

UFO

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Computers, cameras help check out UFO reports

Investigators check out reports of strange lights in skies over volcano

By Terri Lee Grell
The Daily News

TOUTLE — Mike and Brenda Dobbs of Vancouver combed the logging roads near Mount St. Helens Saturday, but they weren't looking for volcanic dust.

The researchers collect data of the third kind — tell-tale signs of UFOs that fly over an area, and possibly land.

The Dobbses are trained UFO investigators for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), an international organization for the scientific study of UFOs.

At least three local people, including this reporter, reported seeing UFOs recently over the Mount St. Helens area.

After five hours of collecting data and asking witnesses hundreds of questions, Mike Dobbs says, "Based on what we have so far, the people who reported these UFOs (in the Mount St. Helens area) didn't see a planet, stars" or other meteorological phenomenon.

"We don't know yet what they saw," he says. "They're still UFOs."

On Sept. 15, two hunters from Longview said they watched four brightly lit objects maneuver at great speeds over the Margaret unit hunting area. Darrin Dockstader and Craig Ellenbolt said they watched for a half-hour before one of the objects sped toward them and hovered above their car. The frightened hunters quickly left the area.

MUFON also investigated this reporter's sighting of a huge triangular-shaped UFO bordered on two sides by pairs of reddish-orange lights. It was hovering over the Maple Flats area near the sediment retention structure on Spirit Lake Highway at about 10:15 p.m. Tuesday. The UFO slipped behind a hill after the reporter and at least two other people in a nearby car watched it silently maneuver for five minutes.

The MUFON hot line in Seattle receives "at least a dozen" phone calls every day about UFOs in Western Washington, Mike Dobbs said. The summer of 1990 was especially "hot" for sightings of a triangular-shaped UFO in Clark and Cowlitz counties.

As MUFON state section directors, the Dobbses volunteer their spare time to investigate UFO sightings in Southwest Washington. He is an electrical engineer and computer programmer, and she is a family counselor.

They became interested in the UFO phenomenon because Mike Dobbs' father, a radio networking specialist, has helped MUFON in UFO investigations for many years.

"I grew up hearing about UFOs," he said. "My father's best friend, Leonard Stringfield, a retired military officer, wrote a book about the military's retrieval of a UFO that crashed."

MUFON members include many cur-



Daily News photo by Terri Lee Grell

Mike and Brenda Dobbs, UFO investigators from Vancouver, look for signs of UFOs near Mount St. Helens on Saturday

rent and retired military officers, and the Ph.D.s in the organization represent 45 areas of science, from anesthesiology to veterinary medicine.

Reports of "nocturnal lights," or bright lights in the night sky seen by one or two people, usually require only a telephone interview. The Dobbses relay their reports to the state headquarters in Seattle, which in turn sends them to the national headquarters in Seguin, Texas.

Multiple sightings (the same UFO seen by many people in the same area at the same time) and reports of physical evidence left by a UFO landing prompt MUFON investigators like the Dobbses to visit the site.

"MUFON trains us to look for every possible sign that the UFO could be an IFO, or identified flying object," said Mike Dobbs. "Just because someone can't explain something flying in the sky doesn't always mean it's an alien spacecraft."

Ninety percent of sightings can be explained, he said. Helicopters, aircraft, weather balloons, planets, stars, clouds and the moon are all regularly reported as UFOs.

It is that remaining 10 percent of unexplained sightings that motivates the Dobbses to get involved in the search for intelligent life in the universe, he said. Besides UFO sightings and landings, the Dobbses investigate reports of cattle

mutilation, which sometimes coincide with UFO sightings.

Another branch of MUFON investigates reports of people being abducted by UFOs, or other "close encounters."

At the site of the two hunters' sighting, the Dobbses recorded latitude and longitude on a compass. They also scanned the surrounding mountains and hills through binoculars for signs of radio towers or power lines that often are mistaken for UFOs.

Mike Dobbs entered data into his laptop computer, comparing compass points with sky charts for the time of the sighting while Brenda Dobbs interviewed a witness.

She said she sees her role not only as a data collector, but a support-giver. UFO sightings and encounters can be exciting for some, but for the majority of credible witnesses, "It's a frightening experience. Your belief system is suddenly challenged. As a Christian, I want to help these people deal with their fears and realize they don't have to handle it all by themselves."

Recent public polls show that 13 million Americans either have seen UFOs or believe there are alien spacecraft. So why does the U.S. government continue to deny they exist?

"The government is afraid of nationwide panic," said Mike Dobbs. "But

Here's how to report your UFO sightings

You've seen a UFO and you just have to tell somebody. Who do you call first?

Mike and Brenda Dobbs, state section directors for the Mutual UFO Network, suggest you call them first. If the sighting merits an investigation, they can be on the scene within the hour, coming from their home in Vancouver.

Their home number is 1-892-0262. You can also call Mike Dobbs at his workplace, 1-944-2696.

Another option is to call the statewide MUFON hot line, 1-722-3000. State director Bob Gribble may refer your report to the Dobbses for further investigation.

They encourage all those who have seen UFOs in Cowlitz County, especially during the last week, to call. Anonymity is extended for those who request it.

that's not a very good reason anymore. Millions of Americans have seen UFOs, and they continue on with their lives as usual."

UFO'seen twice near Spalding

By Sandra L. Lee
of the Tribune

Joseph J. S. Feathers, who holds a doctorate in anthropology and operates a 1,200-acre ranch near Spalding with his wife, saw what would commonly be called an Unidentified Flying Object over his Spalding home Monday night.

"I wasn't going to say anything about it. People always think you're in the lunatic fringe," Feathers said Wednesday.

But then he read in the Lewiston Tribune that Sarah G.

Krueger and others had watched two unidentified multicolored objects in the sky for three nights. The objects they saw were most active Monday night.

He was walking up the front steps at his home, Moon Rising Ranch across the Clearwater River from Spalding Park, a few minutes after 8 Monday. An "intense glob of bright orange-yellow light" appeared just east of the house. It was perhaps 4,000 feet in the air and 200 feet high by 100 wide in an irregular shape, he said, pointing out that his estimates were based on only a few seconds of visibility.

It was shaped irregularly, and there was a large, dark object, perhaps 20 to 40 feet high, moving into it from the south.

The picture he drew from memory for the Tribune was of the traditional saucer shape.

It was totally silent, Feathers said. The whole thing — the bright light and the dark shape — moved out of sight behind the roof of his A-frame home. By the time he got to the end of the deck, it had vanished, he said.

The moon is waning, and it hadn't risen yet. And the moon is never as bright as that light, he said. But he doesn't know what it could have been.

"I've got no reason to lie," he said simply.

Another person called the Lewiston Tribune Wednesday night to report seeing a group of three UFOs last night in the sky over the Cherrylane area, about 10 miles east of Spalding. That sighting also was a few minutes after 8.

TRIBUNE, Lewiston, ID

Oct. 3, 1991

Twice burned, not shy

Stung by radiation, ridicule, trio stick to UFO story

By CINDY HORSWELL
Houston Chronicle

DAYTON — More than a decade after going public with their strange injuries and an even stranger tale of a UFO encounter, Betty Cash and Vickie Landrum are sticking by their story.

Federal officials have poo-hoed their claims and a judge dismissed their lawsuit against the U.S. government for lack of evidence. In addition, the two women and Landrum's grandson, who was with them that night in 1980, say they have suffered public ridicule.

Still, they aren't backing down. In fact, they hope to revive their case.

Whether it was piloted by little green men or by humans at the controls of a secret military

project, Cash and Landrum insist they saw an unidentified flying object that night — and that they have the injuries to prove it.

Their skin is so sensitive now it only tolerates cold showers, they say, and they must hide like hermits from the sun to avoid blistering. Medical bills are mounting, and so are their worries.

Cash, a cafe owner, and Landrum, a waitress, blame these and other strange maladies on the intense heat that they say came from the bizarre diamond-shaped craft.

The encounter, on Dec. 29, 1980, occurred on an isolated road in the piney woods northeast of Houston in Liberty County, the two women say. Since then they have lived mainly on Social

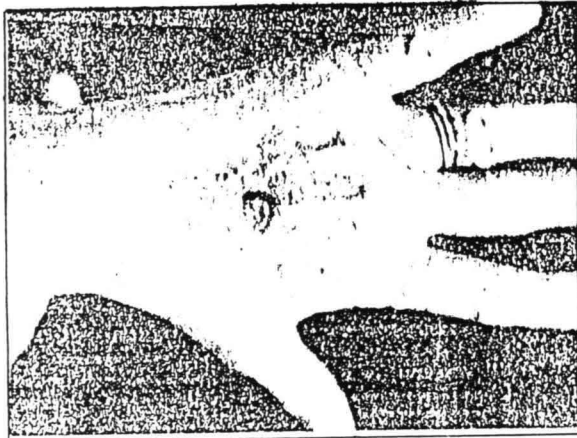


Photo courtesy of John Schuessler

Seven months after her alleged 1980 run-in with a UFO, Vickie Landrum's left hand still showed injuries she said she suffered in the incident.

Security, saying they're too ill to hold jobs.

But their story has spread internationally, including Omni magazine and several TV programs, and the mystery still arouses curiosity.

Their lawsuit alleged they were injured by an experimental military craft that spewed radiation, or by a UFO under surveillance by military helicopters. Cash and Landrum have been besieged with telephone calls — including some from anonymous tipsters telling of a top-secret project, WESP-2, allegedly discontinued after radiation accidents.

Their attorney, Clay Ford of Gulf Breeze, Fla., wants to reopen the case by showing government officials lied about record-keeping procedures during pretrial proceedings.

Meanwhile, he is negotiating the sale of his clients' movie rights.

It all started when the two women and Landrum's grandson, Colby, then 7, drove to New Caney in search of a bingo game. The bingo halls were closed for the Christmas holidays, however, so they had dinner in that east Montgomery County town and headed home.

The women say Colby noticed a bright light in the distance as they traveled down FM 1485 about 9 p.m. Quickly, they say, a large object emitting the light swooped over the treetops and hovered over a spot just ahead.

"I screamed for Betty to stop," said Landrum. "I do believe if we would have continued we would have been burned up."

Red-orange flames belched downward as the object struggled to rise, then sputtered and plunged back toward the road, she said. The flames roared like a blowtorch, she said, and the object also made a shrill beeping noise.

"It was a dull-gray, metallic color and about the size of a water tower. It looked as if it would set the woods

on fire," recalled Cash, who said she stood outside and watched for 10 minutes.

Landrum said she and Colby also left the car but quickly returned, and the boy covered on the floor.

Finally, the UFO gave one last blast and flew out of sight with at least 23 helicopters in pursuit, the two women said.

"It's been a nightmare that I wish I could forget," said Cash, now 62 and living in Alabama near her family.

Her physician, Dr. Bryan McClelland of Birmingham, says she has a "textbook case" of radiation poisoning. He compares it to being "three to five miles from the epicenter of Hiroshima."

McClelland said a 1981 biopsy of Cash's skin found radiation dermatitis.

"The dry, thin skin on her hand resembles that of a 90-year-old lady, with little red and purple streaks," he said.

Landrum's doctor declined comment on her ailments.

Houston doctors who first examined the trio say they appeared burned, had puffy, swollen eyes and their hair later came out in clumps. Though they could not settle on a cause, they did not rule out radiation.

"The Cash-Landrum case could very well be the most important UFO incident to surface in the last 20 years, since there was something to examine afterwards," said John Schuessler, a McDonnell-Douglas space shuttle engineer and deputy director of the Mutual UFO Network.

MUFON is a nationwide, 2,100-member organization that investigates and catalogs UFO sightings and incidents.

Cash and Landrum say their health began deteriorating the night of the incident, with the severity depending on the amount of exposure to the intense heat. They say all three

suffered problems, including red, blistering skin; nausea; diarrhea; headaches; and swollen, watery eyes.

Later, they said, they experienced hair loss, open sores that were slow to heal, depressed immune systems and failing eyesight.

"I couldn't take care of myself for two years," said Cash, who claims the longest exposure to the intense light. "I was either bedridden or in the hospital (including for three weeks just after the sighting)."

Besides physical injuries, the trio suffered emotionally.

Landrum, who still lives in Dayton with her grandson, said people stared at her and gave her a wide berth, calling her "the UFO lady."

Colby, now 17, who had the mildest exposure and symptoms, was teased until he sank into a severe depression, Landrum said. She did not want

Dayton police Officer L.L. Walker and his wife, Marie, reported seeing a half-dozen helicopters flying in "V" formation with searchlights. Belle Magee, then a bakery clerk in the area, reported seeing a bright light "like a football field but up in the sky" heading north toward New Caney.

Also, a former Liberty County sheriff's deputy reported seeing an identical object almost two years later as he drove on an isolated road near Cleveland.

Jon Mark McDonald — now a Lake Jackson police officer — described it as diamond-shaped, about half the size of a football field and the color of galvanized steel. The only difference between his sighting and the 1980 report was that his had red lights on each corner.

"Everybody was riding me about reporting it — thought I was crazy," McDonald said. "But I just knew it wasn't an airplane, because I've been working in the U.S. Army reserves and know about every fixed-wing (craft) there is."

Today, Landrum and Cash are anxious for some answers.

Cash still has the 1980 Oldsmobile she drove that night. She says the intense heat embedded Landrum's handprint on the padded dashboard.

Also, she said two unidentified men in military uniforms once offered to buy the car. Dr. McClelland, who said his secretary witnessed the offer, suspects somebody wanted to get rid of the car because "ion (electrically charged atom) tracks are visible on the chrome."

Another quirk was the unexplained repair of a melted spot in the road where the incident occurred, Schuessler said.

"I have photographs of a 15- to 25-foot area where even the center stripe was wiggly," he said.

A year later, he said, the spot had been resurfaced. Schuessler said

county officials denied any knowledge of the repair.

The reported sighting has attracted numerous other responses, including some from the fringe. On one nationally syndicated TV special, two men using disguises and the names "Falcon" and "Condor" told wild tales of U.S. pilots having problems while testing a nuclear-powered craft that had been acquired from extraterrestrials.

Other tips are coming from callers who recently saw the UFO story aired on the *Unsolved Mysteries* TV program.

Still others, claiming to be military people or their relatives, have called to say they flew helicopters that night, despite the Pentagon's denial.

At least two callers linked the UFO to a classified project, WESP-2, which they said was an experimental nuclear-powered craft abandoned after 1982 when it couldn't stop irradiating people.

"The trouble is that most all the people with something significant to say were anonymous," said Schuessler.

Paul M. Koloc, a retired U.S. Navy research physicist from Maryland, confirmed the existence of a research program called Winged Aircraft Special Projects. However, he theorizes the object Cash and Landrum reported may have been ball lightning, caused by a huge lightning bolt and hot gases.

Lt. Col. George C. Sarraan, an Army congressional liaison who recently was sent to review the case, concluded that while there was no indication that anyone was trying to exaggerate the events, he also found that no "Army-related" helicopters were involved.

"Sarraan told me, 'I know something terrible has happened to you, but I don't know what it is,' " Cash said.

Neither do she and Landrum.



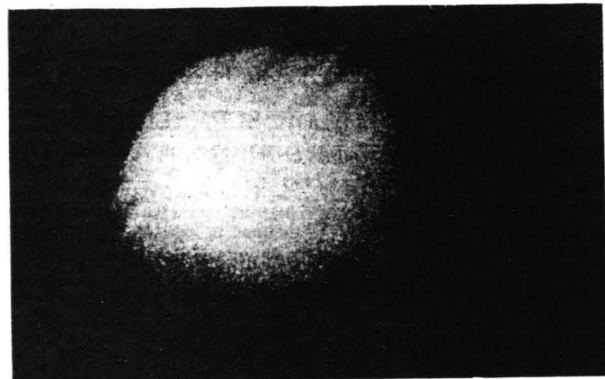
Cash

Landrum

the youth interviewed, but his journal gives some insight to his feelings.

"I am not made fun of as much as I had been. But I am sick a lot, and my eyes are still very bad," he wrote recently. "I still look up when I go outside. I guess it is just a habit, but I always wonder what is up there. Lots of nights I lay awake wondering if other kids have gone through what I have."

Since the three reported their encounter, others have said they saw the helicopters or a strange flying object that night.



Puzzling white light intrigues local UFO watchers

By Art Hufford
President Pensacola MUFON

On June 20, 1991, fourteen people were stationed at the South end of the Pensacola Bay Bridge on a sky watch. The group included 10 members of the Mutual UFO Network, Inc., seven of whom are certified MUFON field investigators. At 9:49 p.m., a brilliant white light appeared for 5 seconds in the

East (100 degrees azimuth and 15 degrees elevation; estimated distance: 1-2 miles). I was able to take one photograph before it turned red and blinked out. About two minutes later, a similar white light appeared for about 8 seconds. It was much closer and brighter than the first light (estimated distance: 1/2 to 3/4 mile). I was able to take two photographs of this second

light before it turned red and blinked out. During neither of these brief sightings was any sound heard from the direction of the light. No other lights or aircraft were seen in the vicinity immediately before or after the sightings.

