

# UFO

## NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

### U.F.O. NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

ROUTE 1 — BOX 220

PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 U.S.A.

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: LUCIUS FARISH

SEPTEMBER 1991

NUMBER 266

OBSERVER, Charlotte, NC - Aug. 10, 1991 CR: G. Fawcett

## Quirky circles

### UFOs? No, it's news copters checking out field's mystery

By ALLEN NORWOOD  
Staff Writer

Eli Springs Jr. was overwhelmed — and befuddled — by all the news media interest in the curious crop circles that appeared in his southeast Charlotte soybean field.

"What did we start?" he asked with a plaintive chuckle.

His phone started ringing early Friday, when a story in The Observer about the circles hit the streets. There were too many calls to count, he said. The messages filled three pages in a legal pad.

Television station helicopters arrived.

All three Charlotte network affiliates sent crews to Springs' house — and a Durham TV station sent a helicopter, too.

He went up in the helicopter from WSOC-TV (channel 9) — where he spotted two spots he hadn't seen before.

"The circles are ruined now, though," he said. "The helicopters hovering over the top of them, everybody tromping around, just ruined them."

The Associated Press sent a reporter — who told Springs the story would be shipped all across



Eli Springs Jr.

the country. "All the way to California," Springs said, as if he couldn't believe that.

There were calls from radio reporters across the state.

Springs' daughter and son-in-law in Raleigh, Amy and Danny Houston, heard a Fayetteville radio account of the circles.

"They laughed. They told my wife, 'Lord, Mama, it's up here on the radio.'"

Springs discovered a half-dozen spots, ranging from 2 feet in diameter to more than 30 feet, Thursday morning. They dotted an 18-acre soybean and millet field, hidden by a thick stand of trees, near the intersection of Providence Road and N.C. 51.

Inside the spots, the foliage was pressed to the ground. Outside, the greenery was nearly waist-high and seemed untouched.

No tracks — of any sort — led to the spots.

A severe storm had raked the area Wednesday night. Springs believes the spots are weather- or wind-related, but National Weather Service and agricultural experts could offer no ready explanation for what caused them.

The spots were similar to those that appear in the English countryside near Stonehenge, which have prompted all sorts of explanations from believers in extraterrestrials and the occult.

Springs and his wife, Ricky, got those sorts of calls, too.

"One man said it was magnetic

forces underground," Ricky Springs said. "We were on a fault, and it was releasing forces when the bad storms came."

One woman got very emphatic, when Eli Springs told her he didn't believe in UFOs, which some say are responsible for crop circles.

"People enjoy believing what they believe," he said.



Ricky Springs

Eli and Ricky Springs said they weren't overwhelmed by crowds of the merely curious. The Observer story didn't contain a precise address — and they kept their gate locked.

They opened the gate for the news crews, which were gone by midafternoon Friday, when Springs' field was hit by another severe storm.

"We're going to close the gate again," Ricky Springs said.

"We're having some fun out of it," Eli Springs said. "We'll calm down — but I ain't ever gonna do this again. We won't find anything else for a while."

STAR, Kansas City, MO - Aug. 19, 1991 CR: V. White

## Doctor who wrote UFO book is suspended indefinitely

The Associated Press

TOPEKA — The Kansas Board of Healing Arts has turned a temporary suspension into an indefinite one for Stephan Corder, a former family physician who has refused to submit to mental evaluation following publication of his 1989 book on unidentified flying objects.

His license was suspended in March 1989 and board members ordered him to submit to a mental examination because they thought

his beliefs about UFOs could affect his ability as a doctor.

The board made the suspension indefinite Saturday because of Corder's refusal to get a mental exam. The former Ottawa, Kan., physician has lost every battle in his effort to win back his license.

In May, a retired judge denied Corder's administrative appeal by ruling in favor of the board on all issues in the dispute.

Corder has filed a lawsuit against the board in Shawnee County District Court.

CR: J. Fisher

CITIZEN-TIMES, Asheville, NC - Sept. 11, 1991

## N.C. farmer insists circles aren't hoax

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLOTTE — Eli Springs Jr. remains unimpressed.

The Charlotte farmer, who won overnight fame when he discovered mysterious crop circles in his soybean field last month, says the announcement that circles in England were a hoax doesn't change his mind about what happened in his fields.

When Springs, 60, discovered the circles in August in an 18-acre pasture near N.C. 51, he inadvertently set off a worldwide debate on what caused the flattened crops. UFO buffs claimed the circles were proof of flying saucers. Others blamed pranksters, and still others, like Springs, thought the circles were caused by eddies of wind moving across the field.

In England Monday, two men claimed that the crop circles that have become a summer diversion across southern England were pranks they thought up while sitting in a pub.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - Aug. 26, 1991

A Voices letter from  
ORAN HEATH  
Van Buren

A recent "20/20" broadcast showed evidence of visitation to fields in England by unknown producers of hieroglyphics, including circles on which the vegetation had been laid almost flat on the ground without noticeable injury.

Inasmuch as this has introduced some very wild speculation, I feel constrained to clear up the mystery. I wouldn't hazard a guess as to the hieroglyphics, but those circles? Harken unto me.

Facts: Certain rapidly spinning stars show exceedingly strong magnetic fields. Even the earth, slowly as it turns, has such a field, albeit a very weak one.

Inasmuch as the only known field in which both the earth and that distant star is rapidly rotating is gravitational, however weak, it should not strain credulity to accept the notion that a rapidly rotating body in an induced strong magnetic field might affect gravitation. It should not come as a surprise that things which tend to interact are interactive.

Wherefore, as the unfamous philosopher of Hynes Street, I lay claim (if the field has not been previously occupied) to the solution of the means by which a flying saucer seems to take on an anti-gravity power.

Consider this: Numerous vehicles have been stalled out while under a UFO, indicating that the strength of the magnetic field, even from a considerable distance, is sufficient to drown out the ignition system.

Also, most sightings of UFOs indicate an observed spinning action of the UFO's exterior. Further, the bent-down formation of the vegetation in the circles have been revolving at a terrific speed, as though a UFO of the type envisioned herein has landed and taken off.

Meanwhile, the ground beneath the circle appears to have been cooked by some unknown means.

Can you suggest anything more logical for this than a strong magnetic field?

Just remember, you saw it here first. (I hope.)

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Aug. 11, 1991

## Traveling UFO territory

UFOs in the 1980s: The UFO Encyclopedia, Volume I by Jerome Clark; Apogee Books; 234 pages; \$65.

By Jeff Williams  
Gazette Staff

Flashing lights and whirring noises from night skies have been explained as weather balloons, experimental aircraft and gases escaping from deep in the Earth. But Jerome Clark, famous in the field of unidentified flying object research, believes we're being buzzed by beings from other worlds.

Clark's "UFOs in the 1980s" is the first of a three-volume set of UFO info. Volume II will be called "The Coming of the Saucers."

Plenty of grocery store paperbacks packed with "authentic" UFO photos and "documented" sightings have been sold, especially since the 1950s.

Clark doesn't fall in that category. There are no fuzzy photos of saucers dangling from power lines or kids dressed in aluminum foil and illuminated by auto headlights. There are, in fact, no photos in Clark's book. The entries in "UFOs in the 1980s" cover UFO organizations, publications, personalities and sightings, plus "seven topics of

continuing interest," according to the publisher. These topics are abduction phenomena, contactees, crashes of UFOs, earthlights and tectonic strain theory, extraterrestrial biological entities, fantasy prone personality hypothesis and psychosocial hypothesis.

People such as Richard Foster Haines are included. Haines has analyzed photos of UFOs and investigated abductions and UFO sightings by pilots.

According to Haines, "The UFO phenomenon represents one of the truly important challenges of our times and holds promise for numerous advancements in science, technology, the social sciences and religion. The preponderance of evidence seems to point toward an advanced intelligence source. Where this intelligence originates, however, is not yet clear."

Two of the topics — fantasy prone personality hypothesis and psychosocial hypothesis — build cases around the idea that the human mind is responsible for sightings and even abductions.

Carl Jung, the Swiss psychotherapist and philosopher, was the first to address the idea that society and human nature were to blame for

reports of lights in the skies. His "Flying Saucers: A Modern Myth of Things Seen in the Skies" appeared in 1958. He tied objects in the sky to society and even religion.

"If the round shining objects that appear in the sky be regarded as visions, we can hardly avoid interpreting them as archetypal images. They would then be involuntary, automatic projections based on instinct, and as little as any other psychic manifestations and symbols can they be dismissed as meaningless and merely fortuitous. ... It boils down to nothing less than this: that either psychic projections throw back a radar echo, or else the appearance of real objects affords an opportunity for mythological projections."

Though this volume obviously is directed at serious followers of UFO news, it seems someone with a casual interest would be better served. The title suggests the book is confined to the '80s, but much of the material is from the early days of UFO research. This volume supplies a solid foundation for those who want to know more, or for those who read it and decide UFOs exist only in the minds of lunatics.

# Local man set to tell world his UFO tale

By Don Lehman  
Staff Writer

It was a day that Queensbury native Larry Warren can't help but remember vividly.

He had only been at Bentwaters Air Force Base for 18 days. Having just graduated from Queensbury High School in June of 1980, Warren was a somewhat green security officer for the U.S. Air Force, stationed at the NATO base on the eastern tip of Great Britain.

He remembers that everything was just as it should be. His first night on duty — December 28, 1980 to be exact — he was taken to his post, at the far end of a runway. With the Cold War at its coldest and tensions high in Poland due to Solidarity, all personnel were on alert.

That's when Warren says it happened. And he admits he hasn't been the same since.

He says he noticed signs something was up just hours into his daily shift, which ran from midnight to 8 a.m. The first thing he saw was a herd of deer, running in panic across a runway.

Then, he says, he could see strange lights darting in the sky miles away, over Bentwaters' sister base, Woodbridge.

"I just got this very strange feeling. Something was wrong," he says.

Within minutes he would find out what.

His flight commander radioed him, and told him he was now off duty. Minutes later a truck came and picked him up. He wasn't told what was going on, or where he was being taken.

Passing through traffic lined up all around the base, the truck sped towards the spot where he — and apparently others — had seen the lights.

Other officers in the truck joked about where they could be going.

"That was the last time we'd laugh that night," Warren recalls.

In a field in the distance the soldiers could see bright lights. They departed the vehicle, and dodging fellow airmen, were escorted out towards the light.

What they saw when they got there, Warren says, boggles the mind.

A glowing mist hung over the field. Then, out of nowhere, came a bright red light. It hovered over the mist, Warren says. A brilliant explosion came from the now-hovering light. Down descended what Warren describes as an "arrow-shaped machine."

While the craft approached, the officers noticed their motions seemed to be half-speed.

"I felt no heat, no sensations, no nothing, except 'I'm in a dream world,'" he remembers. "It was all very dream-like and surreal."

Three beings emerged from the machine, which was now on the ground. They stood face to face with the base commander, who had just arrived at the field.

"I couldn't really see any hands or feet," Warren says. "My mind was saying 'Oh, there are three kids here.'"

After an almost an hour of the beings standing face to face with the base commanders, he and a fellow officer left the scene, Warren says.

Larry Warren doesn't expect people to simply believe him when he tells of his experience on December 28, 1980 at Bentwaters. That's why he is going to so much effort to prove it all.

If you bumped into Warren on, say, Glen Street, you may get that strange feeling that you've seen him before. Maybe you have. He's been on CNN and numerous other TV pro-

grams, telling of his extra-terrestrial experience.

Now living in South Glens Falls, Warren has spent roughly the last 10 years of his life trying to prove this incident in Britain happened, and that the governments involved are conducting a coverup. Part of these efforts include the co-authoring of a book, which, when finished in 1992, will almost irrefutably prove that the Bentwaters incident — along with other similar ones — occurred.

On Saturday Warren, along with his co-author Peter Robbins, spent the afternoon at the Community Room of Glens Falls National Bank, giving a mock presentation of their findings before several friends.

Gradually the Bentwaters/Woodbridge incident has been getting more publicity, partly due to Warren and Robbins, and partly because several hundred other airmen at the base witnessed the same event, Warren says, and are now beginning to come forward.

All along, Warren fought what he calls a cover-up. From the very day after he had his extra-terrestrial experience, he alleges the U.S. military and government has tried to hush him up.

...

The morning after the Bentwaters/Woodbridge incident, Warren said he expected to turn on the television and see newscasts of the event. Instead, nothing.

He tried to discuss what happened with other officers at breakfast the next morning. He says his flight commander promptly told him to keep quiet.

He then went directly to a pay phone, and tried to call his mother in Queensbury, to tell her what happened. The phone line mysteriously went dead, Warren says. A call to the operator revealed someone on the base had terminated the connection.

Later that day came a debriefing, he recalls. In no uncertain terms, the officers were informed they were to keep quiet. They saw nothing, they were told.

For the next six months, Warren tried to find ways to confirm the event. Talks with local residents revealed that UFO sightings were commonplace.

Finally, in May of 1981 — six months after the supposed sighting occurred — Warren decided he'd had enough. He was honorably discharged with several citations.

...

After his discharge, Warren says his efforts at proving the governmental cover-up intensified. He and Robbins have tried nearly every avenue to get acknowledgement of the December 1980 incident, and others like it.

Deputy Base Commander Lt. Col. Charles I. Halt issued a release years later confirming that a UFO had been reported by several off-duty security officers. No mention was made of the three beings in a stand-off with the base commander.

"This is a whitewashing job that had to be done," Warren explains.

For the book, to be titled "Left at East Gate," for the name of a road near the incident, the pair have compiled sworn statements from fellow servicemen present that evening. Requests for documents through the Freedom of Information Act have not been fruitful.

More compelling evidence, Warren says, comes from the medical records of the officers present at the sighting. The bright light caused eye problems for most everyone there, including himself, and most went through eye exams for retinal damage.

According to Robbins, the incident will be the subject of a special showing of the popular "Unsolved Mysteries," scheduled for television September 25.

Newspapers in England have done numerous pieces on the incident, citing residents as well as soldiers near the base. Reports of meteor showers the night of December 28, 1980 also graced newspaper pages.

"I'm not out to overthrow the U.S. Government," Warren states. "I do think we all have a right to know, though."

## AT ISSUE

Dennis Stacy is a science journalist and editor of the Mutual UFO Journal. His work has been featured in Omni, Smithsonian Air and Space, and the New Scientist magazine, a British publication.



YES

### Do you believe that UFOs exist?

Yes. And according to the most recent Gallup Poll on the subject, so do 250 million people. Nine percent of all adults (one in 11) believe they actually have seen one. Extrapolated worldwide, these are staggering numbers. In addition, 50 percent of those polled answered yes when asked if they thought there were people somewhat like themselves on other planets in the universe.

### What role should the federal government play in terms of research money?

I whole heartedly agree with those who think the great majority of the expected "peace dividend" should be spent on our pressing needs at home. On the other hand, tens of millions of government dollars are being funneled into the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI), and that project only looks for electromagnetic signals originating light-years away. By Supercollider standards, SETI's budget is miniscule. By civilian UFO organization standards, however, it's astronomical. If they can fund SETI, why shouldn't they allocate a paltry million dollars toward the search for extraterrestrial life-forms in our own backyard?

### What are other possible reasons for UFO sightings?

The assumption, of course, is that all UFOs represent spaceships from another planet. This patently is not the case. Many are misidentified natural and man-made phenomena, as skeptics allege. At the same time, we know UFOs are rarely a product of mass hysteria. The bottom line is that the "U" in UFO stands for "Unidentified". Stealth fighters and bombers both flew for several years before they became IFO - Identified Flying Objects. It may be that a previously unknown atmospheric phenomenon accounts for the majority of sightings. If this proves true, then the government's dollars will have advanced science and allayed a few uncertainties. If we find we are being visited by beings from another intelligent civilization, then I think we'll still consider our money well-spent. I know I'd pay to know.

# Do UFO's really exist?

Dr. Frank D. Drake, a professor of astronomy and astrophysics at University of California, Santa Cruz, is chairman of the Board of Physics and Astronomy, National Research Council.



NO

### Do you believe that UFOs exist?

No. Not as spacecraft from other intelligent civilizations. The dramatic claims that UFOs are the products of alien civilizations requires, as with all dramatic claims, dramatic evidence. Not only is there no dramatic evidence, but not a single piece of verifiable evidence in any form. To accept UFOs as the work of extraterrestrials, scientists requires that an artifact be produced: an object clearly not of terrestrial origin or more information from the purported aliens which we did not know before, but which can be proven true. An example would be a fact about a distant star system. Despite all the sightings, reported landings, reported contacts and abductions, not one artifact has been provided. Therefore, scientists cannot now accept the UFOs are a phenomenon caused by extraterrestrial civilizations.

### What role should the federal government play in terms of research money?

No funds should be provided to explore the possibility that UFOs are alien spacecraft. However, some real phenomena associated with UFOs are interesting in their own right and should be supported. Examples are studies of "ball lightning" and of distortions of human perception in unusual situations. For example about 10 percent of people who see a very bright meteorite "hear" simultaneously a sound described as "bacon frying". This misperception occurs with people all of origins and educational levels. The government should support the scientifically legitimate and promising programs of radio searches for signals from other civilizations.

### What are other possible reasons for UFO sightings?

Striking natural phenomena misperceived - for example, very bright meteorites called "bolides" or "fireballs." Striking human activities misperceived, such as serial refueling of military aircraft or, the actual basis of widespread spectacular reports, the launching of Soviet spacecraft near Leningrad. And hoaxes. There are far more hoaxes than people imagine, and some of them are extremely clever.

## Mystery Rings Prompt Telling of UFO Secret

DAILY OKLAHOMAN, Oklahoma City, OK - Aug. 16, 1991 CR: J. Waller

By Jim Etter  
Staff Writer

FARGO — The recent discovery of strange circles of dead growth in a northwestern Oklahoma farm field has prompted the report — kept secret until recently — of an unidentified flying object floating in the vicinity 34 years ago.

Joyce Wade, a member of the family that found the three circles of bare earth in their rye field two months ago, said Thursday the phenomenon made her decide to reveal her sighting of a low-flying object in 1957.

"I kept it secret for many, many years ... I was afraid people would laugh. I kept my mouth shut," Wade said.

She said she decided to describe her sighting of what apparently was a UFO after her parents, Floyd and Dorothy Steinert, and other family members discovered the circles during a Father's Day picnic near Fargo, west of Woodward.

Wade, whose husband, Steve, is the police chief in this Ellis County town of about 400, said that with the finding of the "magic circles," she gained "the intestinal fortitude to tell about what I saw 34 years ago, and that I still don't know what it was."

She recalled that, at about age 16, she had walked out of the family home in town to do the milking late one summer day when a large, silver object — without engines, wings, lights or sound — passed about 100 feet over her. She said it then turned and came back, "directly over my head."

Wade said her sister, Janet, arrived in time to glimpse the object after it had climbed higher in the sky.

"I said, 'Sis, I think I saw a flying saucer,'" she recalled. "And she said, 'That's a weather balloon,' and I said, 'No, it isn't.'"

Meanwhile, neither agricultural investiga-

tors nor family members can explain the circles — ranging from 10 to 30 feet across and now beginning to fade with the return of some vegetation — discovered at the June 16 picnic.

Ellis County extension director R.A. Devore said a soil test he made at the site failed to show what caused the "basically bare ground" within the circles.

Floyd Steinert, 70, said he was "just as much at a loss as anybody — I've never seen anything like this before, and I've been farming all my life."

He added: "Personally, I find it hard to think that they were caused by a UFO, but so many people have said they've seen them, I'd be the last one to call them liars."

Wade said that after she told her parents about her sighting, "they didn't laugh."



## UFOs aren't science fiction to desert man



RODRIGO PEÑA/The Desert Sun

To Joshua Tree resident Evert Bergamin, the unnatural straight-line cracks and box-shaped rocks of Joshua Tree National Monument represent a phenomenon just as intriguing as the reports about unidentified flying objects that have come from around the world during the past five

decades. Bergamin, who says he's a retired biomedical consultant who's done occasional work for NASA, the U.S. space agency, believes some saucers are unpiloted probes sent by an extraterrestrial civilization.

## Do UFOs exist? 'No question,' Joshua Tree man says

### Pilotless probes linked to UFOs

By JEFF DILLON  
The Desert Sun

JOSHUA TREE — Evert Bergamin doesn't claim to be an expert on unidentified flying objects, just a retired scientist. But he can draw a crowd here when he talks about UFOs. His bottom line: "They exist. There's no question about that. The question is what they are and where they come from."

At times, Bergamin, 67, mentions working for the U.S. space agency, but reveals little about his career. He says standard secrecy agreements forbid him to talk on-the-record about his involvement with medical sensors and life support systems for NASA and private companies.

Yet, his background and opinions have brought him invitations to talk publicly about UFO's, and his next appearance is planned in a few weeks.

At a recent gathering of Joshua Tree Rotary Club members, Bergamin noted a multitude of UFO reports each year and said there's reason to believe at least a few sightings actually involve unpiloted alien spacecraft.

"There are too many reliable witnesses — scientists, pilots — to dismiss them all," he said.

But Bergamin, still speaking with traces of his native Dutch accent, cautions: "There are also a lot of crackpots out there."

He said he doubts about most UFO reports, and that he has angered some UFO believers by investigating several sightings and declaring the evidence inconclusive.

"I haven't seen any tangible things that I can hold in my hands.

And I'm sure NASA hasn't got any, either," he said.

As for his personal experience, Bergamin recalls seeing only one UFO — in 1953 while riding a moped in Holland. People were looking into the sky, he said, and he glanced up himself.

He describes it as a metallic disc that hovered between two clouds, then moved through one, leaving a vapor trail behind. And that's why he believes it wasn't an optical illusion.

"Up 'til then, I was very skeptical that they existed," Bergamin said.

The issue came up from time to time after he and his wife, Tina, left Holland and became American citizens.

In the early 1970's, Bergamin said a NASA contractor hired him to work as a biomedical researcher in a study of dust brought back from the moon. The NASA public relations department couldn't confirm or deny his claims.

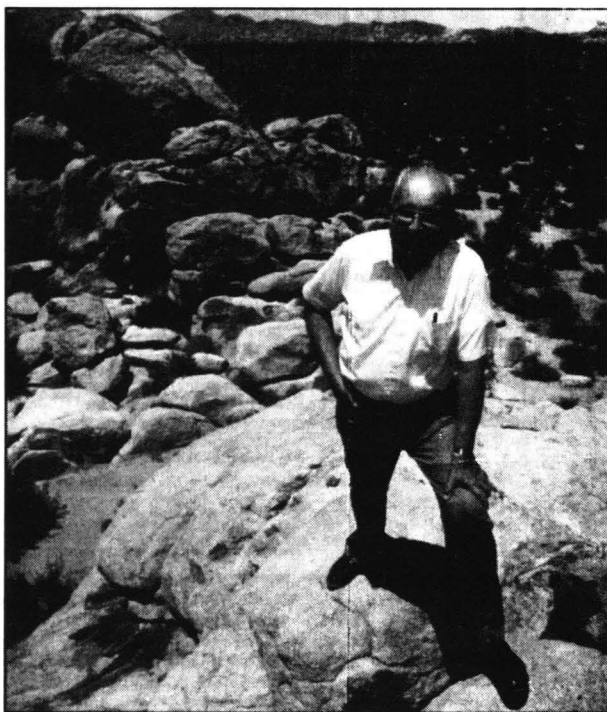
Over the years, Bergamin's interest led him to talk with others about the topic. He also built up a small library of UFO-related books and videotapes at his home.

Bergamin said he never intended to do any public speaking about UFOs, but was drawn into the subject at the Rotary Club while making a presentation about lunar dust.

One club member, Ted James, said Bergamin came back for a second appearance at a July 10 breakfast meeting and drew about 40 guests, twice the usual number.

