis Murzenko, Yura Grinev, Yura Sergachev, Roman Milkin, Zhenya Blinov, now called a "TV star" for giving an interview to central TV, and many others vied with one another in giving interviews to the press. Colleagues appeared — from Komsomolskaya Pravda and the Novosti Press Agency. All the stories coincide in the main: the flyover and landing of a mysterious ellipsoid-shaped body about 15 by 6 m with a hatch in the middle was seen from various distances. The object remained at a height of roughly 1.5 m above earth, then supports came out and it landed. From the open hatch there emerged a three-metre-tall figure which filled the whole of the "doorway". Distinctive features: a heavy gait, no neck (the "head", with something like three luminous eyes, was a kind of hemisphere lying directly on the shoulders). The alien — sometimes there

boys' very first "testimonies". "I am not a young person and, you know, an adult can always tell when a child is telling the truth and when he is not. I believe the boys," he admitted in a conversation with us.

We found grown-up witnesses of repeated cases of flyovers, even landings, by UFOs.

Thus, Lieutenant of the Militia Sergei Matveyev, whom we immediately took to, said that on September 27, at about 7 p.m., he was walking in the area of the park. Suddenly Sergei noticed a luminous ball sweeping past northwards at a colossal speed, strictly horizontally and at an altitude of roughly 200 m. He estimated its diameter to be about 15 m. He watched the ball's flight for about 5 sec, the object moved noiselessly.

"Couldn't it have been a mirage, some light spot, the play of light in the atmosphere?" "No," he confidently replied. "The body was clearly multidimensional." The lieutenant's first

signals. We spoke several times with a person of immense charm, whose objectivity cannot be doubted — her profession precludes any bias. Colonel of the Militia Lyudmila Makarova, head of the criminal expertise department of the Voronezh Administration of Internal Affairs, headed a group of experts who took measurements on the site of the event and examined it closely. "I don't know what actually happened here, but an increase in the radioactive background is in evidence. The reason? Maybe a grain of some isotope got in here. Then one more question: why precisely in the dent, why not on the surface? We shall be able to answer everything only after thorough investigation."

Thus, a highly competent commission is at work in the city. Taking part in it is the cream of local science, specialists in the most diverse fields, and officials. We met with Professor Stanislav Kadensky, D.Sc., head of the nuclear physics chair at Voronezh University, who is a member of the commission.

The professor told us that 17 soil samples had been taken in the area of the supposed landing. Since the question is extremely urgent, ten workers of the chair led by him neglected the Labour Code and worked on the available samples both on Saturday and Sunday.

Doubt does not amount to negation. Speaking about the possibility of aliens appearing on our planet, Stanislav Kadensky remarked: "If extraterrestrials are a reality, and if they are really inhabitants of distant worlds lying outside the confines of our Solar System, the very fact of their arrival imparts colossal optimism to physicists. If it has been proved that such flights are possible, the recognition of their reality will entail the need to reconsider conclusion from the special theory of relativity. It means that there is another physics, which is still unknown to us."

We were promised the commission's final document. We continue keeping track of the development of events.

Lev AKSYONOV,
Boris ZVEREV

Voronezh-Moscow

ALLOW ME A DOUBT

EXTRATERRESTRIAL ULTIMATUM

When I watch our daily guessing ritual on the Vremya (Time) TV programme, I often catch sight of the name of my native city on the weather chart. Each time I feel gratified.

Even more gratified was I to see and hear about the appearance of sky scouts in Voronezh. A day later it became known in Moscow that they had come with an ultimatum: "We'll reduce the Earth to ashes unless you're through with perestroika by 2000."

How do you like that? They are fed up in general, and in the past few decades in particular, with observing our Russian life.

True, the usual silly questions immediately arise: "Why is it to us that those aliens came? Why is it our life that gives the Galaxy a pain in the neck? Are they afraid of catching the infection from us, or what?"

As should have been expected, the miracle in Voronezh appeared to a pure and innocent adolescent of around ten or twelve. Ordinary boys

of this age are usually eagerly looking all over for piratic exploits. But our laddie is entirely different.

With a feeling of delight I watched him on the screen pointing the tip of his already well-polished shoe at 14-16 cm of turned-up turf — the landing site of the three-metre-tall and three-eyed extraterrestrials wearing bronze-coloured boots.

Some people have all the luck!

After all, none of the cosmonauts have ever been that lucky. Neither Soviets nor Americans nor even an Arab sheikh has ever happened to spot any flying dishes or to meet with a miracle, though their souls longed for one no less than the souls of those shameless boys. And other men, too. As for girls and women, their dreams of a miracle are localized in the image of roguish princes, preferably charming and handsome. Men, however, need something more substantial — like the other world, or sizzling leaders on a frying pan, or a trip to heaven, or being elected a people's deputy.

Everyone yearns for a miracle, for the extraordinary. How boring it is to everlastingly see one and the same dull, indecently naked formula of the invariable law of nature — "you can't get more than you earn".

Only adolescents, rogues and daredevil political leaders at times manage to bypass it.

Nevertheless, compatriots must not be deprived of the hope for a miracle. If only for this reason, the sky scouts do have a right to appear. As have our hopes that all VIPs, all our bosses and benefactors will be sent off on a prolonged mission abroad, say to Damnedland.

And why not? Anything can happen.

They say that the Voronezh regional Party committee has set up a special commission on aliens. But to my mind, it would be much better to erect a monument to the smart adolescent during his lifetime — that'd be pleasant and somewhat encouraging.

Konstantin FEOKTISTOV,
Pilot-Cosmonaut of the USSR

Mystery of the flying 'traffic lights'

FLYING 'traffic lights' are the latest in a string of UFO sightings.

"It is unusual because the object or its effects were seen by three people independently," said Dave Barclay of Stubbing Way, Shipley, a member of the West Yorkshire UFO-watchers

organisation Independent UFO Net.

The first report came from a Horsforth man who has a responsible position at Leeds-Bradford Airport, said Mr Barclay. "At 2.45am he saw a bright object as large as the full moon cross the sky in about five seconds. He thought at first it was a plane

about to crash and was about to alert the emergency services. But it kept on flying until it was out of view."

The second report at 2.44am came from an amateur astronomer who lives near Bingley.

"He saw the same thing but as he watched it went through a colour change from bright greenish white to

a very bright red and then it became a dark object before it went out of view."

"It was visible for seven seconds. He put it down to a meteorite burning up, but a group of 50 Todmorden astronomers who were out on the same night saw nothing at all."

The third report came from a

Baildon woman who woke up at 2.48am to find her bedroom bathed in an incredible green light. "It changed from green to brilliant red and made her lace curtains look as though they had been dipped in phosphorescent blood. But when she looked out of the window the source of the light had disappeared," said Mr Barclay.

"We have had many UFO reports in the Bradford area. The Pennines are undoubtedly a 'hot spot' and many UFO spotters from the south come up her to investigate reports



UFO OR METEORITE?

ABNORMAL PHENOMENON

This photo was brought to us by photographer Boris Tombak after much hesitation. He took it on April 15 on the Taras Shevchenko Embankment in Moscow.

"I photographed the city panorama," explained Boris Tombak. "However, the developed film revealed several bright spots which I hadn't noticed when taking the picture."

We asked Vladimir Migulin, Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and physicist Alexander Kuzovkin, an expert in optics who

also heads a seminar on abnormal phenomena under the aegis of Vokrug Sveta (Around the World), to comment.

"Many non-professionals claim such phenomena are something supernatural. In fact, lots of meteorites enter the dense layers of the atmosphere and burn up there creating bright spots," said Migulin.

"In my opinion," said Kuzovkin, "this 'something' looks like living, intelligent matter. This idea has been corroborated by many similar

snapshots and other information which reaches me. There is documentary proof that such objects dodge aircraft flying in their direction."

Kuzovkin is going to study the negative of the photograph more closely. We do not have any reason to disbelieve his version. But the existence of carriers of extraterrestrial intelligence visiting the Earth has not been proved either. The controversy between the sceptics and the optimists continues.

Dmitry SIDOROV

'They've returned,' Langenburg man says of UFOs

By Dave Yanko
of the Star-Phoenix

For Edwin Fuhr, the Langenburg UFO flap means "they've" returned.

Fuhr was swathing in his rape field 15 autumns ago when he came upon what looked like a goose blind near a small slough.

As he got closer to the "pothole," he realized it was no goose blind.

"There were five of them. They scared the hell out me."

The swather stopped. He couldn't get it started.

So he just looked on in fear as two saucers five metres in diameter, and three slightly smaller ones, hovered half a metre off the ground in front of him.

They had the classical shape popularized in the 1950s movies: "They looked like upside down saucers, with lips, and domes on the top."

"There was nothing holding them up. They were just revolving."

Fuhr says it was about 9:30 a.m. that Sept. 1 morning, when he first encountered the crafts.

He watched them for an hour

and a half, and his descriptions are vivid.

But somewhere, he lost two and a half hours.

Fuhr has no memory of events between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., when he recalls seeing the saucers leave "in step formation, one at a time."

He recalls a feeling that his body had received an electrical jolt.

Reporters, Mounties, the FBI and UFO researchers from across North America flocked to Langenburg to interview him and study the pothole, says Fuhr.

An American government researcher told him he'd receive a copy of the report he compiled on the sighting, but Fuhr says he got nothing.

"Afterwards, they said it was mushrooms I saw," he said.

"I've never seen mushrooms that fly, and I've never seen them leave a pool radioactive."

Fuhr says he saw the colored lights in the sky two weeks ago. At the time, he thought they belonged to a distant airplane.

He's no longer the only man in Langenburg with a story about UFOs.

A thought-provoking conversation with alien beings described

Reuter

MOSCOW — They came from the planet Red Star. But when a Soviet reporter asked the extraterrestrials to take him home with them, the answer was negative.

Reporter Pavel Mukhortov said the glowing creatures told him during their encounter in the Ural Mountains that "there would be no return for you, and it would be dangerous for us ... You would bring thought bacteria."

Mukhortov's report on what he called the first encounter between earthlings and aliens, which appeared yesterday in the newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, was the latest in a series of fantastic accounts that have appeared in the official Soviet press this week detailing the appearance of three-eyed aliens armed with ray-gun tubes and accompanied by a dancing robot.

The extraterrestrial sightings have been reported in deadpan style by the official press. This country has a traditional fascination for the bizarre and supernatural, and many people say they believe the accounts.

Mukhortov told *Komsomolskaya Pravda* that he met the alien creatures on the night of July 30 near

Perm, a Soviet industrial city notorious for its labor camp.

The aliens were between 6 feet and 13 feet tall, he said. They glowed, and chatted with him from a distance of about 1,000 feet, Mukhortov said.

Well, not exactly chatted. Mukhortov said he simply thought of the questions he wanted to ask the aliens and their answers appeared before him in the form of illuminated letters.

Komsomolskaya Pravda did not say in what language the creatures communicated, but gave the following account of the exchange between Mukhortov and the visiting aliens:

Mukhortov: "Where are you from?"

Aliens: "The constellation Libra, Red Star — our homeland."

"Your goal?"

"It depends on the center. We are directed by a central system."

"Can you take me to your planet?"

"There would be no return for you, and it would be dangerous for us."