The photographs are enlargements of two of the three photographs taken that night. The first photograph

shows two distinct rings of white light circling the ball of white light; this photo was of the first light which appeared at 9:49 p.m. The second photo I took of the second UFO have a double image, apparently caused by camera movement; however, they clearly show an image similar to the first UFO photo. All three of these photographs were taken with a

Minolta SRT102 35mm camera using 400 ISO Kodachrome film. All were one second time exposures taken through a 58mm f-1.2 lens and a 2X extender. A diffraction filter was also in place between the lens and extender; this filter diffracted the light of the UFO and a nearby street light into the color spectra. Nothing unusual was identified in the color spectra from the UFO.

The rings of light circling the white ball of light are very unusual; we have not seen anything like it in any of the other sightings this year. The source remains unidentified. If you have seen a UFO or unusual lights in our skies, please call the MUFON hotline, 436-2700; the confidentiality of your report will be protected.

Scientific minds who support studies of UFOs

By MEREDITH JORDAN
Journal staff writer

At least 300 people claim to have spent time in alien spaceships, and they all tell pretty much the same story. And to Fred Whiting, that says something. "The question was, 'Are all these people crazy?'" said Whiting of Alexandria, a public relations consultant who is treasurer of the Washington-based Fund for UFO Research. "We were able to answer that question: Definitely not."

Whiting's answer came from a Indiana University professor who, with the help of a grant from the Fund, studied the cases of 309 alleged UFO abductees and found remarkably similar stories: They are captured and taken aboard an alien vessel, examined, and returned safely to earth a short time later. Sometimes abductees remember what happened, but usually their memories are blocked. The full story is then revealed through hypnosis.

Sound weird? Board members of the Fund for UFO Research don't think so. Since the organization was formed in Washington in 1979, it has raised more than \$220,000 for research and educational projects like the one involving abductees.

More recent projects supported by the Fund have involved the study of crop circles, or gigantic, elaborate designs found recently in large fields in England, and the "historical documentation" of an incident in Roswell, N.M., in July 1947.

Members of the Fund say that's when some kind of alien vessel crashed to Earth. The also believe debris from the spacecraft — and alien bodies — were recovered by the U.S. Air Force and say they have numerous interviews support that.

"The question in 1947 was what are these things," said Bruce Maccabee, of Sabillasville, Md., who helped to found the organization and serves as chairman of its executive

committee. "Not are these things. 'We believe all of these are reasonable questions for study,'" said Maccabee, a Ph.D. who works as a U.S. Navy optical physicist. "And they are being more or less ignored by the straight world."

Maccabee was one of several men who formed the Fund to address what they saw as a need for study into unexplained aerial phenomenon. Since it had become obvious that the government wasn't going to embrace UFOlogy, as he and the other board members call the study of unidentified flying objects, someone had to, he said.

"We wish to legitimize the subject," adds Fanny Phillips, a soft-spoken Silver Spring resident and an alternate member of the committee: "To take it out of the tabloids."

Although there are 15 board members, it is the five-member executive committee that lives in the Washington area and considers projects for funding. They approve projects of \$1,000 and pass their recommendations on to the board at large for projects over that sum. The list of board members reads like a university roster, with more than half of the board at large holding doctorates in everything from physics to geology.

Even one of the most vocal critics of "Pro UFOlogy," has backhanded praise for the Fund.

"Among Pro UFOlogists, Bruce Maccabee probably has one of the best technical backgrounds. And he probably works as hard as any investigator," said Philip J. Klass, the author of four books explaining things that had been considered UFOs.

"But he is one of the most gullible or credulous people that I know. If someone told me Bruce had bought the Brooklyn Bridge, I would say, 'I'm not surprised,'" said Klass, a self-described "skeptic" who also works out of Washington.

"I would characterize them (the

Fund) as people seeking evidence to fulfill their dreams, their hopes that we have alien visitors," Klass says.

Maccabee says: "It's part of the disparaging skepticism that the UFO researchers have been fighting for 44 years." The truth will one day be known, he says. "It's the story of the century. No, the story of the millennium."

Board members are well aware of critics of the subject matter but point to a Gallup poll conducted in June 1990 that indicated that 47 percent of the people interviewed thought UFOs were something real.

The beginning of modern UFOlogy — a term Klass also uses — can be traced to 1947. That's when the first UFO sightings were reported in Seattle. The term "flying saucer" was coined by a reporter trying to describe in a news article what a witness told him he saw in the sky.

It was a month later that the crash occurred in New Mexico. The Fund has conducted hundreds of interviews about the incident.

But its research into the Roswell crash is not limited to interviewing people. One of its major efforts has been to examine government documents, specifically the handling of the Roswell incident by the U.S. Air Force.

The Air Force itself prepared a press release announcing the discovery of the crashed ship, only to have a ranking officer arrive on sight and prepare a second release saying what had been recovered was a "weather balloon," Fund board members said.

The Fund believes the Air Force, and various government agencies, have intentionally thwarted the efforts of UFO researchers by denying Freedom of Information Act requests for documents.

First UFO researchers were told there were no such documents, Fund board members said. Since the early denials, however, thousands of pages have been released but with significant portions blacked out — all charges denied by Lt. Col. Jim McGuire of the U.S. Air Force.

The Air Force has a press release prepared for inquiries spawned of the charge, McGuire says: Since 1969 when the U.S. Air Force officially closed Operation Blue Book, its 22-year study of UFOs, the government has not acknowledged any aerial phenomenon.

McGuire says Project Blue Book cemented what the government needed to learn: Of the 12,500 reported sightings investigated during those 22 years of the investigation, about 95 percent were explained as meteors, aircraft, satellites, lightning, balloons, or just plain hoaxes.

"Of the very few that remain unexplained, there was no indication of a technology beyond our scientific knowledge, or that any sighting could be considered an extraterrestrial vehicle." More importantly, says McGuire, "there was never a shred of evidence to indicate a threat to national security."

Richard Hall, a Brentwood, Md., resident who started the Fund with Maccabee, says it is that paragraph that holds the clues as to why the government might cover up a UFO crash: to prevent hysteria and fear by confirmation that there was something the U.S. government could not explain or control.



Checking data: From left are Dan Pinchas; Don Berliner, bending down; Bruce Maccabee; Fanny Phillips; Fred Whiting, seated; Richard Hall, standing in back; Robert Swiatek; and Craig Phillips.

NEWS-EXAMINER, Connersville, IN - July 16, 1991

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HAVE YOU BEEN ABDUCTED?

As Government clings to its big lie, "UFOs don't exist — nothing is happening," like one would wreckage in a storm, UFO abduction continues unabated. Thousands of victims are being discovered and who knows how many thousands remain unknown.

If what I'm trying to tell you sounds insane remember that I and many other researchers, many with Ph.D's, have been at this for years. We understand why government desperately remains silent.

First, let me explain that UFO's do not physically fly in here from a distant planet. No, they materialize here from an unknown form of existence and source. The following and more are involved in alien abduction:

UFO seen — Not always, they can get you in your sleep and the main clues may be unusual dreams, healed scars, lumps, sinus, urinary, reproductive problems. A law officer in a county south of here had the thin straight line scar upon awakening. Another type frequent is the scooped outscar.

Implant placement — The Illinois farmer didn't find the tiny disk implant for 12 years. My article about this case was read in all parts of the USA and I've gotten more abductees seeking help.

Childhood abduction — Invariably we learn the chosen one has been gotten when a mere child and is then usually revisited later. Beginning when they were tots, White Song and her sister were floated out of their upstairs bedroom near Huntington. Then 36 years later they were still coming after White Song around Indianapolis. They can find you no matter where you are. On the last visit in 1989 the craft was watched by a neighbor, smashed a telephone stand, and corn and grass browned in the circle where it hovered.

Induced false cover memory — While doing what they want they put something else in your mind since they do have total vicinity mind control. The vacationing family near Crater Lake, Oregon thought they were driving into a round illuminated gas station-restaurant. They later discovered that there was no such place up there. Another abductee was tricked into believing he was having sex with his skinny neighbor girl. Later, it was discovered it was not his neighbor. One abductee had her little boy lead her off in the middle of the night to the shore of a nearby lake. They both woke up in the morning on the opposite shore. Have you had any bilocation problems? It may be a clue to something more.

Latent fears and phobias — Big policemen or truck drivers upset at the sight of fly's eyes, cat's eyes, or ant or spider heads. There is a small resemblance to some features of the aliens.

There are other elements in the abduction syndrome, but I don't have the space, and I want to discuss the Centerville case of a few weeks ago. It's good for explanation purposes. Al first thought it was a farmer on a tractor in trouble but then realized better. He turned to flee, but the paralyzing beam got him. Along with some moderate physical effects, as the light dimmed, he found himself looking at the white floor of the craft. (Have you ever been hit by a beam? They can do it so very fast, then blank out everything but time.) Mentally, Al kept getting the message "It's OK," and was relaxed. Next, he lost a \$20 bill when one of the two tall aliens came at him with palm up. Anxious to produce something Al handed over the \$20.

Calmed by the powerful eyes, big Al did not resist when one alien's long tapered fingers grabbed his wrist, and then moved a blunt black instrument above the inside bend of his right arm. Next he knew he was to go sit on an enclosed chair. A small silver box was held near his temple and he woke up in his own house 13 hours later, and \$20 poorer. The three 4-inch bluish, under the skin marks, caused him to exclaim, "Ahh, oh God! It was no dream!" Nasal bleeding, urine burn, and dark urine seemed to indicate they worked on both ends of him.

Yes, they had probably got him years ago when he was about 10 near Greensfork. More physical evidence was in the back yard in the form of two, 16-inch circular dead grass places, each side of where he was zapped.

Deception is central to the covert nature of alien behavior. They have their secret unfathomable agenda that's neither malevolent or benign. The shattering truth is mankind has no defense. Not even recourse to "God's help" has seemed to have any effect. If any of what you have read can be associated with you, please contact me. I can help and it's all confidential.

DON WORLEY
1051 Beech Street

CR: D. Worley

Terms to describe sightings

This is a list of terms that are used by the Fund for UFO Research as a way of classifying sightings. They were created by the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek, former director of Astronomy at Northwestern University and a consultant to the U.S. Air Force during Operation Blue Book.

■ **Close Encounters of the First Kind (CE I)** — a UFO seen in the day or night which appears to be within 50 feet of the observer.

■ **Close Encounters of the Second Kind (CE II)** — a CE I in which the UFO appears to have some impact on the environment (such as causing a tree to sway) or on a witness (who claims to have felt heat, for instance.)

■ **Close Encounters of the Third Kind (CE III)** — A CE I in which the UFO is accompanied by what appears to be its non-human crew.

■ **Night Light** — any UFO seen at night when only its lights are visible.

■ **Daylight Disc** — any UFO seen in the daytime when an object can be seen.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Sept. 28, 1991

Kansas town sighs in relief as UFO believers reappear

RUSSELL, Kan. (AP) — Four UFO believers whose unexplained disappearance worried this small Kansas town for days turned up at a Washington, D.C., airport on their way to Israel.

Interviews with the women Thursday confirmed they left Russell voluntarily, said Sheriff Bob Balloun.

Relatives of the four women had all expressed concerns when they disappeared earlier this month, and Balloun said sheriff's deputies spent days chasing down leads.

FBI agents interviewed the women as they were preparing to leave for Tel Aviv, Balloun said. They were traveling with Scott

Corder, a physician from Ottawa, a town in eastern Kansas, who lost his medical license in 1989 for mental unfitness after revealing he believed in UFOs.

"The FBI agents talked to them. They identified themselves. They talked freely and said they were OK. They said they were traveling of their own free will," Balloun said.

Marcia Brock, 46, a Russell high school teacher, and her daughters, University of Kansas students Stephanie, 20, and Sonya, 21, were last seen Sept. 9 at the funeral of a friend who also believed in UFOs.

Donna Butts, 39, was reported missing from her home southeast



Associated Press

STILL ON EARTH: UFO believers Sonya Brock (left) and her sister, Stephanie Brock, turned up at a Washington, D.C., airport Friday.

of Russell on Sept. 17.

Butts has written two books, one with Corder, suggesting that angel-bearing UFOs will rescue chosen survivors from a nuclear holocaust.

Odd Tales of UFOs And Sen. Bob Dole Visit Russell, Kan.

ET Appears in a Rolls-Royce
But Earthlings Vanish;
Sheriff Cracks the Case

By KEVIN HELLIKER

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

RUSSELL, Kan. — This is bedrock America, a community of 4,800 with a main street called Main Street and a county fair every July. Sen. Bob Dole was born here, and he chose this town to announce his 1988 presidential bid because he thought it typified traditional values and common sense.

It is an unlikely place for a tale of UFOs, extraterrestrials, the Second Coming and mysterious disappearances. But that's what unfolded here over the past month, when four women vanished, leaving behind bewildered families and friends.

The task of finding them fell to county Sheriff Robert Balloun (pronounced like balloon), a small-town peace officer whose manhunt is more often cow-hunts. "I keep a book of local brands, so I can tell who lost cows belong to," he says. And while the 63-year-old former oil-truck driver eventually located the missing women, the fallout from the affair will probably linger in this agricultural and oil-drilling town for a long time.

A Gorgeous Visitor

It all began in 1989, when a Russell housewife and mother of five, Donna R. Butts, published a book called "UFO: The Four" (later published in paperback as "Earth, the Final Chapter"). She wrote that the Second Coming was imminent and would take place in Russell. How did she know? Because, she wrote, extraterrestrials, who she said were angels, had come to earth in spaceships to tell her.

She said she spotted the first in a grocery store parking lot in a Rolls-Royce with California tags. "He was what most

women would call gorgeous—aquiline features, sky-blue eyes, silver-blond hair and a body any man would be proud to have," she wrote.

Mrs. Butts said she met frequently with her extraterrestrial friend, named Peter. She also met Amorcans (good guys), Neebies (their helpers) and Creations (evil ones). Some drove cars, others spaceships. Their mission: to help Mrs. Butts prepare the world for Armageddon. They instructed her in the use of crystal as a spiritual tool (effective only when attached to a copper chain) and in the signs to watch for, including an increase in deaths by spontaneous combustion.

After the book was published, by a UFO press in Tucson, Ariz., a small group of about two dozen believers sprang up, including two well-respected high school teachers, Marcia Brock and Gertrude Furney. The group believed that the Second Coming would take place as soon as Sen. Dole was elected president and moved the White House here.

Waiting for a Flight

This is all not quite as unusual as it seems. There's been a small surge in groups claiming to communicate with spiritually guided extraterrestrials. Gordon Melton, who studies alternative faiths at the University of California, Santa Barbara, knows of as many as 20, including one in Florida that claims 1,500 members. For the most part, Prof. Melton says, the founders of these groups are college-educated people who lead otherwise unremarkable lives.

Except for the college-educated part, that certainly fits Mrs. Butts, a 39-year-old farmer's daughter whom people here describe as pleasant, painfully shy and not particularly religious. Most people in town say they paid Mrs. Butts no mind. But when she predicted two years ago that a UFO would appear outside of town, "the gravel roads out there were as congested as a major freeway, although nobody in Russell will probably admit it," says Gary Christie, a local artist. That night, some viewers did profess to see a UFO. But that wasn't really so unusual: People in Russell seemed to see UFOs fairly regularly.

All of this was something of a small joke around Russell for a long time. But it became something more after Sept. 9. On

that day, Mrs. Brock attended the funeral of Mrs. Furney, a retired art teacher who had been recruited to the group after Mrs. Butts viewed her sculpture of "The Seventh Trumpeter," an angel in the New Testament Book of Revelations who trumpets Armageddon.

Right after the funeral, Mrs. Brock vanished, along with her two college-aged daughters. And eight days later, Mrs. Butts disappeared, too.

No one could imagine Mrs. Brock, a past president of the local Kansas National Education Association chapter and school newspaper adviser, abandoning her classes without a word. "She was always cheerful, always responsible, and never strange at all," says Allan D. Evans, publisher of the Russell Daily News. And Wayne Butts couldn't envision his wife, alone in their house at the time of her disappearance, willingly leaving her children. In a letter to the newspaper, he cited evidence of a struggle: "The shotgun was on the floor on top of the clothes basket like it had been knocked out of her hands."

Sheriff Balloun entered the case. He thought the struggle at the Butts home looked "concocted" and suspected the disappearances were rigged, but had to investigate anyway. "I had to prove to myself the women were safe," he says.