The turnout amazed Bergamin. "I didn't realize the issue of extra-terrestrials had such an impact on people," he said.

"People were interested in what he has to say," said James. "And I guess because of his recent connec-



RODRIGO PEÑA/The Desert Sun

**FORCES BEYOND:** Evert Bergamin stands atop a cluster of rocks Monday in Joshua Tree National Monument. He says artificial forces may be responsible for the straight cracks in the rock formations. They usually are fragmented, he says.

tion to NASA they tended to give him more credibility. Whether he's right or not, I really couldn't say."

Bergamin said he realizes he's risking ridicule by talking about UFOs, and during an interview at Joshua Tree National Monument, he said he preferred to discuss gardening, photography and exploring

the park grounds.

But as he drove past rocks that looked like they might have come from another world, Bergamin turned to a photographer and chuckled. "The best thing that could happen would be to see a UFO," he said. "I hope you've got your camera ready."

## All sorts of stuff falling from skies

**W**ATER WATCHERS will be happy to learn that the rainfall measurement Tuesday at Lake Lagunitas reached 253 percent above normal for the fiscal year that started in July.

The remains of tropical storm Hilda off Baja California in Mexico gave a surge to the Marin Municipal Water District rain gauge, which has been deathly dry for most of the past five years.

The rainfall as of Thursday was .33 inches, or 300 percent of the normal .11 for the year to day (starting July 1).

Hilda, by the way, dumped more than just water on the North Bay. Marin was hit with a dozen lightning strikes, which, perhaps in combination with a meteor shower over the Bay Area this week, prompted some concern among local residents.

A Larkspur man, for example, called the newsroom with a UFO report, saying he saw six lights flying silently in unison across the western sky about 5:30 a.m. Wednesday. He declined to leave his name: "I don't want to be labeled as **no** crazy."

MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL, San Rafael, CA - Aug. 17, 1991

GAZETTE, Kalamazoo, MI  
Aug. 5, 1991

## Therapy helping residents who encounter UFOs

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PONTIAC — Therapy for people who have had encounters with aliens includes individual sessions and group meetings with others who have had similar experiences, a Michigan UFO expert said.

"Abductions can happen with the entire family. There was a case last fall where the whole family was taken. They had total recall," said Shirley Coyne, the state director of the Mutual UFO Network.

"People will start out thinking it is an angel or some type of good thing, but once they recall the abduction under hypnosis they say the experience was not pleasurable."

People who believe they've met aliens or spotted unidentified flying objects often have to deal with guilt and anger when people don't believe their stories, she said.

Alien encounters are common and generally lead to fear, Coyne said.

"Since 1986, there have been 100 cases of abduction that have been reported to us, but I'm sure there are many, many more," she told The Oakland Press in Sunday's editions. "These people are terrified."

People fail to report when they've met aliens because they fear being ridiculed or having additional encounters, Coyne said.

But Steve Gawracz, a 43-year-old businessman from Utica, said he did report his sighting to Michigan state police — who ignored it.

"That's the one point that stands out and that doesn't impress me," he said. "Officials aren't interested in this."

Gawracz said he saw a 350-foot-long boomerang-shaped wing with multicolored lights near Marlette in 1985.

Gawracz didn't meet any extra-terrestrial creatures, but Coyne and her husband, George, work with people who claim they've been abducted.

They work with a hypnotherapist and a psychiatrist, and stress confidentiality.

"They think it's going to happen again," she said. "It's really heart-wrenching to work with these people."

# Locals, tourists report UFO sightings

The UFO "sky watches" have continued in Gulf Breeze. The curious and the skeptical routinely meet at the foot of the south end of the Bay Bridge, at the South Shoreline park pier and sometimes near Ft. Pickens. It is not unusual to see tourists at these friendly gatherings who have traveled here from around the world in the hope of seeing the famous Gulf Breeze UFO. On Friday, July 27, 1991 it was just such a case.

Overlooking Gulf Breeze from a clear vantage point near Ft. Pickens, a group of fourteen local residents and a Japanese tourist witnessed the often seen object. At the same time a doctor at his house and three other witnesses at Wayside Park also saw the red object hovering over the Bob Sykes Bridge. Here are a few first person reports from the witnesses:

*My name is Hajime Ichinose. I am from Japan and am 30 years old. I was working as computer programmer. I came to Gulf Breeze on vacation and am lucky enough to have made a lot of friends here. I myself have been interested in UFOs for a long time.*

*We were on the beach at Ft. Pickens National Park about 8:30 p.m. on Friday evening July 26th. Some of us enjoyed a chat while I enjoyed myself walking on the sands. It was about 9:15 p.m. and I saw a red light in the sky, which was in the direction of Bob Sykes Bridge. At first I thought that it was just an airplane, but the funny thing was that it did not move or make any noise. All of a sudden it flashed white, changing its colors. At that time I did not know what to do, but then I realized that I had a videocamera which allowed me to take a picture of it. It gave us its appearance for one and half minutes. All of us saw the light and some of us photographed it. I am so happy to be one of its witnesses.*

**Hajime Ichinose**  
*Friday night my wife and myself along with a group of friends were sitting on the beach just inside the Ft. Pickens National Seashore at approximately 9:15 p.m. I noticed a small light in the northeast sky. As it became brighter it began to change from white light to red and then fully red as it grew larger after about 45 seconds. It became very bright then continued to pulse for*

*another 20 seconds before fading away.*

**Bland Pugh**  
*I was one of a dozen witnesses to a sighting of a very strange object in the Gulf Breeze skies, Friday night, July 27, 1991. While attending a beach gathering, just beyond the entrance to Fort Pickens, I saw a large red, round object hovering and pulsing over what I thought to be the Bob Sykes Bridge area. The object appeared at approximately 9:15 p.m. and after a few seconds it enlarged, became an all white brilliant circle, then turned red and faded after about a minute and a half.*

*One of my friends at the party, a retired Air Force officer said he had never seen anything like it.*

*My friends and I were waiting on the last guest to arrive, Ed Walters. He drove up a few minutes later, jumped out of his truck, yelling and running toward us, perspiring profusely and hollering, "the UFO was right over the bridge."*

*Before we had a chance to relate our sighting to him, he excitedly said he saw a black disc with red bottom and white lights, as he was driving over Bob Sykes Bridge to the beach. After hearing the details of his sighting, I realized that even though I saw it at a greater distance, the sighting time, location and colors were exactly as I had seen.*

*As a Mutual UFO Network investigator, I am seeking other witnesses. Please call the MUFON hot-line at 436-2700.*

**Vicki Lyons**

*On Friday, July 26, 1991, I was at a beach outing with 12 friends just inside Ft. Pickens. At approximately 9:15 p.m., a bright red light appeared over the north end of Bob Sykes Bridge. It pulsed several times, getting smaller then larger each time. After about one minute, it became bright white then slowly faded out. The entire sighting lasted approximately one and a half minutes.*

**Marsha Athey**

*The three of us decided to drive to Flounder's Restaurant on Pensacola Beach to have dinner. Upon finishing our meal we drove back toward Pensacola. Once in Gulf Breeze one of the group suggested we stop at the south end of the three mile bridge to see if a good friend of ours was with her group that frequents this spot to look for unidentified flying objects. Upon arriving none of the group was present, so we decided to just stop for a while and look. We were sitting on the car looking to the west toward the Naval Air Station. Nothing appeared out of the ordinary. At this time I turned around and looked back toward the east. And there it was! A large red light approximately 30 degrees above the horizon. I yelled "Look at this!" They both turned around. We observed this light for approximately ten seconds. It did not move or become brighter or dimmer. And then all at once it just disappeared. I have not seen anything like it before.*

**Wayne E. Walden**

DESERT SUN, Palm Springs, CA - July 24, 1991

# Celestial neighbors just checking us out

**JOSHUA TREE** — Some silver saucer-shaped objects spotted by UFO watchers may be unpiloted probes from Alpha Centauri, the star system closest to Earth.

At least that's Evert Bergamin's theory.

He claims no special knowledge and freely admits there's no scientific evidence to back up the idea.

But he suspects the objects are from another world because their reported lightning-fast, silent flight and hairpin turns can't be explained by earthly technology.

"I don't think the Russians could develop something like that," he said. "And there's too much of a gap in technology."

One possibility: A society that evolved on a planet orbiting one of the three stars in the Alpha Centauri system, but which developed a technology based on magnetism.

"Our technology is based on kinetic energy, fire and heat, the steam engine. Magnetism is an entirely different thing," Bergamin said. "What if early man had put together two rocks of magnetic iron ore before discovering fire?"

He said control over one of the basic forces of nature might give aliens anti-gravity devices

"Our technology is based on kinetic energy, fire and heat, the steam engine. Magnetism is an entirely different thing."

**Evert Bergamin**

to let their vessels launch into space without burning tons of fuel.

Like our Galileo probe now en route to Jupiter, aliens may have sent saucers to explore their own solar system, Bergamin said. But some mistake could have flung them across a gap of 4.3 light-years and into our neighborhood.

Or perhaps they were attracted by radio transmissions, or fluctuations in the earth's magnetic field caused by widespread electrical networks, he said.

The soft-spoken Dutchman emphasizes that it's just a theory, not a heartfelt belief.

"I'm the last one to say, 'That's the way it is,'" Bergamin said. "Because I don't know the answer."

# Meteor 'looked like airplane exploding'

**By DOLORES WOOD**  
Staff Writer

*The white-hot fiery trail looked like an airplane exploding to at least two motorists on Highway 101 early Wednesday morning, but it was believed to be a meteor in the annual Perseid shower.*

*"The entire sky was white for a few seconds," said Steve Cooper a pharmaceutical sales representative from Healdsburg. "It looked like an airplane exploding and pieces breaking off."*

*Cooper and a friend, Lynne Biasini of Healdsburg, were driving north on Highway 101 near Rohnert Park when the object appeared about 12:20 a.m.*

*"At first I thought it was lightning," said Biasini, a medical office director. "But then we looked out the window and saw this huge, tremendous bright bunch of stuff. It seemed like it was moving very quickly. It arched and then I don't know where it went."*

*The light was from the west, she said.*

The annual Perseid meteor shower, which peaked at about 1 a.m. Tuesday, is the remnants of the Swift-Tuttle comet, which appeared in 1862.

Not everyone was sure Wednesday morning's flash was a meteor.

"My son saw it," said Drew Kovaly of the Sonoma Astronomical Society. "It lasted about five seconds and was huge with flames coming out. Usually something that flares is a satellite."

At about 2 a.m., the Monterey County Sheriff's Department investigated one reported impact in the northern part of the county, but deputies could not find any evidence, Sgt. Joe Anzini said.

The "falling-star" effect is caused by dust that collides with Earth's atmosphere, heats up and creates a shining trail of vapors. The particles are as tiny as a grain of sand.

Some said the light was pure white and others claimed it contained red and green.

Coast Guard stations all along the California coast were peppered with calls on the appearance, said Lt. John Souza of Coast Guard Group Humboldt.

"A tanker and a couple of fishing vessels reported a meteor green and white going into the ocean near Fort Bragg," he said.

"We called the National Weather Service to verify that a meteor shower was going on and they confirmed it," Souza said.

Two Santa Rosa police officers witnessed the flash and alerted headquarters.

"We got a half-dozen calls," said Lt. Rodney Sverko. "Officers in two areas of town reported seeing something, although they didn't know what it was."

# UFO meeting draws believers to Orlando hotel

**By Eric Pera**

The Ledger

**LAKE BUENA VISTA** — Their message is clear: We are not alone.

And to emphasize the point, devotees of the UFO phenomenon converged Saturday upon a hotel resort here in Mickey Mouse's backyard to show support for a proposed UFO museum and scientific research library to be built in Orlando.

Billed as the Great UFO/ET/Alien and Abduction Congress, the two-day symposium drew a small but serious crowd of about 60 for Saturday morning's opening lecture.

People listened intently as Bill English, a former Army captain and data analyst stationed in England, described for an hour how he had been the target of numerous assassination attempts after his discovery in 1979 of a top-secret document that showed evidence the U.S. govern-

ment was in possession of alien bodies and aircraft.

Tables displaying books, posters, T-shirts, baseball caps and bumper stickers bearing slogans like "beamship trainee" lined one section of the Windsor Ballroom inside The Grosvenor Resort in Walt Disney World Village.

For \$3.95, those who claim to have actually seen a UFO could purchase a certificate, issued by the Pleiadian District of the Inter-Galactic Federation, recognizing the sighting it as official.

While some souvenirs poked fun at the subject, the theme of the convention was serious.

Tickets for the event cost \$100, with most of the money intended to fund a UFO museum as part of a larger Space Coast Welcome Center, according to project developer Brett Regal.

Due to open within a year, the cen-

ter will also house a space museum, dinner theater, art gallery, food court and retail shops.

"More and more people are getting interested and want to know the truth," said Pat Marcattilio, a New Jersey postal worker who plans to work full-time as the UFO museum curator once it opens.

The museum will house the world's largest assortment of artifacts, photographs, books and other documentation gathered by researchers and scientists over the last 50 years, he said.

The facility will be free and materials will be made available to anyone seriously interested in the study of the UFO phenomenon.

People who report UFO sightings have been shunned by the government, said Ann Teicher, 51, who, along with her husband, Howard, own and operate a UFO specialty store in Longwood.

*"More and more people are getting interested and want to know the truth."*

**PAT MARCATTILIO**

The shop, named the UFO Zone, is tucked in the rear of a uniform store they own and features dozens of Ann Teicher's original pen sketches and oil paintings of alien creatures involved in whimsical, earthly situations like playing basketball.

"We've done very little advertising but we're getting a lot of people coming in and snooping around," Howard

Teicher said.

Like Ann Teicher, Brett and Marcattilio, many of the people gathered at the convention claimed to have witnessed a UFO flying through the night sky sometime during their lifetime.

There is even evidence that as many as four distinct alien races are currently visiting the planet, said Fearon Hicks, Jr. of Auburndale, a field investigator for the Mutual UFO Network Inc.

The evidence is contained in the U.S. Air Force Space Science Manual, Vol. 2, "which is used to teach Air Force cadets about the reality of UFO's, even though the Air Force publicly states that they don't exist," he said.

Members of one of the alien races known to frequent South America are hairy and stand about waist-high. "There's a group that even looks like us," Hicks said.



# Do mantis-like UFO beings prey on us?

By JEFF MAY  
Courier-News Staff Writer

To the list of exotic creatures reported at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, add one more: praying mantis-like visitors from another planet.

Four weeks ago, Passaic Township police received an early morning call from an agitated Hoboken man who said he'd been abducted by an unidentified flying object while strolling on one of the refuge's observation decks the previous day.

"He saw this ship that was the size of a car, off the ground, with tripod feet," Lt. Donald Van Tassell said. "He said this arm came out from it, grabbed him around the waist and took him inside."

Once inside, the man — whose name police will not release "due to the nature of the call" — said the ship turned out to be as large as "three football fields," the officer

said. The caller also said he was physically examined during the 2½-hour ordeal but not injured.

"He said they were praying mantis-type creatures that meant him no harm," Van Tassell said.

After regaining consciousness on the walkway of the swamp boardwalk, the man reported feeling disoriented. He told police that he drove back to Hoboken before deciding to notify them.

Police, park employees and even UFO researchers expressed skepticism about what appears to be the first reported extra-terrestrial sighting in the refuge.

"I live a mile from where it happened," Van Tassell said. "I was having a big barbecue at the time, and I didn't see anything."

Tom McFadden, outdoor recreation planner for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, said he spent two hours combing the area for signs of the UFO. The routine check bore little fruit: not even scorch marks from the

landing.

"We used to get calls like that all the time in Philadelphia," said McFadden, recalling his previous assignment with the federal agency. At the time, he worked next to a mental asylum, he said.

Central Jersey's most famous space traveler, Howard Menger, said he has no doubt that there are UFOs in this area.

"I know they're all out there," said the former Hunterdon County sign painter, now 69 and living in Vero Beach, Fla. Menger briefly burst onto the national scene in the mid-1950s, when he announced that he'd been a frequent flier on interplanetary saucers. He parlayed his experiences into appearances on the Steve Allen and "Tonight" shows, later organizing a UFO convention that drew 1,000 curiosity-seekers to his Tewksbury farm in 1958.

Although he still claims contact with ex-



Courier-News illustration by Mike Scott

traterrestrial life, Menger said he was not familiar with the type of alien reported at the Great Swamp.

"I didn't meet any of those kinds," he said. "The ones I talked to were angelic. They came with a message similar to what the Scriptures have been telling us for 2,000 years: not to kill."

Walter H. Andrus Jr., international director of the UFO Mutual Network, an organization based in Seguin, Texas, that claims 3,100 members worldwide, has a theory about the "praying mantis" sighting.

"He probably got this right from the book 'Communion: a True Story' (by Whitley Strieber)," Andrus said. In the 1987 book, which Andrus calls fiction, aliens are portrayed as buglike.

"Maybe he's looking for attention," Andrus said, referring to the Hoboken caller. "Not that we don't have abductions. They're going on around the world all the time."

Only about 10 percent of the reports that the UFO Mutual Network sifts through are likely to be alien encounters, Andrus said. "They usually turn out to be something mundane: space debris, satellites, aircraft," he said.

UFO sightings tend to come in cycles and appear to be picking up in recent years, he said. Sometimes, the upswings are the result of the debut of a space-themed book or movie, such as "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," but not always.

Andrus said he interviewed a young Dallas girl who said she saw aliens earlier this week. Another recent interview involved a 31-year-old man who said he was abducted several times.

"Abduction accounts have gotten heavy in the past few years," he said.

TRIBUNE-REVIEW, Greensburg, PA - Aug. 12, 1991 CR: S. Gordon

## Group studies the unexplained

By Todd Nilson  
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Many people, perhaps most, tend to dismiss stories of unidentified flying objects and Bigfoot as delusions or hoaxes, and the people who see them as crackpots — either seriously disturbed or starved for attention.

However, the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, founded by Stan Gordon, is dedicated to the serious accumulation and study of such reports.

And Gordon has a filing cabinet in his Greensburg office full of over 10,000 reports dating back to the 1940s that contradict what "most" people might say. The reports detail in-state sightings of Bigfoot, UFOs and the supposedly extinct Pennsylvania mountain lion. They also document appearances of arguably natural phenomena such as English crop circles which have also recently appeared in the area.

But PASU's investigations of UFO sightings have become the group's claim to notoriety — especially with recent national attention via the *Unsolved Mysteries* television show to the 1965 crash-landing of what some Kecksburg residents believe was a UFO.

Regardless of PASU's many records of unexplained UFO appearances, Gordon said most sightings are easily explained.

For instance, about two weeks ago several Latrobe residents reported seeing a doughnut-shaped object at a high altitude. It had a white outer circle and a black hole in the center and appeared to disintegrate. PASU investigators determined that the object was a weather balloon which began to break up after it rose to a certain height.

"It looked odd because of the way the sun reflected off of it," Gordon said.

But mixed with such natural or otherwise explicable sightings are others not so easily accounted for.

On Feb. 4 of this year in Reeder, Pa., a small village in Monroe County, witnesses several miles apart observed a huge rectangular object with multiple lights.

For three hours, the object hovered noiselessly over the small community, its presence causing dogs in the area to whine and bark. According to witnesses, the object was several hundred feet long and hovered just over the treetops, obscuring a large section of the night sky.

Locally, Gordon and PASU in-

## UFO Info Week event at mall

By The Tribune-Review

Recent research, videotapes, photographs and other alleged evidence of UFOs, the Pennsylvania Bigfoot and other supposedly extinct or nonexistent creatures will be presented all day Saturday at Westmoreland Mall as part of the National UFO Information Week.

T. Scott Crain, 36, of Port Matilda, a member of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained and UFO researcher, will also appear at the display to talk about UFOs and his most recent book, *UFO's, MJ-12 and the Government*, co-authored by Grant Cameron.

The information week was started seven years ago by the Texas-based Mutual UFO Network, according to Stan Gordon, director of Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained and regional director of the Mutual UFO Network.

"The UFO Information Week is a little project intended to keep the public informed that serious scientific research is still being conducted on UFO sightings," Gordon said.

The display will feature video programs, photographs and alleged residue materials from Pennsylvania UFO sightings. But the display doesn't focus solely upon UFOs. Casts of Bigfoot footprints and a partial cast of the eastern cougar or mountain lion, said to be extinct in Pennsylvania since about 1890, will also be available for viewing.

Making casts of prints from these unconfirmed creatures falls under the category of cryptozoology, the study of hidden or unknown animals. Gordon said sightings of both creatures are reported every year.

The display will also include information on the controversial 1965 UFO crash and alleged military retrieval in Kecksburg. Free brochures and other information about unexplained phenomenon will be available at the display.

Gordon said eyewitnesses of UFOs or other unexplained phenomenon are welcome to report their experiences confidentially and without fear of ridicule.

investigators have been studying what he calls an inordinate number of fireball meteorite sightings, as well as a UFO encounter that allegedly took place July 11 around midnight in Jeannette.

In the Jeannette sighting, several people watched a large, blue, illuminated object hover soundlessly over some trees directly across from their home. After a few moments, it tilted slightly and moved rapidly out of sight to the west.

Both Gordon and a PASU colleague, T. Scott Crain Jr., believe that the government holds some answers to such phenomena, but for reasons of its own is acknowledging nothing.

Crain, of Port Matilda, who is also a member of the Texas-based Mutual UFO Network, has recently co-authored a book on the subject, entitled *UFO's, MJ-12 and the Government*. Crain will appear with Gordon all day Saturday at a Westmoreland Mall display table in observance of National UFO Information Week.

The book discusses "Operation Majestic-12," a program involving a secret panel of 12 scientists, military personnel and intelligence officers allegedly created in 1947 by Pres. Harry S. Truman to over-

see the retrieval of crashed UFOs and their occupants.

Former Penn State University president, Dr. Eric A. Walker, was allegedly involved in the projects during his stint as Executive Secretary of Research and Development for the federal government in the 1950s, Crain said.

Crain, who has researched the UFO phenomenon for over 20 years, said he believes the government has kept quiet about UFOs to avoid having to share its technology with foreign powers.

Technology, such as the ability of many UFOs allegedly recovered from crashes in the 1950s to evade radar detection may have been instrumental in the creation of the Stealth bomber, Crain said.

While for the time being, such investigations remain unproven, PASU in the meantime continues to act as a scientific clearinghouse for regional UFO reports, and strives to show that a percentage of the sightings simply cannot be explained away.

"We're not seeing as large a number of reports as there were a couple of years ago, but there's a lot that's scientifically available and we continue to get some very interesting sightings," Gordon said.

TIMES, New York, NY - Aug. 14, 1991 CR: E. Rager

## Crop Circles Riddle Deserves More Study

To the Editor:

It is rare for people to encounter a mystery of the sort described in your news article on the crop-circle formations of southern England (Beckhampton Journal, July 27). The phenomena in question are particularly newsworthy because they regrettably remain at the periphery of scientific investigation and for various reasons receive little or no attention from scientists.

But your article did not do justice to these mysterious events. Although the formations have become more dramatic in the last year or so, the essential phenomenon has been occurring for more than 10 years.

Secondly, the apparent manner in which plants are bent over, typically without damage, makes the comparatively infrequent hoaxes easily distinguishable from naturally occurring crop circles. There are no known techniques for altering the growth of plants in this way.

Over the last 10 years the formations have increased in number and complexity; the photographic evidence in several books on the subject is absolutely stunning. There have



also been various unpredictable psychological phenomena associated with the formations. The number, scale, complexity, development and public verifiability of these anomalous events call for serious and open-minded attention from the scientific community.