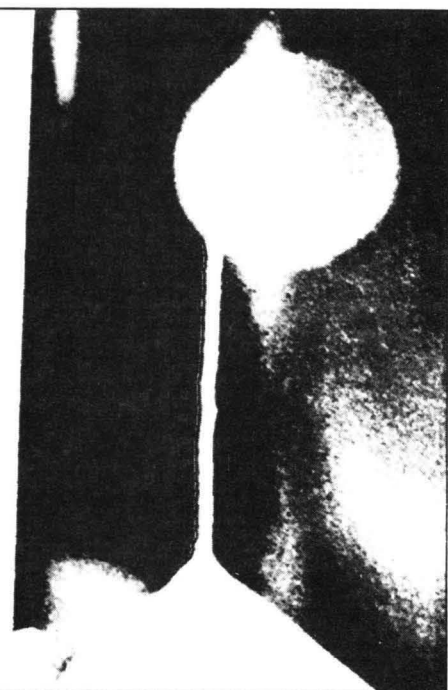
"Why would it be dangerous?"

"You would bring thought bacteria."

Komsomolskaya Pravda said there had been other sightings of unidentified flying objects near Perm



Komsomolskaya Pravda published these two pictures yesterday, purportedly showing



Reuter

bright orange globes said to have appeared in July near Perm.

during the month of July.

On July 16, it said, workers at a collective farm reported a group of huge black, headless people.

Also in mid-July, children at a summer camp near the Kama River

north of Perm reported seeing humanoids with shining eyes. When one boy threw rocks at them, *Komsomolskaya Pravda* said, an alien fired a shot and the grass caught fire.

The newspaper reported on Tues-

day that about 40 people in the central Soviet city of Voronezh witnessed the Sept. 27 landing of an alien spacecraft that contained several aliens and a robot who did a break-dance in the park there.

Find adds to circle of confusion

EVENING ADVERTISER,
Swindon, England - Aug.
9, 1989 CR: T. Good

A mystery circle, 100 feet across, thought to be the world's largest, has been found in a field of wheat.

The actual site, west of Marlborough at Beckhampston, is not being disclosed for security reasons.

Colin Andrews and his team, from the Andover-based Circles Investigation Group, visited it to record

measurements and crop patterns.

The circle is just one of 222 found in Wiltshire and Hampshire within the last four months.

The find comes at a time when another researcher, Dr Terence Meaden, of Bradford-on-Avon, claims to have solved the mystery of the crop circles.

He says that the circular depressions are formed by spinning balls of air charged with electricity.

Not so, says Mr Andrews: "I think the whole scientific community is in agreement that we are looking at a vortex, a high energy field, that is luminous, but I disagree totally that this is any form of meteorological phenomenon," he said.

enon," he said.

"The Government is also saying that these things are created by stationary vortices, in fields of cereal, prone to lodging in plants that have been over-fertilized. This is absolute nonsense."

"However, it's nowhere near being resolved yet," he warned.

YELLOW ADVERTISER, Colchester, England - June 23, 1989

Diamond in the sky

A DIAMOND shaped UFO was spotted by 4 people last Saturday June 17. The witnesses reported the sighting to the East Anglian UFO Research Society. They watched it for half an hour in the Hadleigh area

and described it as one hundred feet long and 30 feet high and at an altitude of about 150 feet. UFO investigators plan to interview the witnesses this week.

CR: T. Good

Soviets report sighting of giant UFO in Siberia

MOSCOW (UPI) — Only days after pinheads from space landed in the Soviet Union, another giant unidentified flying object with four giant headlights and invisible to radar was observed in Siberia by hundreds of people that included a Red Army major, a newspaper said Saturday.

Major Vladimir Loginov told the Socialist Industry newspaper the giant UFO sped away at more than 4,300 miles an hour after hovering over the western Siberian city of Omsk last Tuesday.

The newspaper published its account 12 days after the official Tass news agency sparked a worldwide UFO craze by reporting that 13-foot-tall aliens with tiny heads had landed several times in the Russian city of Voronezh and taken nighttime strolls through a park.

AMID MOUNTING RIDICULE both in the Soviet Union and abroad, the Tass correspondent who filed the Voronezh report later admitted that a dozen youngsters aged 12 to 13 years had been the source of his article.

But Socialist Industry pinned its credibility on Loginov, a senior military officer and "the most authoritative man, one who can be trusted," among "several hundred residents of Omsk" who saw the UFO.

"I will say right off that our radars failed to spot the object, so I will describe my visual observations," Loginov said. "It moved at an altitude of several hundred kilometers. The luminous ball appeared to be roughly 1 1/2 times larger than the moon. Four bright spotlights shone from it, parallel and at an angle to the earth."

Loginov said he watched the UFO for about five minutes.

"It seemed to hover over the civilian airport and descend a bit," the major said. "Then the spotlights went out and the air around the luminous ball immediately became turbulent. The object began to speed away toward the east. Pilots from a nearby airfield also observed it, but the object did not show up on their radar screens."

Information about the UFO was quickly relayed to a military base at the foot of the Altai Mountains

southeast of Omsk, Loginov said. "Our colleagues in the Altai region, where the object went, reported after five minutes that they were observing it," he said. "This means the object covered a distance of roughly 375 miles at a speed of nearly 4,350 mph."

Asked by the newspaper reporter what he believes he saw, Loginov responded: "I don't know, but it did not seem to be an atmospheric phenomenon. We made a drawing of the UFO to be on the safe side."

As Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's "perestroika" drive for renewal has shaken the foundations of his society, people searching for something in which to believe have embraced the supernatural.

Mystic Anatoli Kashpirovsky hosts one of the country's most popular TV shows, science fiction books sell out quickly and the press abounds with sightings of UFOs and various types of monsters or other non-human beings.

In a typical dispatch, Tass said Saturday many residents of a remote area in the Soviet Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan have reported seeing a mysterious water creature.

"CAN THERE BE another Nessie, like the Loch Ness monster?" Tass asked in a report from the Kazakh capital of Alma-Ata. "This question invariably occurs to visitors to Lake Kok Kol in Kazakhstan. This far-off place in the Dzhambul region seems to have as many abnormal phenomena as the famous lake in Scotland."

Since published reports of a Loch Ness monster made headlines around the world in December 1933, there have been numerous claimed sightings at the 700-foot-deep lake in central Scotland.

"Many local sheep herdsman not only saw the water monster but also heard its voice, either a low hissing or a protracted howl," Tass said of the alleged creature in Kazakhstan. "Some people say the monster occasionally drags underwater birds from the lake's surface, animals that wade into it and even people swimming."

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - Nov. 1, 1989

Soviet experts publish analysis debunking 1977 UFO sighting

BY MICHAEL WOODS

The Toledo (Ohio) Blade

In an effort to quell growing public fascination with UFOs, the Soviet Union has published an explanation of the Petrozavodsk phenomenon — perhaps the most famous Soviet UFO incident.

The group of UFO experts who conducted the analysis concluded that Petrozavodsk, like "most" other UFO sightings, actually resulted from public misinterpretation of a rocket launch.

The 1977 incident involved the appearance of a huge, bright star that approached Petrozavodsk, an industrial city about 150 miles northeast of Leningrad.

After reaching the city, it expanded into a glowing object that witnesses said resembled a jellyfish. The object then emitted fine, raylike beams of light that poured onto the city like rain. The object later assumed a circular shape and moved off in the early morning darkness toward nearby Lake Onega.

The incident caused widespread public concern. There were reports, for instance, that

not one but a cluster of more than 30 UFOs had been sighted.

The analysis was published in *Science in the USSR*, the official journal of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. The academy is the Soviet Union's most prestigious scientific organization, the rough counterpart of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. It sets the course of Soviet science and funds scientific research.

In a commentary on the analysis, the Academy criticizes scientists for contributing to the Soviet public's belief in UFOs and other paranormal phenomena.

"The concept of glasnost in science can hardly be interpreted as 'anything goes,'" it observes. The commentary says that UFO research has been of poor quality and unsuited for publication in legitimate scientific journals.

Yet it says that the results have been eagerly accepted by the Soviet press, and given "sensationalized" coverage that could mislead unsophisticated readers.

The most recent episode oc-

curred in September, when Soviet news media reported the landing of a flying saucer in Voronezh, a city about 300 miles southeast of Moscow. Knobby-headed extraterrestrial creatures supposedly emerged from a hatch and, accompanied by a robot, strolled through the city park.

A rash of other Soviet UFO reports have appeared this year. One flying saucer, for instance, showered an area of the Soviet Far East with mysterious "golden hairs." The stubby-legged alien piloting another molested a milkmaid in the Perm region of central Russia. Another UFO scorched the ground just south of Moscow.

The analysis of Petrozavodsk incident includes a lengthy discussion of the dramatic visual effects that can result from rocket launches. It concludes that visual effects from the launch of the Cosmos 955 satellite on September 20, 1977, produced the Petrozavodsk phenomenon.

American space authorities had suspected a link between the object and Cosmos 955.

Lincolnton man says Tass wrong

Aliens have certain look, says Fawcett

By Donna Cox
Gazette Staff Reporter

LINCOLNTON — Soviet news reports about a 13-foot-tall, three-eyed alien with a robot sidekick has divided skeptics from believers like the parting of the Red Sea.

"Russian history is rich with UFO literature," said George Fawcett of Lincolnton, a UFO investigator and researcher for 45 years. "Since they opened up with glasnost, the U.S. has closed down in releasing UFO information."

But Fawcett said Tass, the official Soviet news agency, misreported the height of the occupants who allegedly landed in Voronezh, a city about 300 miles southeast of Moscow.

The basic humanoid is 3 1/2 to 4 feet tall, he said to set the record straight. "The ones we've learned to give credence to have a large cranium, and large wraparound eyes."

Richard O. Ulin, a UNC-Chapel Hill professor in international relations, said he doesn't put much stock in UFOs, aliens or the Tass report.

Fawcett, state director of Mutual UFO Network, Inc., said he hopes the increased openness with the public of such reports will spur greater openness in the United States.

"This is commonplace," he said, citing 48 cases of landings and occupant encounters and 11 cases of human abduction in 36 cities across the state in the last 80 years.

And only 10 percent of people who see UFOs report them and even less report them when abducted, because of stigmas or fears of losing their jobs.

Ulin, who traveled to the Soviet Union for five weeks last summer, said the topic of aliens never came up in his encounters with the people.

"Tass has been taken in before on more mundane things," he said.

Police get rush of UFO claims

MELBOURNE.— Police spent yesterday investigating more than 50 reports of a UFO buzzing the foreshore of Port Phillip Bay.

Residents reported seeing a bright, long, cigar-shaped object with orange fireballs at both ends hovering 250m above the water and about 500m offshore.

Constable Jeremy Oliver of St Kilda police said the sightings, between 2.45am and 5am, had been linked to a patch of scorched grass which appeared yesterday at bayside Elwood.

COURIER-MAIL, Brisbane, Australia
Oct. 14, 1989

SUNDAY SUN, Melbourne, Australia - Oct. 15, 1989

Alien hunters rally

DOZENS of curious star watchers are maintaining a vigil from a windswept lookout at Elwood Beach. They're on the lookout for craft which could be carrying aliens.