Among his first discoveries: There were so many UFOs around Russell because some mischievous locals had been attaching road flares and blinking lights to weather balloons and helium-filled trash bags and releasing them on dark, windy nights. "The day after we let one of those little things go, some guy was quoted in the paper saying he saw a UFO the night before that was 300 feet long with lights all around it," says Cecil Mashburn, a retired air traffic controller who insists he hasn't launched a fake UFO in years. Still, he concedes he started a trend among the local pranksters.

With no trail to follow, Sheriff Balloun chased dozens of tips. "Somebody reported seeing the women sitting atop a hill outside town, and we had other reports that they were hiding in caves," he says. So, for days on end, Sheriff Balloun searched the countryside late into the night.

Many in the town, however, took the case less seriously. Street signs went up proclaiming, "No Parking. Reserved For

UFOs." The Stop 2 Shop convenience store began advertising "Free Mars Bar With UFO Fill Up." And meatpacker Randy Dietz sold about 150 T-shirts (at \$12.50 each), urging, "Just Say No to UFOs."

The group followers, who generally are respected residents of Russell, kept a very low profile. "I can't walk into a store in Russell these days without someone doing that 'Twilight Zone' music," says Mr. Christie, the local artist, who was believed to be a follower because of his friendship with one of its members (he denies it).

Meanwhile, the local library was besieged with requests for Mrs. Butts's book. Students at Bickerdyke Elementary School, located across the street from the Seventh Trumpeter sculpture, swore they saw the angel's trumpet move. "They'd heard talk, and it made them anxious," says psychologist Kenneth Krannawitter, who was summoned to console them. Over coffee at the Boot Hill Cafe, "the guys are asking, 'What have we become—California?'" says Mr. Mashburn, the retired air traffic controller.

As are many mysteries, the disappearances were solved routinely enough, and by accident, on Sept. 26. United Airlines called one of the Brock girls to confirm their Washington, D.C.-to-Israel reservations. An alert roommate, aware of the hubbub in Russell, relayed the flight information to Sheriff Balloun, who arranged for the FBI to meet the four women. "They told the FBI that they had left Russell of their own accord, and they were going to Israel for a religious thing," says the sheriff. Since they hadn't committed a crime, he says, the FBI couldn't interrogate them further, although agents noted the women had open-ended return tickets.

With concerns about their safety allayed, sympathy for the women is running low in Russell. Local critics wonder why they didn't tell their families about the trip. School officials say they doubt Mrs. Brock will get her job back.

A couple of loyal group followers, demanding anonymity, insist the missing women disappeared without notice because that's the order they'd received from an extraterrestrial. Shaking his head, Sheriff Balloun says, "I don't know what it will take to knock these beliefs out of the heads of some people. But as far as I'm concerned, the case is closed."

DAILY NEWS PRESS, Glendale, CA - Aug. 26, 1991

Walkers recount UFO encounters

By Janet Zaslav
Glendale News-Press

Although no aliens revealed themselves on a recent UFO walk, "sometimes they come along (incognito) — just to look at people," said Ed Johnson, who leads a search for extraterrestrial life through the Foothills.

On a recent weekend morning, more than 20 people met outside Descanso Gardens in La Canada Flintridge where, according to Johnson, he previously encountered UFOs.

"Aliens are attracted to areas with energy and are commonly seen over power lines," he said, explaining that his "sightings" occurred near electrical wires in front of the gardens.

"There are lots of quartz deposits and earthquake faults that are also E.T. hot spots around the Foothills."

The Glendale Freeway overpass at the Verdugo Boulevard off ramp in Montrose is a popular "alien hub center," according to Penny Harper, who had her "first space-ship experience" there.

Harper was driving northbound on the freeway when aliens from the Pleiades star cluster in the constellation Taurus took her aboard their craft Aug. 27, 1987, she said.

"I'd been hoping for a (space-ship) trip for five years," explained Harper, who attended Johnson's July 7 UFO walk.

"The Pleiadians look like regular human beings, but they're 300 years more advanced than we are," she said. "They speak telepathically, are spiritually evolved and have no war or pollution."

"I didn't want to come back."

Earthlings are either abducted or contacted by aliens, said Phillip

Scott of Glendale.

Scott, a retired Los Angeles area police officer, told of the existence of both "friendlies" and "unfriendlylies."

Pleiadians (friendlies) wander among us unnoticed, observing our culture — contacting people that can benefit from their knowledge, he explained. But others, like the Grays ("unfriendlylies"), abduct humans, or implant tracking devices on their bodies.

The government is possibly responsible for the activities of "unfriendlylies," said Scott, who summarized the following conspiracy theory: "Many believe that in the 1950s these aliens traded technology with our government for the freedom to abduct people they could experiment with."

Scott said he has not been contacted or abducted by aliens. "But I hope if I keep going to the right places I will have a sighting."

But not everyone along for the UFO walk was counting on contact from beyond.

"It's very difficult to travel long distances through space," said Curt Rissow, a science teacher from La Crescenta, who joined the excursion because he enjoys walking.

"I do believe there's life in space, but I don't believe they've been coming to visit us."

Johnson, who said he sighted two UFOs at the entrance to Descanso Gardens — one in 1957, the other in 1982 — said the recent outing was the third in his "trilogy of UFO walks." The first was July 3, 1990. The second, July 7, 1991.

At 9 a.m. Sept. 15, he will host "World UFO/E.T. Day" in Descanso Gardens.

"All walks of life are welcome," he said.



Roger Wilson/Glendale News-Press

Ed Johnson gives an orientation talk on UFOs and aliens before leading a group on a walk through the Foothills.

It's not a bird; it's not a plane; by golly what is it?

The 9-year-old saw it first in the northwest sky above Lewiston. Then his 8-year-old friend, and the babysitter, the babysitter's parents, and a friend and her two children, and the people who brought the telescope.

Saturday night, it was a bright, multi-colored light that moved up and down and had a "black pointy thing on it."

And there was a ball of clear light, like a silent wave much closer than the blinking light, that lit the sky for several seconds.

Sunday night, there were two of the pulsing lights, one a little closer than the other, but still far away, although they seemed to respond to light directed at them from a flashlight and then from a camera's flash, said Sarah G. Krueger, a Lewiston High School senior.

And Monday night they were back again, and much more active, said Krueger, who set up a watching post on the hill north of Regency Plaza Retirement Center.

Were they UFOs?

"I don't have a clue," Krueger said.

They weren't airplanes, and she doesn't think they were stars. But flying saucers?

"I never even believed in them before, really," she said.

She called Fairchild Air Force Base on the advice of a Lewiston Tribune editor, and someone there told her there was nothing in the air to account for the sightings, she said.

Then she was given the number of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, a private, non-profit organization that documents reports from all of North America.

The volunteer taking calls that night told her it might be a double star, one star so close to another as to appear as one. But not if it was actually changing position.

Margaret Gahner saw it too. It was different than what she and two family members saw 13 years ago in southern Idaho, she said.

That time, they were fishing from a boat at night when three white lights zig-zagged overhead. They were higher than a jet, but not far away like the stars, she said. One was the leader and the other two mimicked its movements.

It went on for about an hour, Gahner said. "We wanted to get home because we were scared."

Robert J. Gribble, director of the National UFO Reporting Center, was non-committal about his opinion of the sighting over Lewiston.

Stationary objects usually are easy to identify, Gribble said. Most of them are scintillating stars whose multiple colors are caused by particles in our atmosphere. Smog. Air pollution.

And bright stars in the northeast and northwest skies draw frequent reports, he added.

"The problem is something at such a distance, of that description, it's almost impossible to make a positive identification."

Every report is kept on file for at least 30 days so information can be pooled. If there are independent reports from the same location, an attempt may be made to put together an onsite investigation, Gribble said.

Investigations are rare nowadays, however. Sightings, once frequent, started tapering off about 10 years ago, he said.

The center was created in 1974 when the U.S. Air Force quit accepting data on UFO phenomena. People had no place to go to make reports where they could expect follow-up, Gribble said.

All the work at the center is done by

UP FRONT / COMMENTARY

Sandra L. Lee

Lee is a general assignment reporter for the Tribune.



volunteers.

So was there — is there — a UFO over the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley?

Certainly, in the sense that no one has yet identified that multicolored blinking object as being anything specific. Or identified the source of the light.

But could they have been that thing of dreams, a spaceship possibly carrying alien beings?

Sarah Krueger plans to keep watch evenings from about 8:30 to 9:30. Just in case. From her vantage point on the edge of Lewiston Orchards, one is a little over Potlatch Corp. and the other more to the west, over downtown Lewiston or Clarkston.

Take a look. What do you think?

'Crop-Circle Mystery Not Fully Solved'

The writer is a professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

By John C. Kasher

Another Point of View

On Sept. 13, a World-Herald editorial stated that the mystery of the British crop circles had been solved, since two Englishmen claimed to have made the designs using a combination of boards, string and a wire sight. The editorial stated that "only the hopelessly gullible or the terminally whimsical could have thought anything else."

I would like to think that I don't fall into either of these two categories; but I must admit that I have been watching the crop-circle mystery grow over the years and have been fascinated by the increasingly complex designs that have been appearing during the summers of 1990 and 1991.

As I considered the evidence provided by the hoaxers, I have some questions that I can't quite resolve. First, from the outset, the two British hoaxers only claimed to have made a total of about 200 circles over a period of 13 years, and only on farms in the Winchester area. According to Time magazine, they also claim to have made a maximum of 25 or 30 circles in any given year. In 1990 alone, there were more than 1,000 designs, some quite complex, that appeared in the English fields. That means that these hoaxers account for less than 3 percent of the designs that appeared in 1990. What about the other 97 percent?

I realize that since the hoaxers have surfaced we must be careful about drawing unwarranted supernatural conclusions about the origin of the rest of the designs. But can we say that the rest were hoaxed, too, without evidence? Does such a small sample of hoaxed circles, really prove that all the rest were faked? This question bothers me a great deal.

Another aspect of the crop-circle mystery puzzles me as well. One of the most baffling things about the English crop designs is that the wheat in many of the designs has been gently bent over at right angles at ground level and continues to thrive and grow parallel to the ground, eventually being harvested. The stalks are not cracked or broken — some unknown process has been used to change the direction of their growth. No one as yet can explain how this can be done. This is one of the major puzzles of the English crop circles.

Perhaps boards and string could partially bend the wheat to make some designs in the fields; but I question whether

the hoaxers could bend the wheat over right at ground level without cracking or breaking it. Time magazine says that they held the board at their knees when they made the designs. It would be interesting to see them hold it at ground level while they made one.

We must also keep in mind that the crop designs have been appearing regularly in fields around the world. The list goes on and on: Italy, Ireland, Holland, Germany, Portugal, New Zealand, Romania, Turkey, the United States, Canada, (most recently a complex design in Alberta), Australia, Russia, Japan and Bulgaria. Should we believe that all these were hoaxed? As a scientist I simply can't do this without evidence. I must be open to the possibility, but I can't draw that conclusion until there is proof.

The fact that a small fraction of the English crop designs was hoaxed is not sufficient proof for me that all the others in England and around the world have been hoaxed as well. I think it is just as severe an error to conclude without proof that all the designs were hoaxed as it is to conclude without proof that they were caused by UFOs.

As a scientist I must try to keep an open mind, and not let my personal biases prejudice my investigation. I don't think that The World-Herald is remaining open enough, judging from its statement about "the hopelessly gullible or the terminally whimsical."

Some unanswered questions about the mysterious British crop circles remain, in spite of what The World-Herald's editorial would have us believe.

In the near future, Richard Andrews and Busty Taylor or George Wingfield, crop circle specialists from England, will begin a 10-city tour in the United States. They will share information about the new designs that have appeared in British fields this summer, including a Mandelbrot set and the Fibonacci sequence, both of which are related to the mathematical theory of fractals and chaos.

Let's hope that in the spirit of open inquiry the editors of The World-Herald will give as much attention to this information as they did to the two British hoaxers.

IDAHO STATESMAN, Boise, ID
Oct. 17, 1991

Former Boisean makes UFO film

Boise native Linda Moulton Howe has spent the last 12 years trying to make sense of the mysteries surrounding UFOs. The documentary film maker's latest effort, "UFO Report: Sightings," will be shown at 8 p.m. Friday on KTRV Channel 12.

Included in Friday's program will be:

■ Videotapes and photographs of unexplained flying objects.

■ Testimony on the reality of UFOs from astronaut James McDivitt.

■ Crop circles not explained by the English men who recently claimed credit for the phenomenon.

■ An interview with a man who claims to have worked on a UFO at a secret government test site.

■ Documents that indicate the government considers UFOs to be a national security issue and new information on animal mutilations, human abductions and the reported UFO crash in New Mexico in 1947.

Howe, who now lives in Huntingdon Valley, Penn., is the program's supervising producer.

It is based on, "Earth Mysteries: Alien Life Forms," a program she did in September 1990 for an Atlanta TV station.

"The whole idea was to do something level-headed that showed the many facets of this phenomenon," she said. "I'm pretty happy with it."

From staff and wire reports

PLAIN DEALER, Cleveland, OH - Sept. 15, 1991

UFO researchers still looking up

By TOM BRECKENRIDGE
PLAIN DEALER REPORTER

Oct. 9, 1965, was a giddy day for Clevelanders Allan J. Manak, author of the Flying Saucer Digest.

That night, he said, a large, disk object with revolving lights moved east to west at about 2,000 feet in the air. Manak, who had established a UFO sighting center in his home, took more than 250 calls from Warrensville Heights to Sheffield Lake over the next two days, all of them describing the same thing. The sighting has never been explained, he said.

Manak says UFO research is a hobby, but it's clearly a passion. Seated in a Holiday Inn lobby off W. 150th St. yesterday, his eyes widened and a cigarette darted in and out of his mouth. Oct. 9, 1965, only strengthened his belief that extraterrestrials are out there.

"Maybe they can't communicate with us, like we can't communicate with an ant," says Manak, 58. "They could be so far advanced intellectually."

That view was not uncommon at the 28th

Annual National UFO Conference yesterday in the Holiday Inn's Hall of Fame banquet room. For most of six hours, about 70 "ufologists" sat in darkness and watched slide presentations from UFO researchers such as Manak.

There were no wild claims of invading aliens or government cover-ups of crashed saucers. Researchers acknowledged that 40-plus years of UFO watching have never produced conclusive evidence of visits from outer space. But thousands of sightings and reported contacts with aliens over the years leave them believing that maybe, just maybe, we are being watched.

"I think this is the biggest thing since the second coming of Christ, if there is another civilization out there," said Manak, one of the event's organizers.

Fellow organizer Rick Hilberg, 44, of Berea, seemed a bit more detached on the subject. He said he has never seen a UFO and noted that more than 95% of sightings have been explained or debunked.

He said he has moved from a belief in extraterrestrials to a theory that electromagnetic fields or

natural Earth forces are triggering psychosocial reactions in those claiming to have seen or made contact with aliens.

"These forces could trigger conditions where the brain may generate an image or interpret what actually happened in a different way," Hilberg said.

James W. Moseley, 60, of Key West, Fla., is a nationally recognized ufologist who lectured on the phenomenon of crashed saucers. The most hotly debated incident is a 1947 crash in Roswell, N.M., of what the Air Force claimed was a weather balloon. But reports circulated that metal recovered from the site could not be bent or burned and that the federal government recovered alien bodies that were preserved at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton. Several books have been written about the incident.

Moseley said another hot theory is that the U.S. government has a secret treaty with an alien society that lives underground out west. "There are people out there who believe this," Moseley said.

Are they crackpots? "I kind of think they are," he said.

'UFO' causes commotion in R.I.'s alien nation

When they looked up into the foggy night sky and saw it — huge, glowing like the moon, and moving stealthily toward them — of course they took it for a UFO.

What else could it be?

This, after all, was Woonsocket. Weirdness is a way of life.

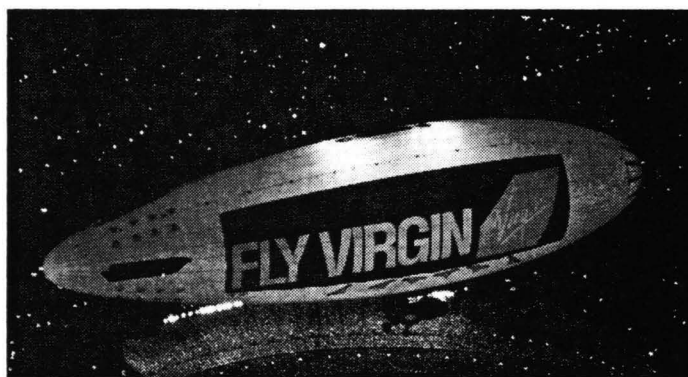
A murder cover-up, an execution-style slaying, a poison-pen vigilante group, bank problems, school problems, a general depression — heck, compared to all that, an invasion by aliens would be good news. Who knows? Maybe



MARIA MIRO JOHNSON

they'd beam some life into the local economy.