BRUCE E. RIDEOUT  
Associate Professor of Psychology  
Ursinus College  
Collegeville, Pa., Aug. 1, 1991

# Aliens visit Earth, physicist claims

## UFO lecturer alleges cover-up by government

By Lisa Chen  
Mercury News Staff Writer

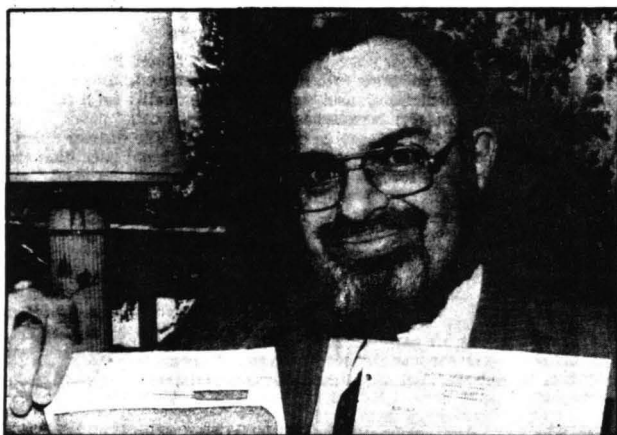
To hear Stanton T. Friedman tell it, on July 8, 1947, a rancher in Roswell, N.M., found what looked like the wreckage of a flying saucer on his property.

The incident was picked up in the evening editions of several newspapers on the West Coast — but by the following morning, government officials had dismissed the mysterious craft as a crashed weather balloon.

The whole affair, says Friedman, reeked of "Cosmic Watergate."

"What I mean is, a small number of officials within the U.S. government have known since 1947 that indeed, our planet is being visited by intelligently controlled extraterrestrial spacecraft — and have furiously tried to cover it up," said Friedman, 57, a nuclear physicist and "ufologist" who has been studying the Roswell incident for more than 15 years.

Friedman will be in San Jose on Aug. 17 to talk about recent findings in the Roswell case in a lecture titled, "Flying Saucers are Real," at the San Jose City College Theatre.



Special to the Mercury News

TO TELL IT LIKE IT IS — Famed 'ufologist' Milton Friedman is coming to speak at San Jose City College.

The program, which is open to the public, is being sponsored by the Office of Community Education and Services of the San Jose/ Evergreen Community College District.

The lecture and slide show will also include discussion on five large-scale scientific studies on UFOs, retrieved saucers and saucer landings — and earthling abductions by aliens.

"I'm not a closet ufologist; I tell it like it is," said Friedman, who spent 15 years in industry working on nuclear aircraft and fission and fusion rockets before switching to lecturing and private consulting.

Friedman is currently co-writing a book on the Roswell incident based on more than 200 interviews with people connected to the 1947 crash, including firsthand witnesses

from the military base in Roswell and family members of the rancher who first stumbled upon the wreck.

According to Friedman, recent evidence points to not one, but two crashes in the same vicinity. "As though one crash weren't exciting enough," he said.

Friedman, who is featured in the current issue of Omni magazine has lectured at more than 600 colleges across the country and in Canada, and has appeared on numerous radio and television talk shows, including "Nightline," "Merv Griffin" and "Late Night with David Letterman."

College campuses naturally make up the bulk of his lecture circuit, says Friedman, because as members of the post-moonwalk and Watergate generation, "young people have no problem (with) the idea of space, or that the government might want to cover something up," he said.

As one might expect, Friedman doesn't have much patience for "noisy negativists," including former classmate Carl Sagan. They proclaim that UFOs — like the tooth fairy — just plain don't exist. One critic has accused Friedman of "making a buck off people's credulity."

"The problem is most people believe most people don't believe," he said. "The fear of ridicule keeps people from reporting their sightings."

While the physicist has talked with hundreds of people who claim to have seen flying saucers, he admits he's never spotted one himself.

"People ask, 'How you can talk about something you've never seen?' " Friedman said. "Well, I've been working with neutrons and gamma rays for years — I've never seen one of them either."

MERCURY-NEWS, San Jose, CA

Aug. 7, 1991

POST, Denver, CO — Sept. 11, 1991 CR: C. Carpenter

## UFO near shuttle puzzles NASA scientists

By Jeff Franks  
Reuters

Neither a bird nor a plane nor even, apparently, Superman, the identity of the mysterious object that floated beside the shuttle Atlantis earlier in its mission continues to elude NASA officials.

The object, about 5 feet long and slightly resembling a car bumper, was videotaped by the astronauts Saturday as it sailed along between the shuttle and Earth.

A NASA spokeswoman said Sunday that the object was no longer visible from the shuttle. But the mystery remained.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration believes the object was nothing more than

debris lost during the deployment of a communications satellite Friday, but acknowledges it cannot be certain what was out there.

Nearly identical objects have been seen on previous shuttle flights from which satellites were deployed, flight director Phil Engelauf said.

He said at a Sunday news briefing at Johnson Space Center in Houston that NASA engineers are still scratching their heads over the object.

"We looked at the tape again and again last night and compared it to videotape" from another mission, Engelauf said. "Except to say it looks identical to the debris we saw before. I can't give you anything new."

Whatever it is, he said, it has not interfered with previous missions or threatened this one.

SUN-TIMES, Chicago, IL — Aug. 5, 1991

## Lecturer's husband skeptical

Boulderite: It's strange hoax report surfaced during 'Conference'

By Tracy Seipel  
Denver Post Staff Writer

BOULDER — The husband of a woman who lectures on crop circles isn't sure he buys Monday's claim by two British artists who said they created the circles as a joke in a south-central English wheat field.

"Doesn't it strike you as a bit peculiar that these two guys come out at the same time they're holding a conference on the subject?" asked Mark McCray, husband of Kit McCray, who last week traveled with Louisville associate Tere Kristovitch to a conference in Glastonbury, England.

"I know a lot of science-type people think they're hoaxes, but nearly 400 occurred since last May in England," McCray said. "That would mean they

did — how many — 100 a month? That's curious."

McCray's wife and Kristovitch were among 16 speakers invited to last weekend's "The Conference," a "... celebration dedicated to the crop circle phenomenon, with round-ups and exchange of news of the events of 1991," according to the meeting's brochure.

Likely to be part of the news of 1991 is Englishman Doug Bower and David Chorley's report to London newspapers Monday that since 1978 they have been creating the mysterious crop circles.

Crop circles, large, intricate patterns of flattened wheat, allegedly have been sighted around the world, and are believed by some to be caused by wind patterns and even some-

thing the British call "unidentified aerial phenomenon."

The two men said they did the work themselves at night, using only a ball of string to keep the circles round; a wire sight attached to a baseball cap to keep the lines straight; and two long sticks with rope handles to flatten the crops.

They claim they came forward now because they were fed up watching other people make money off their "joke."

By late yesterday afternoon, McCray said hadn't heard from his wife about the reports. He said he is awaiting her reaction. "If it is someone who has done it, then they've done it incredibly well," McCray said. "That's kind of a marvel that they could have fooled people this long."

## Farmer: Circles in N.C. field no hoax

By The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — No matter what the Brits say about strange circles in wheat fields being pranks, farmer Eli Springs Jr. isn't impressed.

He says the circles of flattened plants he found in his soybean field on the outskirts of Charlotte last month can't be the result of a prank.

"Mine were nature-made, and definitely a phenomenon," Springs said yesterday. "Their

circles I don't think are. There's no doubt about that."

UFO buffs claimed the circles in his field were proof of flying saucers. Others blamed pranksters, and others, like Springs, thought the circles were caused by wind eddies.

Two Britons claimed Monday the circles of flattened grain in fields in England were pranks they thought up in a pub. David Chorley and Douglas Bower showed reporters

how they used a four-foot plank to create the circles.

But Springs said he knew all along that the circles in England were different.

"When I heard about those in England, I said, 'That's not nature, that's a hoax,'" he said. "Theirs in England were so artistic. They had arms out and legs and straight lines. They looked like some kind of hieroglyphics. Nature doesn't draw pictures like that."

## 'Doomsday Conspiracy' unusual plot for Sheldon

"The Doomsday Conspiracy" by Sidney Sheldon, William Morrow Co., \$22, 412 pp.

★REVIEW  
BY BETH SOLOMON  
Democrat Book Editor

A theory that's been floating around for several years now touts the idea that extra terrestrials have visited Earth. Some say they have landed here only to be spirited away by the government and defense department for study.

Sidney Sheldon takes that scenario and runs with it in his latest thriller "The Doomsday Conspiracy."

It'll be a disconcerting topic for fans of Sheldon, who usually uses more down-to-earth plots like government or Hollywood intrigues or family power struggles. Sheldon himself must have been a bit wary of the change because he includes a lengthy author's note at the end of the book explaining his research and real incidents of possible UFOs.

Topic aside, the novel is unmistakably Sheldon. In fact, it follows a fairly similar pattern to his "Windmills of the Gods." Just like in that tale of international government intrigue, Sheldon includes an international committee of powerful officials dictating events and uses code names to protect their identities.

"His code name was Janus. He was addressing 12 men in the heavily guarded room of a military compound. 'As you have all been informed, Operation Doomsday has been activated. There are a number of witnesses who must be found as quickly and as quietly as possible. We are not able to attempt to track them down through regular security channels because of the danger of a leak.'"

Commander Robert Bellamy, a Naval intelligence officer, is chosen for the task and thus drawn into a deadly scheme without knowing why or what's involved. The first two-thirds of the book are filled mostly with him tracking down 10 unidentified witnesses who saw an actual UFO crash in Switzerland. The hunt seems disappointingly pat — lacking Sheldon's usual finesse — because he finds

them one at a time, each one linking him to another.

Each time he finds a witness, he reports it to the general who assigned the job. It's only after he completes the assignment that he decides to clear up a matter of confusion and

finds that each of the witnesses has conveniently died or been killed.

And he knows he's next. Then the action really heats up as he attempts to evade Interpol and the security agencies of every country in the world:

"He had his answer now. They intended to kill him. 'They're not going to find it easy.' He was the hunted now instead of the hunter, but he had one big advantage. They had trained him well. He knew all their techniques, their strengths and weaknesses, and he intended to use that knowledge to stop them."

The climax holds some surprises, but other details — some major — are easy to figure out pages in advance. That, too, is unusual for Sheldon novels.

Sheldon throws in some interesting thoughts along the way. For example, the Strategic Defense Initiative (Star Wars), as one character tells Bellamy, "was not created to fight the Russians. It is being designed for the specific purpose of knocking down UFOs. It's the only chance there is of stopping them."

Sheldon also makes scattered references to environmental destruction and what the future holds unless Earthlings clean up their act.

Sheldon's commercial success with the likes of "The Other Side of Midnight," "Rage of Angels," "If Tomorrow Comes," "Master of the Game" and others attest to the fact that the author knows how to construct a page-turner. And that overrides the weaknesses in "The Doomsday Conspiracy."







# FOREIGN NEWS

NEWS & ADVERTISER, Todmorden, England - May 31, 1991 CR: T. Good

# Close encounters of the Todmorden kind

## Hollywood producer flies in to plan film

A TOP American film producer plans to make a full-length feature film in Todmorden based on the "UFO" experiences of a former local policeman.

It will follow on from a show screened successfully on a national U.S. television network and also brings in material relating to the largely unexplained death of a man found some months previously in a Todmorden coal yard.

Michael Grais, aged 43, a partner in the Los Angeles based Victor and Grais Productions, visited Todmorden over the weekend and told the "Todmorden News" he wanted to make the film, based on the experiences of Mr Alan Godfrey.

Mr Godfrey, of Todmorden, also aged 43, was a policeman serving in Todmorden 11 years ago when he claimed under hypnosis that he was taken aboard an alien spaceship while on duty in Burnley Road.

Some months before, in June 1980, the body of Polish emigre Zygmunt Jan Adamski was found in bizarre circumstances on a heap of coal in a coal yard near Todmorden Railway Station.

The "Todmorden News" reported then that the body had been found with mysterious head injuries, which appeared to be caused by corrosive liquid.

Mr Adamski's wife said at the inquest that she was not satisfied that after 12 weeks of inquiries no one had found out what had actually happened to her husband.

Coroner Mr James Turnbull adjourned the inquest saying no stone would remain unturned and police would continue investigat-

By John Greenwood

ing Mr Adamski's death until the mystery was solved.

But newspaper stories of the time linked Mr Adamski's death with Mr Godfrey's UFO experience, a theory police discounted. And in October, 1981, the "News" reported that police had abruptly dropped their investigation three weeks previously and had begun a security clampdown, forbidding officers to speak to the press.

In January this year Mr Grais, whose film credits include "Poltergeist 2", visited the town for the first time to interview Mr Godfrey for a one hour television programme based on the experience, which has been shown nationally in the U.S. by television giants CBS.

After visiting Cannes film festival earlier this month Mr Grais has been in Paris and London until his visit to Todmorden, and he flew back to the U.S. this week.

While in Europe he has been negotiating the sale of the television programme in Europe and interest has been high. The programme, "Visitors From The Unknown", was one programme of a series of three, the other two featuring UFO experiences in the U.S.

"We have been over here talking to people about the foreign sales and setting things up for the series. It will definitely be seen in Britain. We

have had a very positive response from the television show and there has been a lot of interest in different countries regarding the movie. The film would be made in Todmorden and there is a very good chance it will be scripted and made. I am not sure when that will go into production because we have to write it first but it will be within the next year," he said.

Mr Grais said Mr Godfrey's story was one of several submitted by another producer for a television adaption and was a recreation based on detailed interviews with Mr Godfrey.

Mr Godfrey, who has seen a copy of the show, said elements of Todmorden had been created as closely as possible and the more rural areas around Los Angeles had been used to recreate the town - even the cows, a disturbance among which the then PC Godfrey was on his way to investigate when the experience occurred has been brought in.

The television documentary also brought in the death of Mr Adamski, Mr Godfrey being one of the officers on duty first called to the scene, and newspaper reports later linked the two incidents.

The coal heap on which Mr Adamski's body was found caused problems for the film makers and Mr Grais said a heap of rocks had to be prepared and spray-painted black.

Interest in unexplained phenomena had reached a high point again with a number of

recent sightings in the U.S. and Europe, he said.

The television film includes number of special effects including spaceship interiors and aliens based on descriptions previously made by Mr Godfrey under hypnosis.

Mr Grais went to film school at New York University and then attended a course on creative writing in Oregon before moving to Los Angeles, writing episodes of television police shows "Kojak" and "Starskey and Hutch".

The first person to hire Victor and Grais Productions was English director David Putnam, for an adaption of "The October Circle", and other film credits have included "Death Hunt", which featured Charles Bronson and Lee Marvin and "Great Balls Of Fire", about rock star Jerry Lee Lewis.

Michael Grais also scripted and helped Steven Spielberg produce the first "Poltergeist" movie and then produced "Poltergeist 2", in 1984. His next project is a production of the Stephen King novel "Sleepwalkers".

While in Todmorden Mr Godfrey took him on a tour of the Yorkshire moorland, including the "Bronteland" of Haworth, and Mr Grais stayed at Scatliffe Hall Hotel, Todmorden.

"I have enjoyed my stay at the hall which was wonderful and in the local clubs and pubs I have visited. Todmorden is a great place to live - Alan's very lucky to have grown up here and know everybody.

"It's so beautiful you could end up staying," he said.

TIMES, Marlborough, England - July 12, 1991 CR: T. Good

## Bright light seen, but no circle found

A BRIGHT glowing disc travelling over the fields near Beckhampton on Monday night almost made publican Ian Hallett jump out of her skin, as she thought she was witnessing the formation of a crop circle.

But on inspection of the area from the road the next morning, she was unable to discover any trace of one.

Mrs Hallett was travelling back home to Bishop Cannings with husband Geoff in a taxi at about 10.30pm on Monday, when she said she saw the phenomenon.

"Geoff was asleep and the taxi driver was concentrating on the road. I looked up and saw a glowing disc about two foot long and half an inch deep. It was over a mound and as we drew level, it disappeared," she said.

The incident left Mrs Hallett "shocked but excited". She was adamant she had seen something, but a search the following day revealed nothing.

"I think my wife saw was something that made a crop circle, the formation could be hidden from the road, in a fold of the ground," Mr Hallett said.

The couple believe the crop circles are a natural phenomenon, along the lines of the plasma vortex theory of Dr Terence Meaden. "We don't think it's got anything to do with little green men," said Mr Hallett.

## UFO TALES FROM THE PRAIRIES

BY NED POWERS

Unidentified Flying Objects have a special lure among the curiosity-seekers.

And, for that reason alone, a Saskatchewan-produced 30-minute documentary, *UFOs: Facing The Contradiction*, will command some attention when it plays on the Saskatchewan Television Network affiliates, including CFQC-TV, Saskatoon, on Sunday at 6:30 p.m.

UFOs are produced by Hollywood Roman Productions Inc., with Sergei Romanoff, the producer and principal interviewer, exploring four Saskatchewan stories.

Longest and most-detailed account is the story of a September, 1974, sighting of five circular UFOs in a canola field near Langenberg. The farmer recalls the way he was "plenty scared but couldn't do anything about it" while sitting on the seat of his swather during the time the objects were hovering.

Other stories include the discovery of mysterious rings in a barley field near Spalding in August, 1988, the witnessing of a diamond-shaped UFO hovering over a field near Preeceville in June, 1984, and the witnessing by a mother and daughter of a cigar-like flying object flying for three minutes near the highway at Laura in May, 1985.

The biggest problem is that none of the people in the stories are identified. Romanoff says he didn't have a signed agreement with one of the story-tellers but all can be identified by the people within their communities. That's a poor excuse for what amounts to a lousy journalistic job because, outside of their communities, who's to know whether these are real people.

Cameron Mitchell, an actor with excellent Hollywood credits, makes an appearance halfway through the show to tell audiences that an organi-

zation known as Canadian Aerial Phenomenon Research Investigations, based in Saskatoon, will pay \$25,000 to the person who offers the most promising exploration of the mysterious rings at Spalding. It wreaks of show business hokum, doesn't add any credibility to the show and if the research investigators ever pay out the reward, hopefully they'll tell someone.

Stronger editing would have enriched the documentary's quality but there are some good elements, including the planet photography by James Cousins, the narration by Earl Pennington and the way the UFO sighters tell their stories.

In these days when the REAL PEOPLE phenomenon is taking hold with programs with like *America's Funniest Home Videos* and *America's Funniest People*, who's to say anymore what kind of quality people expect from their television screens?

EVENING POST, Nottingham, England - June 5, 1991

## 50 reports of UFO sightings

MORE than 50 people have reported sightings of an unidentified flying object over Notts and Derbyshire last month.

Information is being eagerly digested by the Nottingham-based East Midlands UFO Research Organisation - which has so far been unable to find any logical explanation.

It has contacted the Ministry of Defence, East Midlands International Airport and even Richard Branson's press office to rule out his new air balloon, said to resemble a flying light bulb at night.

Research association secretary Mr Anthony James said it now seemed that there were two objects flying very close together.

"They have been described as very bright lights on two triangular shaped objects, many times larger than any known aircraft.

"Many people reported seeing smaller red and green lights on these objects. None of these lights was flashing, as a conventional aircraft's would."

The two objects moved slowly from east to west, with sightings in Calverton, Carlton, Gedling, Arnold, Bestwood, Rise Park, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Bulwell, Langley Mill and Heanor, where three witnesses saw them disappear into clouds.

CR: T. Good

SOUTH KENT CITIZEN, Kent, England May 22, 1991 CR: T. Good

## Kent's own UFO is back again to buzz Margaret's garden!

HOT on the heels of an Italian pilot's sighting of a 'missile shaped' object over the Kent coast, *Citizen* reader Margaret Shaw claims she saw something strange over Folkestone.

Margaret, of Hollands Avenue, was standing in her garden one evening last week when the object appeared overhead. "I thought it was a jet at first but then it came lower and it was only about 15

feet long so there couldn't have been people in it," she said.

"It was a cylinder with stubby wings like Concorde and a small cylinder underneath, and made a strange noise, not like a jet at all," she explained.

The object made a long, slow curve over the hills and disappeared towards Hawkinge.

Margaret, who works in a pet shop in the town, is at

a loss to explain what it was. "I wouldn't have thought too much about it only I saw the article in the paper and wondered if it was the same thing the pilot saw. I'd be interested to know if anyone else saw it," she said.

●Have U. spotted any F.O.s over Kent recently? Contact the *Citizen* and let us know all about it!

YORKSHIRE POST, Leeds, England June 27, 1991 CR: T. Good

## UFO fans to gather

ENTHUSIASTS from throughout the world are to converge on Sheffield for the largest conference on Unidentified Flying Objects to be held in Britain.

Speakers and delegates from the United States, Australia, Spain, Belgium, Norway, France and Africa are expected for the three-day sixth International UFO Congress.

Many speakers, who include both experts and people who claim to have seen UFOs, will be presenting papers for the first time in Britain at the event at the Sheffield Library Theatre from August 16-18.

It has been jointly organised by UFO investigators in the North of England and

the British and American UFO research groups.

Speakers include Mr Charles Hickson from the US, famous in UFO circles for allegedly being abducted and taken aboard a flying saucer, and Mrs Catherine Howard, another American who claims to have been abducted by a UFO.

As an extra attraction, the congress will host a concert by the Scottish rock band CE4 (Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind) on August 17, also at the Library Theatre.

The music of CE4, who have never before played in England, revolves around the mystery of UFOs. The band plays against a futuristic backdrop of aliens and extra-terrestrial artwork.

WORLD, Wenatchee, WA - Aug. 29, 1991 CR: J. Waller

# Martians must want a grain deal

OKOTOKS, Alberta (AP) — Martians, or men?

That's what residents of this Western Canadian province are asking since mysterious circles have begun appearing in grain fields.

A large circle appeared in a field outside the southern Alberta city of Lethbridge last week, and on Tuesday three similar circles appeared 75 miles to the north, near Okotoks.

"These are exactly the same as the

Lethbridge circles, only larger," said Gary Farmer, a member of a UFO study group.

The largest circle is about 50 feet in diameter. Two satellite circles, about 17 feet across, are connected to the large one by short paths.

The 2-foot-tall barley crop had fallen in a counter-clockwise swirl.

"The crop is laid down very flat and evenly and the circles were fairly symmetrical," observer Gordon Kijek said. "It doesn't appear to be wind, animals or the

condition of the soil or crop. That leaves human involvement or the bizarre explanation — this one could go either way."

Farmer and Kijek investigated the Lethbridge circle last week and were at the Okotoks circles on Wednesday.

They said the circles had been disturbed by people walking from a nearby highway to look, and it was difficult to draw conclusions.

"It's a mystery and it will have to remain that way," Kijek said.

## INVESTIGATION

## Coming a cropper in fields of confusion

HAVING enthralled English farmers and scientists for the past ten years, the alien forces that some think responsible for crop circles now have the rest of Europe in their hypnotic hold.

By far the greatest interest in these mysterious circles is in Sweden. There a group of eminent scientists, including representatives of the Research Institute of National Defence and the Swedish Weather Bureau, has just launched a nationwide investigation into the phenomena. Their aim is to set up an "early warning system" of 900 observers up and down the country.

Sweden's only known crop circle was spotted in 1972, when a 14m circle was found at Hjortkvarn, near Örebro, after a star-like object was seen over a cornfield.

In the rest of Europe, crop-circle sightings are now more frequent. The latest, a 25m formation of three circles outside Wiesbaden in Germany, was in a field of rape. A year earlier, another was found at Idstein Woersdorf, near Cologne. Michael Hesemann, publisher of the German magazine 2000, thinks that it was made by "some unknown intelligent energy, possible with strong UFO connections".