More than 50 sightings of an orange cigar-shaped UFO around the bay on Friday the 13th have captured the imagination of bayside residents and brought out the sceptics and UFO believers.

St Kilda police were swamped with reports of

sightings from about 3 am on Friday, and sightings also came from as far afield as Geelong.

Most witnesses said they saw a long orange object, with fireballs at both ends, hovering about 250 metres above the water and 500 metres offshore.

There have been no sightings since Friday.

The focus of the riddle is a small patch of scorched grass near the Point Ormond beacon at the

northern end of Elwood beach.

Investigating the mystery is Victorian UFO Research Society president Judith Magee, who will analyse soil samples for "unearthly" materials.

But the Australian Societies Society president, Barry Williams, dismissed any chance of a visit from aliens. However, many of those who flocked to the beach yesterday are still wondering.

SOUTHERN EVENING ECHO, Essex, England - Sept. 21, 1989
CR: T. Good

Good grief! UFO hovers near as expert Tim talks

A UFO hovered over Basildon while flying saucer expert Timothy Good gave a lecture.

The author of *Above Top Secret* — *The World Wide UFO Cover-up* — was talking at The Bullseye pub around the time four people claimed they saw a large round ball-shaped object hovering over the town centre.

It was white with a ring of multi-coloured lights and made no sound.

The witnesses watched it for two minutes while they were stuck in a traffic jam.

Also on Friday night five people on Canvey spotted seven lights in the sky coloured red, green and yellow hovering at 3,000 ft for 10 minutes.

The East Anglia UFO and Paranormal Research Association also received a call from a couple who saw six coloured lights making geometric patterns in the sky in Stanford-le-Hope on Sunday at 8.30pm.

Anyone who saw these unexplained objects and lights should contact the East Anglia UFO hotline on 0268 286079.

Watch this space say UFO fans

SEEN anything unusual in the skies above Merseyside recently?

If so, the Cheshire UFO-ologists want a call. They are launching a serious sky search this week called Project Organiser 1989 and want people to tell them of any close encounters.

Organiser Eric Morris, chairman of the Cheshire UFO, said: "We are asking members of the public to make an observation into the sky on any random time of the day and if they observe anything we would like these results reported to us."

Spaceman

Some of the strangest claims of sightings in the past have included:

● A silver-booted android seen in Huyton.

● A boomerang-shaped object seen hurtling over Bidston.

● A spaceman seen in a back garden in Wallasey.

● Flying saucer-shaped objects hovering over Wrexham.

Mr Morris also wants to hear about ANY sightings, including the more normal aeroplanes, planets, stars and unusual cloud formations.

Mr Morris, 35, a nurse, said: "This is a good area for sightings in the past, and our findings will be presented at a UFO international conference in London later this summer."

The UFO hotline is 0270 582378.

MAINICHI DAILY NEWS, Tokyo, Japan
Oct. 30, 1989

CR: Y. Matsumura

Soviet Study Finds No Proof Of UFO Visit

MOSCOW (AFP-Jiji) — A Soviet scientific commission has concluded that there exists no verifiable proof of a landing by aliens last month in the town of Voronezh, in southern Russia, the commission chief said Saturday.

Sixteen radiometric analyses, 19 checks of the ground, nine tests of micro-organisms and 20 spectrochemical measurements failed to uncover "any anomaly either in the earth or surrounding vegetation" that might indicate the landing of an unidentified flying object, the commission reported.

Igor Sarotsev, vice rector of the University of Voronezh and chairman of the commission, said that the presence of a larger-than-normal quantity of the radioactive isotope cesium in the area of the alleged sighting did not constitute proof of a landing.

"After Chernobyl, this kind of phenomenon has been found in many areas," Sarotsev told Sovetskaya Kultura newspaper Saturday, referring to the April 1986 accident at the Chernobyl nuclear plant that sent a radiation cloud over Europe and killed 31 people.



RICHARD MILHOLLAND / for The Times

The UFO Tass Missed

■ **Extraterrestrials:** A Soviet émigré relates his own unearthly experience with a saucer-sighting in Moscow.

By Paul Goldberg

WASHINGTON

After 17 years of silence, I have decided to come forward and report that in the spring of 1972 I saw an unidentified flying object over Moscow.

After recent events at a park in the city of Voronezh, as reported last week by Tass, I am a little hurt that at the time I saw them, the aliens did not come out for a stroll and left no debris.

For this there are two possible explanations:

■ Aliens felt no urge to set their feet in the mud of the Chertanovo area of Moscow, where I lived. Considering the depth of the mud, their "object" would have had a difficult time on takeoff.

■ Aliens, like some of Russia's new freethinkers, waited for *glasnost* before they ventured to show the world that they are humanoid after all.

I will refrain from further speculation and, instead, limit myself to the facts, withholding nothing, especially the details that do not support my account. The facts are these:

—I was 13.
—The only other witness was a seven-month-old German shepherd named Santa, now dead.

One spring morning Santa and I observed a large object hovering at approximately 37.5 degrees over the horizon, directly above the smokestacks about three miles away.

The object was different from the one recently sighted in Voronezh, 300 miles from Moscow. Ours was shaped like a saucer, and as it moved slowly in our direction it emitted a clicking sound, like a 10-speed bike—which at the time I did not yet own.

After 10 or 15 seconds the lights on the saucer went off and, as it continued toward us, Santa and I ran into the apartment building. We were not eager to be kidnaped, or dognaped, at the point of a laser gun.

One telling detail was that Santa ran ahead of me, tail between her legs. (A skeptic might say the dog was neurotic or simply picked up on my panic.)

This is a true story, inasmuch as something like this can be a true story. I have no idea whether I saw what I seemed to see. I can say I certainly *wanted* to see it.

When I described the sighting to my friends, all of them believed me. They, too, thought they had seen something similar on other occasions. No doubt stories were being made up on the spot. Some may have been repeated enough

Paul Goldberg is a co-author, with Ludmilla Alezayeva, of "The Thaw Generation: Coming of Age in the Post-Stalin Era," to be published next spring by Little, Brown.

times to become believable—even to those who invented them.

Everyone I knew had read excerpts of Western books that described the alleged role of space aliens in construction of Mayan temples, Egyptian pyramids and other wonders of the world.

When I told the story to my astronomy club at the Moscow Planetarium, the club leader, who, as I recall, had a doctorate in astronomy or astrophysics, said that the authorities receive thousands of reports of unidentified flying objects and do nothing about them. It seemed entirely plausible that the authorities knew everything but did nothing. He also noted that my dog's reaction was typical. Animals are said to fear UFOs.

I have not seen any UFOs since, certainly not after emigration to the United States. Worries about my next manuscript or my next contract have left no room for thoughts as extraneous as extraterrestrials.

In the world I now inhabit it is not desirable to spot flying objects and talk seriously about UFOs or life in space. This is a tested way to be written off as a lunatic or a New Ager. If I saw a banana-shaped object hover, or even land, in my neighborhood, I would simply look the other way.

However, in the course of one project, a book about the Moscow Helsinki Watch Group, I ran into an unexpected reminder that even the brightest of my former countrymen ponder life in far reaches of the universe.

"In the infinity of space there must be other civilizations, including those more advanced, more 'successful' than ours," wrote Andrei Sakharov in the conclusion to his Nobel lecture in 1975.

"I happen to be a proponent of a cosmological hypothesis, which holds that cosmological development of the universe is basically repeated an infinite number of times. . . ." Sakharov wrote.

Granted, UFO sightings and cosmology are eons apart. Still, no one asked Sakharov to take a stand on the existence of extraterrestrial life. He brought up the matter voluntarily—and unabashedly.

On a recent trip to Moscow I spent an evening milling with a crowd on Pushkin Square as it merrily ignored police orders to disperse.

In one group, a couple of Armenians talked about the killings in Nagorno-Karabakh. In another, hippies talked about their friends doing time in mental hospitals. In the third, men who looked otherwise intelligent talked about sightings of extraterrestrials.

It was a little painful to hear such matters discussed so close to the monument to Russia's greatest poet, Aleksandr Sergeyevich Pushkin, and the site of what had been an annual human-rights demonstration.

But that was my problem; not theirs. Those people discussed their sightings and exhibited no desire for segregation between the real world and the world of tabloids. That distinction cannot exist in the Soviet Union—at least until Tass moves enough stories to fill a tabloid. □

Kite theory is rejected

THE mystery of a UFO sighting over the Knavesmire has deepened. A member of a local kite flying society contacted the police to say he was on the Knavesmire at the

time of the reported sighting and that his kite, flying at between 100 and 200ft, had its own lights powered by a small battery.

But Mr Victor Clarke, of Howhill Close, Acomb, rejected the kite theory and said: "There's no way it could have been a kite because I watched it approach

CR: T. Good

Field events

Alexander Urquhart

PAT DELGADO and COLIN ANDREWS

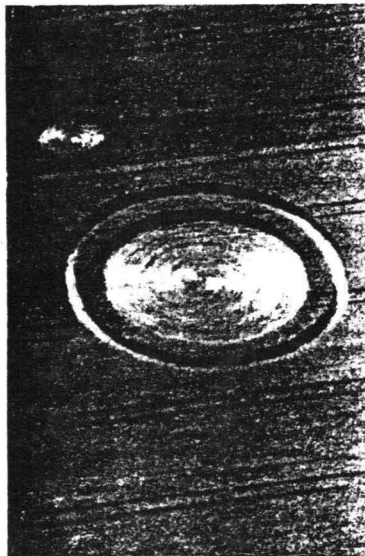
Circular Evidence: A detailed investigation of the flattened swirled crops phenomenon 190pp. Bloomsbury. £14.95. 07475 0357 5

The phenomenon which Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews have spent the past seven years investigating is the sudden appearance of spectacularly symmetrical circular patterns in the arable crops of southern England. The circles are formed overnight with apparently mechanical precision, giving, from the air, the impression that a creative baker has been at work cutting biscuits in pastry. The walls of the standing crop which delineate the circles are often razor-sharp and the floors arranged like woven rush-matting. If the circles are made by human beings (the argument against this is powerful and convincing) we might consider them a new, ephemeral art-form; because they are not, their beauty acquires an extra, haunting quality.

Delgado and Andrews's *Circular Evidence* is particularly attractive because it deals with this genuine and well-documented mystery, then appeals to conventional science for an explanation and fails to find one. The first half of the book is devoted to the photographic evidence. Each picture is accompanied by detailed measurement and a description of the floor pattern. The most impressive examples are those in which a circle of flattened crop, say fifty feet in diameter, is surrounded by a band of standing crop six feet wide, and outside that is a narrow concentric channel where the crop has again been flattened. In the main circle the laid straw forms a clockwise swirl; in the surrounding band it points anti-clockwise. The circles are near-perfect.

Delgado and Andrews, who are strictly amateurs, attempt to discover what kind of force could create such phenomena. It must, they conclude, be considerable and instantaneous in order to lay large areas of crop with the resulting floor-patterns. It must be precise in order to achieve such geometrical delineation, and it must be gentle because there is rarely evidence of damage to the plants, which continue to grow and ripen horizontally. Most telling, it must emanate from the air or from underground as there is no proof of outside approach.