"It's an alien nation all to itself, Woonsocket," says Keith Smith of Pascoag.



— Virgin Atlantic Airways Photo

SURRENDER EARTH: Was this blimp the 'UFO' seen in Woonsocket?

It was Thursday evening.

Keith and his wife, Tressa, married less than one week, were returning home from dinner, with Keith's visiting aunt and uncle in the back seat. They were on South Main Street, heading toward Slatersville, when they spotted it, directly over the home of the Monks of Our Lady of Joy.

Quickly, they pulled their car to the side of the road and watched. So did a dozen other cars. Meanwhile, at police stations all over the region, and at the Woonsocket Call, the phone lines were buzzing with reports of the strange craft.

It was "huge!" recalls Tressa, sitting in the front seat. (They've taken me in their midnight-blue Cadillac to the viewing site.) "It was glowing, like."

"We thought we saw history in the making," says Keith, who recalls feeling excited and curious, as was Uncle Helmer Greenlund, 70.

But in the back seat, 68-year-old Aunt Margaret "flipped out," says Keith. She begged him, "Please get me outa here! Please get me home."

Tressa remembers her saying, "Let's get back to California," that "she'd rather have earthquakes than..."

"USOs. She called 'em USOs," says Keith, giggling. "She says, 'I come all the way to Rhode Island to be invaded by USOs!'"

That night, when they got back to the house, no one could sit still. They were so excited, looking out the windows, looking out the doors — except for Aunt Margaret, of course, who was frozen to the couch.

Built right here

Well, Aunt Margaret, you can relax. That was no USO.

That was a blimp — a rather unique blimp, the only one in the world that's illuminated from within — but a blimp just the same, built right here in our own galaxy.

The people from Virgin Atlantic Airways, who sent the 130-foot-long, 42-foot high, 38-foot-wide ship on its promotional way from Newport to Worcester, Mass., call it the "Virgin Lightship."

MARIA MIRO JOHNSON

By now, the airline is used to UFO hysteria arising wherever the Virgin goes (which, despite a spokeswoman's claims to the contrary, makes me feel that's somehow the point of these nocturnal visits).

Keith and Tressa read about the UFO being just a blimp — "this pitch in The Call" as they called it — but they were a little suspicious.

Keith, a bartender in North Smithfield, is no dummy. He's seen shows on television about how the Pentagon covers up evidence of UFOs, how people have actually lost their jobs for trying to reveal the truth. He's seen interviews with people who claim to have been abducted, who all display the same scars on their knees to prove it.

It's only logical, he says. "There's life here, there can be life somewhere else. We have ships that can go there. They must have ships that can come here."

He says, "I really believe in the stuff," and he knows a lot of other people who do, too. More than a few of them, he confides, suspect a federal cover-up in Woonsocket.

For one thing, he argues, the picture in the newspaper "didn't look at all what we saw."

What he saw looked like a "dish," he says. "It wasn't a big ole blimp. The blimp looks like a watermelon. This looked like a plate, a flat plate."

"Almost like a grapefruit," says Tressa. "Or a cantaloupe, with something underneath."

"It wasn't a watermelon," says Keith. "It was a dish."

And another thing — if it was just a blimp, why didn't the police know about it? Why were they chasing it all over town, and being so hush-hush about it?

And if it was a blimp, why didn't it have any writing on it? — "To distinguish it," says Tressa, "that, yes, this is a blimp, this is a flying saucer, or a UFO."

"If it was the blimp," says Keith, "they shouldn't've been flying without warning. It could've given somebody a heart attack." That's why he found the blimp explanation "fishy."

What if...?

You might think that, talking this way, Keith and Tressa would worry about being considered unstable. But so far, nobody's questioned their sanity. Rather, says Keith, most people had either seen the craft themselves or "were wishing that they'd seen it."

"It was a flying saucer," he says, with finality.

How would he feel if it turned out not to be so? I ask, as gently as possible.

"I would be disappointed," he said, in a way that was rather touching.

"I would, too," says Tressa, quietly.

On their anniversary, she says, they could say to each other, "Remember?"

Keith smiles — "Remember the USO?"

Rather than destroy this lovely moment with the hard facts, I decide to change the subject: Let's say it was a UFO, I say. What if it landed and little beings walked out of it?

"I woulda flew," says Keith. "The car woulda been outa here."

Do they think the beings would be friendly or hostile?

"From what you know on TV," he says, "they don't sound all that bad. People claim to have been beamed up, and then have been let go again."

Now there's silence in the Cadillac. Perhaps they're thinking about this, about the prospect of doing their small part for cosmic research.

I draw us down to Earth.

You know, I say, even if it was just a blimp, it must have been sort of nice to see that, to be a part of a moment when everybody in town was looking up and marvelling.

It's true, says Keith. It was worth it to see it, even if it was just a blimp, which, he has to admit, it probably was, since what are the chances of a Virgin Lightship and a UFO traversing the northern Rhode Island skies on the very same evening?

So if some airline says it was a blimp, okay, it was a blimp. He turns on the ignition, glances over his shoulder, and pulls into the Woonsocket traffic.

"Didn't look like a blimp," he says.

Maria Miro Johnson is a Journal-Bulletin staff writer. Her column runs in Lifebeat every Thursday.

Glowing chunk of space debris gives Oregonians a jolt

By RICHARD L. HILL
of The Oregonian staff

A flame-throwing, debris-tossing piece of flying junk took many Oregonians by surprise Thursday evening.

Originally thought to be a meteor, the object was most likely a Soviet rocket body re-entering the Earth's atmosphere, said Air Force Maj. David Griffard, public affairs officer for the U.S. Space Command, on Friday.

The spent rocket body — on a trajectory through northwest Canada, Washington, Oregon and California — apparently made an abrupt right-hand turn as it slammed into the atmosphere over Oregon, Griffard said.

Dick Pugh, a meteor expert and a science teacher at Cleveland High School, said he was besieged with phone calls Thursday night and Friday.

"The event occurred at 7:32 p.m.," Pugh said. "The object entered the atmosphere somewhere over central Oregon at a very shallow angle, and it went clear across the sky and probably disappeared over the Pacific Ocean."

"The event lasted 6 or 7 seconds, which is an extremely long time, but it was almost not dropping. It was bright or brighter than a full moon — in some cases it just lit things up

like broad daylight. One person reported that the inside of their car just lit up."

One observer, Elaine Hahn of Aloha, said she and her son were driving to their house on Cooper Mountain when they saw the object flash through the sky to the south. "It was in the shape of a cylinder and the back part of it broke off," Hahn said. "I told my son that they'll be calling out the fire department for this."

The chunk of metal zipped through the sky only 12 minutes before an earthquake registering 3.1 on the Richter scale shook the Portland area, leading many people to believe the events were related.

"My phone at home went crazy last night," said Bruce Spainhower, director of the Kendall Planetarium at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. "Any meteorite of sufficient size to shake the ground that way would not have been seen by just a few people. It would have lit up the entire sky and made a tremendous hole in the ground."

Man-made debris ranging from large rocket boosters to small satellite parts re-enters the Earth's atmosphere almost every day, Griffard said. The Space Command, at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado, keeps track of 6,900 pieces of orbiting debris 1 square meter in size or larger.

UFO Sightings Continue

By Gary Watson

October 5, for three and a half minutes an unidentified flying object appeared over Gulf Breeze and on that night this brilliant red UFO, so often seen by scores of witnesses at the south end of the Pensacola Bay Bridge, suddenly displayed a bright ring of lights that outlined its pulsating "power light."

"Look, there it is!" Sue Jones yelled for others to look in the direction she pointed. The crowd echoed her words. "There it is!" "To the south, look everybody!" Bruce Morrison scrambled to his video camera. Greg Liss focused his 500mm lens camera. "Professor" Pugh, Ray Polluck and dozens of others also began taking photographs.

The red UFO has been witnessed, video recorded and photographed over eighty times

since January 1991. The witnesses number in the hundreds. Dr. Radomski was one of the witnesses and he said, "I just can't explain what I saw. It hovered and made no sound. It was red and then was surrounded by white lights for over three minutes before simply vanishing."

On this night, thirty local residents and a MUFON Research Team witnessed and documented the UFO sighting. The object suddenly appeared in the sky over Gulf Breeze at

30 degrees elevation and 230 degrees compass bearing, relative to the witnesses. It remained in one spot before moving to the west, into the wind. MUFON investigator Morrison said, "The fact that the object

flew into the wind shows that it is a powered craft, not to mention the distinct ring of lights that suddenly surrounded the blazing bottom red light."

Moonmen?

UFO passes in front of full moon as forty people watch

By Ed Walters

The UFO "sky watches" have continued nightly with many local residents gathering at the foot of the Pensacola Bay Bridge. On Sunday, September 22, forty people were shocked to see the UFO appear near the full moon.

Topper Jones said, "I saw a small white light appear to the left of the moon. It grew in size and moved west toward the moon. As it crossed the bottom edge of the moon, I could see the darkish outline of structure above the white light which suddenly turned brilliant red."

Ann Morrison said, "I saw a perfect circle of red lights. In the center of the lights was a glowing, boiling swirl of 'energy.' When it crossed in front of the bottom part of the moon I saw a darker round shape above the red ring of lights."

Bland Pugh said, "At first I thought it must be a parachute and a flare but as it passed the moon, I saw that the shape above the red light was angular and then I knew it was no parachute. At one point the red turned bright white before it suddenly disappeared."

An air traffic controller was among the witnesses and said, "I don't know what it was but I know it was not a conventional airplane or helicopter and it certainly was not a flare. Flares don't change color two or three times."

A doctor at the bridge with his family said, "It moved quite a distance across the sky before it disappeared. We just don't know what it was. It was a UFO, An Unidentified Flying Object."

A size triangularization, established with two other sighting locations, located the object to be approx. 1.9 miles away from the witnesses at the Bay Bridge and also showed that the object was over twenty feet in diameter.

The object traveled to the west-northwest, into the wind and closer to the witnesses. MUFON investigators were present to record the elevation and azimuth of this unknown object. At the time of the sighting the surface wind was out of the north at one mile per hour and the upper level winds were also out of the north. There was no comment from the military.



A large contingent of hopefuls gather nightly at the bottom of the Bay Bridge to scan the skies for UFOs.

UFO investigator reports second daylight sighting

By Joe Barron
MUFON Investigator

On Sunday, September 15 at 2 p.m., a very large UFO and a smaller unit were seen in the area of Santa Rosa Shores and Highway 98. Both were metallic in color. The larger appeared to have appendages which circled the object and described by the observer as "tree branches". It also had what appeared to be layers, or structures, placed one upon the other as plates. The smaller object was shaped like a bow-tie. The larger was estimated to be 45 feet wide and 60 feet long. The smaller appeared to be about 1/10th in size when compared with the larger. Both objects rotated clockwise in a circular fashion, but diametrically opposed in position. The smaller rotated on the opposite side of the circle. Additionally, they moved vertically, up and down, with the closest distance to the ground estimated at 500 feet. Finally, the larger object shot off and disappeared. The smaller went in an easterly direction, fairly slowly, until it disappeared beyond the tree line over East Bay. The observers said that four occupants of a car took off toward the bay in an effort to see where the "bow-tie" had gone. It was estimated that between 30 to 40 people witnessed the sighting. If you are one of the witnesses to this sighting, please call Joe Barron at 932-5394 so that the report can

be enhanced. The four occupants who chased the UFO are particularly requested to contact Joe. Of all the witnesses who were there, it is hoped that pictures were taken. If so, you are encouraged to contact Joe. This is only the second daylight sighting that this MUFON investigator has reported in this area. Therefore, the sighting is of particular significance. All of the witnesses to this sighting are requested to attend the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON meeting at 7 p.m. at the United Church on 9th Avenue on October 14.

Following the interview, this investigator joined a group of people conducting a UFO watch at the end of the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze bridge. It was difficult to find a place to park. The crowd was substantial. On the other side of the highway, a group of MUFON investigators were assembled with their equipment, along with Dr. Bruce Maccabee from Washington. When this reporter approached the group, a small red light appeared in the direction of Garcon Point. It was very bright, and made two appearances of about 10 seconds each before disappearing. The time was 8:40 p.m. So, the odds are, that if you want to see a UFO, look into the sky more often and go to the end of the bridge after 7 p.m. You may see one.

TIMES, Portsmouth, NH - Oct. 3, 1991 CR: B. Greenwood



Betty Hill makes final UFO speech

Betty Hill ends UFO career

By April T. Jacobs
Herald Staff Writer

PORTSMOUTH — Betty Hill officially retired from her UFO career Sunday, making a final appearance at a Mutual UFO Network conference at Yoken's restaurant with a swansong speech.

Mrs. Hill told reporters that after 30 years of speaking about unidentified flying objects and devoting much of her time to studying them she deserves a rest from the subject, that made her a celebrity.

Mrs. Hill and her husband Barney Hill claimed they were abducted by UFO crew members about 30 years ago on a rural road in the White Mountains on their way home from a trip to Canada.

When they went public with their story, the couple's case received national attention.

Mrs. Hill was not alone Sunday in her belief in the existence of UFOs — the MUFON conference she appeared at hosted a number of nationally and internationally known speakers and UFO devotees from various states.

Nuclear Physicist Stanton T. Friedman said the abduction of the Hills was a landmark case because of the way it was treated, including a TV movie and a best selling book.

Mr. Friedman, a featured speaker Sunday, has lectured at colleges and universities around the country and in the United States Congress.

His specialty is the infamous MJ-12 papers reportedly leaked to UFO investigators and claimed to contain concrete evidence that the government covered up their involvement with UFOs and captured aliens.

Mr. Friedman said he dismisses questions about why scientists have not put more stock in UFO matters in the past as detracting from the real evidence that they exist.

Other people at the conference were less certain and seemed to be more inquisitive about the subject than accepting it as fact.

"I can't honestly believe we're the only ones existing," said Michael Bishop, one of visitors to the MUFON conference.

Mr. Bishop said he has never had any encounters with aliens and doesn't know if they really exist or not, but says the law of averages would suggest that with the number of galaxies in the universe, it's doubtful that life doesn't exist elsewhere.

And judging by the packed house, there are many others like him.

Mrs. Hill said she wouldn't change the fact she had an alien encounter even if she could, but still called the experience "terrifying", although she has come to terms with it now.

According to Mrs. Hill, it was no random encounter, but a selected pick of an easy target that brought her into contact with other life forms and changed her own life forever.

USA TODAY, Arlington, VA - Oct. 22, 1991

TELEVISION

NEWS, PROGRAMMING AND PERSONALITIES

INSIDE TV / BY PETER JOHNSON

AND SPEAKING OF NUMBERS: Fox's Friday *UFO Report: Sightings* reaped the network's biggest Friday viewership ever, and there's talk about making the special a weekly series. *Totally Hidden Video* and *Best of the Worst* are set to move to Fridays in November, but Ann Daniel, who produced *UFO* with partner Henry Winkler, says, "We could move fairly quickly" to make *UFO* a series.



This photograph was taken of the UFO "portholes" on September 8, 1991. It was witnessed by twenty people from the Bay Bridge.

UFO "portholes" seen again

On Saturday, September the 14th and again on Monday the 16th over eighty people witnessed the Gulf Breeze UFO as it displayed its "portholes." From the east and west side of the Pensacola Bay Bridge the UFO was photographed and video taped as it suddenly appeared in the sky at about 8:30 p.m.

Nancy Sharp said she saw "the dark outline of the craft as it crossed the sky low over Gulf Breeze." She pointed it out to her friends and other nearby people as it faded into the darkness. Minutes later the disk shaped object returned and she once again pointed to the UFO and said, "Look at that!". Suddenly the UFO's "portholes" winked on and the crowd came alive with excitement.