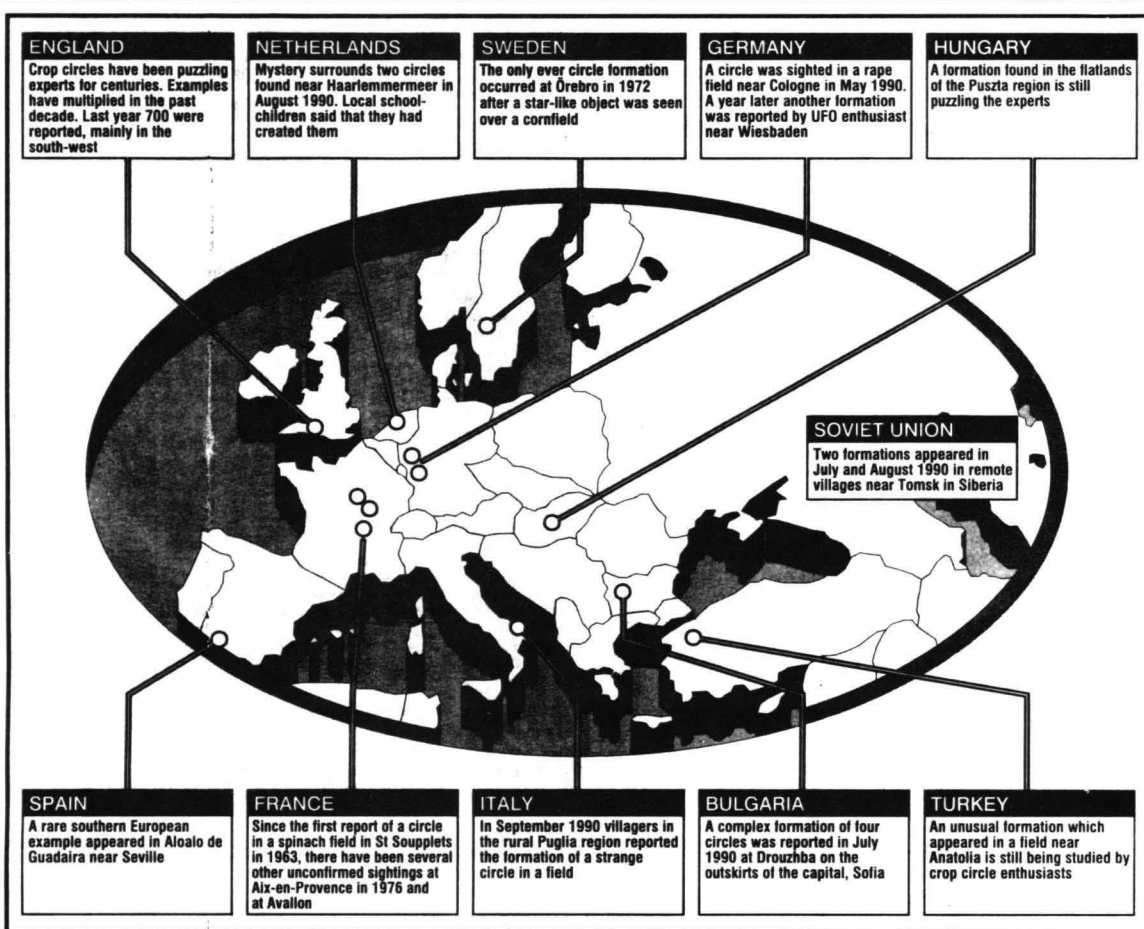
Jan Blonk, a farmer from Haarlemmermeer in the Netherlands, is less certain about a 7m circle on his cornfield last August. "I have never seen anything like it," he said. "The ears of corn were not damaged at all. It looked as if an air-cushion had landed on the field."

A more complicated formation occurred at virtually the same time last year in Bulgaria. The pattern — four circles joined by concentric rings — was in Drouzhba, near Sophia. Other eastern European examples include two circles spotted last July and August by Dr Nikolai Nowgorodow, a lecturer from Tomsk in Siberia.

Although a circle was sighted in the Puglia region of southern Italy last September, there has been no confirmed example in France since 1963, when a 3m circle appeared in a spinach field near St Souplets, outside Paris. Thierry Pinvidic, 35, a Parisian civil servant who has spent more than ten years investigating French crop circles, does not think any were genuine. "Like UFOs, there is always some logical or natural explanation, such as a goat tethered to a picket walking round in a circle."

Last year Pinvidic and a special effects expert made their own 70m formation — three circles and a concentric ring — without marking surrounding crops. "We wanted to show that it's possible for people to make these things," he said.

Alexandra Frean



Graphic by Adam Green

# Running rings



Judy Young, T-shirt designer

GEOGRAPHY teacher Karl-Heinz Baltes and Stefanie Janz decided not to go to the Greek islands for their holidays this year. "This is much more fascinating," said Karl-Heinz, taking in the view once more. "I am so glad we came," said Stefanie. "I had read about this and now here I am seeing it for myself."

Karl-Heinz, from Kaiserslautern, near Frankfurt, and Stefanie, a US air base press officer, had just paid \$1.6 each to stand in the midst of the most unlikely location ever to feature on a tourist itinerary — the wheatfields of southern England. Three circular swirls of flattened wheat linked by a 1.8m-wide path represented the latest configuration of a phenomenon that has baffled scientists and researchers for more than ten years and has now stimulated half a dozen books seeking to offer an explanation.

The circles appeared virtually under the noses of a scientific team from Waseda University, in Tokyo, which is on a round-the-clock watch in a caravan stacked with surveillance equipment perched high on the Wiltshire Downs near the town of Devizes.

Crop circles are Britain's fastest growing tourist industry. Within a week of the arrival of the latest complicated set, well over 2,000 people, many from Germany, Holland, the United States and Belgium, had paid

Strange goings-on in the middle of the night have put scientists and mystics at loggerheads. John Dodd joins the fray

their money at the gate and trudged 100m through waving corn to stand among them in wonder. Last year, when different-shaped circles appeared in the same field, a total of 8,000 people came to see them.

Judy Young, a partner in a company that is now producing screen-printed T-shirts of designs from previous circles, says: "The earth is speaking to us. It's in trouble and checking our intentions." However they are made, the circles seem to generate an almost hypnotic attraction across a broad spectrum of society, from the most rational of scientists to the wildest of theorists about cosmic intervention.

They have also generated, in typical English fashion, a simmering row between the two most dedicated bands of crop circle enthusiasts. Colin Andrews, a local council engineer, and Pat Delgado, a retired electro-mechanical engineer, have written the most popular book about them, *Circular Evidence*, which is believed to

have sold 250,000 copies worldwide and is now being promoted in the United States.

Mr Andrews has told British TV viewers: "There's something out there trying to tell us something. It could be ten seconds to midnight."

While he was in the US, his partner, Pat Delgado, was in the middle of circles at Alton Barnes, near Devizes, being interviewed by a seven-strong Japanese TV team which is making a two-hour documentary on the phenomenon. He told Nippon Television: "It is an unknown force from an unknown intelligence."

Andrews and Delgado have measured and mapped scores of crop circles since they first began to appear 11 years ago as uncomplicated swirls of flattened wheat going in the same direction.

They, and their rival researchers, claim that crop circles have been occurring down the centuries but were left ignored or treated as the work of the supernatural. But neither

**'The earth is speaking to us — telling us that it is in trouble'**

(continued on page 9)





Epicentre: to some, the corn patterns at Alton Barnes, UK, are the work of an unknown intelligence

# around circles

side seems to explain fully why there was only one in 1980 and last year there were over 700 in Britain alone. They say that hoaxers account for only 20 per cent, although more cynical detractors point out that the numbers grow in almost direct proportion to the airtime the subject gets on TV.

The most orthodox of the research has been that of Dr Terence Meaden, a physicist and meteorologist, who is director of Tornado and Storm Research - an independently funded group he set up himself.

He says: "I'm afraid I have nothing to do with Andrews and Delgado at all. They don't want science. They are only interested in the paranormal and spooks and anything like that."

Dr Meaden's theory, based on warm weather whirlwinds, or electro-magnetic vortices, now has the backing of Professor Yoshi-Niko Ohtsuki, of Waseda University's physics department. He has a team of students in Britain for the duration of the crop circle season. Dr Ohtsuki talks about the "plasma elasticity" in vortices. He also claims that the circles, in miniature, can be found in dust particles on tunnels in the Tokyo underground system. He is said to be jumping for joy at the way the

Wiltshire circles have appeared - two in the field below his caravan encampment but underneath the edge of the radar scanner. The caravan is also equipped with four monitoring screens and three weather stations. Along a track under some trees sits a camouflaged second caravan where equipment on secondment from the BBC scans the same landscape.

It is believed to be part of the Andrews-Delgado research. The two camps do not communicate. Dr Meaden says that he and Dr Ohtsuki agree on about 90 per cent of their theories

and are talking about the rest. But the two scientists do not impress Delgado. "Orthodox physics," he says, "cannot explain what has been happening here. It has been exhausted. There is a world of difference between moving a few particles of aluminium dust under perfect conditions in a laboratory and the forces at work here." The interest in the circles in Japan is much more intense than in Britain. The TV team's English co-ordinator explains: "In a way it's closer to their religion."

The theory of flattening whirlwinds which solidify and then pass on has the rather surprising support of BUFORA, the British Unidentified Flying

Object Research Association, an organisation associated, perhaps erroneously, with little green men. Paul Fuller, a statistician and a member of its council, says that he and the Andrews-Delgado faction have fallen out "because they could not stand me saying it was natural phenomena, which is the opposite of their great launch into the paranormal".

Delgado, however, vigorously pooh-poohs the vortex theory. "Vortices don't pull things down; they draw things up," he says. All around, little groups of people potter into the circles, stare, talk, touch the wheat and walk on in wonder. Some sit down in the afternoon sun, unscrew vacuum flasks and drink tea out of plastic beakers. Polly Carson, a Wiltshire farmer's wife, says: "There's almost a carnival atmosphere about it. People ask me if it's frightening but it's exactly the opposite - crop circles make people happy."

But the really avid researchers continue to bicker and disagree. George Wingfield, field studies officer of the 600 strong Centre for Crop Circle Studies, now lectures to packed audiences all over Britain.

"We don't espouse any particular explanation," he says a little loftily. "The one thing we are sure of is that they are not hoaxes. They are now occurring everywhere in the world."



## Cash crop for farmers

Mrs Gladys Emery (above) waits at the gate for visitors to the Alton Barnes corn circles in Wiltshire, UK. She charges each visitor £1.00 (\$1.6) to walk through the patterns. Other farmers defend the practice of charging. Mrs Polly Carson says: "Someone has to be on the gate making sure that people don't damage the rest of the crop. We have to pay them, so that's why we charge." She thinks that the attraction creates a carnival atmosphere. "Crop circles make people happy."

### WESTERN MORNING NEWS, Plymouth, England - June 27, 1991 Yellow is the colour for safety

Professor Yoshi-Hiki Ohtsuki might like to consider this theory while waiting for the next crop circle to appear.

Circles surrounded by rings, or with smaller circles equidistantly placed about them as already recorded and photographed cannot have been made by wind swirls or by any other natural cause.

An unidentified flying object seems the only solution.

My son and I believe that these are unmanned and programmed to land in areas of yellow, or similar light colour, eg ripening wheat, or rape, and to avoid greens and browns.

Why? Because the intelligence which sends these things wants them to take off again undamaged after landing. It knows that fields used for crops are reaped by machine, and are therefore not only on the level, but are kept free from obstructions that might damage the reaper.

If the UFO were to land on a rocky hillside, the base of the machine might be damaged and make take-off impossible. So the target fields are the yellow ones, for very good operational reasons.

Have any of your readers an alternative theory?

John Crosford  
Winsford  
Minehead

CR: T. Good

GAZETTE, Clacton, England  
June 14, 1991 CR: T. Good

### Talk of UFOs over Walton

A TOP UFO expert was in Clacton - telling how an alien body and a flying saucer were soon to be displayed in public.

Timothy Good, 48, is a best-selling author and a former member of the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

He claimed the American government had for

years covered up information of beings from another world, and it would soon exhibit an alien body and its ship which it had "acquired".

Mr Good claimed to have many contacts with top US intelligence after 20 years of research into UFOs and added the American and Soviet governments had discussed the possibility of uniting against an alien attack.

Mr Good's new book, *Alien Liaison*, is already in the best-selling book chart and has previously

had the number one spot with his book, *Above Top Secret*.

He was invited to speak at the Walton Pool Club by the Essex UFO Research Group, which in a newsletter told of a UFO twice the size of a double-decker bus in Walton. It also claimed three St Osyth fishermen spotted a banana-shaped object in the sky with life-forms inside - which suddenly vanished.

# Corn triangle is a mystery

By Peter Hopper  
Agricultural Editor

A CORN triangle has appeared in the same field of winter wheat in which a corn circle was discovered at Great Holland, near Clacton, six days earlier.

The new finding, which adds to the mystery puzzling scientists and Britain's farming community, was made on Sunday by the owners of the farm, Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Lawrence and their son, Sam.

The perfectly formed triangle of completely flattened wheat, a month away from harvest, has a sharp cut off between the undamaged crop and the stalks which are laid in one direction, yet unbroken at the base.

The triangle appears only 70 or 80 yards from the 44ft diameter circle which has the flattened corn swirled around a central pivot.

It has been measured at about 17ft at the base and the sides are 38ft long, tapering to a point.

Mr. Lawrence said he just did not know what to make of it. He discovered crop circle on the farm last year and at first he thought it might have been man-made. "Now, I just don't know — it's anybody's guess," he said.

As a farmer, he is puzzled to find that, after using a chemical growth restrictor to stiffen the straw and reduce its height from 3ft to 2ft, he expected the brittle straw to be broken, but very few were



Mrs. Ella Lawrence, of Reedlands Farm, Little Clacton, at the site of the triangle in the wheat field at Great Holland. Picture by JOHN KERR

snapped off.

However, the crop had defied logic and was merely laid flat, with a few stems now beginning to show signs of recovery after ten days.

The Lawrence family, which has a farm shop at nearby Little Clacton, is puzzled by another unusual happening, as explained by Mrs. Ella Lawrence.

The first corn circle appeared on the farm last year, half-a-mile from this year's discoveries. The field

was used this year to grow oilseed rape, but the crop in the old circle site refused to grow at the same rate as the rest of the crop.

Consequently, the rape in the old 45ft diameter ring was flowering a good two weeks longer than the rest of the crop. The patch of yellow had looked very odd, she said. Also, the crop inside the circle was shorter than that outside it.

The family's agronomist, Mr. Alwyn Chapman, of Key

and Pell, took photographs of the crop still-flowering in the circle, but yesterday he was unable to give any explanation for this.

Both he and Mrs. Lawrence said they were surprised that the circle was still apparent, even though the field had been ploughed and drilled with a new crop.

I knew what Mrs. Lawrence meant when she said standing in the corn circle gave some people an eerie feeling. I felt a tingling down

my back and was pleased to leave it. Even so, I had to marvel at the way the circle had been "fashioned" by whatever force it had taken to make a perfect circle and, further along, a perfect triangular shape in a growing crop.

Mrs. Lawrence offered her own explanation, "I don't think there are space ships and little green men," she scoffed. "I think it is caused by forces beneath the ground."

## Landlady has a close encounter

PSYCHIC landlady Jan Hallett claims she sighted a UFO hovering near crop circle formations at Devizes last week.

Jan and her husband Geoff, of the Crown Inn at Bishops Cannings, were driving on the A361 towards Devizes when they saw the alien craft.

"It was a very bright light about two foot across and static above the ground," said Jan, aged 39.

"We realised it was something unusual and when we got level with it, it disappeared.

"I was really excited - I wasn't scared at all because I'm a psychic."

### Experts

Crop circle expert Dr Terence Meaden said the sighting was a common occurrence in the area.

But Jan believes the sighting is not connected with crop circle formations.

"Experts have phoned me saying the same objects have been seen by other people and could be caused by crop circles," she said.

"I do believe in UFOs but I don't think this one was connected with the circles."

CR: T. Good

# Quiet UFO 'lit up the skies'

**SIGHTINGS** of an unidentified flying object over Nottingham have been reported to a national investigations bureau.

A low-flying, brightly-lit but almost silent phenomenon was seen by two separate observers in Gedling and Arnold on Wednesday night.

Members of their families in The Meadows also saw the craft.

Quest International, the UFO-charting group which runs a special hotline, is investigating.

Mrs Elaine Buck, of Vernon Avenue, Gedling, described the lights she saw from her bedroom window as elongated triangles, resembling the outline of Concorde.

"I was closing the bedroom window when I saw the lights. I ran downstairs and told my husband, who thought I was going mad. When he saw them he couldn't believe it."

Fifteen minutes later Mr Jack Sargent and his wife, Mavis, were startled to see the same thing as they drove home from their son's house to Baker Avenue, Arnold.

By POST  
REPORTER

"There were two diamond-shaped lights, about 1,000ft up. I ran into the house and got my binoculars then I could see they were no more than a few feet apart," said Mr Sargent.

"There was a low, humming or pumping noise. The lights were much bigger than those of any aircraft."

Mr Sargent rang his son, Darren, in Surveys Lane and he and his wife, Jayne, also saw the lights.

Mrs Buck and her husband, Andy, said the lights were too low to belong to an aircraft.

"The lights were very bright, almost like Concorde in shape, but rounded at the end," said Mrs Buck.

"There were also red and green lights but the white ones were brilliant and lit all the underneath up."

### 'Overhead'

"The two of them were moving very slowly and quite low. We couldn't hear any noise whatsoever until they came overhead."

Mrs Buck's mother, Mrs Margaret Spencer, looked out from Holgate Road in The Meadows and could also see the lights.

Quest's director of investigations, Mr Tony Dodd, confirmed the organisation had had three reports from Nottingham.

"The way it's panning out, it's something quite spectacular. The speed of it eliminates any aircraft we've got. You're talking ten times the size of a Jumbo."

"We'll be looking into this and trying to find more information."

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Peterborough, England - July 24, 1991 CR: T. Good

### Mystery light

A MYSTERY bright orange light in the sky amazed a 19-year-old girl on her way home to Peterborough from Thorney ... she thought it could only be a UFO.

Pearl Assurance employee Sarah Turner of Woodbyth Road, Dogsthorpe, was driving along the Thorney Road at midnight on Monday after dropping off a friend when she first saw the circular unmoving light shining through light cloud.

Chief Inspector Michael Harlock of Peterborough Police said there were no other reported sightings.

STAR-PHOENIX, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada May 25, 1991

## B.C. spots most UFOs

By Bob Ross  
of The Vancouver Province

VANCOUVER — Most Canadians are convinced British Columbians are loony — and a new UFO review supports their argument.

The just-completed 1990 Canadian UFO Survey shows British Columbians provided 114, or 49 per cent, of the 232 reports of unidentified flying objects across Canada last year.

Mike Strainic, B.C. director of the Mutual UFO Network,

discounts the lonier-than-thou argument, saying the lopsided number of sightings was likely due to a public-awareness campaign by UFO aficionados.

"I don't really think it's crazies," says Strainic, "but when you get 49 per cent of the UFO reports, you know something is going on."

Quebec was a distant second with 36 UFO reports, followed by 21 in Ontario and 20 in Manitoba.

Of the national total, 10 reports were considered high-reliability "unknowns" — and B.C. topped the list with four of the 10.

Two of those sightings occurred in Richmond in February 1990 — multiple witnesses reporting a hamburger-shaped light on Feb. 5, and a pilot reporting a disc shape on the ground on Feb. 18.

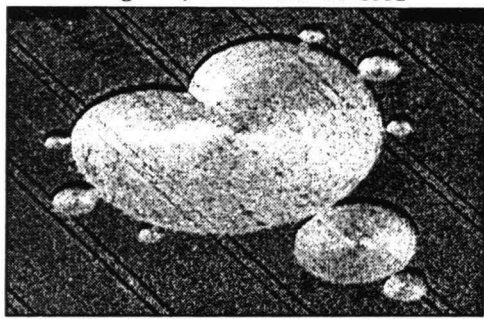
The other two included multiple sightings of a Christmas-star-shape over Vancouver on April 18, and mysterious ring-shapes near Williams Lake on Sept. 1.

"It was our busiest year ever," said Strainic. "But, funnily, things have been very slow so far this year."

Distributed by Southern News







An aerial view of the complex wheat-field circles

## Cornfield phantom has farmers foxed

by John Gaskell

THE MOST complex mathematical model — known as the Mandelbrot set — has appeared as a beautifully executed design in a wheat field south of Cambridge.

At first presumed to be an elaborate hoax perpetrated by Cambridge University students, the area of flattened cereal — only visible from the air — extended for about 180 feet and was first spotted by a commuting businessman from a light aircraft before the crop was harvested.

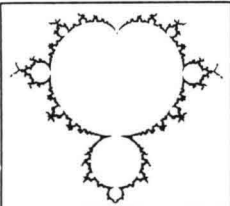
"I haven't a clue what caused it," said Mr Hugh Raybone, on whose farm at Barley, near Royston, the phenomenon occurred. "I certainly have not co-operated in any hoax."

His farming neighbour, Mrs Sian Wombwell, walked around the configuration.

"I stood in the middle of it. It was quite astonishing," she said. "I graduated in biology and have been an agronomist by trade for 15 years. If this was a hoax it was extraordinarily clever."

"We know that it arrived overnight in a field of wheat 30 inches tall. It would have required floodlights to carry it out. It was incredibly precise," said Mrs Wombwell.

"Each circle was perfect, the wheat flattened clockwise, and at the base of the heart it tapered down to a single stalk of wheat. Every stalk had been flattened one



A computer graphic of the Mandelbrot set

quarter of an inch above the soil. There were no footmarks in the trawlines left by spraying machinery and no sign of any machinery used to create the effect. It was beautifully done, but how, I can't even begin to speculate."

Cambridge mathematics department denies any involvement with the appearance of the arable Mandelbrot design — a computer-generated figure spawned via the vogue theory of "chaos mathematics".

The man whose discovery it was, Mr Benoit Mandelbrot, was very pleased to hear of the theory taking root.

"I think it's extremely amusing," said the computer researcher yesterday. "And it's certainly pleasing to be remembered in this way. But I can tell you, I plead not guilty. Was it a students' joke? I don't think it was the work of extra-terrestrials. I can't wait to see what the next one will look like."

### Why it was a Mandelbrot

I WRITE regarding the imprinting of a Mandelbrot Set in a cornfield in Cambridgeshire (News, August 25).

Intellectuals from Professor Stephen Hawking down, with their great brains but little practical experience, have been disburbing their wisdom on the subject, mostly concluding as Hawking, "I think these corn circles are either hoaxes or caused by vortex movement of air".

Show me the vortex that can leave one stalk of corn standing to bring an apex to a fine point!

A Mandelbrot is almost impossible to draw on paper without a computer: try to imagine how one could, in darkness, set out, then impress such a figure in the corn, leaving the surface smooth and regular as a gramophone record, with neither footmark nor machinery trace anywhere to be found. And all 3,000 sq ft of it carried out in a single night.

As one with a long lifetime of practical experience, I submit that there is at present no method known to man whereby this effect could have been achieved.

The experts have of course analysed the figure correctly, but, as so often before, misread the signs. Let us accept that mathematics is the only universal language. Therefore, when perfect circles in the corn were explained away as "vortices" by man, what better answer than to produce something which by no stretch of the imagination could be so described?

On the face of it no explanation other than intervention by a being, be it "God", or a "Little Green Man from Outer Space", provides a satisfactory answer.

L. L. Baynes  
31 Mingle Lane,  
Stapleford,  
Cambridge.

# UFO scare as ball of light spotted over golf course

MYSTERY surrounds the sighting of a strange object spotted in the sky in Horwich this week.

A Bolton woman, living in Chorley Old Road, says she saw a ball of light over Old Links Golf course on Monday at 10.30pm.