That the authors are both trained electrical engineers gives credibility to their survey of the possibilities. They examine in detail many suggested theories from piezoelectric generation



A detail from one of the photographs in *Circular Evidence*, reviewed here.

to hoax, and find them all wanting. Unfortunately, but perhaps inevitably, they stray into the paranormal and the extra-terrestrial.

At this stage it seems clear that their quest for clues has become obsessional, and it is probably dedication rather than crankiness that leads them to include the following in a typically restrained and matter-of-fact report on a circle and two rings which appeared in a field at Chilcomb, Dorset, in 1987:

at this point we should mention the famous encounter reported by Joyce Bowles and Ted Pratt in 1976, when a UFO was said to have landed near the Chilcomb lane and a humanoid approached Mrs Bowles' car. It was wearing a silvery suit and had pink eyes

If the authors and their publisher are genuine in their wish that "the scientific establishment at large will realize that the puzzles encountered in the circle phenomenon are already part of the very fabric of science and that serious research can begin", they would have done well to forgo the extra sales to the readership of the *Flying Saucer Review*. The case for the existence of this phenomenon stands well on the unembellished photographic evidence as well as the painstaking attempts at analysis which form the bulk of the book; the scientific establishment is notoriously shy of the unconventional.

CR: T. Good

BUCKS HERALD, Aylesbury, England - Aug. 10, 1989 CR: T. Good

Circles made by flying saucers say UFO buffs

FORGET the hysterical hedgehogs theory — spacemen have landed!

After last week's story in The Bucks Herald about mysterious circles that appeared in a field near Weston Turville, UFO buffs bombarded this office with phone calls bent on convincing us that flying saucers really do exist.

Star gazing Susan Hanson says she saw a strange object in the sky at Worminghall the night before the circles first appeared.

She was camping out at the time.

"I was sitting outside my tent when I saw a bright light hovering low over the barn. It appeared to have two bright lights coming out of it and a red glow."

"It didn't seem to be a plane or a helicopter because there wasn't any noise," said Susan.

And the spaceman theory is supported by

Mike Rutter, member of the British UFO Association.

"It doesn't look like a hoax to me," he said. "I'd like to believe it's the real thing."

"There's a lot going on in space that we don't know about. Pilots have seen strange lights in the sky and then, inexplicably, the planes have been known to drop up to a thousand feet."

Researchers are convinced UFOs draw power from overhead cables, and there are some powerlines over farmer Andrew Timbury's field where the circles appeared.

To strengthen their case the UFO enthusiasts point out that the largest circle was roughly 50ft. wide — the size of previous spaceship sightings.

"It's hard to say whether what we had was one spaceship, with the legs making the four smaller circles, or one mother ship and four



Star gazer: Susan Hanson

others," said Mr. Rutter.

As for there being no burnmarks in the wheat, there is a perfectly good explanation for that as well — materialisation, he claims.

"Their technology is advanced way beyond human comprehension," said Mr. Rutter.

"In nine out of 10 cases UFOs aren't picked up by our radar systems and the government never tell us when they are detected."

Last week a tongue in cheek Mr. Timbury suggested that stampeding hedgehogs or a freak whirlwind may have flattened his crop.

UFO seen over Kanazawa

Whatever it was, it wasn't a hoax, group says

KANAZAWA (Kyodo) A flying object videotaped over Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, in early July has been identified as "a real UFO" by a U.S. research institution.

Yasuhiko Hamazaki, a 32-year-old public office worker, spotted and videotaped the object on the evening of July 6.

Diamond in shape and platinum-colored, the object made no sounds as it hovered over the city in a halo of orange and white light, Hamazaki said.

He said it was very different from the planes stationed at nearby Komatsu U.S. Air Base that often fly over the city.

Hamazaki videotaped the "flying saucer" for about a minute and sent the tape to the private UFO Research Institution Fund in the United States for analysis.

Bruce Maccabee, a physics professor at Washington University, carried out the analysis using a computer to give clearer definition to the videotape.



A DIAMOND-SHAPED object buzzes the skies over Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, on July 6.

After two months of study, Maccabee, who has served as a science and technology advisor to the U.S. Navy, concluded that the flying object in the video was not identical to any existing on earth and could be acknowledged as a "real UFO."

He also said the flying object is similar to one that was photographed in Hawaii in 1975.

Some of the institute's findings were sent to the Hakui Youth Mystery Club, which had arranged for Hamazaki to send the video to the U.S.

Hamazaki, after being notified of the results, said he was very pleased that his discovery had been acknowledged by an authoritative UFO researcher.

He also said the flying object is similar to one that was photographed in Hawaii in 1975.

Hamazaki, after being notified of the results, said he was very pleased that his discovery had been acknowledged by an authoritative UFO researcher.

He also said the flying object is similar to one that was photographed in Hawaii in 1975.

UFO Videotaped Over Kanazawa

KANAZAWA (AFP-Jiji) — An unidentified flying object (UFO) videotaped by a man here in July has been acknowledged as a "real UFO" by the U.S. private UFO Research Institute Fund, the local press has reported.

According to the reports, Yoshikazu Hamazaki, 32, a civil servant, spotted a diamond-shaped, platinum-colored object hovering over this city on the central Japan Sea coast on the evening of July 6.

He succeeded in videotaping it, and sent the tape to the private UFO Research Institute for analysis.

The reports said that Bruce Maccabee, a physics professor at Washington University, carried out the scrutiny using a computer.

After two months of study, Maccabee, who has served as a science technology adviser to the U.S. Navy, concluded that the object videotaped by Hamazaki was not identical to any existing aircraft on earth and could be acknowledged as a "real UFO."

The reports quoted Maccabee as saying in his reply to Hamazaki that the object was similar to one photographed over Hawaii in 1975.

Hamazaki said that when he took the videotape, the object made no sound as it hovered in a halo of orange and white light.

UFOs seen over city

Like boomerangs and balls, says amateur astronomer

By RENE POLLETT
Sun Staff Writer

Large boomerang-shaped objects and shiny orange-yellow balls crossed the Winnipeg sky Monday night.

C.B. Weselak, an amateur astronomer, said yesterday he had mapped out the night sky to track anticipated meteor showers, but instead, from his third-floor window, looking out on downtown, he witnessed the strange objects travelling across the sky.

"I was seeing if I could see any meteors because it was a peak period for them and then all of a sudden these things came up, Weselak said.

"They blew across the sky," he added.

Ed Barker, planetarium producer and director of the Manitoba Centre for UFO Studies, said Weselak is the only person to have reported seeing the UFOs, but he hopes others might come forward.

If more people report seeing the same UFOs, it'll be possible to determine their path over Winnipeg and roughly how big they were, Barker said.

"His (Weselak's) descriptions do seem to follow a bit in the usual pattern. The most important thing now is to get corroboration from another part of the city."

Weselak said he documented his sightings, which began about 11:15 p.m. and lasted until 2 a.m.

11:20 to 11:30 p.m. — a large boomerang-shaped object flies north to south over the city.

East to west

11:35 p.m. — three ball-shaped objects fly along the same path, followed by another boomerang-shaped UFO flying from east to west. An orange-yellow light flickers on the left.

12:07 a.m. — three ball-shaped objects fly over the city in a straight line, with a fourth trailing off slightly to the west.

1:08 a.m. — another boomerang-shaped UFO flies north to south, but this time lower in the sky.

Weselak said he wasn't frightened, even though the sightings were his first.

"It was pretty neat to see all these things fly by," he said, admitting he's concerned some people might think he's crazy.

"I'm still questioning myself. I'm just a bit apprehensive about it."

But Weselak said he's sure that the objects weren't planes or satellites or just lights.

"I am very observant. I know what airplanes look like at night. I used to help build airplanes. And I've seen lots of

satellites.

"These things had no lights. They were strictly illuminated objects. They were very clear and very sharp."

Barker said the planetarium received a number of calls at the end of the summer regarding boomerang-shaped objects in the sky.

Most of the sightings have wound up being nocturnal lights, but some have been remarkably realistic descriptions, he added.

"There's one of a possible landing — what we call a possible encounter of the second kind.

"And I had a pilot come to me, who'd flown to Winnipeg from Thompson. He and the co-pilot saw a shiny, elliptical-shaped object and it was a daylight sighting."

At least four Manitobans have reported being abducted by aliens in the past 1 1/2 years, Barker said.

"And yes, the people (in Manitoba) who claim to have been abducted do have identical descriptions (to others around the world) — little guys, grey skin, big eyes."

SUNDAY TIMES, Perth, W.A., Australia - July 16, 1989

Mum tells of saucer terror

A MOTHER and her two children fled in fright from a brightly-lit UFO near Hawker only 18 days after mystery markings in Lake Eyre were sighted.

And a second woman who picked up the terrified trio as they ran through the night on the Flinders Ranges road also saw the light, and said it was bigger and brighter than the moon — but it was not the moon.

Mrs. Beverley Schumann revealed her story yesterday.

Mrs. Anita Lindblom, the woman who picked them up in her car, backed up the story and told how "the kids were screaming and clawing at my car door, trying to get in."

Their story follows the report of the Lake Eyre markings.

Recalling the experience, Mrs. Schumann said she had not known of the strange sighting at the lake 18 days before.

The UFO had appeared as a "very bright yellow light" while

she and her two children, Jodie, then aged 11, and Jamie, 7, were driving to Hawker from a friend's house about 10.30pm.

"The light, which was very, very bright, looked as if it was coming down," Mrs. Schumann said.

"I was so scared that I tried to turn the car around, but when I got across the road, the engine stopped and wouldn't start."

"By this stage I was really scared because the car lights still worked but the engine wouldn't turn over."

Mrs. Schumann and her children jumped out of the car and ran along the road, away from the light and in the direction of the town.

Petrified

Within minutes they were picked up by Mrs. Lindblom, who drove

them back to their car.

"I don't remember the light after that but we were petrified," Mrs. Schumann said. "Anita drove us back to our car, which started."

Mrs. Lindblom said she had also seen the light while returning to Hawker.

"All I could see was a big, round light which was bigger and brighter than the moon. Beverley's car was parked at a funny angle across the road and she was very frightened."

"The kids were screaming and clawing at my car door, trying to get in."

CR: VUFORS

An alien signal?

● WHILE travelling to work this morning I beheld a strange phenomenon. Approaching the southern roundabout at Waterlooville I saw coming towards me, approximately 18 inches from the ground, a small winking orange light. At the last minute, the ball of light turned off to my right and disappeared down the hill.

Was it a UFO, a meteorite, or even a will-o'-the-wisp? I pondered over whether or not to report this sighting but who would believe me without corroboration?

Talking to acquaintances, some have occasionally seen this mirage but it is very rarely observed — even more rarely at roundabouts! — M. J. Petty, Crestland Close, Cowplain.

Lights flash across bay

Police today received several reports of UFOs seen over Port Phillip Bay.

The calls came from residents all around the bay about 3 a.m.

They reported seeing bright lights flashing through the sky.

Police referred the reports to the RAAF which then referred them to the Victorian UFO Research Society.

The president of the society, Ms Judy Magee, said the lights could have been anything.

"We get a lot of reports of things being seen over the bay, especially in summer when people are outside looking," she said.

"If anyone else saw anything we would like them to contact us."