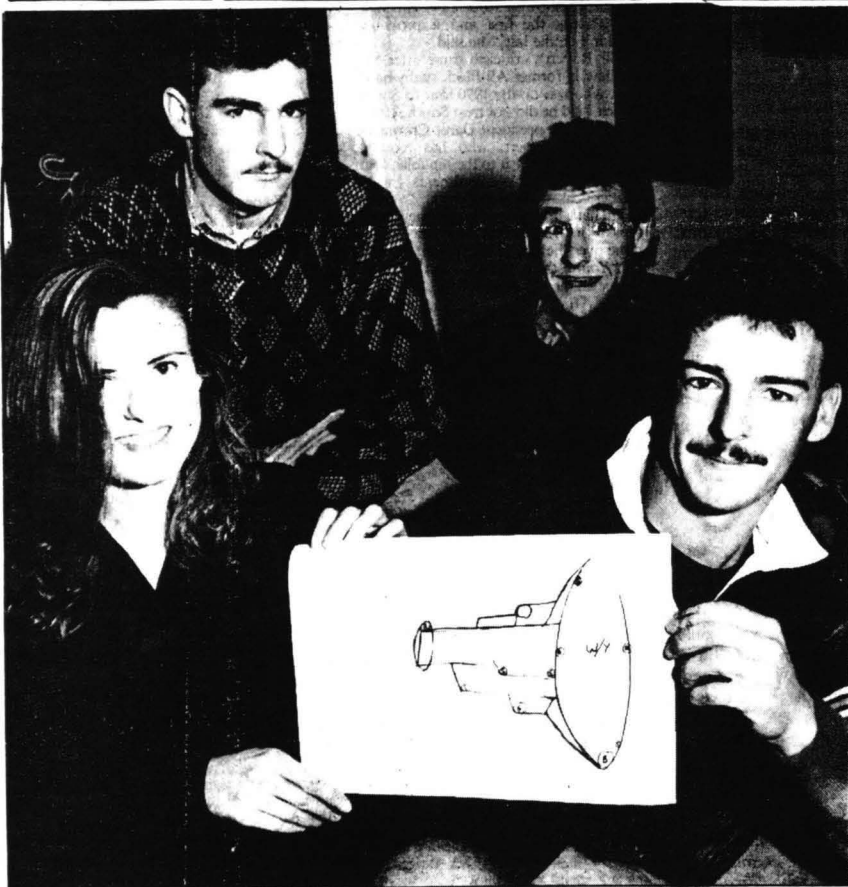
Greg Liss said, "I could see the silhouette of the craft. It was the same UFO that Ed Walters photographed three years ago." There seemed to be little doubt in the minds of the witnesses that they had truly

seen a real UFO. "It moved toward us, then stopped and then just disappeared. The ring of lights around it were beautiful. They sparkled like diamonds."

Four days later on September 20th a former NASA systems specialist, Bob Oechsler came to town from Washington, D.C. and joined the local investigators at a UFO sky watch. The UFO, which has shown itself over eighty times since January, 1991, appeared over Gulf Breeze, moved to the west for over a minute and then suddenly disappeared. An azimuth scope was locked onto the position in the sky where it disappeared. Approximately two minutes later the crowd of forty people saw the object reappear to the east and traveled into the 17 knot wind to the exact location where it had first disappeared and again the object simply vanished in a clear sky. There was no sound from the UFO as opposed to the other conventional aircraft documented that night.



Group in awe at UFO



The four young people show a sketch of their impression of the object. They are from left, Jane, Blair, Brenden, and Shane.

By Kathy Webb
Staff reporter, Hastings

Four young Hastings people say they watched in awe as a huge, unidentified flying object flew over them on an isolated stretch of road in the Wairarapa on Sunday night.

The four told the Herald-Tribune yesterday they were on an empty stretch of road between Pahiatua and Eketahuna at 7pm, travelling to Hastings, when they saw an object that has never appeared in any aircraft catalogue.

From where they stood, it was about the size of two Boeing 747s side-by-side. It had a satellite dish-shaped front, with box-like structures behind. An intense yellowish-white light was emitted from the front at times, while its perimeter was illuminated by red, green and blue lights.

It cruised past 600 to 900 metres above them, taking about five seconds, before suddenly shooting into the distance.

Object silent: The object was completely silent, and at times changed direction abruptly, backward, forward and sideways, the four said.

Jane Williams, 22, and Piper brothers Blair, 19, Brenden, 25, and Shane, 21, are convinced that what they saw on Sunday night was no ordinary aircraft.

Blair was an avionics technician in the Air Force for 18 months, "and I know my aircraft".

Brenden, a construction worker based in Auckland, is deeply interested in aircraft and says he can identify them easily.

The four say they have been left stunned by their "close encounter", which began about 6.30pm as they were heading home to Hastings. They had been to a wedding in Featherston on Saturday, and spent Sunday helping to tidy the hall and saying good-bye to friends.

They set out with Shane driving their Mark IV Cortina and Jane sitting beside him. Blair and Brenden were in the back.

The evening sky was clear and still, and Blair scanned the stars, spotting what he thought was an unusually bright star low on the horizon. He pointed it out to Brenden, who has a creditable knowledge of stars, and they speculated about what it could be.

Blair, Brenden and Jane watched the star on the horizon for a while. Shane tried to drive and catch glimpses of it and then he suddenly spotted another one just like it straight ahead of them.

Light bright: "It was pretty big. It was a bright yellowish white light, an unnatural light, and too big for a planet," said Blair.

Shane watched it while the others kept their eye on the light on the horizon. Then Shane shouted that the light in front of him was moving.

"We realised then it wasn't a planet," said Blair.

Shane put his foot on the accelerator to try to catch up with the moving light, but it suddenly moved rapidly to the left.

The others shouted to him to stop the car and pull over so they could watch. As they did so, the bright light moved toward them.

They piled out of the car and stood "flabbergasted" as the light descended and cruised past them, revealing the shape of the object containing the light, the four said.

"My God, we've seen a UFO," said Brenden.

"It was dead silent. This thing went over us slowly, really smooth, ultra-smooth. It was pretty damned big. I felt like we could jump up and grab it. We weren't scared. We hoped it would stop. We were overcome with awe."

The four had no idea how fast the object was moving as it passed overhead, "but within seconds it was 30-40 miles away from us", said Brenden. "I don't know what it was doing, flying over. Perhaps it was observing us."

UFO darted: The object's red light could be seen flashing. It hung between two stars before dropping, then darting across the sky and fading into the distance.

At that stage the light on the horizon began to grow dimmer, leaving a

hazy glow, until it too disappeared, the four said.

Jane said she could see the shape of the object clearly as it passed overhead. She was excited by what she saw, but also a little bit scared.

It was shaped like a satellite dish at the front, with attached boxes at the back, she said.

Shane said his impression of the object was "like a big torch. There seemed to be lights all over it".

As it passed over the four, all the lights were static, and the yellowish-white light appeared to have dimmed. As it moved away, the red light behind it was flashing, he said.

The diagram Shane drew for the Herald-Tribune should probably be more condensed, he said.

Brenden said he had read a few books on UFOs by former Air New Zealand pilot Captain Bruce Cathie, but never expected to see one himself.

Now he's off to Auckland to investigate the matter further.

No doubts: All four agree there's no doubt in their minds that what they saw was not a man-made craft, and they're fairly certain the bright light sitting on the horizon was likely to have been a companion to it.

They only wish someone else had been around to share the experience and back them up.

The Carter Observatory in Wellington said today there had been no reports of UFO sightings recently, and police in Pahiatua and Eketahuna said they had not heard of anything.

SWINDON EVENING ADVERTISER,
Wiltshire, England

July 26, 1991 CR: T. Good

Brewing up time

A Westlea resident rang police today claiming to have seen a kettle-shaped UFO hovering over Swindon's Shaw Ridge leisure centre early yesterday evening. Chief Insp Martyn Meeks expressed surprise that in such a populated area no one else saw the object.

TIMES, London, England - Aug. 16, 1991

CR: T. Good

Extraterrestrial scoop comes down to earth

Peter Davenport meets the Florida journalist with a tale to tell at this weekend's congress of UFO spotters

THE invitation could not have been clearer: "Press cards to be shown and no one from the *Sport* newspapers will be allowed entrance to the press conference," it said.

As an exercise in censorship, it was probably understandable. A publication that specialises in such exclusives as the sighting of a missing second world war bomber on the Moon is not the sort of journal to be welcomed warmly among a gathering of those who take the world of UFOs and visitations by alien creatures very seriously.

On the other hand, the editor of *Florida Home and Garden* found herself the centre of attention at the press conference to launch the Sixth International UFO Congress, which is being held in the down-to-earth city of Sheffield this weekend.

For once, Ms Kathryn Howard found herself on the other side of the notebook. Twenty-two years after an experience in which she claims to have been abducted by aliens and transported high above the Earth in a spacecraft, she had finally, she said, decided the time was right to go public with her story.

Ms Howard, sometime singer and yoga teacher, said yesterday that her experience happened in 1969 near a small village in southern Sweden, where she was then living. She

recalled being inside an object "like a large beer barrel, itself inside a larger vessel", restrained by her wrists and ankles and able to view the Earth through a circular window beneath her feet.

Since then, she had seen what may have been alien figures, 10ft high silhouettes, three times. It had all left her with a greater feeling for the human race, she said, as well as the power to heal.

But why is she presenting her story now? "Well, I feel the timing is right, and I feel a trust in the people around me here, and I feel safe and secure in telling it."

Ms Howard is undoubtedly a coup for the organisers of the congress, which will have more than 260 international delegates and speakers, covering all aspects of "Ufology", from sightings of flying saucers and the creation of corn circles to alleged abductions and visitations by aliens.

However, staging a conference on UFOs in the traditional news "silly season" of August may not be the wisest of moves. Readers of the *Sport* newspapers may well be denied coverage of the conference, but it remains to be seen how the readership of *Florida Home and Garden* receives its editor's "out of this world" exclusive.

Strange circle crops up in oat field

By MICHAEL NORTH

THEORIES about the origins of mysterious corn circles are cropping up as fast as circles appear in fields across the south of the county.

It has also been revealed that The Duke of Edinburgh Prince Philip is interested in alien phenomena, being a subscriber to *Flying Saucer Review*, a magazine distributed from High Wycombe.

The latest pattern has materialised in a farmer's oat field below the golden ball in West Wycombe.

In Old Amersham, a less complex circle has appeared next to the intricate pattern in a field near the bypass, while another quintuplet circle pattern appeared in a field near the Prime Minister's residence of Chequers at the same time last week.

West Wycombe farmer Murray Kent is convinced the latest circle in his field is a hoax.

"It's on an incline and the space craft would have tipped over," said farmer Murray, who added: "I think it's a load of baloney. My farm manager thinks it came from outer space."

But Gordon Creighton, the editor of *Flying Saucer Review*, has challenged the sceptics with his theory of alien intelligence. And he cites three members of the Royal family, including Prince Philip, among his eminent readership.

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

"Very grave times are coming for the planet and this is connected with it," said Mr Creighton, a former British diplomat.

For Alan Vickers, of Station Road, Haddenham, the explanation is simple: "It can be done with oil drums being pushed around, usually by two or three blokes walking along a track on a Saturday night."

EVENING NEWS, Scarborough, England - Aug. 14, 1991 CR: T. Good

UFOs - second sighting

THE strange tale of mysterious orange lights seen over the sea between Scarborough and Filey took another twist this week.

Last week, tourists at the Blue Dolphin caravan park, Grinstead, reported seeing UFOs - what they described as darting orange lights in the sky.

And now, following a report of the

sighting in the *Evening News*, a Lincolnshire couple have come forward to recount their own tale of lights flashing in the night sky.

Steve Ward (20), of Spalding, said he was returning to the Primrose Valley caravan site with his girlfriend when he spotted what he described as a "bright orange light".

"It was quite large at the start, then it

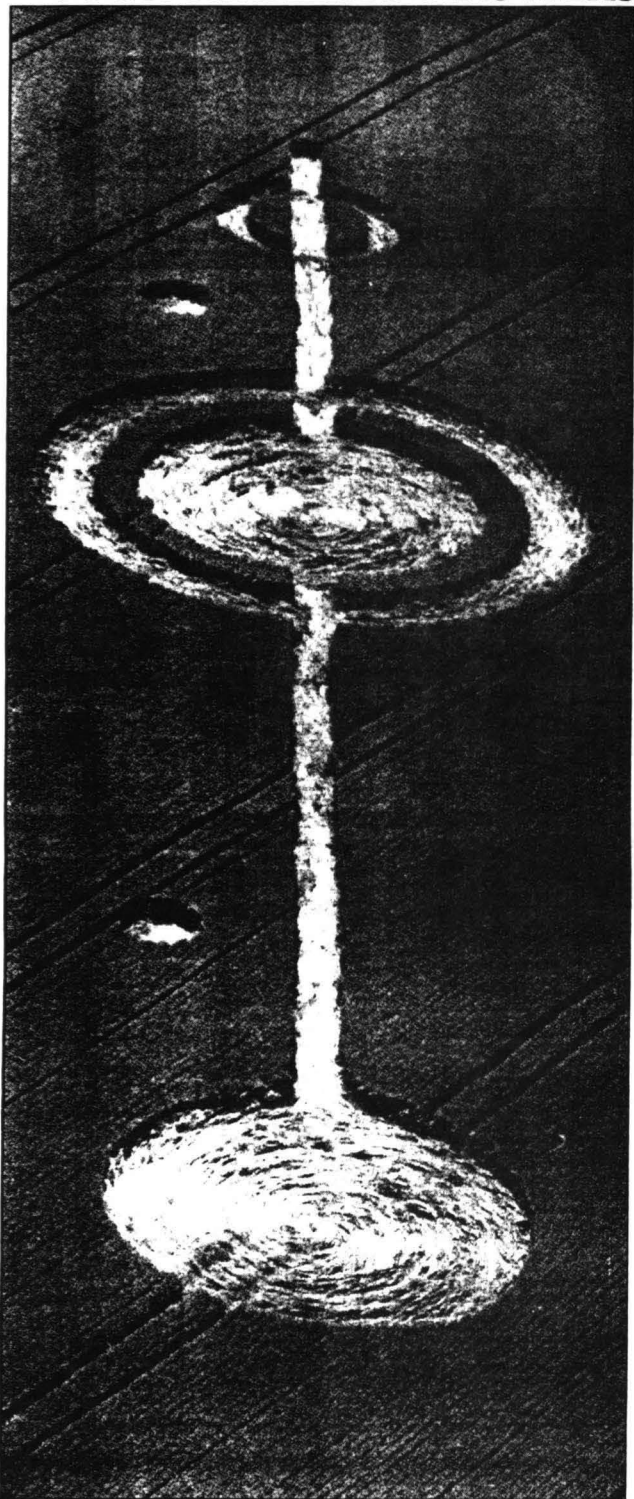
got smaller, then it got larger again over a period of about 15 minutes," he said.

Steve, a transport clerk, was with his girlfriend, Debbie Dicker (15), at the time and she also witnessed the lights.

Steve said: "I would like to think there is a reasonable explanation.

"I have always been sceptical about this kind of thing."

- YOUR AMAZING ANSWERS TO GREAT CORN PATTERNS PUZZLE -



SPACESHIP LANDING PAD? A mysterious pattern in corn near Bath

'I saw aliens land in a cornfield and leave a circle as they zoomed off'

YOUR strange and astounding theories about what causes corn circles are flooding in to us.

The cosmic puzzle that has got everyone in a spin brought some mind-boggling solutions.

One man claims he saw a circle being made by aliens.

Hundreds of readers are trying for the Daily Star's £10,000 reward for proof beyond doubt of what causes the perfect circles of flattened corn.

Eddie Wise spent four nights in a Wiltshire field trying to solve the mystery and he claims he saw an alien spacecraft land.

Anchor

Said Eddie, of Knowle, Bristol: "It was enormous. There were no lights, but I could see what appeared to be windows."

"A long object was lowered from the base of the craft. When it touched down in the field, the craft became quite still."

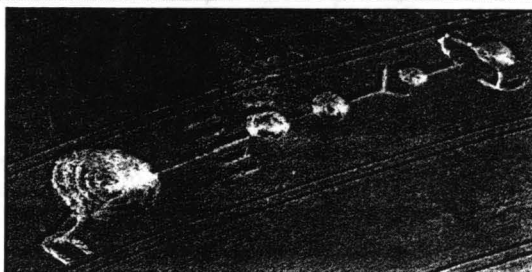
Two minutes later the craft disappeared. The only evidence it had been there was a circle in the corn which Mr Wise claims was made by the spaceship's anchor.

Molten lava bubbling under the earth causes the circles, according to D. Henderson, of Hexham, Northumberland.

The lava swirls around under high pressure beneath the earth's crust, but the only visible effect is when it affects the soil beneath corn fields.

But M.T. Moore, of Hunstanton, Norfolk, says the circles are the foundations for medieval buildings that lie under the soil and which have mysteriously reappeared.

Allan Vant, of Fenderden, Kent, said the cir-



CIRCLE COPY: This pattern recently appeared near Bath...



...and this one was pictured near Pewsey, Wilts, last year

By DAVID PAUL

cles are caused by mini-whirlwinds on hot, sunny days. Shopfitter Anthony Whittle claims he saw a corn circle being made by a farmer's tractor and crop sprayer.

Mr Whittle, of Brierley Hill, West Midlands, said: "Every time he turned the machine round it made a big circle in the corn."