The woman, who does not

By BEN Reporter

wish to be named, said she saw the object for only a few minutes while she was putting rubbish in her dustbin.

She told the BEN: "It was like a ball of fire standing still in the sky and after a while it shrunk and disappeared."

The North West's leading authority on UFO's, Steve Ballon, says there is no natural ex-

planation for the sighting and discounted theories that it could be ball lightning.

He also checked with Air Traffic Control, who reported no aircraft in the area at that time.

Steve, who has devoted 25 years to the study of strange aerial phenomena, says several similar objects have been seen over the years in the Bolton area, especially on the moors.

He said: "Venus, Jupiter and Mars were clustered together at that time, but there is no way they could be seen as a ball of fire."

"The last sighting of a similar nature in that area was at Bull Hill on the moors in 1987 and in March this year three air traffic controllers saw a strange multi-coloured object at Ringway Airport."

Anyone who saw the object at Horwich should write to Steve at 10 Woodlands Avenue, Pennington, Leigh.

NEWS, Portsmouth, England  
July 1, 1991 CR: T. Good

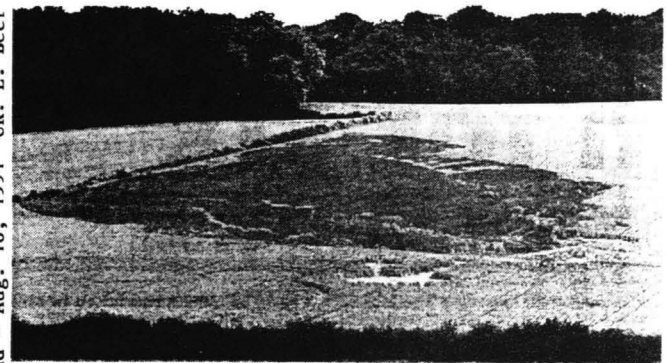
### UFO mystery

PUZZLED police were kept guessing after they failed to trace a UFO seen falling from the sky at Southsea.

Officers launched an investigation following the report of a grey object falling over Eastney marina.

A police spokesman said: "It was probably a sheet of ice falling from a high altitude aircraft but it remains a mystery."

STAR, High Wycombe, England - Aug. 16, 1991 CR: L. Beer



Scorched earth at the Amersham circles

Picture by Dave Marriott

## Fire destroys corn circles

by Sam Thom

FIRE has destroyed the strange corn circles which were formed in an Amersham field. And six hectares of valuable standing corn and hedgerow were incinerated in the blaze, which swept across the field, near the Amersham bypass, last Thursday afternoon.

Farmer's wife Mary Jarvis called the fire brigade when she saw flames in the cornfield. And by the time her husband, Fred, returned home for lunch, the fire was already in full swing.

Firefighters equipped with beaters tackled the blaze and took 45 minutes to get the fire under control and damp down

the flames.

Mary said: "Several young boys saw some other boys running away from the fire."

This week farmer Fred Jarvis harvested the field which has attracted many hundreds of visitors over the past few weeks.

He said: "It's the folks that's the nuisance, it's not the circles. People just don't seem to realise what damage they're doing."

This incident is the first of its kind in the area this year. But Mary believes it would be all too easy to start such a fire.

Inspector James May of Amersham police was concerned that such fires can spark so quickly.

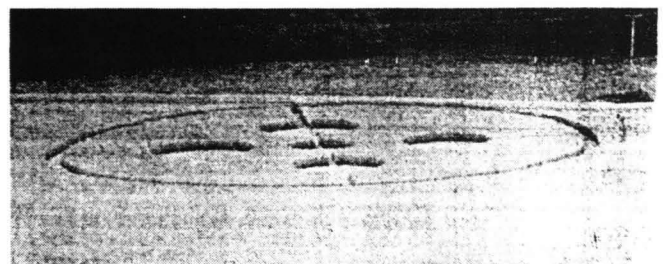
He said: "Sometimes, I am told, it just literally goes up in seconds."

The circle formation appeared on the early morning of Sunday, July 28. More circles have appeared in another of Fred's fields since the weekend.

● A youth was cautioned by police in connection with the incident. The 14-year-old boy from Chesham has now been released.

### And they keep on cropping up

SIGHTINGS of corn circles have been coming in thick and fast over the past two weeks. The most mysterious are on the slopes of the West Wycombe Mausoleum. These are similar to those at Amersham but more complex with an outer ring encircling the whole symmetrical pattern.



One of the new West Wycombe circles

Picture by Brian Southam

MAIL, Hartlepool, England - July 23, 1991 CR: T. Good  
'Nothing unusual' says Newton Bewley shepherd

## Corn circles puzzle drivers

HAS A Newton Bewley farm been visited by beings from outer space or hovering UFOs snapping pictures of Hartlepool for their galactic scrapbooks?

Mysterious circles which appeared in a field close to the busy A689 would seem to point to a happening not exactly of this planet.

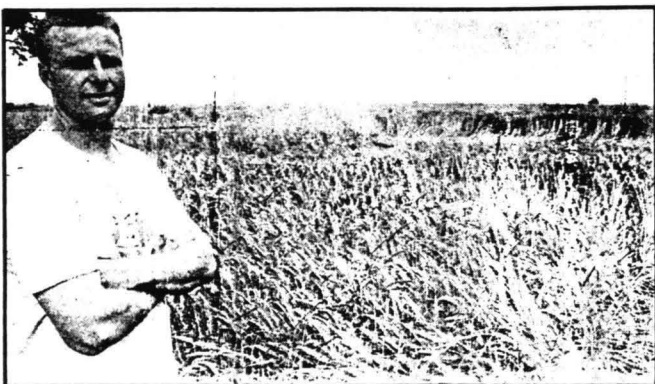
Now drivers on the high-speed dual carriageway are slowing down to observe the cornfield phenomenon.

In their thoughts are stories of mysterious circles elsewhere making them wonder if vast craters in the corn crop have been created by beams from alien space vessels or the jets of hovering UFOs.

Corn circles in other parts of the country are mystifying scientists who believe these new traces may have been created by magnetic force fields or bursts of energy from overhead pylons.

That the circles are concrete evidence that man is being monitored by intelligent beings from other planets is also being considered.

The Newton Bewley marks on a cornfield running alongside the busy dual carriageway, while not forming perfect



John Musgrave opposite one of the 'corn rings' in a field at Newton Bewley. -M0100

circles, are so oddly shaped as to excite curiosity and speculation that Hartlepool is being targeted by mysterious forces beyond our knowledge.

But shepherd John Musgrave, says the

circles on fields at West Farm are not unusual. "We get them a lot. This is not the first year they have appeared, nor is this the only field where they have appeared."

The twenty-five-year-old farmworker said they were evident in many

fields on the farm. "They usually form after heavy rain and where the crop is thickest," he said. The word is David Icke will not be travelling to Hartlepool to mount a lonely vigil in the Newton Bewley field.

# Plucked alive!



●PUZZLED...Frances and Mike Rogers at home with their two remaining, unharmed ducks and their dog Hobbit

## UFO THEORY AFTER PET DUCK AGONY

ALIENS from outer space are thought to be responsible for the torturous plucking of a pet duck.

That is the theory of the duck's owner Mike Rogers, of Goodmayes, who had to put the animal down last week because it was in so much pain.

And a UFO expert says the incident is consistent with animal mutilations in the United States thought to be perpetrated by extra-terrestrials.

Mr Rogers, of Ashgrove Road, made the horrific discovery of his suffering duck as he went to bring it and two others in for the night to protect them from foxes.

There was no sign of the white duck but it was eventually spotted on railway tracks behind the house — alive but in agony, with its head and neck plucked bare.

There was no sign of blood so Mr Rogers does not blame foxes or other animals.

Last year, Mr Rogers found a disembowelled fox near his home. Its entrails had been laid neatly out beside it. Again, there was no trace of blood on the carcass.

The British Telecom worker told police and contacted the nearest UFO society who tied it in with the American phenomenon of animal mutilation — strange happenings involving flying saucers and dismembered creatures. He said a vet's report was inconclusive.

"I don't think it can be a fox because of the nature of its injuries and it is so similar to what happened a year ago we can't rule out the UFO theory though it could be some nut case," he added.

"I would really like to know if anyone else has had similar things happening near them."

Roy Lake, chairman of London UFO Studies, based in Barking, confirmed he was investigating Mr Rogers' claims.

### GENUINE

Mr Lake said: "I know Mr Rogers and I am convinced he is quite genuine."

"He and his family are great animal lovers so they would not do this themselves."

"This is exactly the sort of thing that's been happening in America. I've sent a videotape of the duck to my colleagues over there to see if they can explain this mystery."

"It happened in a built-up area so it is unlikely another animal was responsible."

Now he wants to hear from any other local people whose pets may have been mutilated.

He can be contacted on the UFO hotline number: 081 594 4797.

EVENING ECHO, Bournemouth, England - July 30, 1991 CR: T. Good

## Corn circle mystery baffles villagers

A MYSTERIOUS corn circle which has appeared on the Cranborne Estate in North Dorset has baffled villagers — because none of them can see it!

But the circular design with a stem and two smaller semi-circles can be seen clearly from 2,000 feet up in the air where Christchurch photographer Alan Taylor took this picture.

"I was out on a commercial job and somebody mentioned the corn circle so we went and had a look and found it straight away." Alan is baffled about where the circle came from and doesn't believe in little green men in spaceships — but he thinks the circular shape is "too symmetrical and perfect" to have been made by practical jokers.

The circle is next to the A354 Hand-

ley Corner roundabout on the Sixpenny Handley to Cranborne road.

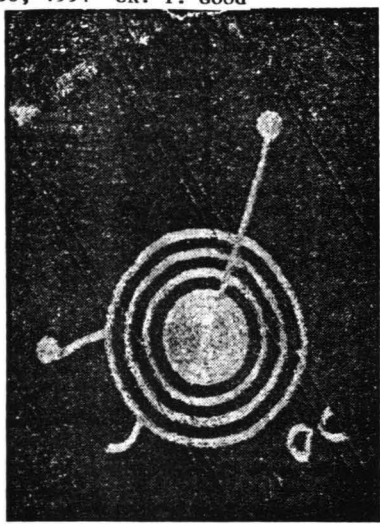
The land is part of Lord Cranborne's extensive estate — but everybody at the village estates office was mystified.

"No, we haven't seen anything. There's been no word of a corn circle on the grapevine."

But one local farmer, although he hadn't seen the latest imprint, did remember a corn circle last summer with some scepticism.

"Yes, we had a circle down here last year at Castle Hill. I was a bit annoyed someone got there before me because I wanted to make one!"

He added: "It's funny how they always appear after the summer solstice. The hippies have got to have something to do, I suppose."



The corn circle Picture: South Coast Photographics

CAMBRIAN NEWS, Aberystwyth, Wales May 31, 1991 CR: T. Good

### WEIRD WONDERS OF WALES

## Return to the sacred mountains

Last month, I wrote about various strange phenomena associated with the Preseli Hills and the area of Nevers. I told you of the manifestation of lights which hovered for hours in and around the village of Nevers in March. There were many reliable witnesses.

My "lights" article (*The Cambrian News* 12 April) was followed by two more pieces about the peculiar — and by no means permanent — magnetic forces on Mynydd Carn Ingli. I merely report 'weird wonders of Wales' and, because I know little about practically everything, seldom do I draw conclusions.

However, my readers — bless 'em — often add to my scant knowledge. (Please note: don't ask at *Cambrian News* for my phone number — I give 'em 50 lashes for disclosing it.) The first missive to reach me came in an envelope bearing the words "Alien Liaison — The Ultimate Secret". That put the wind up my wife, I can tell you!

But it came from a chap called Timothy Good and *Alien Liaison* is the name of his new book, a follow-up to his best-seller *Above Top Secret*. The first book — as you'll know — revealed evidence that the USA has UFO wreckage complete with the bodies of four aliens. Further, he writes of a massive, world-wide governmental cover up of the facts. (Our elected leaders hiding things from us? Never!) Tim's research was thorough, so *The Spectator* said: "Mr. Good's ideas are those of a maniac..."

Worry not, Tim, even I get branded as a crank sometimes. Free thinking is still seen as dangerously subversive. Anyway, I hope that you'll all nip to your library and read *Above Top Secret* for yourselves. And, in a future article, I'll be reviewing Tim's new book.

UFOs — the Nevers lights, for instance — are clearly not figments of the imagination. Neither were the odd findings I helped to make on Carn Ingli: earth forces felt by a girl via primary dowsing and we found very unusual compass readings up there (*The Cambrian News* 26 April).

"I was brought up just below it," writes a Tywyn, Gwynedd, reader. "...My most striking memory was when it caught fire during the 1914-15 War. Nobody remembered it being on fire before... quite a sight."

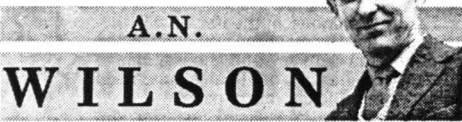
The letter mentions a pocket sun-dial — I never knew such things existed. Thank you, too, Tywyn reader, for telling me that the *Romans* called the hill The Mount of the Angels — Mons Angeloras. Strange considering that they weren't Christians. Does anyone know the answer to that one?

On the earth energies theme came this from Tregaron: "...I was driving my father's car which had a compass on the dashboard. As I got into the driver's seat, the needle swung round and pointed at me!"

The young lady describes her physical condition at the time and goes on: "I think these things have a lot to do with our energy in relationship to the Earth. I was certainly in a dreamy mood that day." Likewise the woman who first felt the energy rays: sometimes we're just open to these things.

"When I walk round Llanddewi Brefi, I'm aware of crossing ley-lines. Often, my thoughts suddenly change and I look towards the church sitting on the mound in the village centre. It always feels like the church shouldn't be there..."

Whoops, isn't that last sentence bordering on what some would call blasphemy?! And can you tell me where to find the marker-points on your leys, please?



## Squaring the circles

THE corn circles are back — a little early for the silly season, but in time for the Daily Star newspaper to offer £10,000 to the reader who gives the most plausible explanation for these extraordinary phenomena.

A man in Wiltshire has seen flying saucers land. Aliens came out of their spacecraft and made the circles before zooming off once more into outer space. One reader has said that the circles are caused by molten lava bubbling in perfectly formed shapes beneath the earth's surface, while another thinks that the circles follow the ground plan of medieval buildings.

Near Alton, in Hampshire, all the dogs in the vicinity began to bark loudly at 2am on the night that the circles appeared. A more prosaic reader of the Daily Star claims that he has seen tractors and crop-sprayers making the marks, but it is hard to see why any farmer would drive through a cornfield; and even if he did so he would not be able to make such perfectly symmetrical shapes, and flatten the corn so gently.

The circles all seem to be in parts of the country such as Wiltshire and Somerset where there are ancient earthworks, and sites of pagan religious ritual. Such

stone circles as Stonehenge and Avebury are nearby. This all adds to the feeling of spookiness which the circles give off. Last year, sceptics seemed content to say that the corn circles were "explained" by the freak hot weather. This year, presumably, they will think that the circles have been "caused" by the rain and the cold.

Beyond having a sneaking belief that the circles have been planted in the cornfields by anorexic Anglo-

Catholic priests in order to increase our sense of life's strangeness, I hope nobody wins the Daily Star's £10,000.

Some things in life should remain mysterious. Having wracked their brains to explain the mystery of the corn circles, perhaps some observers will sit down and contemplate the mystery of corn — the fact that seeds turn into harvest. That is a mystery too, which botanists can chronicle, but not explain.

TIMES, London, England - July 25, 1991 CR: T. Good

### Crop circles

From Mr Ralph Noyes

Sir, I read with interest your report on the reappearance of crop circles (July 16). Hoaxing is undoubtedly taking place in some cases. We in the Centre for Crop Circle Studies are cooperating closely with the Wiltshire police in the hope of eliminating this nuisance, which is not only troublesome to farmers but muddies the scientific record.

The event in the field near Alton Barnes which occurred on July 1-2 (there has since been a second formation in the same field) was seen within hours by members of CCCS.

It will by now have lost much of

its delicate texturing as a result of sight-seeing by members of the public. But in its pristine state it showed the hallmarks of a genuine occurrence, particularly in the complex layering of the grain where the main shaft of the formation crosses the central elements of a ring and circle.

We do not believe it could have been a hoax. Mr and Mrs Carson, who farm the land, have our full support in repudiating the suggestion of trickery.

Yours faithfully,  
RALPH NOYES  
(Honorary Secretary,  
Centre for Crop Circle Studies),  
9 Oakley Street, SW3,  
July 16.



**It ain't anyone from outer space, exclaims farmer Don**

# FIRE DESTROYS CORN AT MYSTERY CIRCLE

By MICHAEL NORTH

FIREBUGS destroyed £3,000 worth of crops when they set a corn circle ablaze.

Twelve firemen took more than an hour to beat down burning corn in the field opposite Merritt's Jaguar garage, next to the bypass in Old Amersham.

The alarm was raised at 2.42pm on Thursday. Farmer Don Jarvis, who owns Bury Farm in Old Amersham, lost more than six acres of corn as a result of the blaze.

He said police called him to say they caught boys in the nearby wood shortly after the incident.

Mr Jarvis has had two corn circles already in his fields. The one that has been destroyed has been featured in the national and international press.

He said he is fed up with the whole corn circle phenomena. "It ain't anyone from outer space. It's those old student boys that do them," he said.

"I'm a bit fed up with people walking across my fields and looking at them. They don't know what damage they are doing. I can't stop them because a foot-path goes through the middle of the field."

Police have already tried to stop corn-circle sightseers parking on the side of the A413 bypass, but without success. They cannot keep the enthusiasts out.

A spokesman for Amersham police said no-one had been arrested for the corn-field fires, but a 14-year-old Chartist boy was cautioned for the blaze.



Damage can be seen spreading out from the edge of the corn circles where the fire was started

## Scientists keep it all a secret

JANETTE Gaiger says scientists investigating the mysterious corn circles in Amersham should stop looking for UFOs and scrutinise the corn more closely.

She says the shapes formed mimick the shapes of molecules. "I think they want to find out what the corn is yielding. It's always on corn. I don't know whether they want to put corn under the microscope and find out."

"They are looking at what landed on the corn field, but I think they should look at the corn," she said from her home in Mill Road, Marlow.

"I don't know if a physicist could look at it. They are always the same, they always have circles joined up with lines."

Corn-circle specialists Pat Delgado, author of three corn-circle books, and Gordon Creighton, editor of Flying Saucer Review, believe the corn has been examined by Government scientists, but the findings are being kept under wraps.

Mr Creighton said: "The British Government are responsible for the biggest hoaxes because they are worried by the public interest."

He explained that the Government sought to make people sceptical about the circles and forget about the reality of alien intelligences.

Mr Creighton said he and his believing colleagues are up against it: "The aliens don't want us to know."

"The Government don't want us to know, and the public would rather know about their local football team."

## Strange arrow means arrival of Antichrist

RECENT crop circles herald the time and birthplace of the Antichrist, according to one circle theorist.

Piers Garnham, of Bulstrode Way, Gerrards Cross, says the crop circle found near Chequers precedes a malign second coming.

The circle has one large inner circle with three outer circle and a large arrow all connected to the inner circle by pathways.

Mr Garnham says in a letter to Midweek that when another arrowed circle appears, the point of intersection of the two arrows will show the exact birthplace of the Antichrist.

And as the circle appears, so will the Antichrist be born.

Mr Garnham adds at the end of his letter: "It's just a theory."

## Sensation was weird

ROBERT Meech, 13, from Cornwall, spotted a fresh corn circle at Hughenden Valley on Thursday night.

He approached it but drew back as he felt a strange sensation on his face.

"I just felt very warm on my face and hot. I didn't go in it," he said.

His father, Anthony Meech, described the single circle as 60ft to 80ft in diameter.

"It's extraordinary. The corn is laid down in an anti-clockwise direction as if a giant hand had done it. There are no tracks leading to it," he said.

## Schoolboy says UFOs have visited

SCHOOLBOY Peter Brittain has his own theories about what caused the five-circle corn pattern outside Old Amersham - and sent in his drawings to prove it.

Peter, 12, from Fleetwood Close, Chalfont St Giles, wrote to Midweek with his drawings and his theories on the mysterious circles. He believes UFO spaceships are to blame.

He writes: "The ship is made up of two main parts - the cockpit and the four propulsion units. These are joined by metal tubes heavily reinforced and along which messages are sent from the computer to the engines."

"The cockpit is circular. One half is for relaxation, the other for work. The engines are another matter, using such advanced technology as we could only guess at."

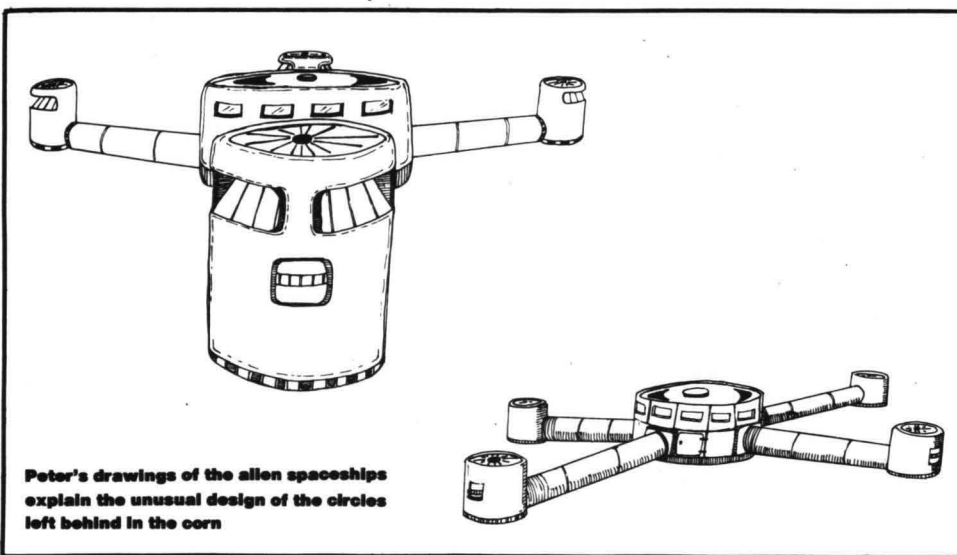
Peter adds: "I see the purpose of this vessel purely as observational and totally unarmed."

Peter's theory is backed up by Gordon Creighton, editor of Flying Saucer Review, a magazine published in High Wycombe.

Mr Creighton, who lives in Princes Risborough, said the circles are caused by "huge luminous disc-like shapes as big as a football pitch emitting an energy beam or light."

He believes, like Peter, that the alien intelligences are not necessarily trying to make contact with earth.

But Mr Creighton gave another explanation: "Very grave times are coming for the planet and this is connected with it."