A monster mash McCurtain 'Bigfoot' sightings a scream

By RON WOLFE
The Tulsa Tribune

Down near Idabel, where the Little River borders the Ouachita National Forest, where the woods are thick, where the wild things are — down there in the dark, people are reporting sightings of a large, smelly creature that seems to fit the description of the legendary Bigfoot.

Also known as Sasquatch, Yeti and the Noxie Monster, the existence of such a creature never has been confirmed, although people have reported seeing it in wooded areas across the country, especially in the Pacific Northwest.

Now it is making noise in McCurtain County — and what a noise.

It screams in a way that Joe Atwood has trouble describing.

"It's just a real shrill scream," Atwood said. "It sounds kind of like a siren that's off-key."

Atwood said the sound is enough to scare his coon dogs out of the woods.

"Whatever this is, they don't want nothing to do with it," he said. And he said he agrees with the dogs' good sense.

Atwood, a 52-year-old timber cutter and longtime coon hunter from Bokhoma, tells of two occasions when he might have seen the giant, ape-like creature that scared his dogs back to the truck.

"I don't know what it is," he said. "Something unusual ... something that don't belong out there."

Atwood's account is one of several reported sightings in the

past six months of "something unusual" in McCurtain County, in far southeastern Oklahoma.

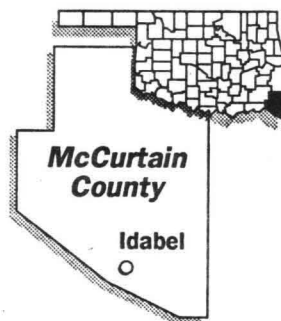
McCurtain County Deputy Sheriff Kenny McKee said "probably a half-dozen or more people" have reported seeing an animal that fits the general description of Bigfoot.

"I wouldn't know why they would lie about it, or want to start a rumor," McKee said.

"I was raised up in that area for 50 years," McKee said. In all that time, he said, he never saw a Bigfoot.

But the woods are deep enough to hide a mystery, and there are caves along the river. McKee said he is willing to concede that, "evidently, there is something down there, but I don't know what."

Atwood said the first time he



saw the creature was about five years ago, and the second time was about six months ago.

Both times, Atwood said, he was coon hunting at night, and he was able to shine a light on the animal that he saw from a distance of 50 to 75 yards before it lumbered away from him.

"He's a big animal, 7- or 8-foot tall ... dark-colored, heavy-made ... weighs 300 pounds or better," Atwood said. He said the stringy-haired an-

imal "smells pretty raunchy; he needs a bath real bad."

Atwood said he thought it was odd that the animal's eyes didn't seem to reflect light. And when he tried to find tracks in the daytime, he couldn't.

"Over the years, I've had people laugh at me 'cause I said I saw it," Atwood said.

Bigfoot stories and legends date at least to the early 1900s in Oklahoma. Even earlier stories abound in the Pacific Northwest, but no one has been able to prove what the Bigfoot really is. Missing link? Elusive, endangered wild animal? Nothing but a shaggy myth?

Dr. Grover Krantz, visiting professor of anthropology at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Ore., has been researching the Bigfoot phenomenon for 20 years.

People laugh at him, too. "That's a common reaction that people have," Krantz said. But to him, the study is "part of my field of human evolution."

"I don't have any real knowledge of the Oklahoma area," the anthropologist said, but the sightings in McCurtain County are similar to some reports from the mountainous, wooded states of Oregon and Washington.

"I'm satisfied that half the reports in my area are real," Krantz said. His evidence includes plaster casts of massive footprints he identifies as being those of a Bigfoot.

However, Idabel High School track coach Skippy Smith doesn't need that kind of evidence to be convinced.

Smith told of the morning in June when he went squirrel hunting a half mile into the woods.

"I thought all morning that I could feel something watching me," Smith said. And then, he began to hear the sounds of something big and strong on the move, something just out of sight.

"The sound of breaking limbs, shaking trees ..." Smith said.

Through a gap in the leafy cover near the ground, Smith said, he saw the hairy, reddish-brown legs of an animal that appeared to be walking upright.

"I got the heck out of there," he said. "And I haven't been back."

"I've got a reputation for being a real good hunter," he said. "For a long time, I didn't tell anybody (about the animal)."

When he did tell, "Everybody made fun of me, so I haven't said too much about it."

But he is beginning to feel vindicated. "Too many other people have seen it," Smith said. "A lot of coon hunters have been talking."

State Game Ranger Mike Virgin's job includes listening to that talk, although he has not been persuaded to believe it.

He recalls too many other times of "bears" that turned out to be hogs, and "mountain lions" that turned out to be dogs in the woods.

These woods have been full of stories about Bigfoot by one name or another "probably as long as people have been here," the ranger said. "The Indians — Choctaws — had stories about them."

"I'm in the woods all the time, and I haven't ever seen the track of one. I haven't ever seen one."

"Of course, that doesn't mean anything," Virgin said.

Bringing in evidence probably would mean shooting or trapping the animal, and Atwood said he has no intention of taking a shot at any 8-foot-tall creature, least of all with a .22-caliber squirrel gun.

"It seems to be that if you don't crowd him, he won't crowd you," Atwood said. And the hunter would just as soon keep it that way.

"If somebody was to shoot him and get him upset," Atwood said, "he might make it rough for everybody in the woods."



Sonar equipment from Muskegan, Mich., was used Sunday to document underwater structures in Rock Lake at Lake Mills. Scuba divers and other persons from

Wisconsin and Illinois joined together for the first of several excursions to examine the lake bottom and find unusual structures reported over the years. —(Daily Times photo)

'Pyramids' found in Rock Lake

By Margaret Krueger
of the Daily Times staff

LAKE MILLS — Plunging into the murky depths of Rock Lake has been an interesting and pleasant pastime for scuba diver Frank Joseph, but last Sunday his real reward came when he and others documented what they believe to be two man-made structures stuck in the lake bottom.

Aided by side scan sonar equipment and the recent unprecedented clarity of the lake which provided 15- to 20-foot visibility, divers were able to identify what they believe to be a large man-

made pyramid and also a smaller one nearby.

Joseph, a professional history writer from Olympia Fields, Ill., who has been searching for the illusive and long rumored pyramids for two years, said, "It's a tremendous find."

He said the pyramids, located in the middle of the lake toward the northwest end in 55 feet of water, "are in very ruinous condition and collapsed."

From the top, he noted the larger one "looks like a paved road going across the bottom. It looks like two straight lines with another

line going up the middle of it."

He said the larger pyramid "stands above the mud about 10 feet, is about 13 feet in width, and over 100 feet long. The peak is squashed and we could see just the top of it. It is settled in the dirt and I think it could be huge."

He is fairly sure the structure is not a natural part of the lake bottom. "It is not just stone, it is an artificial object. It is very uniform, with large stones at the bottom and smaller stones toward the top. Large sections of it look like plastered walls, as if the stones were

put together and plastered over."

He added, "Another pyramid was found about 10 feet away, off to the west. It is in far more ruinous condition, smaller and not as long or as wide, but also looked like it had the same plastered walls."

Small pieces of the "plastered walls" were taken out of the lake to be examined by experts to determine if they are man-made. Dr. James Scherz, a professor in civil and environmental engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and other experts will scrutinize the items for historical significance.

Scherz, a scuba diver who has been studying Rock Lake since 1983, said, "We are not prepared at this time to say if the objects are man-made or natural. We want to be sure and will make a decision later." He added, that the plaster-like material has been found before, but it has never been analyzed.

The group also found other items which they believe to be quite significant. "On top of the large pyramid were two strange objects. They looked like stone or bone, but were not. They could have been copper. One was near the north end, and one was half way up. One theory is that they could be alignment devices often

seen on land at Indian mounds around Wisconsin. "They looked like sighting devices to point this building in some direction," noted Joseph. Scuba diver Doug Gossage of Lansing, Mich., took a compass reading and noted the large pyramid was aligned directly to the north. Gossage also took video film of the findings. The "alignment objects" were photographed and returned to their original positions on the structure.

Craig Scott, president of Sea Search in Muskegan, Mich., who was hired to operate the sonar equipment, said, "The structures look very peculiar." In referring to the large pyramid, he said, "it looks unusual and does not fit into the surroundings and does not appear natural. It is long, runs north and south, and starts and stops abruptly."

He added, "We shot the whole bottom and most of it appeared to be of natural origin." His sonar equipment produces hard copy with lines on which comes out of the unit wet. He will analyze the data in the next couple of days and send it to Joseph, who funded one half of the excursion. Other expenses were paid by individual donations.

Scherz mapped an unusual structure called Bass Rock No. 1 in the lake

bottom in 1985 and said many other objects have been sighted, but never documented. "Mysterious objects have been sighted by people who can't find them again," he explained.

Joseph has been fascinated with what may be below Rock Lake ever since he read an article on Rock Lake in a magazine. "A friend and I flew over Rock Lake and saw unusual structures which have been photographed many times before. Then we decided to go for a dive and have been diving there for the past two years."

However, finding the objects underwater has proved more elusive than seeing the objects from the air. "I have dove over 20 times in that lake, and it is an extremely difficult place to dive because the visibility is extremely poor. Often you can't see your hand and the bottom of the lake is extremely hilly."

His quest for the Rock Lake pyramids took him to Loch Ness, Scotland, where he studied equipment used to look for the Loch Ness Monster. He then found Scott in Muskegan and recruited him in the search for the pyramids.

He and other individual groups have been studying data from Rock Lake for several years, but Sunday marked the first time individuals from

'Just a beaver in lake'

Victor Wong
Staff Reporter

A beaver, or not a beaver, that is the question. Unfortunately for Ken Chaplin and his now-famous video footage of the legendary Ogoopogo, a nine-member panel has ruled it probably is.

"After viewing the video we agreed instantaneously that it was not a mysterious creature," said Bob Lincoln, one of nine experts who examined the video shot this summer at Lake Okanagan.

Lincoln, the provincial wildlife branch section head for the Okanagan, yesterday said the shape of the head and the way the animal moved led the group to conclude that it could be "nothing unusual."

The panel included a trapper, a wildlife biologist, a fisheries head and a reptile specialist.

Chaplin, however, is not ready to close the case.

"It's hilarious because 80 to 90 per cent of the people who have looked at the video would not say that it is a beaver or an otter," said the former car salesman. "It's just going to be a matter of time before the experts get egg on their faces."



CHAPLIN

different search groups have gotten together with the use of sonar equipment.

"We don't claim to know everything," Joseph said. "The data must be analyzed by experts. Our attitude is one of genuine humility in the things we are finding. We are not damaging them in any way and they are tremendous finds."

Joseph hopes to eventually publish a book on the findings. "Since the mayor of Lake Mills and his brother saw these things at the turn of the century, there have been various sightings, accumulated reports, traditions, articles, and lots of other data about objects in the lake bottom and we are trying to document these things," he said. "It's our history and our heritage and we can't wait for someone else to come along and do it."

Probing the shallows

Holy sea serpent! Could Ogopogo and the Loch Ness monster be related? Are B.C. lakes teeming with creatures that science has yet to discover? B.C. cryptozoologists are convinced that our lakes are hiding them and they're out to prove it.

Stories by **ANDREW ROSS**
Staff Reporter

They call themselves cryptozoologists and they don't care if you snicker.