According to Nigel

Worsfold, of Ash, Surrey, the circles are caused by high-pitched sound waves that can only be heard by animals.

He claims that on the night the corn circles appeared at Alton Barnes, Wilts, all the dogs in the area began barking at around 2am.

Aliens from outer space make the circles in the corn to communicate with us, according to Mrs Pam Owen, of High Wycombe, Bucks.

To win our £10,000 phone us on 071-922 7362. Or write to CORN CIRCLES, Newsdesk, Daily Star, 245, Blackfriars Road, London SE1 9UX. Please enclose drawings or photographs.

All material is sent to the Daily Star at the owner's risk and the Daily Star regrets it cannot guarantee the material will be returned. The Daily Star may use material for purposes of publication.

The editor reserves the right to consult scientific experts and his decision is final. He may call for verification by experiment. Entries must reach The Star by July 31, 1991.

RYEDALE UFO RIDDLE

AN Unidentified Flying Object has been spotted near Pickering.

The mysterious light was seen twice by two women searching the night sky for shooting stars.

It was watched for about ten minutes as it hovered above Dalby Valley before it set off across the Wolds.

One of the women who spotted the UFO was certain the object could not have been a man-made aircraft.

"There was no noise from it at all," said the woman, who did not want to be named.

She said the object was pear-shaped and as big as a car. It was coloured with red, green and white light.

"It went slowly across

the village and we could see it going backwards and forwards behind the trees. It was only about 100 to 120ft off the ground.

"Then it turned bright white and just seemed to hang there, then it went off towards Pickering. We'd been watching it for five or six minutes."

A few minutes later, as the woman was locking her door, the UFO returned.

"It hovered over the valley again. We watched it for a while and it started to come a little bit towards us, then it went into the sky and away over the Wolds."

The RAF confirmed no jets were flying in the area.

And the Civil Aviation Authority said the object was too low to have been registered on their radar.

CR: T. Good

WESTERN EVENING HERALD, Plymouth, England - Aug. 16, 1991 CR: T. Good

A plea for more understanding on UFOs

REGARDING Mrs R Morton's letter (August 7): if she had listened to the 1 1/2 hours of radio programme on June 19 and 20 she would have heard Mrs Beverly Bean speaking on the fact that her father, Sgt Melvin E Brown was stationed at the Roswell Army Air Field at the time of the UFO crashes in July, 1947, and actually witnessed some of the alien bodies, as did many of the staff there at the time.

The bodies were then packed on ice in refrigerated trucks. Sgt Brown later told his family "they were nothing to be afraid of. They were friendly-looking and had nice faces."

The incident was common knowledge on the base at the time. Perhaps Mrs Morton would care to read the book "The Roswell Incident"?

But the circle and pictogram creators are, I believe, on a much higher dimension/frequency level than the 'nuts and bolts' UFOs - hopefully we will begin to understand more later on.

After all, one hundred years ago no-one would have believed today's silly world to be at all possible - and they would have laughed themselves silly if someone had tried to tell them of how things would be!

I would suggest people just keep an open mind and have a look at the mountain of facts regarding this subject; you may even find some signs of intelligent life down here, contrary to what Mrs Morton believes!

On Sunday, August 4, TSW showed an excellent film on the East Cornwall circles and pictograms on the "Farming Week"

programme, which I am asking them to again show if possible, at a popular time (rather than at 50'clock in the morning!).

Crop Watcher George Bishop, of Callington, and Bob Boyd, chairman of the Plymouth UFO Research Group, on a night crop watch arrived at one circle just as it had been formed, in total silence, with not a soul in sight, in misty weather. As they reached it the "leaves of corn were still twitching" as they were laid down. No tracks entered the circle, a disc of 40ft diameter.

As the commentator on the film said, they may be made by "someone perhaps from a long, long way away..." And perhaps he is right!

Marilyn Preston Evans (Mrs) Saltash Cornwall

PEOPLE

Abused by aliens and bankers

An 'abductee' claims UFOs cost her a job

Aivena Scott believes her livelihood has been wiped out by space aliens. For years she has claimed that extra-terrestrials forced her to submit to experiments. Now she's claiming that, as a result of press accounts of her experiences, her employer forced her to resign. Last month the 40-year-old former receptionist filed a complaint with the B.C. branch of the Canadian Human Rights Commission against the Royal Bank.

She says her problems began in May, following the publication of a story on her in *British Columbia Report*. In the article Miss Scott provided a detailed description of the space aliens she had come to know over a six-year period. She claimed she had been abducted by the aliens on several occasions. In 1985, while awaiting surgery, she was taken aboard a spaceship by a group of friendly creatures who operated on her to repair a malfunctioning left kidney. The abduction enabled her to cancel a planned visit to an operating room on Earth.

Then in January of 1990, two months before she began working at the Royal Bank in Vancouver, she met a different type of space alien. Whereas the healing experience involved creatures with human-like features, in the second abduction she was exposed to extra-terrestrials who were sinister and "insect-like." She says members of the second group were only interested in her sex organs. They probed her body in a most brutal fashion. She was certain they had impregnated her.

In March of 1990 Miss Scott expelled a 3/4-inch piece of tissue and gave it to Lorne Goldfader of Vancouver. The postal worker, who has spent years studying UFOs, thought he had been given a tiny fetus—a prematurely-born baby fathered by a space alien.

However, subsequent lab tests indicated Miss Scott had expelled naturally occurring "epithelial tissue" during menstruation.

Although Miss Scott couldn't prove space aliens

tried to impregnate her she remained convinced the abductions were real. She says she held to her beliefs in the face of reprimands from her supervisors and "dumb blonde" jokes from her co-workers. Eventually, though, the criticisms became unbearable and on August 23 she was forced to resign. "I guess they were afraid of UFO stuff," she says of her former colleagues. "Let's face it, society doesn't like change."

Last week a bank spokesman claimed Miss Scott had not been forced to quit. "She resigned of her own volition."

Meanwhile Paul Leroux, regional director of the B.C. Human Rights branch in Vancouver, said the case is being investigated. He added that he would not be able to comment on the matter until the investigation was concluded.

—Barbara Tandory



Victim Scott: Aliens can be cruel.

LEISURE PLUS

Dr Terence Meaden, physicist and meteorologist, who lives at Bradford on Avon has made a particular study of crop circles and associated phenomena, which are explored in two books, published recently. He is the sole author of the first and editor of the second.

Stone circles and round barrows built by our stone age forebears were influenced by crop circles, according to George Terence Meaden.

In his recently published book, *The Goddess of the Stones — The Language of the Megaliths*, Dr Meaden reveals what he believes circle and spiral shapes — inspired by the circles — meant to Neolithic society.

In those days the people worshipped the Great Goddess, the origin of life and the provider of fertility in crops, animals and humans. Since they depended on the elements for survival, they would have closely observed their effects on the land.

And, being in the open, they would have been more likely to witness whirlwinds and the descending volumes of spinning air, which, Dr Meaden believes, create crop circles. The people attributed the phenomena to spirits — either being released from the earth or impregnating it where the circle appeared, prompted by the Goddess.

The spiral marks left by the whirlwinds were interpreted too, depending on whether they rotated clockwise or anti-clockwise from the centre. Outflowing spirals signified the regeneration of life, inflowing ones spelt death and destruction.

"The concept of the whirlwind-spiral-spirit manifestation," writes Dr Meaden, "inspired a complete magico-ritual system within the overall Great Goddess religion."

Circles became sacred places and it was felt that they should be protected with a bank and ditch or stones. No measuring systems were needed to build them, argues Dr Meaden, because stones were just placed about the perimeter of a circle.

Circles were also seen as sacred places for the burial of the dead, hence the sudden change from long barrows to round barrows as burial places, he says.

He also explains in fascinating detail how the cult may have inspired the Neolithic builders of Silbury Hill in the 27th century BC.

The book is packed with information and argument. Although it is hard to follow at times a keen reader will be rewarded with some fascinating, and very plausible, explanations for sites which have previously held nothing but mystery.

The Goddess of the Stones by George Terence Meaden is published by Souvenir Press and costs £18.99.

Amelia Yeodall

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Circles from the Sky is not a book for the casual corn circle watcher.

Edited by Bradford on Avon circle expert Dr Terence Meaden, it is a collection of essays on the unexplained mystery from 16 experts. Many of the papers were presented at the first international conference on the "circles effect", held at Oxford in 1990.

It includes several papers by the physicist himself in which he backs up his theory that the circles are produced by the plasma vortex — a species of ball lightning.



An illustration from *The Goddess of the Stones: The Language of the Megaliths*, showing a typically shaped and massive stone at Avebury's Neolithic stone circle.

There is also a paper on "The circles effect in the rice fields of Japan" by Dr Meaden's recent co-researcher, Dr Yoshi-Hiko Ohtsuki, of Waseda University in Japan.

The style is largely scientific and for this reason may not be accessible to the general reader. But together the essays chart the history of the circles phenomena since it first appeared near Westbury in 1980, including a number of major hoaxes.

All angles and possible explanations are chronicled in great detail with numerous examples, diagrams and statistics.

Possible connections with extra-terrestrial intelligence are also explored.

In "Crop Circles: A Scientific Answer to the UFO Mystery?" Paul Fuller and Jenny Randles write: "From the very beginning, both the media and UFO believers began promoting them (circles) as the result of an 'intelligence', despite a complete lack of supporting evidence."

"This demonstrates how a large section of modern-day society wants to believe in the impossible..."

One of Dr Meaden's own papers includes an eyewitness account from the 1940s of a circle in formation. Mr William Cyril Williams of Brockworth, Gloucestershire, aged 20 at the time, witnessed it during harvest time.

Dr Meaden writes: "He was crossing the middle of the field when he heard the buzzing noise of a whirlwind starting up only a few metres away. He then saw the spinning whirlwind with dust in the air and, as he watched, in a matter of only a couple of seconds or so the wheat fell down producing a sharp-edged circle three to four metres in diameter."

Circles from the Sky, edited by Dr George Terence Meaden. Sponsored by the Circles Effect Research Group (CERES) and the Tornado and Storm Research Organisation (TORRO). Published by Souvenir Press, price £14.99.

Chris McCall.

We're going full circle with theories

As an unabashed believer in UFOs, I can't help but laugh at non-believing scientists who try to explain what causes crop circles. They make such laughing stocks of themselves.

These people just can't seem to accept anything unless they can scientifically explain it exists.



Dale
EISLER

I mean, don't they ever read the super-market tabloids. Of course there are UFOs. They're probably watching us right now.

Actually for a while this year I was starting to get a little nervous. We were well into harvest, and there hadn't been one reported finding of a crop circle.

If you recall last September, Saskatchewan was a crop-circle hotbed. We had crop circles to stack up with the best of them, the kind that had all kinds of intricate rings, pods and other geometric shapes.

And not only that, there were actual sightings of flying saucers

and assorted weird lights in the sky over the east-central part of the province.

One of the best crop-circles discoveries was a group in a field near Christopher Lake. There were a couple of circles, one with a set of bigger rings around it and another circle a few hundred yards away with what looked like pods extending from the outside ring.

In each case, the straw was pushed over, but not broken. The straw in the inside ring would be lying in a counter-clockwise direction and clockwise in the outer ring.

There were no signs of footprints or broken stalks of straw. People will tell you that it is impossible to walk in a field of wheat — swathed or unswathed — and not break the stalks as you walk.

The world of science seemed to really get interested in crop circles last year when a bunch of them appeared in fields in southern England. Judging by the aerial photos, it looked like there had been a massive extra-terrestrial landing in the English countryside.

Skeptical scientists studied the crop circles and tried to come up with explanations. Some of them

I particularly liked the one that claimed the crop circles were created by wind devils.

were pretty hilarious.

I particularly liked the one that claimed the crop circles were created by wind devils, which apparently is some kind of rare, natural-occurring atmospheric phenomena. The suggestion that winds would produce these geometric designs is far more hair-brained than saying it was UFOs. At least a UFO landing makes some sense.

Then there is the retired English physicist who says crop circles are caused by "ball lightning."

The theory in this case is that lightning somehow forms into balls and induces electrical charges that produce crops circles.

This one is maybe even better than wind devils.

Frankly the best explanation comes from Darrell Roth, who lives only a few kilometres where the crop circles that appeared last year at Christopher Lake. He says there is no question about it, they are made by some unknown craft.

Saskatchewan, went out to investigate the Livelong circle. He had also studied last year's circles and could not explain them. Neither could he explain the circle in the field at Livelong.

To his credit, he didn't suggest the circle was a result of ball lightning, wind inversions or the mating habits of white-tailed deer.

Granted, he also didn't say that they were from UFOs. But he didn't rule it out either, which means that until someone comes up with a better explanation, we might as well admit that someone's out there.

Peeping UFO

HUNGARY — A saucer-shaped UFO escorted a truck driver to his home in northeast Hungary and "peeped" through the curtains, the Hungarian MTI news agency reported today.

The driver, Mr Zoltan Bartus, and a companion said they noticed the luminous object as big as a full moon following their truck near the village of Szecsenyfalva. They climbed into Mr Bartus's house through the back window, hoping to shake the UFO, which shone a green beam into the room. — (UPI)

Experts baffled by UFO lights spotted in West

UFO's have been seen zooming across the West Country again - and the red and white lights in the sky have left experts baffled.

A young mum spotted the mystery lights on Friday night as she and her family were taking a stroll in Saltash, Cornwall.

A friend of the family told the Sunday Independent how the sky suddenly lit up, at

about 9pm, but officials at RNAS Culdrose and Mountbatten were yesterday unable to solve the mystery.

They looked nothing like helicopter lights and were silent, spiritual healer Mrs Marilyn Preston-Evans said.

She explained: 'The family saw a flickering white light with their binoculars. Then it split into two, with a red light in between.

'They watched the glowing white lights hover and stop. Then they disappeared - it is a complete mystery.'

The family, who did not want to be identified, saw the strange light show for nearly ten minutes.

And they got an encore half an hour later!

'The UFO's sped over the Saltash area again, and one of the lights looked like a fish tail - that was the only way she could describe it to me.'

Earl has a peer at royal circles!



CLOSE ENCOUNTER: The Earl tries to get to the root of the mystery Pictures: DOUGLAS DOIG

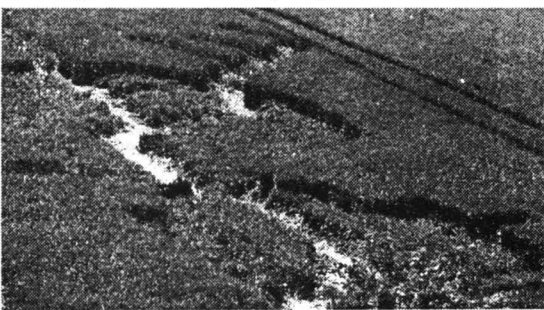
CORN CIRCLE expert the Earl of Haddington has been down on the farm trying to solve the mystery of the crazy designs appearing on land owned by Prince Charles.

While hundreds of Star readers were trying to scoop our £10,000 reward for solving the corn circle puzzle, the Earl was using dowsing rods and taking compass readings at Newton St Loe, near Bath.

The 49-year-old millionaire, who runs the Centre for Corn Circle Studies, has also taped a trilling, bell-like noise coming from the designs - but when he played them back all he got was static.

Despite his investigations, he admits he is still baffled. But he believes the circles were created by "microwaves" caused by "natural spirits" because they generally appear at ancient sites.

Yesterday Star readers were queuing up to give us their ideas. We are putting up £10,000 cash for the person who can prove to us BEYOND DOUBT the nature of the force that causes them. Suggested



ROYAL PUZZLER: Prince Charles's patterned fields

By ADAM FRESCO, SUE CRAWFORD and MARK CHRISTY

CIRCLES, Newsdesk, Daily Star, 245 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 9UX. Please enclose drawings or photographs.

All material is sent to the Daily Star at the owner's

The night a UFO followed our Dad home from work

NOT every little boy is woken by his dad and told: "Come and see what followed me home."

Ian Archibald was expecting it to be a fox or a badger. He hadn't considered a UFO.

But when he and his brother looked out of the window of their home in Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh, there it was.

"It was huge in the night sky and was covered in lights, not a glow or haze but clearly defined lights of blue, green and red.

"It hovered about 30 to 40 ft above the ground and it moved to the right at an angle of 45 degrees, then the same to the left.

"We watched it for about 10 to 15 minutes,

then it shot away at an amazing speed. It didn't make a sound," says Ian.

His father, Thomas, had worked the night shift at the bus depot six miles away in Dalkeith.

"He told us that as he drove home it had flown on his right-hand side, parallel with the road," says Ian, a security officer in Edinburgh.