Peter's drawings of the alien spaceships explain the unusual design of the circles left behind in the corn

## Martians are all going on a summer holiday



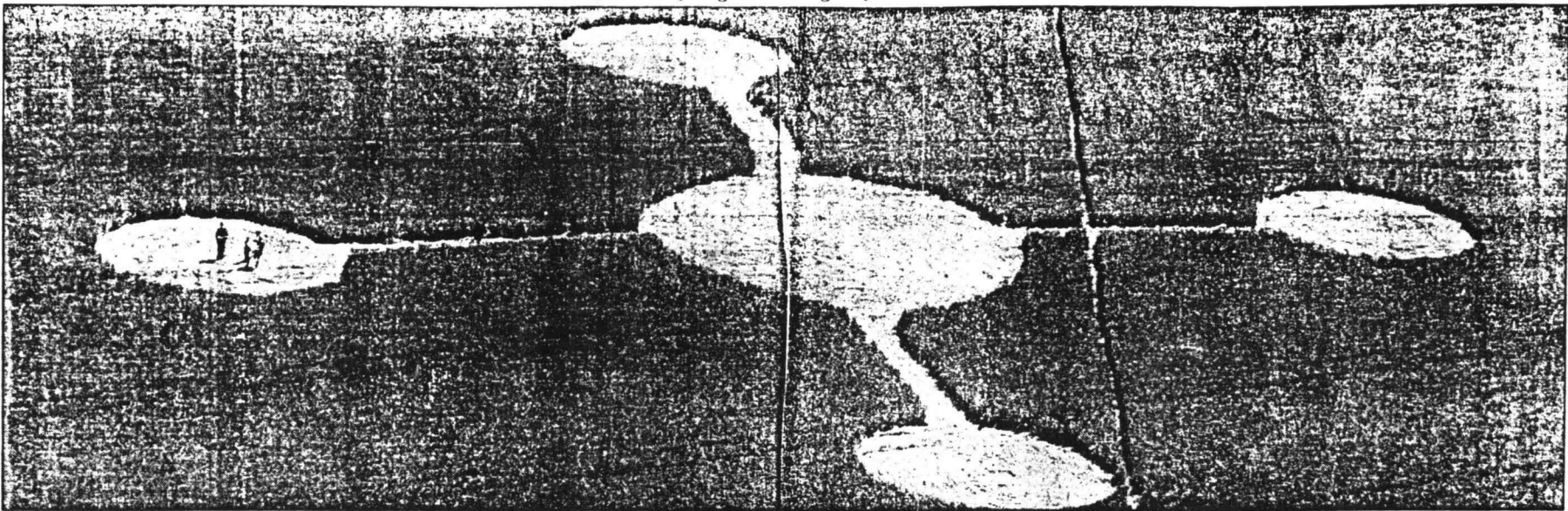
Have the Martians landed in Amersham for their hols?

MARTIANS are taking holidays in England, believes a corn-circle witness.

Scott Rutland, 23, of Park Parade, Hazlemere, spotted a set of five corn circles just outside Little Missenden on Friday, on the lane from the Bat and Ball pub, Holmer Green.

Scott gave his own theory: "I still think it's UFOs," but then admitted that the frequency of corn-circle appearances in the Chilterns seemed to indicate hoaxers.

"The Martians are probably on their summer holidays," joked Scott.



FIELD STUDY: a corn circle found this week in Buckinghamshire. All the corn has been flattened clockwise except for one foot.

# A circle of theories at the bottom of the garden

Can science explain the crop circles? **John Vidal** reports on the arguments and the unsolved mysteries

than there were? — More cereal crops are being grown in larger fields, the crops are more densely sown, and are taller in height. 1990 was the peak with 710 circles, coinciding with a series of very hot summers and a pinnacle of sun-spot activity; there are fewer in 1991 because of the unsettled weather. Since a natural phenomenon doesn't evolve, why have there not been reports of circles through the ages? — There have been hundreds but they haven't been noticed; his

hedgerows disperse calm air, and the bare earth of the "tram-lines" may act as a conductor for the magnetically-charged plasma. Why southern Britain and especially near sacred sites? — Thin, chalk soils are ideal because the crops are not rooted deeply; circles have been discovered in 26 British counties and 20 countries but the area of Wiltshire and Hampshire is ideal because of its undulating hills, proximity to the sea — and the weak fronts passing over.

Meaden is the first to say there is a deuce of a lot of explaining to do, but he believes there is nothing in conventional understanding which will not eventually explain all the manifestations of circles. Without help, though, it will take some time. "Please," he says, "let it be before I die. I don't care if I'm wrong, I just want to know".

Growing scientific consensus or not, his followers have started trading on sensitive toes by extending the theory to some of the more perplexing phenomena of our times. His theory suggests that the electromagnetic properties of plasma vortices will send car electronics haywire, produce ghost radar images, create lights in the skies, transfix animals and so on. All good grist for the UFO mill. His followers

have investigated the weather conditions prevailing at 20 of the most well-written up "UFO sightings" and "in more than two-thirds of the cases they were perfect for Meaden's plasma vortices," says Paul Fuller, a "sensible Ufologist". UFO groups, he says, have hundreds of genuine observations of phenomena which science has not explained. The vortex theory would explain a lot of "car stop cases", "close encounters" and even — you can almost hear him catch his breath — the Big One. "Abduction By Spacemen". If Meaden's theory is correct... "even the most- prized UFO cases may be scientifically explained and the spacecrafts will have been permanently grounded." He adds: "We urge the scientific community to drop their prejudices and open up channels of communication with serious UFO researchers."

Fat chance. Even less chance that the rampant Ufological community ("those mythologists," spits Fuller) will talk to them. Because the Ufologists are out in the field, too, reaping data from these boom years, rushing like Meaden from one circle to another, explaining them away as intelligently-produced messages for humanity from non-physical beings and extra-terrestrials. The message? Usually the coming of the

New Age and the raising of consciousness: hello, David Icke.

Meanwhile, here's George Wingfield of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies (CCCS), an old Etonian and former Trinity College, Dublin, Natural Sciences graduate: "What is unbelievable is the dogged determination that such people (like Meaden) have in believing that everything can be explained in terms of the physics known to

us at the present time... the fact is that the psychic and spiritual aspects of the circles, though hard, if not impossible, to grasp, ... cannot be excluded."

Wingfield describes elaborately in the latest UFO Report how he and other researchers sat in the middle of a corn circle and heard a tremendous trilling noise, "like electrostatic chattering", which approached them, and which they all believed came from some "unseen living entity". There is no reason to doubt them any more than Meaden, who pays no attention to their findings.

But far worse for the traditionalists, Meaden has now started to assault British pre-history and the origins of the "sacred sites" like Stonehenge, Avebury and Silbury. Crop circles, he suggests, were the templates for stone circles like Stonehenge; the very base of Druidical thinking. Corn dolies, those ancient fertility symbols, were developed from the twisting of corn found in the centre of some circles. Corn circles, indeed, were the whole reason for the "sacred sites" in the first place.

And so the arguments circle each other. Meanwhile hundreds of sheep are grazing round the old Avebury stones as Meaden goes past. I swear one winked.



Northants farmer Richard Sumner in a circle found 10 days ago in one of his fields

## 1990 a great year for UFOs

By **RUDOLPH MERZT**  
in Hamburg

The democratisation of the Soviet Union has been scrutinised by the inhabitants of places ranging from Antigua to Anatolia — and perhaps Andromeda Galaxy M31.

If UFOlogists are to be believed, over the past 18 months the land of perestroika has been a popular destination of space tourists who, according to Dr Vladimir Ashishin, of the Soviet's Soyuz UFO Centre, behaved even more obnoxiously than their human counterparts.

Dr Ashishin, cited recently by the semi-official Soviet news agency Novosti, submitted these cases in point:

- J. Vanshugova, a railway technician had just put her son to bed when she looked out of the window and saw a ball of fire moving slowly along the house. A dazzling light suddenly shot out of the fireball with a sound like a buzz saw, and she felt a rush of warmth and intense pain.

● Petrochemical plant worker Gail Faisov, the Bashkirstaya in Soviet Central Asia, said he had been swept off his feet without warning, spun through the air and then pressed to the ground by a mysterious force. Before he lost consciousness, he saw an object with blue and violet lights hovering over him.

● M. Ivanova, a housewife from Krasnodar in Siberia, described a similar experience. Many Soviets claim to have been held fast by mysterious rays of light, pulled into a UFO and "medically examined." Some even say they were taken to another planet then returned.

The Soviet trade union organ *Trud* has advised its readers to stay clear of any strange flying objects and to observe them from a distance. Since the inception of glasnost and the call in 1984 for Soviet citizens to send reports of any unusual experiences to a special post office box in Moscow, the flood of UFO sightings has not abated.

Last year was also a banner year for UFOs in Belgium. As glowing discs were spotted on the horizon in the province of Walloon-Brabant at Easter weekend, blips also appeared on the screens of the radar station in Ghent. Two F-16 fighters took off to intercept the objects, which then vanished. The pilots managed to get their radars to lock onto the objects, whose flight characteristics they said "in no way corresponded to those of an aeroplane."

EVENING NEWS, Cambridge, England

Aug. 12, 1991 CR: T. Good

## Bright light baffles car pair

A MYSTERY light along a road has left a mother and her son wondering if they had spotted a UFO.

Jennifer Urwin — widow of the late Cambridge city chief planning officer David Urwin — said later she had never seen anything like it. She had picked up her son Richard from Cambridge and they were driving along the B102 near Swaffham Bulbeck early yesterday morning.

SOMEWHERE between Avebury — of The Stones — and Silbury — of The Hill — Terence Meaden's mobile phone rings. The conversation is brief: "A crop circle reported? 48 feet across, yes... four satellite circles, yes... joined by lines...? Well, that's new but my theory will accommodate that... you have a number for the farmer? I'll get someone there."

Meaden is weary but polite. He's heard it all before. The excited voice on the other end of the line, the same questions from the press. He's inspected hundreds of circles since he saw his first, in 1980.

This is the fog-end of the crop circle "season" and the former professor of physics has the air of a battered corn dolly. As 1991's 100 or more circles and complicated, symmetrical patterns are mown down by the combine harvesters, his evolving theory of "plasma ring vortices" — science's best shot at explaining the phenomena so far — is holding up under the debilitating attacks of what Meaden calls the "fantasists, mystics, mythologisers and pseudo-scientific cranks" so beloved by the British public

(which, he says, is insatiable for news of extra-terrestrials). More seriously, though, the support Meaden says he is getting from the science community, with the exception of the Japanese who take these things very seriously, is negligible. Meaden may want to be an exhilarated scientific pioneer — but in a land where spacemen, fairies and Conservatives are in coalition, it's rather hard.

But to recap; here, briefly, is the tentative state-of-the-art scientific explanation — based on Meaden's decade of obsessive observation and analysis; the spending of a lot of his own money and all his time; the data collection of a large number of volunteers, and the growing support of a few scientists. It goes: the vast majority of circles are not hoaxes but previously unrecognised natural meteorological "events" which occur almost always in anticlockwise, windless conditions, mainly at night, in low-lying, undulating landscape — most frequently, close to a prominent escarpment or isolated hills. The stability of the air is disrupted by the arrival of cold, weak "microfronts". Occasionally these — they are extremely

rare — trigger a spinning, mini-whirlwind or "vortex", which accumulates highly electrically-charged matter and descends, spinning, to the ground. This is known as a "vortex plasma": two of the properties of this ionised mass are that it can be luminous, and it makes a noise. If there's a crop below, it is flattened in a variety of circles, rings and lines which depend on local topography, the micro-climate prevailing, and the intensity of the vortex.

There's not much new in this really except that atmospheric vortex analysis is in its infancy, with only a few people working on the phenomenon. The problem is that the work has to range across atmospherics, meteorology, electro-magnetic hydrodynamics and even agronomy. So far Japanese universities — which are pouring money into research — have created concentric rings and even limited plasma vortices by microwave interference in the air. US researchers have created a set of vortices in the classic five-circle pattern.

Meaden reels off his tentative answers to some of the more mundane questions. Like: why are there more circles now

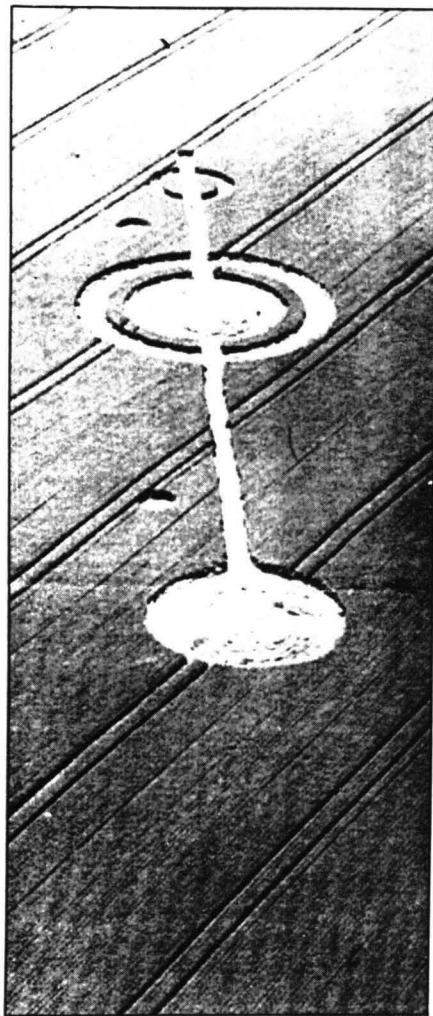
*'Corn circles were the whole reason for sacred sites like Stonehenge'*

researchers are digging more up by the day. Why are the circles seemingly getting more complicated? — They are not, the hoaxers and the media prefer the complicated ones. How come they acquire such strange shapes? — Sometimes the "plasma" can explode as it hits the ground, shooting out spurs and satellite rings. Why do they never straddle roads or boundaries and why do they seem to align themselves on the wheel marks of tractors? — Because



## Meteorologist braves ridicule over rings theory

## Corn circles are made by aliens, claims scientist



Corn circles at a farm in Wiltshire

IT TAKES courage for a man of science to admit publicly that he believes planet earth is being visited by unseen extraterrestrial craft, and that their occupants are responsible for the mysterious rings and patterns in our cornfields.

Alan Watts is such a man, and he is well aware of the scepticism that will greet the theories he expounded to me in conversation at his home in Elmstead Market, near Colchester.

Because many people will give a wry smile or snigger at suggestions that corn circles are further evidence of alien contact, it is as well to state at the outset that Mr. Watts is a professional meteorologist and physicist.

He holds degrees in maths and physics, is a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society and the author of several books on the effect of wind turbulence. For 33 years he taught physics at Colchester Institute, retiring last year, and has carried out a good deal of scientific research.

## Professional

It is a career which establishes him as a man of serious intent. His interest and investigative approach to the mystery of the corn circles is that of a professional with a desire to know the truth.

Yet the answer to the phenomena that has baffled many more scientists, does not, he says, lie in the wind.

By Peter Hopper

Mr. Watts said in a letter published last month in *Weather*, the official magazine of the RMS, "Anyone who has studied the latest aerial photographs of these phenomena must realise at once that they are wasting their time in a fruitless search for some mechanism that will allow a nice tidy explanation."

One of very few professional weather experts to examine a corn circle for himself, he took precise measurements of a dumbbell-shaped pattern which appeared in a field of unharvested wheat on a farm at Fordham, near Colchester.

The two rings, joined by a central swathe, were stumbled upon by the owners as the crop was about to be combined. The pattern could not be seen from a road and remained undetected until harvest because of the lack of surrounding elevation.

In his letter to *Weather*, a publication not given to flights of fancy, Mr. Watts said, "This was, by present standards, a simple pattern but there is no way a natural phenomenon could have formed these circles and the connecting swathe."

"The former were both of exactly 19 ft. 2 in. radius and the edges were sharp as if cut with a knife. There was, in the centre of each, a roughly 2 in. wide central hole which on probing with a rod proved to be 9½ in. deep.

"These holes were exactly central in

the two circles. The central connecting swathe was exactly 6 ft. wide throughout its length and it was obvious from the way the stalks had been laid that the southernmost of the circles had been drawn first; the connecting swathe had been started from the very edge of that circle and the northernmost had been drawn last."

He added, "No vortex (the theory of investigating scientist Terrance Meaden) could have formed such a pattern and, while the implications of this are not scientifically comfortable, it is obvious to me that this and the other most complex patterns that have been discovered are the result of some form of intelligence."

## Intriguing

Mr. Watts agrees in his letter that a few, very few, circular or near-circular patterns may indeed be the result of local vortices.

"However," he adds, "to attempt an explanation of the whole gamut of this intriguing phenomenon through meteorology is useless and will only serve to cover up the true identity of an important effect which needs some true scientific study but, because of its mystery, will not get it."

Mr. Watts told me there were several aspects which led him to believe that it was not the work of a hoaxer.

"Some force had bent the straw, it had not been trampled," said Mr. Watts. The pressure exerted on the crop

had not only bent the straw down so that it would not get up again, but it was also bent around the centre.

The most likely explanation was that some form of electromagnetic energy had been used which entrained the irons in the straw to give a circuit effect much like a dynamo.

Mr. Watts said, "No human agency was involved, I don't see how it could be."

"With any meteorological phenomena there is turbulence; there was no sign of turbulence in this phenomenon."

The cause was, in his opinion, extra-terrestrial. "All my experience over the years has led me to that conclusion," he said.

Mr. Watts would not be drawn on why it was happening. "No one knows why," he replied to my question, "but the evidence is there."

As a founder member of the Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association in the late 1950s and early sixties, he took part in scientific investigations, until, he claimed, the organisation got into the hands of "weirdoes."

Mr. Watts thinks there is a good chance that the current corn circle investigations will suffer a similar fate, unless the whole thing is strictly controlled.

He believes that our alien visitors are playing an intellectual game with us, rather than attempting communication. "They are calling cards," he says.

To describe the patterns or pictograms as communication was a bit far-fetched, as they seemed to follow no known language.

## Phenomena in the fields

IT HAS to be said there are several theories about the origin of the celebrated corn circles, but so far no single one has emerged as the outright front runner.

With growing public interest in what is after all a good mystery, the media continues to be rather sceptical of explanations other than a freak of nature or a gigantic hoax.

Investigations are often hampered by people jumping on the bandwagon with their own pet theories, hundreds of sightseers and even some farmers who make a charge to view circles found on their land.

When it was claimed earlier this month that self-styled "Son of God" David Icke was seen running around one of the new corn circles which had appeared in Wiltshire, investigation of one of the latest sightings was in danger of degenerating into another media circus.

Yet there is serious work going on to discover who or what is behind one of the most intriguing mysteries for many a year.

Even if it turns out to be a hoax in the end — it is one of enormous complexity.

This is increasingly the most unlikely explanation because of the vast number of circles and patterns discovered in Britain and other countries.

The two most serious contenders are the vortex theory of Dr. Terrance Meaden, whom I interviewed a couple

of years ago, and the views of researchers Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews which lean towards extraterrestrial visitations.

Dr. Meaden claims his wind theory is supported by the knowledge that stone circles and burial grounds were built on the side of neolithic crop circles.

There are 900 stone circles in Britain, mainly in the south of England.

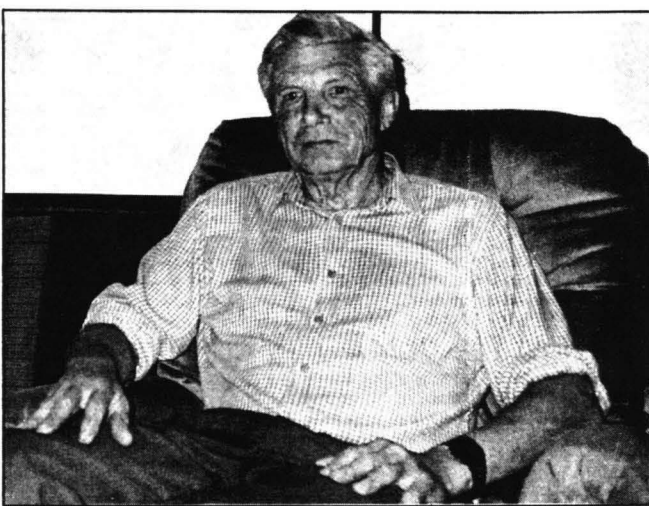
Dr. Meaden, is well qualified as a physicist, meteorologist and archaeologist who heads the Tornado and Storm Research Association, and this year set up the Circles Effect Research, or CERES, to monitor the rings.

He claims to have investigated hundreds of the crop circles and says they have occurred for centuries and are created by the wind.

He has come to the conclusion that they are formed by a vortex or air which spins above the grain, leaving the impression of a symmetrical spiral.

The phenomenon occurs when the wind in a valley is still, usually at night, when an oncoming wind may strike a hillside in a certain way, producing a mass of spinning air, which will move toward the ground and create the shapes seen in crops.

According to Meaden, the vortex may also account for the theories about UFOs, which have become linked to the circles.



Scientist Mr. Alan Watts favours the alien theory

He states that the vortex could become electrically charged, causing it to appear as a ball of light. It could also make a humming or whistling sound and often is mistaken for a UFO.

However, the vortex theory does not seem to account for the increasing complexity of the patterns or pictograms which have appeared only over the last two years.

The team of Delgado and Andrews, revealed in their books *Circular Evidence* (1989) and its update *The Latest Evidence* (1990) their growing conviction that the energy being used is as yet undiscovered and possibly concerned with evolution.

Delgado concluded, "The incredible designs now appearing in fields, surpassing all subtleties of previous years,

are a demonstration of energies and an intelligence beyond the realms of scientific dogma."

Crop circles which have appeared in the past week in fields around Swindon, Wilts., and Dundry, near Bristol, are of graphic design and support the predictions that this year's versions would be more complex than ever before.

The saga continues...

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Too mysterious to be a hoax

SIR—I would like to address some of the points raised in Matt Ridley's article on corn-circles (Aug. 31).

Hoaxes are carried out in ever-increasing numbers, but such hoaxes have been crudely fashioned circles compared to the complex designs which have been appearing in the wheat fields of southern England during recent seasons.

The detailed complexity of some of these designs is breathtaking, and they often measure more than 150 feet across. The idea that they can be knocked together in just 30 minutes,

in the middle of the night, without leaving the slightest evidence that anyone had ever been in the field, is ridiculous to anyone who has seriously researched the subject.

If such designs, capable of fooling the entire arena of research, are so easy to manufacture, why hasn't someone done it and pocketed the £30,000 currently on offer? Moreover, the examples found in southern England numbered more than 500 last year alone and were spread over three counties.

Many circles have not been reported

DAILY TELEGRAPH, London, England - Sept. 4, 1991 CR: T. Good

by farmers at all, either because they were deemed unimportant or because the farmers did not want hoards of sightseers invading their fields. One farmer told a research group that his father often pointed out the circles to him when he was a boy and that the circles had been appearing annually on his land for the previous 28 years. Are we to assume that these hoaxers maintain a father-to-son tradition?

The accusation that they are the invention of locals out to make a fast buck is unfair. Such was the attraction of the example which appeared overnight at Allington Down that the

farmer who owned the field stood to lose around £4,000 in ruined wheat in the face of the tidal wave of curious sightseers following the media coverage. Why shouldn't he attempt to stem this loss at £1 a time?

Opinions as to the cause of this phenomenon are divided, ranging from "phasma vortices" to little green men, but one opinion, on which most researchers, scientists and "Californian fringe" alike are united, is that many of them are beyond the simple explanation of hoax.

MARK BURGESS  
Rochdale, Lancs

## FIFTH DIMENSION

## BACK IN THE UFO

Odd-looking aliens from outer space have always got tongues wagging but recent sightings in the USSR are causing cosmic confusion.

**Marek Kohn** clears the air.

Illustration: **Colin Williams**

**I**N THE Soviet Union's days of turbulence, strange visitors are abroad. During the summer of 1989, according to the Tass news agency, a group of schoolchildren from the town of Vologda witnessed the landing of a luminous, spherical UFO. It split open, and a headless humanoid figure emerged. The craft then vanished.

The Soviet Union's uninvited guests continued to move in a mysterious way. Socialist Industry, quoting Tass, described how a dairy worker from Perm came upon what she took to be a figure riding a motorcycle. She then realised that she was looking at something "that resembled a man, but was taller than average with short legs... and had only a small knob instead of a head." "Huge headless figures travelling as though on motorcycles" were also reported from the Ukraine in October 1989, by Pravda.

That month also saw the Soviet Union's most celebrated close encounter to date. Tass reported how a red sphere landed in front of three children playing in a Voronezh park. The aliens who emerged from it were three or four metres tall, but had very small heads. When one of the onlookers screamed, one of the extraterrestrials paralysed him with a glance.