They fritter away their spare time delving into folklore in a bid to fathom the mysteries of B.C.'s fabled water monsters.

It's an amusing hobby, says Paul LeBlond, a UBC oceanography professor and unapologetic co-founder of the B.C. Cryptozoological Club.

"It's intellectually stimulating," LeBlond insists. "It's worth doing. It's also worth laughing at."

Cryptozoology, he says, is the study of "hidden animals" such as the Abominable Snowman and the Loch Ness Monster.

Monsters haunt as many as two dozen B.C. lakes, says Jim Clark, who's been trying to prove it for a decade.

Clark, 29, a Coquitlam researcher, recently founded the 20-member crypto club with LeBlond, 50. Clark's now writing what he hopes will be "the definitive book of B.C.'s inland-water monsters."

He says B.C. has "more hidden animals per capita, with the possible exception of Africa, than anywhere in the world."

Most are serpentine creatures — like Cadborosaurus (Caddie), the denizen of

the deep who purportedly pops up now and then off southern Vancouver Island.

Similar creatures have allegedly been sighted in Kootenay, Arrow, Harrison, Skaha, Osoyoos, Shuswap and 17 other B.C. lakes. The undisputed king of cryptids is Ogopogo, the legendary serpent of Okanagan Lake who put Kelowna on the tourist map.

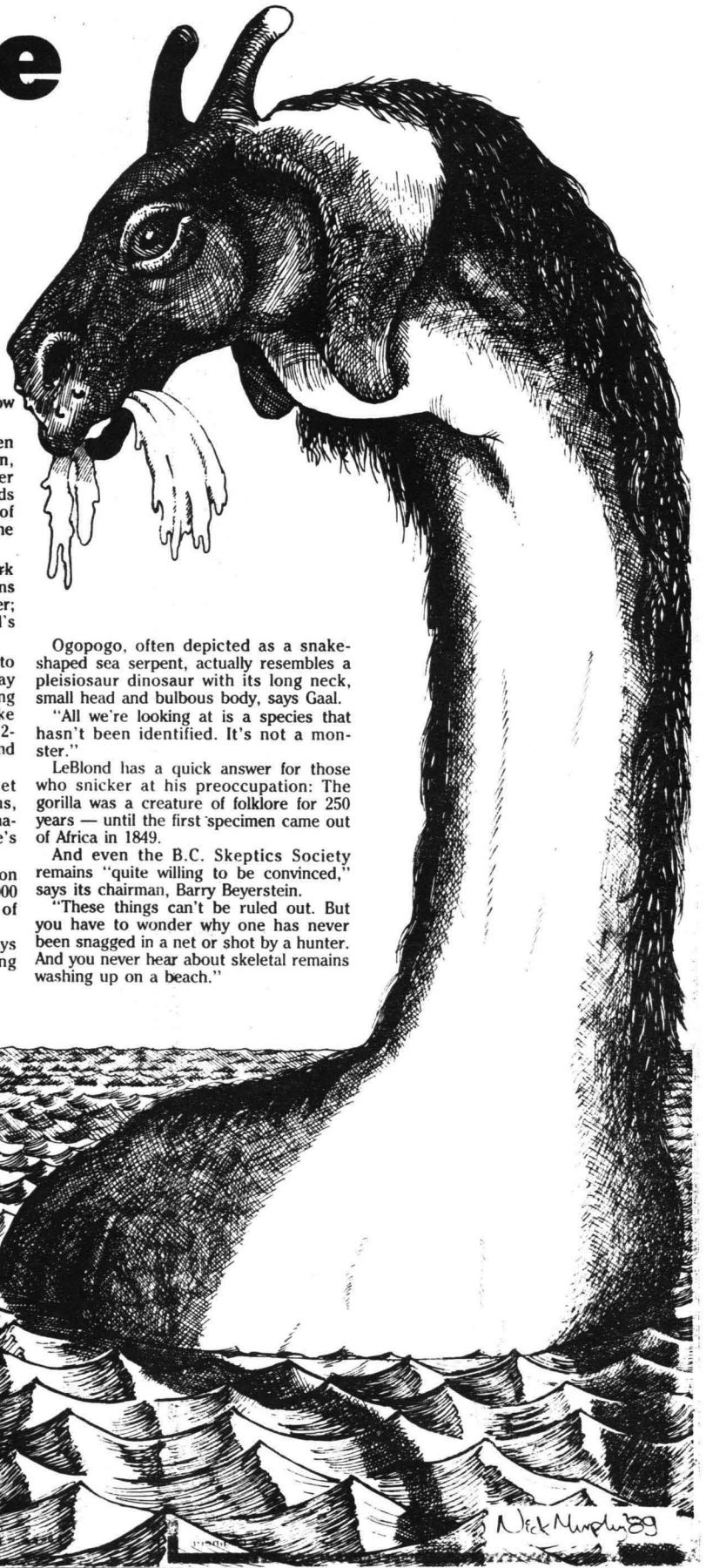
There are two varieties of serpent, Clark says: The Long Neck, with a pair of horns on its head and a face like a bull terrier; Merhorse, with eyes like a giant squid's and a seaweed mane.

John Kirk, 33, a member of the crypto club, isn't sure which he saw on May 19, 1987. The Vancouver man was standing on a slope overlooking Okanagan Lake when he spotted a creature with "a 12-foot-long neck, a tiny head at the tip and faint humps sticking out of the water."

Kirk, who'd been filming the sunset through a video camera telephoto lens, zoomed in. When the film was later analysed, experts estimated the creature's length at about 18 metres.

A cryptid matching Kirk's description has been sighted in the lake close to 1,000 times since 1860, says Arlene Gaal of Kelowna, author of a book on them.

It's even part of Indian folklore, says Gaal. "They called it Naitaka, meaning demon of the lake."



Ogopogo, often depicted as a snake-shaped sea serpent, actually resembles a pleisiosaur dinosaur with its long neck, small head and bulbous body, says Gaal.

"All we're looking at is a species that hasn't been identified. It's not a monster."

LeBlond has a quick answer for those who snicker at his preoccupation: The gorilla was a creature of folklore for 250 years — until the first specimen came out of Africa in 1849.

And even the B.C. Skeptics Society remains "quite willing to be convinced," says its chairman, Barry Beyerstein.

"These things can't be ruled out. But you have to wonder why one has never been snagged in a net or shot by a hunter. And you never hear about skeletal remains washing up on a beach."

IMAGINE THIS AND SHUT UP

For two years, Jim Thompson kept his secret.

"I figured no one would believe me anyhow," says the Richmond mechanical engineer. "But I don't just imagine things."

Thompson, 62, finally couldn't contain himself.

He broke down and told his wife and close friends what he'd seen on a pre-dawn kayak outing off Vancouver's Point Grey in early January 1984.

"I'd been mooching for salmon when I saw this creature in the water maybe 200 yards away," he told The Province. "It was coming from English Bay and moving toward Georgia Strait."

"It turned its head 180 degrees and watched me as it went by. It had a long neck and snout with two

little horns on top of the head.

"It was a very sleek animal with tan fur and white brisket. It had a serpentine body at least 20 feet long and seemed to have an undulating motion."

What Thompson saw, says UBC cryptozoologist Paul LeBlond, sounds similar to eye-witness accounts of a sea monster known as Cadborosaurus.

Caddie, as the monster is affectionately nicknamed, has been sighted at least 50 times since the early 1930s, says LeBlond — mostly near the Gulf Islands and south tip of Vancouver Island.

LeBlond describes the creature as "probably a mammal, with a long neck, bulky body, possibly flippers and either a horse-like or giraffe-like head."

rather than into — his much-disputed energy machine Friday.

Newman, a Lucedale resident, has fought unsuccessfully since 1979 to get the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to issue him a patent for the motor design.

About a dozen people attended Newman's demonstration, which saw the inventor measuring electrical flow and proving his machine's strength by using it to saw a small piece of corner molding.

His motor uses a variation of traditional electric motor design to capitalize on magnetic energy. New-

man claims that by increasing the amount of copper wire in the motor, the amount of electricity needed to run the motor is reduced.

In addition, he claims, the motor actually emits a greater amount of electricity than it consumes. Because of that, it is possible to create a self-sustaining motor that charges the batteries that power it, he said.

Friday's demonstration at Mobile's Airport Hilton was the result of a patent official's call for the machine to be tested with an ammeter.

Newman first measured the strength of the current needed to power a small toy motor. The small motor drew 90 milliamps from a single D-cell battery, the ammeter showed.

But when Newman connected the same instrument to his motor, which is powered by several 250-volt experimental Ray-O-Vac batteries, the ammeter needle showed a negative reading.

Newman said the reading proved his contention that his motor is pushing a higher level of electricity back to the batteries than is flowing from the batteries to the motor.

"I have an open challenge for anybody else in the world to bring a conventional motor, hook it to these ammeters and let me see them get even close to zero current — don't worry about going negative," he said. "They won't be able to do it."

CLARION-LEDGER/DAILY NEWS, Jackson, MS - June 3, 1989 CR: W. Lee/COUD-I

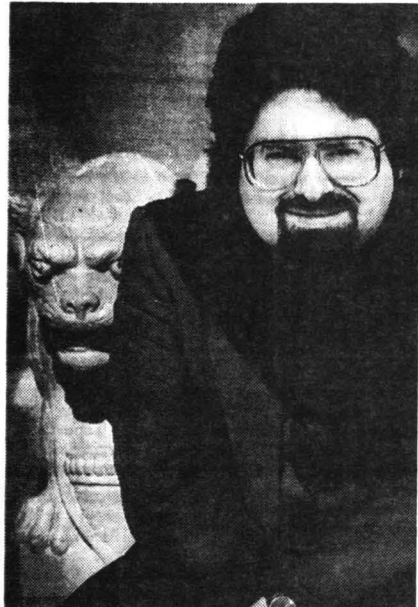
Newman says test proves his energy machine works

By **James Ricketts**
Clarion-Ledger Gulf Coast Bureau

MOBILE — As far as Joe Newman was concerned, the negative reading on the ammeter was proof positive his motor produces more energy than it consumes.

"I think any technician anywhere in the world that sees this demonstration is going to know that it is accurate," Newman said during a demonstration of his motor using a common device that measures the strength of electrical current.

Newman said the ammeter reading showed current flowing from —



Rockville merchant Mark Chorvinsky likes to think of himself as "the Renaissance Man of Strange."

The Goat Man of P.G. And Other Tales Put Maryland on the Map

By Sue Anne Pressley
Washington Post Staff Writer

Mark Chorvinsky knows all about the monsters of Maryland: the Clinton Cat, the Spectral Dogs, the Goat Man of Prince George's County.

On the Eastern Shore, the Egg People are said to roam the fields and chicken houses. In Frederick County, the Snarly Yow reportedly chases cars on dark country roads.

"I have a soft spot in my heart for the Maryland monsters," said Chorvinsky, 35, the owner of a Rockville costume and magic shop. "A good monster can really put a state on the map."

As editor of Strange magazine and operator of the "Strange Hotline," Chorvinsky talks often about "investigations" and "sightings" and "entities." He got his start at age 7 as a magician at birthday parties. His short film, "Strange Tangents," has been screened at the Cannes Film Festival, and every year around Halloween, he releases a list of the 10 strangest events of the preceding year. He usually

dresses completely in black and likes to think of himself as "the Renaissance Man of Strange."