Real

The incident occurred in 1957 when Ian was 15. He is now 50. But he remembers it as if it was yesterday.

"I know it was some kind of visitation from another world. It's the only paranormal experience I've had - that's another reason I know it happened."

UFO 'close encounters' of the silly kind

Were aliens trying to silence witness?

By Alex Renton
LONDON INDEPENDENT

LONDON — Kathryn Howard, an American singer with shimmering blond hair, was just about to tell of her abduction experience (Sweden, April 1969, went to the moon in spaceship of highrise proportions, listened to rhythm of universe) when something happened.

A cigar-shaped object, no more than 6 inches long and with a bulbous tip, shot across the stage in front of her, going at least 10 mph. It crashed to the floor, skidding, shattering and making a startling noise.

"Oooh!" went the audience. "Wow!"

Were aliens intervening to stop Howard revealing all?

When it emerged that a photographer had merely tripped over a cord, wrenching a microphone from its stand, the whispers of explanation were laden with disappointment.

Few people at the Sixth International Congress on UFOs might have been expected to show relief that Howard was not going to be re-abducted before their eyes, but a lot felt cheated. And that explains some of the current problems of "Ufology."

Not looking for reasons

"If I resolve a case, I've succeeded," said veteran researcher Jenny Randles. "But too many Ufologists don't want to explain things. That's not what they're here for."

Randles said that tampering with evidence that might provide a rational explanation is not unknown. "There are people within

the Ufology community who hold very firmly to beliefs about extra-terrestrial intelligence. And there are no lengths they will not go to to stop those who challenge them."

The central question — can Ufology become a serious scientific discipline when there are so many nuts around? — was well illustrated at Mike Alexander's stall outside the conference.

Dense, desktop-published casebooks and investigations compete for customers with Airfix flying-saucer kits, rubber dolls in the image of Steven Spielberg's star ET, a display from the comedy movie "Spaced Invaders" ("Now there's living proof there is no intelligent life in space") and a sticker saying "UFOs are real — ask the Government."

Alexander ("skeptical with an open mind") isn't worried about mixing science with Hollywood. "A lot of people take all this too seriously," he said.

Like in the movies

Just as sanguine was his fellow Independent UFO Network member Terry Jones, who sported a Gary Numan tattoo and a flying suit with "US Colonial Marines" badges attached — "Like in the movie 'Aliens.'"

Is he, perhaps, an abductee? "I don't think I am. I don't believe I am, not as far as I know. But I've got an intense interest in the subject."

Randles relies on the respect of the Defense Ministry and Jodrell Bank to help her investigate dozens of reports of "anomalous phenomena" (90 percent of which are quickly explained) every year. "It's a waste of time to be seen as a bunch of amateurs wandering around looking for aliens on hill-tops," she complained.

"In the end it always comes down to money: to fund serious research, you've got to pander to an extent to the community."

Experts answer cornfield hoax claims

ROUND IN CIRCLES?

Leading experts on the controversial corn circles phenomena will be in Leeds on Saturday to answer claims that their findings have been a "huge con trick".

Ex-engineers Colin Andrews and Pat Delgado, from Wiltshire, will be speaking at the annual UK Conference on Crop Circles and UFOs, being held at Leeds Civic Theatre on Saturday, starting at 11am.

Their visit comes amid growing world-wide speculation that the mysterious corn circles have been hoaxed by "two jovial conmen" in their 60s — Doug Bower and David Chorley.

The two men, from Southampton, claimed in a national newspaper this week that they were behind the complex shapes which have puzzled the world over the past decade.

They claimed to have made the vast circles and geometric patterns by using "two wooden boards, a piece of string and a bizarre sighting device attached to a baseball cap."

SARAH HAINSWORTH REPORTING

But this week editor of *Quest International*, the Leeds-based UFO magazine, which is organising the conference, told the *LWN* that the hoax claims left many questions unanswered.

Graham Birdsall said: "They don't explain the formations where no tracks have been left or how corn circles have been found in 30 countries around the world, including Antarctica."

But he said the newspaper claims had proved a real talking point and he was expecting the conference should phone Mr Birdsall on Leeds 602057.

CR: T. Good

How fighter pilot took on a giant alien space ship

MY DOGFIGHT WITH A UFO!



By DICK DURHAM

TOP GUN fighter pilot Milton Torres has spoken for the first time about how he came within seconds of zapping a massive UFO over British airspace.

The American flier has lifted the lid on his amaz-

ing dogfight with a giant alien spaceship, despite warnings by defence chiefs to stay silent.

Torres was stunned when, as a 25-year-old ace, he was ordered to chase the UFO, which had been spotted over the Kent coast.

He flew his Sabre F-86D attack jet at 800 knots to get the alien ship into his sights.

Fifteen miles from his target, Torres had achieved full lock-on and had 24 rockets ready to blast the UFO.

But, just as he got the command to fire, the alien craft vanished from his sights and his mission was over.

Torres, who flew 260 combat missions in Vietnam, now lectures as a professor of industrial engineering.

His story began while on "alert duty" at his base.

"The RAF and the US Air Force shared the duties, and this particular night the 514th Fighter Interceptor group was on call.

Alert

"Two F-86Ds were on alert at the end of the runway at RAF Manston, Kent, awaiting the signal to scramble," he says.

"We were airborne quickly and flew over the North Sea off East Anglia."

Torres' initial briefing told him a blip was orbiting the region. Checks revealed it was a UFO with strange flight patterns.

"The craft was motionless for long intervals and ground control described to me the strange antics of the UFO.

"I was given the exact manoeuvres so I could set my course. I was up to Mach .92, which is as fast as the F-86D can go," he reveals.

Then Torres got the order to fire a full salvo of rockets at the UFO.

"I realised it was now very serious. I asked who gave the order to fire. I received my answer and set about training 24 rockets on the target.

"The UFO was exactly where I was told it would be, a magnet of light."

But within seconds the ship had sped away.

Back on the ground Torres was debriefed and told his mission was "highly classified". He was told not to breathe a word about it to anyone.

The Ministry of Defence confirms Sabres were based at RAF Manston, but claim there is no record of the dogfight.

Close encounters

HAVE you had a close encounter with a UFO? We want to hear from you if you have.

Send your letters and any photos to:

UFOs, Daily Star, Ludgate House, 245 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 9UX.



AMAZING: Torres recalls his experience

ANOTHER ACE JUST MISSED LOCK-ON

FIGHTER ace Milton Torres' amazing account of his dogfight with a UFO is backed up by another top American pilot.

Major David Robertson was also alerted that night in his own Sabre jet.

Advised

He recalls leaving RAF Manston and then landing at RAF Bawdsey, Suffolk, to have his jet armed with live rockets.

"I was advised that more than one ground control site and multiple UFOs were involved, and that the

area extended into Scotland.

"I gave chase to several of the UFOs, but was unable to maintain radar contact long enough to get a lock-on," he reveals.

These accounts both come from the files of respected expert Harry Harris, a Manchester-based lawyer who has been investigating UFOs for 12 years.



TOP GUN: Pilot Torres and his Sabre Picture by Gerald Davis/Colorific

SALISBURY JOURNAL, Wiltshire, England - Aug. 15, 1991 CR: T. Good



An experience to remember for seven-year-old Edward Parkes, of The Vicarage, Broad Chalke, as he walks around the crop circle at David Harris's farm at Fovant. Similar circles were discovered last year on farmer Richard Pocock's land three miles away at Berwick St John.

Picture by Michael Head.

Lights in the sky spark outbreak of UFO fever

UFO fever struck Fovant this week.

Just days after a corn circle appeared in a local field, residents have been chilled by the sight of strange lights in the sky.

The lights, described as "like huge torches but without the beam" were seen low in the sky above ancient earthwork Chislebury Ring and the mysterious crop pattern late on Friday night.

A series of moving lights were spotted low in the sky over the village at around 11pm.

Beauty consultant Anna Wells (19) was heading towards the village from the Green Grove area with her boyfriend Graham Clinch (22), when they first saw the lights.

Graham shouted he had just seen a shooting star, when a similar light appeared, and the couple realised something strange was happening in front of them.

BY MIKE HANNON

A large single light appeared to circle quickly around a cloud above Chislebury Ring for around two minutes, before hesitating and then shooting away towards the horizon very fast - to be replaced quickly by another similar light, Anna told the Journal.

When the complicated crop pattern appeared in a field below the Chislebury Ring downs last week there were reports of flashes and lights low in the sky.

After Friday's experience Anna admitted to being frightened by what she and Graham saw.

"I felt like someone had walked over my grave," she said.

"I don't know what to make of it, but you can't be sure when you say other planets haven't got life, can you?"

She admits to being among the many people who saw strange lights in the sky above the Wylve area about 15 years ago.

"It does fascinate me, but after this I shall be very wary," she said.

When the couple arrived at Graham's home, the Pembroke Arms pub in Fovant, they discovered the lights had also been seen from the village.

The wife of a staff member had spotted the phenomenon from about a mile away.

To prove their point they returned to the spot, and the lights reappeared - one of them passing over their heads.

"They were really big, just like a huge torch," said Anna.

The last spate of 'UFO' sightings in the Fovant area was in June, 1974.

A Boscombe Down spokesman told the Journal there were no flying operations from the base on Friday night.

Squaring up to that growing phenomenon

by VAL HENNESSY

AS combine harvesters were reducing to stubble 1991's bumper collection of crop circles, 300 international crop circle-watchers packed the assembly rooms in Glastonbury at the weekend for the first-ever UK Conference.

Suggestions that circles are made by mating hedgehogs, whirlwinds, over-fertilisation, squabbling birds or pranksters were greeted by hoots of derision.

Ex-engineers Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews hinted at a Government cover-up, crop watchers being nobbled, and at the Army being commandeered to perpetuate hoaxes and confuse the experts.

"This is no hoax," said Mr Andrews, who abandoned his career to

devote his time to circle study. "Scientists are baffled. Crop circles are unexplained, created by a high intelligence."

Mr Delgado pointed out that crop patterns are recognised as cosmic hieroglyphics by the Hopi Indians and mean (in Hopi) 'the planet is in trouble,

mankind must do something."

In South-West England circles attract thousands of sightseers (often paying £1 a time to step inside).

Intrepid Tours Inc from Arizona organise ten-day tours.

Videos, T-shirts, books, and circle-inspired New Age-ish albums sell faster than they are produced.

The Cerealogist (journal for crop circle

studies) has 1,500 subscribers. Even The Archers is getting in on the act, with Eddie Grundy spotting a circle.

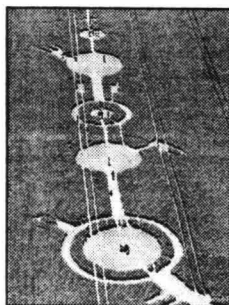
Mr Andrews founded a hushed audience with his 'electronic-sparrow' tape-recording of inextricable crop circle squeaking sounds: "We have a total mystery here."

"People must go to the circles, look, listen

and open their minds," he said.

The Conference ended with music and dancing as musician Christopher Jagger, brother of Mick, took the stage for a Cornconcert on the lawns around the Abbey ruins.

When pressed to predict what 1992 has in store for cerealogists, Mr Andrews said: "We'll just have to see what crops up."



Those mysterious circles

I HELD AN ALIEN'S WEAPON

Nature hates a vacuum. This was proven in experiments by Russian scientists. From their tests it follows that even a vacuum in space, the emptiest of all hollow places in the Universe, is fully packed. With what? Energy!

This energy can be controlled. This is the gist of the sensational discovery, information about which was recently circulated through TASS channels. Below you'll find some details.

SHOOTING BALL LIGHTNING

The first demonstration by Roman Avramenko, member of Russia's Academy of Natural Sciences, D.Sc. (Technology), involves a blue plastic box: he places it on the table. A hardly audible whistle is heard from within. All of a sudden it stops. At the same instant a dazzling flash penetrates the semidarkness of the lab. A narrow plasma beam, the colour of a welding arc, shoots like a spoke out of box's rectangular "barrel".

"Now you can boast about seeing the prototype of a 'blaster'—the weapon used in fantastic films about aliens, the Academician says in a humdrum tone. The plasma can be 'fired', not only in the form of braid but also in clusters, in fact, artificial ball lightning.

"I examine with interest the holes made in a fraction of a second, first in a metallic foil and then in the steel blade of a razor."

"What has a 'blaster' to do with your discovery?"

"The connection is the most direct," explains the scientist. "The instrument contains two batteries, each 4.5 volts. And the power of its 'shot' is 20 kilowatts.

"You'll agree that this is extraordinary and supernatural. At school we were taught something different, i.e., plugging a hot-water boiler into the circuit causes energy loss: here, it is acquired from nowhere."

NO TWO ELECTRONS ARE ALIKE

The Academician is on the staff of the Vypel scientific-production association, a defence industry company reputed for its successes in electronics, radar and space communications. As he always deals with mysterious phenomena, there is the natural desire to explain them. For example, it is believed that radio waves create an electromagnetic field. Has anybody measured it? Yes, not long ago, and it turned out that there is no electric current component in radio waves. Or, let's take a battery. Everyone is sure that it sets electrons in motion by means of wires. That is not so. Electrons move not because of the electric field but in spite of it. As it turns out, not everything goes without a hitch in the field of radioactivity either. When nuclei disintegrate part of energy, allegedly carried over by some elusive neutrino, disappears. But in reality the mysterious particle became disappeared merely because up to this day nobody has managed to catch it.

Another thing that has long been causing bewilderment is the so-called "latent mass". For example, according to theory, galaxies must "weigh" more than can be observed. Otherwise, the stars could not move as they do. So, it seems that something is yet hidden in the Universe.

Whence comes extra energy, where does it vanish, where is the "latent mass"? Avramenko answers: the Universe is not void, it is filled with electron waves. Energy, mass, and the solution of many paradoxes are hidden there.

"There are no miracles here," says Avramenko. "In the first place, one must realize that the electron has many aspects. It is not necessarily some small ball. It can also be a wave, small like a ripple in a glass of water, or big like tsunami in an ocean. An electron wave may be as the Universe.

"In fact, we are not surprised that water can be in the form of

mist, ice, or the sea. So, consider the electron as some complex matter with numerous manifestations, the nature of which depends on the conditions of observation.

"Since we are bathing in the ocean of energy, isn't it possible to 'scoop' something out of it?"

"It is possible. 'Blaster' is an experimental unit, showing that we know how to scoop from the ocean of energy."

ENERGY FROM 'NOTHING' HAS PROBABLY BEEN SCOOPED

The history of technology is known to be dotted with legends about mysterious and inexplicable discoveries which have never been taken earnestly. The idea never occurred that it is by mere chance that one human being becomes more successful than others, even using the trial and error method.

In 1950 Sell, a British amateur electrician, developed a generator based on rotating magnetized discs. They produced sparks and amply ionized the air, emitting ozone, and for some unknown reason, became self-accelerated. One day, during the acceleration, the generator half-rose, then got detached from the motor and soared up to 15 metres high by

itself. When the rotation of discs reached a fantastic speed a plasma corona appeared around them and... the generator vanished in the clouds.

Early in the 1920s Cheiko of Russia discovered, as he put it, "magnetic beams" to transfer energy over a distance. What's more, he built a unit by means of which he detonated a dynamite charge planted many kilometres away.

THE MYSTERY OF A 'FLYING SAUCER'

"One can already start today," says Avramenko, by designing a new type of electric power stations, absolutely harmless for the environment.

Isn't it difficult to imagine the advantages of an unlimited access to energy, including unusual forms for its transfer... electrically-driven cars and ships?

"And, of course, spaceships," the scientist adds. "Our calculations show that it is not obligatory to carry fuel. An interplanetary or interstellar vehicle can very well fly over the waves of electrons, also using them for repulsion.

"Now we have come closer to 'flying saucers'. They say you have solved their mystery. Is that true?"

"Let's put it like this: we have made an assumption as to how

they can move noiselessly and at such a high speed. We have staged interesting experiments in one of the labs of the Physical-Technical Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences. We took metallic balls, ionized the air around them and fired them from a special device at a speed of 2 km/sec (7,200 km/h). According to theory, an object flying so fast has to create a powerful shock wave. It did not. We established that the plasma shell around the object minimizes the resistance of the oncoming stream. We believe that here, too, the impact of the ocean of electrons is quite apparent.

"One more paradox," says Avramenko, smiling. "There are quite a few in quantum theory. We actually rely on this when trying to look into electronic waves. For example, there is a hypothesis that all the articles surrounding all of us are nothing but 'an area of high concentration of waves'. And it turned out to be at a particular place only owing to specific conditions. And what if one may create such conditions, so that this 'area' becomes concentrated in some other place? And we all instantly find ourselves many kilometres away from here..."

"Was that a joke on his part?" I thought, already taking my leave. But who knows, after all.