Subsequent sensational news from the USSR, to which only the specialist UFO press has been privy, brings Soviet ufology to a point reached by its US counterpart 40 years ago. The Leeds-based Quest International has described how, in 1983, a UFO was hit by an air defence missile over the Caucasus Mountains. The damaged craft made a soft landing, and was discovered by two mushroom pickers. When the photographs they took began to circulate, the authorities moved in and transported the spaceship to Moscow.

It was a deadly cargo. The mushroom pickers died of radiation poisoning, and many of the soldiers who guarded the machine also received lethal doses. Its pilot was unharmed, however, and informed Russian ufologists that the probe was part of expedition NZ-2 from Orion. It carried a robot explorer called a Gimikon, and was propelled by a stream of neutrinos, the scientist's answer to moonbeams.

The photos show a large object that looks like a cross between the American Gemini and Apollo vehicles of the 1960s. Investigator Walery Uwarov told Quest's man that tell-tale radioactivity



helped him to track the craft down to a secret location in a suburb of Moscow.

To the ufologist, this is an example of a "crash/retrieval" story. The "C/R" genre originated in lectures given by one Silas M. Newton, whose claims were popularised in Behind The Flying Saucers, written by a Variety columnist called Frank Scully. Published in 1950, it claimed the American military had recovered an undamaged saucer containing 16 dead aliens. These were indistinguishable from humans apart from being a metre tall and having perfect teeth. Scully had a bestseller; Newton was convicted of hawking a bogus device called a "Doodlebug", which he claimed could detect oil deposits.

The flying saucer age had begun three years before. On June 24, 1947, a businessman named Kenneth Arnold was flying his private plane above the Cascade Mountains in Washington. Suddenly, he saw what appeared to be a squadron of nine objects flying through the sky. They were flat and irregular in outline. Arnold compared their motion to that of a saucer skipped across the surface of water; a journalist called Bill Bequette coined the term "flying saucer" and a wave of saucer-shaped airborne objects duly ensued.

One of the earliest contactees was George Adamski, who was working as a hamburger chef when he was invited by the Space Brothers, hailing mostly from Venus, to go on jaunts round the solar system. The Brothers came to warn humanity of the dangers posed by its own folly. Other aliens, sighted at a time

when Western fears of invasion and devastating new airborne technologies were acute, posed a threat in themselves. In more recent years, unfriendly aliens have come to play an increasingly prominent role in UFO lore.

Now, however, they behave more like satanists than Red invaders. American ufology is preoccupied with abductions, the victims of which are troubled by nightmares. Under hypnosis, they produce stories of being taken aboard alien spacecraft: the archetypal centrepiece of the trip is a quasi-medical examination. Abduction theory has been pioneered by Budd Hopkins, an artist who took up ufology after seeing a UFO in 1964. He claims that extraterrestrials impregnate women and take the foetuses away. The idea is reminiscent of the "brood-mare" claims that have arisen from allegations of ritual child sexual abuse in the United States, according to which women are repeatedly impregnated in order to supply foetuses for satanic sacrifice.

The emergence of this sinister current in American ufology makes many European ufologists all the more relieved that they got off the extraterrestrial bandwagon years ago. After 40 years without hard evidence, one tendency in the European movement has come to favour a paranormal explanation. Another has concluded that the answers lie in the domain of conventional psychology and anthropology. Either way, the "extraterrestrial hypothesis" is decidedly infra dig.

The post-extraterrestrialists have

rejected what appears to be an impressive body of evidence. It contains thousands upon thousands of reports, from all parts of the world where a scientific view of the physical universe has taken root in popular culture. All walks of life are represented in the ranks of the observers, from poor farmers through airline pilots and military officers to presidents of the United States (Reagan, according to a journalist; Carter, according to himself).

The vast majority of sightings can be explained in prosaic terms: aircraft, balloons, celestial bodies and so on. This proportion is usually put at 90 per cent. But, as a much-quoted phrase puts it, that still leaves a residue of incredible stories told by credible people.

**F**LYING saucers arrived just after the Bomb. After the Los Alamos test in 1945, the physicist Dr Robert Oppenheimer famously quoted a Hindu poem: "I am become Death, the shaker of worlds." Humanity was felt to have lost its cosmic innocence: perhaps cracking the secrets of the atom and space travel had attracted the attention of concerned extraterrestrials. The beings seemed to offer the possibility either of guidance; or of retribution for human folly. Either way, flying saucers carried a religious cargo.

Even the world's great materialist belief-system could, on occasion, smile upon UFOs. The followers of Juan Posadas, a South American Trotskyist, believed that the contradictions of capitalism made nuclear war inevitable. They looked to salvation from flying saucers, on the grounds that a civilisation advanced enough to build interstellar craft would necessarily be communist. At one stage, the Posadaists had a handful of British cadres awaiting the Trotskyists from outer space.

Moscow's apparatchiks could be equally visionary, particularly when the USSR was winning the space race. A pamphlet issued to commemorate Yuri Gagarin's flight into space declared: "Advanced science armed with the theory of dialectical materialism asserts the existence of numerous worlds in which the development of life, the highest form of matter, is possible." It concluded that "in the distant future man will be able — however fantastic it may seem — to establish communication with other worlds."

The Soviet public now appears increasingly ready to believe that contact may be imminent. Their visitors are unusual even in ufological terms. The headless figures travelling as if on motorcycles sound like modern headless horsemen, but such apparitions do not feature in Russian ghost lore. Headless giants are not part of Russian folklore, nor of its science fiction. They are the inverse of the traditional diminutive space-being with a large cranium.

Whatever their place in the natural history of extraterrestrials, they are appropriately ominous figures to appear in the Soviet Union's troubled landscapes. And in one respect, recent Soviet UFO stories express a specific fear. The dominant features of the tale of the captured probe are deadly radiation and government secrecy. As a folktale, it is unsatisfactorily inconclusive. The heroes win a partial victory by finding the spaceship, but the way they do so — following a trail of radioactivity — emphasises the continuing danger.

After the Voronezh encounter, investigators conducted tests in the park where the spacecraft was said to have landed. They found just one abnormality: elevated levels of radioactive caesium. That, unquestionably, was real. It was the legacy of Chernobyl. **Q**

The sixth International UFO Congress is being held in Sheffield this weekend.

SUNDAY MAIL, Glasgow, Scotland - July 14, 1991 CR: T. Good

## Nessie's an alien spy says expert

**T**HE Loch Ness monster could be a visitor from outer space — flown in to goggle at US.

According to a college lecturer, Nessie might have been put in a spaceship on another planet and used the

Loch as a soft landing spot.

And her visits to the surface of the Loch would be part of her observations of the Scottish section of the human race.

So says George Rawcliffe, head of Blackpool and Fylde College's

management studies department, and a noted UFO expert.

George, 50, has now written to Whitehall and the United Nations to urge the setting up of a World Alien Space Contact Unit.

He said: "After many unexplained UFO sightings, I think aliens may have already landed and be observing us."

"Humans have used water for return space landings, why shouldn't aliens do the same?"

George has written 30 books on UFOs.

MANSFIELD & SUTTON OBSERVER, England - Aug. 15, 1991 CR: T. Good

## Close encounters of the balled kind

**L**ARGE fiery balls have been spotted in the sky over the Shirebrook area.

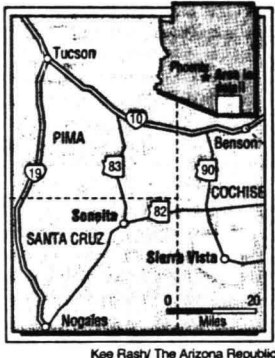
A housewife at Spion Kop saw "two orange-red balls of light" hovering over the area late on Wednesday night.

"They were enormous," she said.

"They made no noise as they floated across the horizon."

Les Trueman, PR for the Mansfield UFO Group said: "We had similar reports about four months ago over Langwith pit tops, and we're investigating them."





## Cult tied to livestock deaths

'Signs distinct' for satanic rites

By Dee Ralles  
The Arizona Republic

TUCSON — The mutilation of eight cattle and a horse in southeastern Arizona is the work of members of a satanic cult, authorities said Wednesday.

"Nine animals, that's the official number, but we know there are a lot more out there," said Detective Mike Rafferty of the Cochise County Sheriff's Office.

"These (animal killings) are happening all over the state — and country — but we seem to have had our fair share lately in Cochise County," said Rafferty, who is based in Sierra Vista. "We don't know why."

Ritual killings are easy to identify, he said.

"The signs are distinct," Rafferty said. "For example, the animal has been totally drained of its blood, and the sexual parts of its body have been cut off."

### Devil worship

The grisly mutilations, including the nine in southern Arizona, match what Rafferty and his colleagues have learned about devil worship and satanic practices.

"An animal has 4 or 5 gallons of blood, and from the rumors we are hearing, they (cult members) use this for baptisms," he said. "We believe they use it (for baptisms) by putting it possibly into a bathtub or small swimming pool."

The detective also warned that those involved in the crimes can be "violent."

"We don't want people to panic over this," he said, "but we want the public to be aware that this type of satanic activity is going on."

### 'Ritual places' found

According to Lt. Filiberto Solano, an investigator with the animal-services division of the Arizona Department of Agriculture, animal mutilations aren't the only trail left by cult members in Arizona.

"In Santa Cruz County, there were what appeared to be ritual places where they had marked trees with numbers (associated with Satanism)," Solano said.

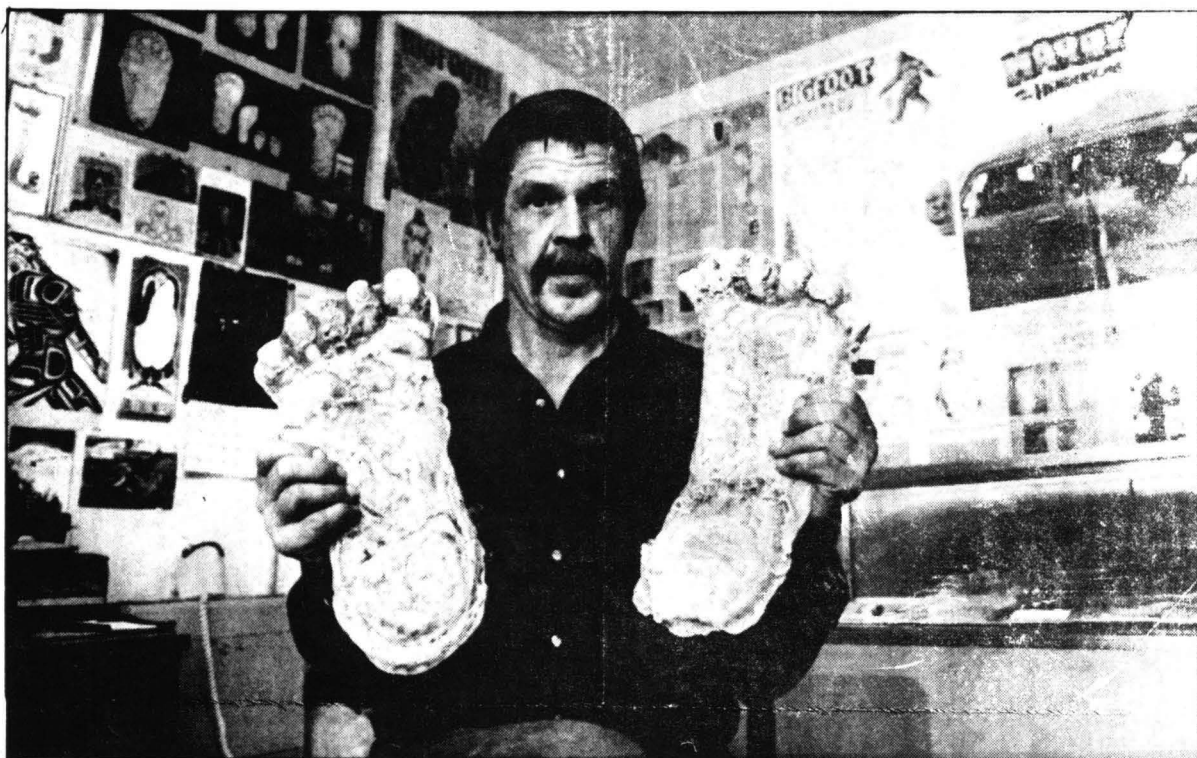
Killing livestock is a Class 5 felony. Penalties can include jail time and fines.

Investigators involved in the livestock mutilations near Sonoita and Sierra Vista would not comment on the progress of the investigation.

Contributing to this article was The Associated Press.

# FORTEANA NEWS

TIMES, Seattle, WA - July 3, 1991



Cliff Crook holds two plaster casts of footprints he claims were made by a Sasquatch — or Bigfoot — near Mount Rainier in 1990. Pedro Perez / Seattle Times

## Let your Bigfoot do the walking . . .

by Steve Johnston  
Times East bureau

BOTHELL — The problem with Sasquatches isn't just finding one, Cliff Crook says.

Instead, says the Bothell resident, it's that there's no central place to report your sightings of the elusive critter (also known as Bigfoot) — and when you do report one, everyone tends to be skeptical.

So Crook is opening Bigfoot Central.

He wants it to become a national clearinghouse for Sasquatch sightings, Bigfoot memorabilia and the state headquarters for a petition drive to get Bigfoot declared an endangered species.

Bigfoot Central will give Crook another stab at convincing people there are rather large, hairy, apelike creatures running around in the woods.

The toll-free hotline is already in place. To celebrate the official opening of Bigfoot Central headquarters, Crook has persuaded

the producers of the movie and television show "Harry and the Hendersons" to send one of their Bigfoot costumes so someone can wear it in Bothell's Fourth of July parade tomorrow.

Those who want to meet the people behind Bothell's Bigfoot movement and to greet "Harry" of television fame are invited to a breakfast at the Wyndam Garden Hotel in the Quadrant Business Park at 9:30 a.m. (call the hotel for reservations). They can also hear about Crook's encounter as a 16-year-old with Bigfoot some 35 years ago in the Duvall area and see some Bigfoot items he has collected over the years.

Crook isn't in this project by himself. Alex and Peggy Manjuris are helping by collecting signatures on petitions to gain state recognition of Bigfoot as an endangered animal and to get the Bigfoot foundation started. The Bothell couple say Crook is "the most important thing in this foundation."

Alex Manjuris saw what he

### Have you seen Sasquatch?

Anyone who wants to report a sighting can call Bigfoot Central at a toll-free number: 1-800-83-BIGFOOT. (Yes, the organizers know that is too many numbers, but the last two letters of FOOT will be ignored when dialing.) The local Bothell number is 483-4007.

thought was a Sasquatch near Mount Rainier about two years ago. And while his wife hasn't seen one, she says she believes in her husband and Crook.

When asked why no Bigfoot has been found or any bones uncovered, Manjuris says the creatures have "a common burial ground like elephants. They take care of their own."

Crook, who does odd jobs to

support himself while leaving him free to hunt for Sasquatches, says he has received hundreds of reports about sightings and gets numerous calls from people about their experiences. He concedes "about 90 percent" of those calls are hoaxes and he doesn't take them seriously. But he thinks some should be followed up.

His own first encounter with Bigfoot, Crook says, occurred when he was camping with three friends near Duvall in 1956. The four heard something in the woods and their dog started to bark. When they went to investigate, one of the boys took a piece of burning wood with him.

Something rose on its hind legs, and the boy swung at the creature with the torch. Crook says he heard it say something like "Agar Lar-gar," which he took to mean "Get out of here."

The boys left, but the incident started Crook on his lifelong pursuit of Bigfoot.

COLUMBIAN, Vancouver, WA - Aug. 8, 1991 CR: M. Dobbs

## Was it Ogopogo, or sturgeon, in B.C. lake?

VERNON, B.C. (AP) — Ogopogo, the legendary monster of Okanagan Lake, has surfaced again. Or was it a family of sturgeon?

"We couldn't believe what we were seeing," waitress Sue Court said Wednesday. "We could see this black thing sticking out of the water. It was only there for a minute and then it was gone."

Court was among 20 to 30 staff and guests at the Lakeside Marina Hotel's outdoor patio lounge who said they saw a huge, rippling, offshore disturbance Monday night.

They said it moved rapidly through the water, then briefly rose to the surface. Several said a 6-foot-tall hump-like protrusion jutted briefly out of the water.

Carman Zieman, who operates a nearby jet-ski rental operation, was among the first to notice.

"I looked out and saw these huge white wakes moving up the lake," he said. "They were moving against the rest of the waves, and in the opposite direction the wind was going."

Unlike a boat wake that gets smaller, he said, "it kept coming up and up and up, and then it would die down, and then get stronger again."

Zieman said the area of churning water was about 600 yards offshore.

The frothy water moved along the lake at a speed of about 10 miles an hour, kicking up waves more than 3 feet high, witnesses said.

"Part of it came right out of the water," Zieman said. "It was black, and it came up, like in an arch, and then right back down again."

Bartender Grant Nikolaychuk said he didn't see anything resembling a black hump, but the churning water did suggest something large moving beneath.

He said the churning area of water was visible for two to three minutes then disappeared when a boat on the lake began moving towards it.

Some witnesses were reluctant to suggest it was Okanagan Lake's mythical resident monster.

"There's no way there could be anything like an Ogopogo," said photographer Murray Martz.

He suggested what people saw was a school of sturgeon.

"Sturgeon are huge, like big canoes," he said. "Usually what you get is a sturgeon, its mate, and its offspring."

"If no one's around, they come up. They surface — one, two, three — and then they go down, — one, two three. It looks just like the pictures you've seen of humps on Ogopogo."

That's an idea that has already occurred to Arlene Gaal, a 20-year veteran Ogopogo hunter who has written two books on the subject.

But she said the provincial Fisheries Ministry has never recorded a confirmed sighting of a sturgeon in the lake.

# They're stalking the elusive crypto-beasts

## Science used in hunt for Sasquatch, sea monsters . . .

By Carolyn Battista  
New York Times

**D**ID A SEA SERPENT visit the harbor in New Haven, Conn., in 1896? Where on Lake Champlain might the legendary monster Champ raise its head? And what's new with Sasquatch, the creature said to leave huge footprints across the Pacific Northwest?

Members of the International Society of Cryptozoology love trying to answer those questions. The organization is devoted to investigating what it calls "all matters related to animals of unexpected form or size or unexpected occurrence in time or space."

Cryptozoology means the study of hidden animals, and the professional and amateur scientists who belong to the society study any clues they can find of Champ, Sasquatch and other notable mysteries.

J. Richard Greenwell, secretary of the International Society of Cryptozoology at its headquarters in Tucson, Ariz., said he has searched in African swamps for a dinosaurlike creature and in China for a wild man.

Other society members, like Gary Mangiacopra of Milford, Conn., scour library stacks for accounts of unexpected animals.

Cryptozoologists note that several recognized animals once caught scientists by surprise.

In 1938, for instance, Comoro Island fishermen found in their nets a strange, hideous fish that turned out to be a coelacanth, which was presumed to have been extinct for 60 million years. The megamouth shark, a new species, was discovered in 1976.

Such findings should encourage people to view cryptozoology with some seriousness, society members said. But they are used to, and generally undaunted by, other responses.

Cryptozoologists "get a lot of laughs, but they just point out that they're doing it scientifically," said Quentin Keynes, a society member from England who lives part of the year in Riverton, Conn.

Keynes, a great-grandson of Charles Darwin and a nephew of the economist John Maynard Keynes, called himself a

professional explorer and said he is driven by "intellectual curiosity."

Keynes makes documentary films about his travels, including one about the Comoro Islands. "I got involved in the coelacanth fish business," he said. "It's my kind of thing."

Russ Kinne, a photographer and writer in New Canaan who has made several trips to the Pacific Northwest to seek Sasquatch, joined the society when it was founded in 1982.

"Science, with a capital S," may not recognize the huge creatures reported, but never found, over centuries, he said. But scientists should not have the attitude that "we don't find them, so they don't exist," he said. "My bottom line is, it's worth investigating."

Jameston Deveroux of Hamden, Conn., is another society member and fan of the elusive giant of the Northwest, also known as Bigfoot.

"As young teens [in Oregon] my friend and I were going to be the ones who found Bigfoot," Deveroux recalled. Still fascinated by the subject, he said, he is dismayed by supermarket newspaper headlines like "Sasquatch Jumped Into a UFO and Took Off With Me."

Mangiacopra, a graduate student in biology at Southern Connecticut State University, has spent years researching sightings of unusual water-dwelling creatures.

He has unearthed old newspaper stories like that of a sea serpent reported off Lighthouse Point in New Haven on the sunny afternoon of July 19, 1896. "It was seen by 200 people, for half an hour," he said.

He said he has also corresponded with viewers of odd beasts at sea, like the captain of a fishing vessel who sent him a sketch of a 40-foot creature with a mane and bulging eyes that he said he observed in 1957 off the Grand Banks near Newfoundland.

Mangiacopra has written magazine articles on such sightings and is working on a book about them.

In the late 1980s, he also travelled to Lake Champlain to join a team using sonar to determine the water's depth at places where appearances of Champ had been reported.

"Those appearances occurred where

the lake was shallow," said Mangiacopra, adding that such information bolstered the reports' validity.

William Konrad, a retired electronics engineer who lives in Niantic, brought his own sonar equipment to aid the hunt for Champ. "I was only about one-third thinking that there was such a thing, but it was fun to do," said Konrad, who, although not a member of the International Society of Cryptozoology, helped write an article on the sonar tracking for the group's journal.

Mangiacopra also keeps a thick file on sightings of wild, unidentified felines in Connecticut. Those reports also intrigue Deveroux, he said, adding that as a youth in Florida he dreamed of finding the Skunk Ape that is said to stalk the Everglades. Now, he said, he's ready for the Connecticut catamount.

"If there was a sighting in Connecticut today, I'd be up tomorrow looking for it," said Deveroux. "There are lots of things that exist that we just do not have evidence on yet."

Kinne, a nature photographer, said he will return to the Northwest in the spring to search for Sasquatch.

"I've never come out and flatly said, 'I believe these creatures exist,'" said Kinne. But, he said, "if they do exist, they're of enormous scientific interest."

Both Kinne and Keynes have studied a film that has become a sort of cryptozoology classic, shot in the 1960s by a Northwesterner who died a few years ago. It shows Sasquatch — or some hairy, hulking creature. Both men said the film seemed legitimate.

"The film was not monkeyed with," said Keynes. "But, that's not to say it wasn't a man in a monkey suit." Still, he said, "no one has ever come forward and said, 'If you pay me \$5,000, I'll tell you how I got up in the monkey suit.'"

As in most matters cryptozoological, the definitive answer remains hidden. Most of the society's 900 or so members have jobs and other responsibilities that limit their pursuits of nature's truth. The society "lives on a shoestring," said Keynes.

But he has tried to help. "I've made a lot of people join," he said.

The International Society for Cryptozoology can be reached by writing P.O. Box 43070, Tucson, Ariz., 85733.

## Just a miserable little reptile besides Nessie

By Tom Morton

IT WAS a typical Loch Ness-side day. A steady drizzle soaked through the most waterproof of raincoats, angry drivers attempted impossible overtaking maneuvers on the A82, and Phantom jets skimmed the treetops with an ear-splitting roar calculated to upset the most placid of creatures.

Nessie, however, did not turn a hair, possibly because she doesn't have any. Outside the Official Loch Ness Monster Exhibition — just along the road from the other Official Loch Ness Monster Exhibition — a life-size

(approximately) Nessie, man-modelled and anchored in a pond laced yesterday with ice, Coke firs and a traffic cone, met her little sister.