"I chose the word 'strange' very consciously," Chorvinsky said. "For instance, I could have called my magazine the Journal of Anomalistics, of Scientific Anomalies. If I had done that, then I could call up the Smithsonian any time and say, 'This is Mark Chorvinsky calling from the Journal of Anomalistics. Can you confirm this frog fall in Gloucester, England?' Now I'm from Strange Magazine and I'm lucky if I get the time of day."

"But I decided not to be pretentious about it. Let's call a spade a spade—this stuff is really strange."

Of course, that acknowledgment doesn't mean Chorvinsky believes everything he hears. He sees himself as part investigator, part collector, part folklorist.

"I'm an extreme skeptic," he said, "but I'm also extremely open-minded. The definition of skepticism is reserving judgment, getting all the info before coming to a decision, and that's what I try to do. When it's clear it's a hoax, I'll brand it a hoax. The Selbyville Swamp Monster is a good example of that—I didn't mind saying it was a man dressed up in a monster suit."

"But I do not set out to debunk," he said. "I set out to discover the truth."

That said, Chorvinsky's assessment of Maryland monsters includes both cases he has researched and suggestions of things that he just finds to be fun—all slated to end up in his "Field Guide to Maryland Monsters." For example:

■ **The Goat Man of Prince George's County.** Half man, half goat, this creature reportedly haunts the tree-shrouded lovers' lane area of Fletchertown Road in Bowie. Teenage couples look up from their musings to find the Goat Man spying on them. Sightings date to the late 1960s, and theories include that the Goat Man is simply a reclusive man out for a walk or an animal researcher who got a little too close to his subjects. (Chorvinsky: "I can't comment until I'm finished with my investigation.")

■ **The Clinton Cat.** Somewhat of a sensation last year in Prince George's County, the Clinton Cat is allegedly a cougar-like beast seen walking along country roads, once leaving a dead peacock in his trail. Some dissenters insist the cat was really a large dog; Chorvinsky said he has no conclusions about the case.

■ **The Spectral Dogs,** also known as The Phantom Dogs. In 1976, Chorvinsky said, a Frederick County couple reported that their car struck a large blue-black canine with glowing eyes, but when they stopped to investigate, there was no blood, no dog, nothing at all. The Snarly Yow happens to be a particular spectral dog, allegedly able to pass through fences like a ghost. (Chorvinsky: "There is so much evidence about these dogs that someone with an open mind might tend to conclude that there are sometimes creatures out there that lead a phantom-like existence.")

■ **The Snallygaster,** the only Maryland monster to find its way into the Webster's Third International Dictionary as a generic monster term. A dragon-like beast, the Snallygaster reportedly flew over the Frederick Valley in 1909 and again briefly in 1932, occasionally swooping down and terrorizing residents. (Chorvinsky: "The Snallygaster was largely a creation of Maryland newspaper editors." In 1932, they reported that the beast had died after falling into a vat of moonshine.)

■ **Chessie,** the sea serpent that may or may not live in the Chesapeake Bay. A world-class monster, according to Chorvinsky, Chessie "has not nearly been given its due." Sightings of some type of sea monster in the bay back to the 1700s, Chorvinsky said, but he is willing to consider that frightened sailors have simply misidentified stragrays or leather-backed turtles or large snakes.

Then again, maybe not.

Chorvinsky traces his fascination with such subjects to a book that he happened upon in fourth grade, "Stranger Than Science," by Frank Edwards. Then "a little science freak" at his Silver Spring school, Chorvinsky was captivated by the account of the Flatwoods Monster, which allegedly appeared in 1954 on a hilltop in West Virginia after a meteorite fell to earth.

"I remember it absolutely sent a chill down my spine," Chorvinsky said. "For the first time, I had exposure to something that claimed to be real and documented, but it was something not taught in school, something my parents never talked about. Was there this taboo field of strange things? What else was out there?"

Already, Chorvinsky had taken a dip into the mystical world by becoming a magician at the age of 7. For the next 15 years, he and his younger brother, Ted, were a fixture at local birthday parties, appearing on "practically every street in Montgomery County," Mark Chorvinsky said. They were billed as Mark the Magician and Ted the Magic Clown, and their earnings put the two of them through the University of Maryland.

Four years ago, while researching a screenplay called "Creatures of Darkness," Chorvinsky became reacquainted with his favorite monsters. Soon after, he began publishing Strange, a twice-yearly magazine that uses heavily referenced articles from about 20 contributors and reaches several thousand subscribers. Recent issues have included articles on "Bigfoot," "UFOs, Ghosts and Time-Slips," and "Life From Meteorites and Comets."

With his pay-to-listen "Strange Hotline," which premiered in August, Chorvinsky figures he took another step in introducing the strange world to the public imagination. The hotline allows callers not only to listen to stories of the inexplicable, but also to contribute their own. Recently, an Arizona woman reported that she bought a giant cactus as a house plant, noticed it moving, and fled just as it exploded swarms of scorpions into her living room.

But despite all the strange stories he has heard, Chorvinsky said he has never had an extraordinary experience. Nor does he get particularly frightened at the thought of werewolves in Frederick or white hairy creatures on Carroll County's Rattlesnake Hill.

With certain conditions, of course.

"Knowing what I know," he said, "I tend to avoid the deep woods after dark."

Magazine's 1989 '10 Strangest' List

- 1—**Russian Alien "Invasion":** Huge three-eyed aliens landed in the Soviet Union in pink banana ship, abducted a teenager and left elephant-like footprints, Tass reported. (Sources: New York Times, The Washington Post)
- 2—**Giant Greek Fog-Man:** Scientists labeled as unexplained the finding of two 3-foot-long human-like footprints in the yard of the grandmother of an 11-year-old girl in Northern Greece. The girl said she had seen a 25-foot-tall, deformed man appear to her in a cloud, then disappear with a bang. (Sources: NEA newspaper, newspaper and TV reports in Greece)
- 3—**Crop Field Circles:** More than 600 neat, circular depressions up to 100 feet in diameter have been found in crop fields in southern England since 1980. Queen Elizabeth has expressed her concern about the phenomenon—linked to whirlwinds, strange vortices, UFOs—to Margaret Thatcher. (Source: Wall Street Journal)
- 4—**Year of the Lake Monsters Ogopogo and Nahuelito:** Two lake monsters were videotaped last year, both in localities with long histories of such sightings: Okanagan lake in British Columbia and Patagonia. (Sources: Time Magazine, Northwest Living)
- 5—**Cloud of Cobwebs:** A trawler crew reported to British authorities that their boat was covered with a sticky white cobweb, and a "candy-floss" cloud covered an area of more than 30 square miles the same evening in Dorset, England. (Source: London Daily Mirror)
- 6—**Chess With the Dead:** Soviet emigre chess star Viktor Korchnoi—a believer in life after death—played a game of chess with long-dead Hungarian chess master Geza Maroczy through a Hungarian medium. At the time of the game, Korchnoi was competing against 17 live opponents at a tournament in Iceland. (Sources: St. Louis Post-Dispatch and Detroit Free Press)
- 7—**Giant Toad Invasion:** Brisbane, Australia, is combating a plague of giant cane toads, which grow to the size of plates and can asphyxiate dogs with the liquid they squirt. The toads were introduced to Australia in 1935 to fight a plague of beetles. (Source: Cleveland Plain Dealer)
- 8—**Marfa Lights on Video:** Professors from Waseda University in Tokyo videotaped a one-second image of the eerie Marfa lights. They theorized that the lights are a form of "ball lightning." (Source: Houston Chronicle)
- 9—**Fyffe UFO Flap:** Two police officers in Fyffe, Ala., confirmed the sighting of an immense, triangular-shaped UFO. The reports drew 4,000 visitors to the small town. (Sources: The Montgomery Advertiser, The Clarion-Ledger/Jackson Daily News, Mobile Press Register, The Commercial Appeal)
- 10—**"Hard to Believe" Award:** The revelation that strawberry ice cream is the flavor of choice among alien beings. (Source: TV broadcast featuring Mike Farrell (formerly of "M*A*S*H") called "UFO Cover Up? Live")

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Nov. 5, 1989

Southern mysteries explored

Falling bats, beef among phenomena

GREAT SOUTHERN MYSTERIES by E. Randall Floyd; Augsburg House; 180 pages; \$16.95.

By Amy L. Wilson
Gazette Staff

The following article about strange things falling from the sky appeared in the Sept. 8 Arkansas Gazette. Apparently, this kind of incident has been happening all over the country for years:

"FORT WORTH, Texas — Hundreds of bats descended on downtown in daylight, many dying on streets and sidewalks, and officials are not sure why.

"Jeff Derosa of the Humane Society of North Texas found 100 more bats on a sidewalk Wednesday and said at least 1,000 were hanging from the eaves of a building."

What caused bats to descend on Fort Worth? How did the public react? Had such a thing happened before?

These are the kinds of questions an author such as E. Randall Floyd would ask, and he has, by writing a compelling collection of stories recounting mysteries in the Deep South. It should be a big seller.

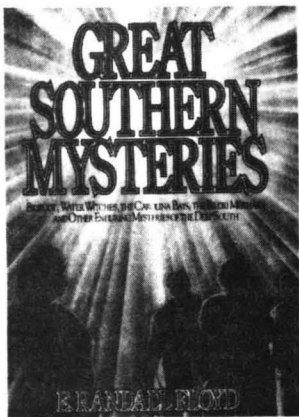
In the chapter entitled "Gifts from the Sky," Floyd leads with the first documented "skyfall" in the United States:

It was March 3, 1876, in Bath County, Kentucky, when pleasant-tasting meat plummeted down onto the ... home of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Crouch. The next year in Memphis, a "rain of snakes" fell on the city. In 1886 in Charleston, S.C., warm stones fell from the sky.

What causes these occurrences? What did newspapers say? What's happened in recent history?

Floyd raises these questions while informing the reader, and he does it concisely. Obviously, he is putting his journalistic talents to work.

A teacher of journalism at Augusta College and the University of South Carolina at Aiken, Floyd was once a foreign correspondent for United Press International. His style reflects that of a professional trained to pick through the material available on a subject and pre-



sent the most interesting bits of information in the most succinct and entertaining fashion.

Thirty baffling stories are included. Floyd discusses the myth of Atlantis:

To add to the lingering mystery of Atlantis, Edgar Cayce, the famous "sleeping prophet" of Virginia Beach, Virginia, in 1945 predicted that "in 1968 or 1969" a portion of Atlantis would rise from the sea off the Coast of Florida.

In 1968, an underwater structure was discovered off the Florida Coast — a structure exhibiting

eroded marble, stone columns, a mysterious roadway. Really, it was!