Or it may have been brother. Kussie, scaled down and made of wood, was as silent as Nessie. Nevertheless, the meeting of Loch Ness's famous monster and the monstrous inhabitant of Japan's Lake Kussharo was as these things go momentous.

Yenko, bearing their miniature monster as a message of goodwill. The children are on what Glenurquhart High School headmaster, Allan Maxwell, hopes will be an exchange visit to Scotland, with Drumadocchil children going to Japan next year.

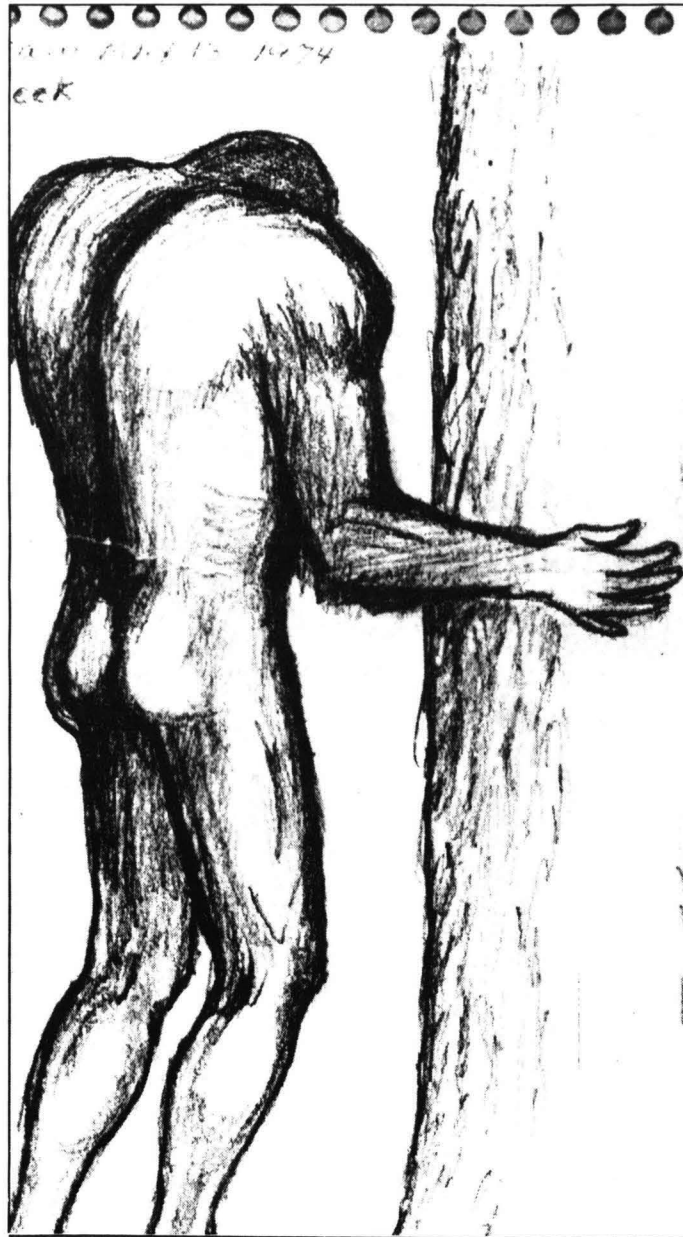
Kussie is just one of the long list of monsters which inhabit a plethora of mysterious, deep, dark lakes worldwide. But Kussie claims a special relationship with Nessie.

What happened was this. Thousands of years ago, the Queen of all the Stars broke into a thousand pieces. One of the bits fell into Lake Kussharo, one into Loch Ness. Each became, for reasons best known to God and the process of evolution, a monster.

That, at least, is what the Highlands and Islands Development Board, or rather its head of tourism marketing, Mike Young, claims. "The Japanese say the two monsters communicate — I don't know how," said Mr. Young, whose initiative the school trip to Scotland was, in an attempt to establish tourism links between Japan and the Highlands.

As far as the Japanese youngsters knew, Kussie existed, although no sightings date back farther than 15 years. However, just like Nessie, Kussie has appeared mysteriously on tourist snapshots, out-of-focus videos and the like, although never for the benefit of investigators.

Yesterday, as television crews and photographers scrambled to include Big Nessie, Wee Kussie and the four children in the one picture, the latest and strangest alternative to town twinning — monster twinning — seemed to be succeeding in its prime aim: the attraction of publicity.



Logger's drawing of the Sasquatch he said he saw in Oregon.





W. C. JAMESON'S ARKANSAS

## Lake Conway Monster reports coming in

A couple of weeks ago in this space we spent some time recalling some old reports of the alleged existence of the Lake Conway Monster. Every 20 years, it seems, a new spate of sightings of this elusive and mysterious creature occur, and it has been about 20 years since the last ones.

Why anything, monsters included, would adhere to a 20 year cycle is completely beyond me. Nevertheless, numerous monster sightings were reported in the early '50s a short time after the lake was created, and then again in the early '70s. Here we are in the early '90s and apparently the monster is back!

Within minutes after last month's monster column hit the newspaper racks and driveways, my telephone was alive with reports of new sightings. Most of the callers claimed they had observed the Lake Conway Monster on several occasions over the past several years, but were afraid of reporting it for fear of being ridiculed. In all, about 20 people claimed fairly recent sightings. About half of that number sounded truthful and serious.

One caller had a particularly intriguing tale of an encounter with the monster. The man is well known and liked in the community and is not one to make up outrageous tales of monsters and such like. Because of who he was and the seriousness with which he related his story, I

tended to believe him.

One night a few weeks ago this man was checking his trotlines in some semi-secret catfishing location on Lake Conway. He had taken several good sized catches off his hooks until he reached a certain point on the line that wouldn't yield to his pull. Though he yanked and tugged for 10 minutes, his line would not come up. Thinking he had snagged on a submerged log, he decided to cut the line and proceed.

Just as he fished a utility knife out of his tackle box, the line became caught and began to move, pulling him along in the boat.

"I thought I had hooked an incredibly large catfish," he said, "and I was determined to retrieve it."

For 40 yards the boat was slowly pulled along the dark waters of the quiet lake when suddenly the line grew slack. The fisherman, still holding tightly to the line, waited to see what would happen.

Suddenly, something in the water brushed against the bottom of the boat, causing it to nearly capsize. Growing fearful, the fisherman dropped the line and tightly clutched both gunwales for support.

Just as the ripples from the previous turbulence died down, the boat was struck and lifted once again, this time with more force.

"I could hear the thing making contact with the bottom of the boat," said the fisherman,

"and I can tell you it wasn't no fish. It wasn't a scraping sound like a fish would make, or even a clanking sound like the shell of a large turtle. It was a thud."

"A thud?" I repeated.

"Exactly," the fisherman replied. "It was a soft thud like the thing had fur or skin instead of scales or shell."

I advanced the notion that it might possibly have been a beaver or an otter, but the fisherman ruled them out because whatever it was never emerged from the water. Beaver and otter have to come up now and again for a breath of air.

"Do you think it was the legendary Lake Conway Monster?" I had to ask.

"I hate to say," he replied, "but whatever it was, it was something I've never encountered before, and I've been hunting and fishing and in the outdoors for 45 years."

Within the next two days I spoke with three other fishermen, none of whom knew the others. Oddly, they each related an experience similar to the one I have just reported here.

Is the monster back?

And if you, like me, are skeptical about the existence of monsters, then what in the heck is in that lake?

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Carl Jameson's column appears on Mondays and Thursdays in the Log Cabin Democrat.)

TIMES, Anchorage, AK - July 8, 1991

## Mystery monster tales keep Newhalen residents on guard

By JOHN FOLEY

TIMES WRITER

NEWHALEN — A cold northwesterly wind chops the surface of Iliamna Lake and whistles through the emaciated spruce dotting the tundra. At the mouth of the Newhalen River, a turquoise arc of silt invades the deep blue waters of the lake.

Skiffs line the beach. But not one has a red bottom.

That's because the lake monster is said to eat red-bottomed boats.

No one is sure why this is so, but George

Hornberger, a pilot with Iliamna Air Taxi, has an obvious answer: "I guess they look tasty."

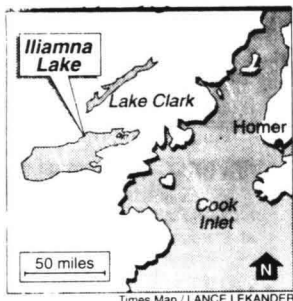
Stories about the monster — or some giant mystery fish — in Iliamna Lake date back several centuries. The Dictionary of Alaska Place Names says Iliamna is derived from the Native name for the mythical black fish which roams the lake and bites holes in the canoes of bad people.

Other dark deeds are attributed to the Iliamna Lake monster. When the monster is disturbed, especially at night, it is said to take revenge by slapping its tail through the

water and creating one of the boiling tempests for which the lake is renowned. It is also said to snatch babies from the shore and suck down caribou that dare to cross its waters.

Writer and radio-television announcer Ruben Gaines heard much monster lore when he lived near Iliamna Lake on the Alaska peninsula. It was bad news to the Kenai Indians. "If they saw the monster, they believed they would die."

One legend supports that belief. It tells of



several men collecting gull eggs on one of the small, rocky islands scattered about the lake. When they tried to sail back, the monster upended their boat and swallowed one of the men.

The survivors spread word that their companion angered the monster by looking overboard into its watery lair and paid the price.

Natives gave the gull island a wide berth after that. They did not forget what angered the monster, as a prospector named Jim Foss found out some years later.

Foss hired a respected Native named Captain Sava to take him and his son to look for a placer-mining site. The boy kept looking overboard into the water. When he refused to stop, Sava turned the boat around and returned to shore — and no amount of persuasion could make him change his mind.

Comparisons to Nessie in Scotland's Loch Ness are inevitable any time someone claims to have seen a lake monster. Hundreds of sightings are reported around the U.S. every year. Lake Champlain in the northeast supposedly has a monster, as do Lake Tahoe in Nevada and Elizabeth Lake in California.

But Nessie and Ilie share a richer and similar lore.

Loch Ness and Lake Iliamna

both are in northerly latitudes, the loch at 56 degrees and the lake at 59 degrees. Both were once part of the open sea, and remain connected by rivers that permit migratory fish, such as salmon, to enter them.

They also provide substantial romping grounds for monsters. Loch Ness is about 24 miles long and two miles across, while Iliamna Lake is about 90 miles long and 30 miles wide — the seventh largest freshwater lake in the world. They are extraordinarily deep, with the loch reaching 920 feet and Iliamna 1,200 feet.

As for the inhabitants, Nessie and Ilie are thought by some to be prehistoric sea beasts trapped when land closed around portions of the ocean. They are said to be 15- to 40-foot long.

There, however, the similarities end. Nessie is most often described as having a long neck and small head, leading some scientists to believe that it is related to the plesiosaurs that roamed the ancient seas. Ilie, on the other hand, is usually described as a giant fish, with a long snout and prominent dorsal fin.

George Wilson, a resident of Igiugig, a village on the southwest end of the lake, says he saw Ilie on a windy day in August,

1985. "I was working on the windows of my house and I looked up and saw what looked like a big fish swimming in the (Kvichak) river about 150 yards away. It was black and had a dorsal fin about three feet long. After a while it just swam back out into the lake."

Sightings occur every few years. A girl reportedly saw Ilie last summer near the southeast shore of the lake. Several villagers from Pedro Bay on the northeast end of the lake said they saw a black whale-like beast with a white stripe on its side on July 27, 1987.

The stories fuel the already substantial Ilie lore. But few modern residents are willing to credit it with supernatural powers.

"We heard less and less over the years about how babies were taken by the monster when their mothers were doing fish by the shore," said Doris Porter, a former resident of the Iliamna area. "The white people pooh-poohed a lot of the stories, and made them sort of embarrassed with their beliefs."

Like many longtime residents of the villages that ring Iliamna, Ira and Louise Wassilie of Newhalen believe there is something very big in the lake — but not a monster.

"It's only a fish," Louise Wassilie says, adding that they saw it most recently in 1989 from a fishing boat. "It was about 20 feet long, and had a long snout and spots on the side. Probably a sturgeon. There's no monster in this lake."

Describing Ilie in much the same way is Leon "Babe" Alsworth, a former Bush pilot who has flown over Iliamna for decades. He says he spotted a school of Ilies in the lake 1950s. "I remember it was kind of a rough day in October, windy, and as I was going across the lake I saw some white water near a rock reef," Alsworth says. "I saw a couple of the fish near the surface, so I circled down and saw a whole school. They were at least as long as the pontoon of my plane — about 15 to 20 feet, I'd say."

Many anglers have tried to catch Ilie, especially when a newspaper offered \$100,000 prize in 1980. No one succeeded, but there were some notable attempts.

In one, a fisherman says he tied a heavy line to a tree and baited a big hook with meat. The next day the meat was gone and the tree ripped out of the ground.

Another angler used a quar-

ter-inch thick steel hook baited with a chunk of moose meat. His bobber was an empty five-gallon stove oil drum, his line several hundred feet of stainless steel aircraft cable tied around the pontoon of a Buckmaster seaplane and fastened to a mooring cleat. This time Ilie reportedly snapped the cable, pulled out the cleat and caused the big seaplane to tip over.

Doubters persist. "We've had crews up and down this lake for years and no one has seen anything," says Tom Rogers, a technician with the College of Fisheries at the University of Washington. "We've come across zero evidence."

Most doubters believe Ilie is a sturgeon, although no sturgeon has been documented from Iliamna Lake. Others suggest Ilie is a shark or beluga whale that migrated up the Kvichak River from the ocean. The lake is also home to seals, and it has been suggested that several seals swimming together might resemble a sea monster.

So does Ilie exist?

Says Gaines: "I sincerely doubt there is a monster in the lake. But it's exciting to think about. Hey, I like this stuff."

# For many, sasquatch is real, if rather elusive

By CAROL FERM  
of the Herald staff

GLACIER — The first annual Bigfoot at Baker Festival brought out a few folks who think sasquatch is more than a promotional gimmick.

"I know what I saw," said Cliff Crook, 51, of Bothell, who was on hand Saturday in Glacier with bumperstickers reading "I (heart) Bigfoot," and plaster casts of what he said were sasquatch footprints.

Crook claims to have seen the mythical creature three times in the past 30-odd years. He was in Glacier collecting signatures on a petition to protect Bigfoots

from hunters.

Crook and his son and colleague, Cary Crook, 25, hope the petition will be passed into state law.

"I'm as serious as a heart attack about Bigfoot protection," said Crook, a 6-foot plus, lean man with black hair and a salt-and-pepper mustache.

Sasquatch is a legendary creature that hundreds of people claim to have seen in the Pacific Northwest. The earliest reports by Westerners date back to the 1800s. But native Indian legends have told of a "hairy man" or "wild man" from time immemorial. In fact, the word "sasquatch" is derived from the Salish.

No scientist has verified the existence of the creature. But gigantic human-like footprints, unexplained sightings and calls, and the work of investigators like Crook keep the legend alive.

Blaine woodsman and sasquatch expert Rod Pullar, 59, is another believer and former Bigfoot investigator. Pullar was on Bigfoot at Baker Festival's agenda with a 7 p.m. Saturday talk, "Close Encounters with Bigfoot."

Pullar first got interested in Bigfoot in the early 1970s. He began by carving sasquatch dolls for sale, after a logging accident left him unable to work. At that time, he was a skeptic looking for a way

to make a living.

But he said first-hand experience with the woods giants convinced him.

Although he's never seen one, Pullar said he's been within 10 feet of the creatures, heard their whoops and howls, and smelled their stench. He said they make a wide range of vocalizations, from chimpanzee-like whoops to coyote-like howls. He likens their odor to a rank combination of rotten meat and skunk.

Pullar believes sasquatch is dangerous, and warns people against misguided attempts to track one down and kill it to prove the species' existence. He said he

believes the creatures have remained hidden because they are sentient, intelligent beings — who retaliate for violence done to them.

Pullar attributes mysterious disappearances throughout the region to sasquatch attacks.

Crook's tales of Bigfoot, on the other hand, show a gentle, retiring creature who uses intimidation to frighten — but never harm.

Last September, Crook made national news when he reported finding the best Bigfoot signs he's encountered in all the years he's been combing the Northwest for sasquatch signs.

On a table at Graham's Restaurant Saturday, he displayed two 7-by-15-inch plaster casts of footprints. They apparently were left by an oversized, heavily calloused human-like foot in a sandbar by the upper Nisqually River.

Crook said his first encounter with Bigfoot was as a teen-ager, when he and three younger boys heard and saw a large, looming form rise up out of a 7-foot wall of brush beside a swamp where they were camped.

"This hair-covered giant came across the swamp," Crook said. The German shepherd dog with them snarled and charged into the brush — only to be heaved back into the circle of the campfire's light.

The boys took off running and didn't stop until they were a mile away, Crook said.

Crook swore — and still does — that the creature was not a bear. That first sighting led to years of ridicule, and a deep-rooted desire to find out about the creature, he said.

He and Pullar agree that the scientific community will never be satisfied of the Bigfoots' reality until one is brought in dead.

Both believe that never will happen, because the sasquatch are too wily and too few to be flushed out. Intelligent relatives of humans, that bury their dead and travel mostly at night, sasquatch rarely cross humans' paths, Crook said.

"They have secrets of survival that exceed those of any zoologically cataloged animals," Crook said. "Their only mortal enemy is man."

DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - June 9, 1991

## Solar system may have 991 more planets

Theory explains why  
outer known planets  
are so out of kilter

By David L. Chandler  
Boston Globe

SEATTLE — The solar system may contain about 1,000 planets, not just the nine that are now known, according to a new theory presented here by astronomer Alan Stern of the University of Colorado.

Untold numbers of Pluto-sized planets may have orbited among the known planets after the solar system's birth almost 5 billion years ago and now may circle so far away from the sun that they have yet to be detected. Stern told a meeting of the American Astronomical Society.

As startling as the new theory seems, some astronomers here found it a reasonable way of explaining some of the solar system's known enigmas. "I don't know why we didn't all think of it before," said Stephen Maran, spokesman for the society and an astronomer at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Goddard Space Flight Center.

"It's a startling new idea, but it's so obvious when you think of it," he said.

The provocative theory is based on computer calculations analyzing some of the solar system's most puzzling objects: the planet Pluto and its large moon Charon, the planet Uranus and its unique tilt, and Neptune's unusual moon Triton.

All three have characteristics that are so peculiar the odds against each of them are "a million to one," said Stern. His theory tries to answer these questions:

■ Why do Pluto, the smallest of the planets, and its moon Charon, which is almost as big, exist at the fringes of the outer solar system where all the other planets are huge "gas giants," completely unlike Pluto?

■ Why does Triton, the largest moon in the solar system, orbit its planet backwards — the only moon that does so?

■ Why does Uranus spin on its side like a rundown top, instead of straight up and down, or nearly so, like all the other planets?

Astronomers explain most of these anomalies as the result of collisions and close encounters between planets during the formation of the solar system. Uranus, they believe, was knocked over on its side by a collision. Triton was a passing object captured by Neptune's gravitational field, and Pluto and Charon probably

originated elsewhere in the solar system and ended up where they are after collisions between two small planet-sized objects.

There is "an astronomically small probability of all three events taking place," Stern said Wednesday.

But the odds would be much better if there were many more planet-sized objects whizzing around in the early solar system, he said. He estimates there must have been 1,000 of them, but possibly as few as 100 or as many as tens of thousands.

Most of these planets would have been ejected from the inner solar system as the result of close encounters with larger planets, just as the Voyager space probes were shot out into interstellar space after passing near the giant planets. They may reside out in the region where a huge shell of comets, called the Oort cloud, is believed to surround the sun and its known planets.

"Pluto, Charon and Triton are the only relics left over," Stern said. They are still around, he said, "because they became trapped" where they are today as the result of unusual interactions with other planets.

"It's like the La Brea tar pits, he said, referring to a California formation where remains of many extinct animals have been found because they became mired in the sticky tar.

The existence of Pluto, Charon and Triton, he said, is "the smoking gun of this much larger population."

*The existence of Pluto, Charon and Triton . . . is "the smoking gun of this much larger population."*

Alan Stern  
University of Colorado

way to detect these distant planets using existing telescopes, a proposed instrument called the Space Infrared Telescope Facility, planned for launch at the end of this decade, should be able to detect "several dozen" of them.

While the idea of these many unknown planets seems outlandish, Stern, a research scientist at the University of Colorado's Center for Astrophysics and Space Astronomy, is well respected in his field, astronomers said.

"He's a very bright young man, and is to be taken seriously," said John Brandt, an astronomer at the University of Colorado who was Stern's thesis adviser. Brandt said he had "no idea if it's true," but added that the new theory was "innovative, it's insightful . . . it is absolutely worth considering." It is the only theory yet advanced, he said, that can reasonably explain the anomalies of the solar system.

"Despite having bold new ideas, I consider him a conservative scientist," added Maran.

CHRONICLE, Chester, Scotland - March 8, 1991 CR: H. Bauer/COUD-I

## Nothing will ever shake conviction Coming eyeball to eyeball with Nessie

JEAN has never forgotten the time when Nessie came so close she could see its 'gentle eye' as she walked along the towpath with her brother when they were evacuated during the Second World War and staying at their grandparents' cottage.

Jean still faces gentle ribbing from her husband and family about her revelations — but she remains firm.

"The neck was about 6ft long and the skin was grey like an elephant, with two horny bits on the forehead. It seemed very friendly," said Jean of Wepre Park in Connah's Quay.

The Deeside grandmother has lived in the area for five years. One of her hobbies is writing, and Nessie is the central character in her current work, children's books.

She has loved expressing

JEAN McCormick believes the Loch Ness monster really does exist and says she saw Nessie when she was eight years old.

Nothing anyone has said since Jean saw the monster has made her change her mind about the existence of the controversial sea creature.

ANNE TOMKINSON went along to meet Jean, to learn the monstrous truth of the tale.

her thoughts and feelings since she was a schoolgirl and has had short stories and poetry published.

And the breeder of golden retrievers has also had

families have jogged memories of the traumatic Second World War when she slept under bed during air raids.

The authoress was moved

*'I just love telling stories and making people laugh'*

her work produced in 'doggie magazines'.

She also pens poetry and the Gulf crisis and its effect on servicemen and their

to put her thoughts into verse by the shock death of her sister-in-law, Eileen, who died of cancer within three weeks of the illness

being diagnosed.

"Everyone loved auntie Filcen — she was like a bubble of champagne," she said.

Jean and her husband Ramon — called Ray — used to run the Glynne Arms in Hawarden and now Jean is a part-time cook for the nuns at the convent in Flint.

She remains full of enthusiasm and as keen as ever on getting more of her work published.

"I like to write for children and adventure stories," said the sprightly gran.

"I just love telling stories and I try to make them funny because I love making people laugh."

Ray is an ex-policeman and has written crime stories himself — but they remain at home and his wife cannot persuade to try and get them into print.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Sept. 10, 1991

## New Yorker says he has perpetual motion machine

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle

IRONDEQUOIT, N.Y. — In the 13th century, a French architect designed a weighted wheel to turn forever without an external power source. The concept was supposed to change the world, but it never worked — and neither has any perpetual motion machine that followed.

Now an Irondequoit man believes he has invented a motor that actually does run indefinitely without an outside power source.

Scientists, who stand behind the laws of thermodynamics, are skeptical.

Lajos "Louie" Szucs, a Hungarian-born auto repairman in his 50s, says his "magnetic field motor" is powerful enough to drive a heater and warm most of his two-story home. Its source of power is a single jump-start from a 12-volt car battery. That one-time jolt supposedly powered it for 60 days.

Szucs has taken the motor apart and hidden the pieces in his house. He says he fears someone will steal his idea because only the heater attachments that hook to the motor, not the motor itself, have patent pending status with the U.S. Government Patent and Trademark Office.