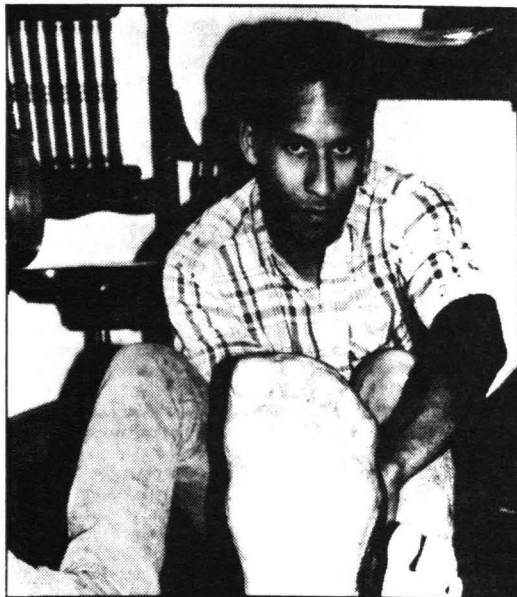
Then there's the Surrency ghost that haunted the hotel-home of the Allen Surrency family in southern Georgia in the late 1870s, a tale that will bring to mind scary films based on stories by writers such as Stephen King.

Or the chapter titled "Thou Shalt Take Up the Serpent," where Arkansas turns up on page 137 in a discourse on the history of snake-handling, and "The Devil's Brother Blackbeard, Scourge of the Spanish Main," in which we learn of Blackbeard's "strange relationship" with the governor of North Carolina.

And was the quiet North Carolina schoolteacher Peter Stuart Ney, who died in 1846 and is buried in Rowan County, really a soldier under Napoleon during the French Revolution? He said he was often enough, but was it ever proven?

A benefit of Floyd's book is that he is not concerned about proving or disproving anything. His aim is to entertain and educate.

Floyd has taken material that could have been dry and boring and made it into an enthralling collection of tales and mysteries focusing on the South — tales and mysteries that are an integral part of the heritage of all Southerners.



Danny Perez compares his foot to plaster cast of a footprint found in Northern California in 1958.

Perez seeks Bigfoot proof

By Arnold Adler
Staff Writer

NORWALK—Is there a race of large, ape-like creatures who populate wooded area but have remained elusive for hundreds of years?

Danny Perez, 26, a life-long resident of Norwalk, thinks there might be. But the real challenge is to find evidence to either prove or disprove the legend of "Sasquatch," also known as "Bigfoot," says Perez.

"I don't like speculation, I want facts," says Perez, who describes his interest in investigating the "Bigfoot" legend as "a pursuit, not a hobby."

"My hobbies are reading, photography, running and cooking," he adds.

"I'm a union electrician on construction jobs, but I just do that to support my (Big Foot) career."

That career includes fre-

“
I don't like
speculation. I want

facts

Danny Perez, Bigfoot
seeker

quent trips to Northern California, the Lake Tahoe area and other wooded locations to investigate reported sightings of Bigfoot, the publishing in 1986 of a reference list of fellow Bigfoot seekers and in 1988 of a bibliography of publications on the creature.

In the future he would like devote full time to the job of studying data and corresponding with those who say they have seen the creature.

In preparation for that time he has established the

"Center for Bigfoot Studies" at his home. Currently it's a one man operation, but Perez hopes to eventually have a staff.

Last June he was invited to speak at the Eighth Annual Membership Meeting of the International Society of Cryptozoology, hosted by the Anthropology Department at Washington State University, Pullman, Wash.

He also had the chance to compare notes with fellow researchers from elsewhere in the United States, Canada, Switzerland and the Soviet Union.

"If these things exist, I consider them to be animals, but with extreme natural intelligence in their environment. Studies indicate they have remained elusive and tried to cover their tracks by walking in places where they would leave no footprints."

he said.

Perez says he leans to the philosophy that Bigfoot exists, primarily from physical evidence such as large human-like footprints found in areas of reported sightings.

A plaster cast of a footprint found in Northern California in 1958 is about 15 inches long and indicates a seven to 10-foot tall creature possibly weighing several tons.

He said the cast shows two balls, one above the other, on the inside of the foot, indicating that it bears a heavy weight.

Noting that gorillas don't eat meat, Perez said fruits and forest vegetation could sustain a large animal, but added there have been reports of a Sasquatch carrying off calves or smaller farm animals.

Perez attended Cresson Elementary School and was graduated from Santa Fe High.

He became interested in Bigfoot about age 9 when his father took him, his brother and sister to see a movie about a Bigfoot-like creature in Arkansas, called "The Legend of Boggy Swamp."

"It captivated me," he recalled of the movie.

Perez realizes that regardless how many sightings are reported and footprints cast, actual proof of the existence of a Sasquatch won't come until one is captured.

"It would be ideal to capture one alive," says Perez, but he believes the first one captured will be dead, shot by someone, possibly a hunter, who happened to be carrying a gun when he came upon the creature.

"There is no law now against shooting a Sasquatch because most people don't believe they exist. After their existence is proven there probably will be laws to preserve the species," Perez said.

"In fact there might also be laws against cutting trees to preserve their natural habitat.

Ogopogo video draws media giants

By MOIRA FARROW

Canadian and U.S. media giants are getting involved in a high-stakes bidding game with Ogopogo as the prize, according to the man who claims to have filmed a mysterious creature in Okanagan Lake.

Ken Chaplin, the former Salmon Arm car salesman who has a video of what he says is a real-life lake monster, was flown to Vancouver Thursday by the Fox Television program, A Current Affair, for preliminary talks with field producer Wayne Darwen.

Darwen bought three still photos

taken from Chaplin's video for \$1,350.

Chaplin, 43, says he saw the creature on five days in July and his video covers four of the sightings with the creature on film for three minutes and 43 seconds.

He said in a telephone interview from Kelowna today that Darwen has returned to New York to discuss possible purchase of the video, for which Chaplin is asking at least \$100,000.

"The National Enquirer is arriving here today from Florida and NBC's Unsolved Mysteries are also

having a meeting about it," he said. "I'm overwhelmed but happy about it all."

Chaplin said he expects soon to have results from the National Geographic Society, which obtained a copy of the video for enhancement. And he has also made a joint agreement with the Globe and Mail and CBC's The Journal for enhancement of the video.

Chaplin said much of the interest was heightened this week as a result of a story in the U.S. edition of Time magazine.

MONSTERS

Tales of the alien kind

OVER the years, New Zealand has been plagued by hideous monsters — and while none have enjoyed the apparent longevity of Scotland's Nessie — they have all achieved notoriety in one form or another.

The recent appearance of three green monkey-like aliens at Wairakei golfcourse (as reported exclusively by Sunday News last week) is the latest chapter in the log of strange creatures' visits Downunder.

Strange beings — be they of a prehistoric, mutant or extraterrestrial kind — hold a special fascination for Kiwis. Every few years, a new unexplained being or object is sighted here — often in the least likely of places.

Almost anything about the unexplained and the bizarre is a "seller" here. Science fiction TV programmes rate well here, and the music industry has also done well (remember Split Enz' Dirty Creature?).

One of the more famous non-humanoids in New Zealand was the Great Hairy Moeau, sighted at Coromandel and Fiordland.

The first reported sightings of the great hairy man date back to the early 1920s when there was speculation that the half-man half-ape.

By PETER
RICHARDSON

colloquially known as the New Zealand yeti, was an abandoned sailor who'd gone bush.

Since those first tentative sightings, regular reports of the great Kiwi yeti have continued to flow in... the latest in January this year when



noted Aussie scientist Rex Gilroy decided to launch his own expedition to find the beast.

Previous expeditions by scientists have failed to find the beast, but like the famous Yeti in the Himalayas, people are forever seeing footprints, and hairy things wandering through the mist.

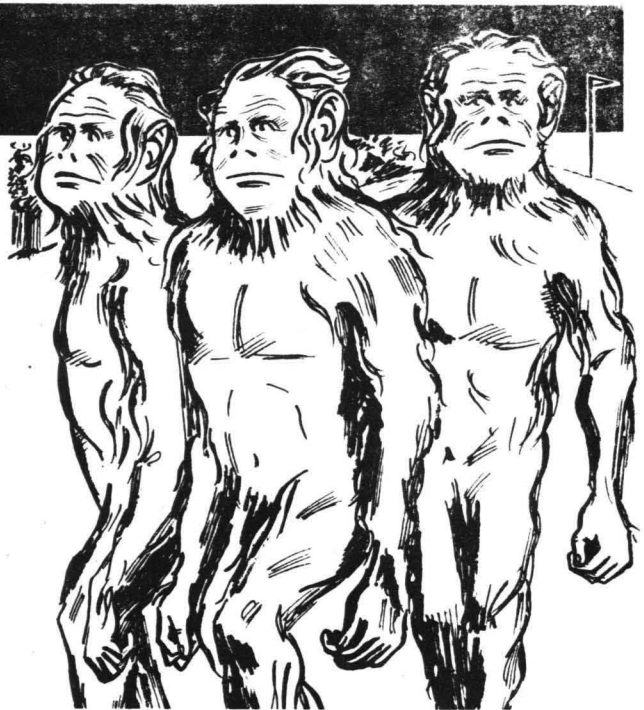
Then was the tale of the Lake Pupuke Monster.

Believed to have been started by an Auckland radio station, the lake monster (like so many others) has never been photographed.

But eye witnesses gave horrific accounts of monsters with multiple humps appearing on the picturesque North Shore lake.

It came as little surprise that artists' impressions of the Pupuke fiend bore a striking resemblance to the famed Nessie of the Scottish highland loch!

The stories of the Lake



AN identikit of the latest sightings — green alien apemen at Wairakei.

Pupuke monster remind one of the Maori legends of a taniwha, a sea monster which readily grabbed its prey whenever they turned their back on the sea.

The taniwha was but one of many creatures written into New Zealand history via Maori folklore.

Indeed, even the trio of greenies seen at Wairakei this month have been labelled Mountain fairies by some Taupo Maori.

But no good monster story is complete without a lashing of UFO sightings.

Try these for size:
● April 27, 1980 — Shock UFO sighting turns fishing trip into horror night for four teens.
● March 25, 1980 — A

father and daughter take the unusual step of advertising for aliens through the personal columns. Their ad offered: "To whom it may concern. Father and daughter wish to make contact with beings

from other planets. We are your friends." Thank goodness they added that last sentence or we may have been invaded by now!

● Then this story from an Auckland daily newspaper in July, 1981 — "First it was green, then it changed to a gold and red colour. It had windows, and there was a fat, round man floating outside."

Obviously a well-fed martian.

The story was actually describing a UFO sighting over Temuka.

● And THAT story about the guard dog which was so scared of a UFO that he buzzed an Upper Hutt home that he fainted.

The story goes, according to press reports in July, 1980, that the dog was so scared it bolted under the house and refused to come out for several days.

● Finally, this classic was noted by a national weekly paper: The mystery of the Tapanui Flu has been solved — it was caused by UFOs which buzzed Downunder thousands of years ago.

Can't argue with that!

SUNDAY NEWS, Auckland, New Zealand — May 21, 1989 CR: R. Collings

SUNDAY EXPRESS, London,
England — Oct. 15, 1989

CR: G. Duplantier

Yeti breaks free after getting boot

AN abominable snowman captured by three Russians finally got away.

The men, working in the isolated community of Garatov in the province of Volga, captured the Yeti when it ventured on to an apple orchard.

They tied it up, bundled it into the boot of their car and sped to the nearest police station, according to Russian newspaper Pravda.

But when they re-opened the boot the Yeti had broken its bonds and escaped into the night.

"He was very ugly with large yellow teeth," said one of the men.