Vladimir RAGOVSKY
(Rabochaya Tribuna)



SOMERSET COUNTY GAZETTE, Taunton, England - Aug. 23, 1991 CR: T. Good

Hoax or not? Soon we'll know...



□ FARMER Henry Besley is expected to learn within the next few days whether a mystery corn circle in one of his fields at Bathpool is a natural phenomenon or a hoax.

A ufoologist has been investigating the 40ft circle which appeared in his crop, sited just past the Bathpool Inn, more than a month ago.

And a report about his findings is due to be sent to Mr Besley, of Prockters Farm, West Monkton, any day now.

Mr Besley, who farms 300 acres, said so far it seemed likely that his

circle was a natural occurrence and not a practical joke.

He added that the ufoologist had told him that his circle was on the same layline as another circle in Cornwall.

"This gentleman seems to think this is not a hoax," said Mr Besley.

The circle has already been generating interest from passers-by.

Huish Episcopi schoolboy David Hammonds, 13, from Othry, spotted the circle on Saturday as he travelled along the A38.

David has been interested in the

formations for over a year and he too does not believe it's a hoax.

Leading corn circle expert, cereologist Richard Tarr, the South West co-ordinator for Quest International, said investigations were still continuing into the cause of the formations.

"It is certainly not the wind, and anybody with a shred of intelligence can see that," he said.

Mr Tarr, who has been looking at the formations for many years, added that they were now becoming more and more complex.

Wellington farmer Mr Ian Hasell also had one of the formations appear in his field more than a month ago and still maintains that it was not a hoax.

He said experts from Bristol had been down, but he had not heard anything from them.

The field in question has since been harvested.

A telephone hotline has been set up by Quest for anyone who spots one of the circles — 0756 752216.

□ Story: KAREN MELLISH

Astronomy fan sees 'UFO' hover over city

AMATEUR astronomer David Marley is convinced he saw a UFO hovering above the skies of Coventry on Sunday night.

Mr Marley, aged 40, an unemployed engineer from Holbrooks, was in Foleshill at about 11.30pm when he and a friend noticed a hazy spherical object passing overhead.

He said: "There were no lights flashing on it and it definitely wasn't an aeroplane.

"It was quite a cloudy night but there was a bright moon and the object was clearly visible for a few minutes.

Abnormal

Mr Marley has been interested in astronomy for 30 years and is certain it was not a meteor.

He has passed the information on to air traffic control at Birmingham airport.

But air traffic controller David Coxon said: "We haven't had any other reports of sightings in the area at that time and I have had no reports of anything abnormal appearing on radar.

"Mr Marley's information will be passed on to another authority, probably the Ministry of Defence."

1991
Oct. 22,
England, Coventry, EVENING TELEGRAPH

CR: T. Good

PEOPLE WITH THEIR EYES ON THE SKIES

Reporter Helen Murphie has a close encounter of the third kind with members of the Harlow UFO Group

THE mind-blowing story failed to stir the stony-faced group.

They looked quizzically at each other and then launched a volley of questions at the story-teller.

"Did anyone else see it and how far away were you?" asked one. "Did you hear anything?" enquired another.

'Frozen to the spot with fear'

THE club is currently looking into a bizarre sighting which happened only last month.

Aaron Holloway said: "It's probably the most baffling of all our cases."

Three Harlow teenagers were fishing at a pond in Pig Lane, Bishop's Stortford, on Wednesday 14 August when they noticed a light shooting back and forth across the sky at 15-minute intervals.

"One of the lads shone his torch at an object which landed in a field behind them," said Mr Holloway.

"Suddenly, a disc-shaped object with flashing white, blue and red lights zoomed over the top of a clump of trees."

There was no sound. "An aircraft then flew over the object, which turned off its lights and sped off at an angle. The lads were frozen to the spot with fear."

Mr Holloway said: "We believe the story — the boys were too frightened to have been lying."

Disappeared

A favourite story, and perhaps one of the most uncanny, comes from Bruce Grant.

He followed a triangular-shaped UFO, also seen by his neighbours, for several months until it disappeared in July.

"The first time I saw it was in February. I was in my garden when I saw a bright light in the sky. It could have been mistaken for Venus, yet it was in the wrong part of the sky."

"It reappeared the next week and over the preceding five months, always on a Wednesday."

"When I had a look at it through my binoculars it looked like a triangle and had three different lights on it."

"It always stayed in the same part of the sky and was sometimes as little as five miles away from us."

Mr Grant believes that it will return.

UFOs: is there a big cover-up?

people have seen UFOs.

"The sightings are so variable. Some say they saw a darting light in the sky which suddenly disappeared, others may have seen a sphere or still object in the sky."

"Most sightings happen in the winter because it gets dark early."

Many cases go unreported. "People are afraid of being labelled a fruitcake," said Mr Mahoney.

He also believes some people say nothing because they are frightened of admitting it to themselves.

"Probably 95 per cent of sightings can be explained. Most are of something that's just seen in unusual circumstances, like an aircraft at a different angle or dust particles caught by the sun."

The Harlow club is convinced that there is a Government-led conspiracy to cover up vital information about UFOs.

They cite many cases, including an incident involving Apollo astronaut

Buzz Aldrin, whose account of a UFO — intercepted by amateur radio — was banned from being released worldwide.

Mr Holloway said: "They don't release information because they're scared it would cause mass hysteria."

"We believe the public have a right to know the reality of the situation and to be told why the governments of the world are so determined to suppress information."

While the group is adamant that these space entities exist, they don't like to speculate about what they are.

When asked why alien beings don't reveal themselves, they shift uneasily in their seats. One of the dedicated tries to reply. "First of all, we don't know that they can land on our planet. Also, they may be too advanced for our world just yet."

Mr Holloway is bolder. "Why would they want to come here? Anything that man doesn't understand he kills!"



● AARON Holloway enters new information about UFOs into the club's computer, watched by fellow members.

WILTSHIRE TIMES, Trowbridge, England - Aug. 9, 1991 CR: T. Good

Beam me up, Scottie, but be careful of those lovely corn fields

Just to correct a slight error in Mr G. White's letter about the possible cause of corn circles. The minimum of research (consultation of an "Observers Book of Astronomy" by Patrick Moore) reveals that some of the nearest stars to Sol's system are only 4 light years away, these being Alpha and Proxima Centauri.

Others with similar ranges: Sirius (nine light years), Procyon (11 l.y.), Altair (16 l.y.), Fomalhaut (22), Beta Hydri (21), Vega (26), to name but a few.

There are many more well within the one hundred light year range. Mind you the distance light travels in a year is not to be sniffed at, it being around 6x10 to the power 12 (6,000,000,000,000) miles.

For a civilization with propulsive technology capable of attaining a fair percentage of the speed of light such distances are not insurmountable.

If we on Earth with our present-day technology wished to commit resources to such interstellar voyages there are now plans on the drawing boards for interstellar probes capable of traversing the distances to the nearer stars. Of course it would take anything from a hundred to a thousand years even to reach Centauri.

A long time you might say but only

for such short-lived creatures as ourselves. Advanced extra terrestrials, who may measure their life spans in thousands or even hundreds of thousands of terrestrial years, may look upon journeys of mere hundreds or thousands of years as of no inconvenience at all. A bit like taking a sailboat to Australia a century or so ago.

Of course there may not be stars with planetary systems life-viable within say a 100 light year radius of Sol. But if we are speculating, why stop at sub-luminal velocities. Advanced extra terrestrials may be able to move from the Realm of the Photon into the Realm of the Tachyon and achieve trans-luminal velocities.

Then distances of thousands of light years may be covered not in years or months but rather in weeks or even days.

Take the speculation a step further and one might surmise that advanced extra terrestrials would do away with spaceships entirely and use interstellar matter — transmitters to "beam" themselves betwixt their worlds and ours, flattening a few corn stalks in the process.

Although that result may be just so much hot air — as Dr Meaden would have us believe.

Another point in Mr White's letter regarding so-called space-probe proofs. The space-probes so far sent out from

Earth to explore Sol's outer planetary system are, relatively speaking, rather primitive devices.

I am sure that if advanced extra terrestrials wished to remain hidden from them in the vast regions of space in Sol's outer system they could easily do so. And with only four terrestrial probes (two Pioneers, two Voyagers) sent out that far to date the chances of being detected pale into insignificance.

As to why governments are loath to admit the possibility of civilizations beyond our own planetary system, it all boils down to money. The head-in-the-sand Proximities of this world will always try to prevent resources being spent on any comprehensive SETI (Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence) projects from (pardon my pun) getting off the ground.

And as for turning those drawing-board probes to the stars into reality we will probably have to wait until a saucer comes down on Parliament Green and a few MPs are taken to the stars rather than get there through our own endeavours.

Perhaps they should start growing corn outside the Houses of Parliament again to attract one.

T. W. FRANCIS
66 Mortimer Street, Trowbridge.

DARTFORD TIMES, Gravesend, England - Sept. 19, 1991

I saw the Dartford Creek UFO

I am writing to corroborate the sighting of a UFO as reported by Mr Clement in last week's issue of the *Kentish Times*.

I spotted a flying object travelling in the direction of Dartford Creek sometime between 2.30 and 4pm

on Saturday, 7 September.

My description only differs from Mr G. Clement by the shape of the object. It appeared to me not to be a disc shape, but similar to the fuselage of a conventional type of aircraft.

Although my wife was in the house at the time I never called to her or indeed mentioned it to her because I doubted that I had seen what I thought I had seen.

However after reading Mr Clement's contribution I have no

hesitation in confirming his sighting, and have already contacted the UFO office in London to register my experience.

W. BAXTER,
Tile Kiln Lane, Bexley.

CR: T. Good

ADVERTISER, Andover, England - Aug. 2, 1991 CR: T. Good

UFO sighting over town claim

IN the wake of the mysterious corn circles there has been a mysterious UFO sighting.

Jack Wilmlett, of Tollgate Road, Andover, claims that as he sat in his garden last Sunday afternoon he observed an object in the sky moving northwards at a great

speed.

"At first it looked like the shape of an airship, but as it flew overhead its shape changed slightly and I thought for a moment it was becoming spherical."

"It had bright blue reflections around its periphery," he said. His estimate was that it

was flying at about 8,000-10,000ft in a northerly direction.

"Its speed was the equivalent of a modern fighter aircraft and finally it disappeared above cloud."

There was no sound from the object and Jack is convinced that what he saw in the sky on Sunday afternoon was a real UFO.



'All this talk of hoaxes - not a single customer all day!'

TIMES, Pocklington, England - Sept. 26, 1991

Experts in talks about UFO sighting

THE MYSTERY object spotted in the skies above Market Weighton came under the spotlight at a conference in Leeds.

The red, green and white cross-shaped object was seen by dozens of people, including Sancton housewife Liz Ibbotson, in August.

Experts have so far been unable to explain its origins. And no further light was shed at the Leeds conference, organised principally by international UFO researchers, Quest International.

Convinced

Director of Quest Mr Tony Dodd - who is convinced it was not an aircraft - addressed the conference.

He said later: "I did mention the sightings. We have not been able to throw any more light on this. I don't think we are going to get to the bottom of this."

The UFO researchers were drafted in after Mrs Ibbotson and her daughter Fiona claimed they saw the object darting across the sky before heading towards their home.

It hovered above farmland for about four minutes before disappearing in the direction of Hull. About 20 sightings of a similar object in the skies above East Yorkshire were made to Quest International after Mrs Ibbotson's story was published in the local press.

CR: T. Good

A LOAD OF CROP!

Hoax claim a laugh says scientist Terry

A CORNY claim by two jokers who say they invented crop circles was dismissed as the biggest hoax of all yesterday.

Pensioners Doug Bower and Dave Chorley insist they are responsible for 13 years of artistic shapes in fields across the country. But scientist Dr Terrence Meaden

who has studied the phenomenon for almost as long yesterday ruled out their claims.

Cereal killers Doug and Dave said they came up with the idea over a pint when they were bored.

For more than a decade they spent their summer nights working from drawings to create the patterns that fooled the world they say.

But Dr Meaden, who has written best selling books on the subject, said the corny duo's claims were laughable.

"These crop circles date back to ancient times," he said. "There have been crop circles as long as there have been crops."

Nonsense

"I have interviewed several people who have witnessed the circles forming including one woman who remembers seeing one in a village near Cambridge in 1934."

"To suggest these two men have done them all is nonsense."

Dr Meaden is convinced the circles are formed by a spiralling wind vortex.

"We have realised for some time that there were hoaxes going on and there were more than ever before this year."

"These two men clearly made the shape last week

and I dare say they made a few last summer and a few last year and they could have done a few earlier than that."

"But other people have come up with this sort of claim over the years. I think all this tells us is we should mistrust most of these funny shaped ones."

"But I am glad some hoaxers have come forward. Perhaps it will stop other people doing it next year and all that will be left are the genuine ones."

Psychic Isabel Kingston who forecast the arrival of the summer's circles also disputed the two men's claim.

"I don't see how they could have done all these circles especially when many appeared on the same night in different parts of the country," she said.

"They would have to be more than active to pull that off."

Doug and Dave are said to have demonstrated their skills with a plank of wood and some string.

Their resulting insect shaped formation is said to have fooled another



THIS IS NO HOAX: Dr Meaden in a corn circle near Calne, Wilts Picture: BOB BARCLAY

BY VIRGINIA HILL

self-styled expert Pat Delgado who believes they are the work of a higher intelligence.

Our readers went round in circles trying to solve the riddle of the rings when we launched our competition.

Some of the answers that the cereal sleuths came up with were truly out of this world.

Claims for the £10,000

reward for solving the mystery of the corn circles - the offer closed in July - flooded in.

Aliens

The mystery circles were still appearing as we ploughed through all the answers - most of them in the "Wiltshire Triangle".

Scientists have already spent hundreds of hours

trying to get to the bottom of the phenomenon. But some of our readers were convinced it was alien forces that were at work.

We even received detailed diagrams of spacecraft that could have been responsible.

Some of you even suggested what the two men above claim - that the bizarre markings are a man-made hoax.

EVENING GAZETTE, Colchester, England - July 31, 1991 CR: G. Conway

Corn circles solution?

AN Essex man believes he has the solution to the corn circles riddle.

Water diviner Brian Hunwick, of Sible Hedingham, has dismissed claims that the mysterious circles are caused by UFOs or other extra-terrestrial activity.

He believes the answer is simple. "It is all down to static electricity. I am certain of it."

"Static electricity builds

up in the air and if you have a stream under the ground with an opposite field, you get a flash over, which causes these circles."

A positive and negative field can interact through a mousehole or a roothole causing millions of volts in a split second, which would bring down a crop in a circular motion, he believes.

Mr Hunwick, who owns a

garage in Station Road, Sible Hedingham, got his theory from some old men in the village when he was a child.

"There was one of these circles in a field at the top of the village and my friend and I thought a bomb had dropped, but one of the old boys told us it was caused by the stream under the ground."

His work as a diviner had confirmed the theory.

STAR-PHOENIX, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada - Aug. 26, 1991

Crop circles no prank, says UFO group's director

LETHBRIDGE, Alta. (CP) - Early tests suggest four circles discovered in a southern Alberta wheat field weren't created by pranksters, says a member of an Alberta UFO group.

"Well, it's interesting and it's a mystery," Gordon Kijek said re-

cently after investigating the site in an industrial area in the southern Alberta city of Lethbridge. Kijek is the director of the Alberta's UFO Study Group, which was founded last year.

The grain is bent counterclockwise in three circles and clock-

wise in the fourth.

"Also, the grain is pushed down, but not broken," said Kijek. "However, when we walked through the field the grain broke quite easily under our feet; it was quite dry."

Kijek said the soil within the

circles was considerably drier than the soil outside the circles.

Researchers are still puzzled by crop circles discovered in fields near Stonehenge in England. Circles, squares and bars have appeared in grain fields southwest of London in recent months.

And last year, there were reports the crop circles materialized in at least a dozen fields across Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and the mid-western United States.

Kijek said there are similarities between the Lethbridge circles and the ones in England.



Mysterious ice found

WAYNESVILLE — The Atmospheric Sciences Department of UNCA is examining a chunk of ice that mysteriously fell from the sky Sunday onto a Bethel farm.

Bradwin Hargrove was at his farm with his cousin, Troy, feeding

cattle when they heard a "flopping racket" coming from the sky. Hargrove said he couldn't tell what the object was that was making the noise until it hit the ground. What he saw then was a white chunk of ice about 2 feet wide that left an imprint in the ground several inches deep.

Ruby Hargrove froze a chunk of the mystery ice in a bucket in the freezer and on Thursday took it to Dr. James Heimbach, chairman of the Atmospheric Department, for analysis. As of Friday there was still no word from the department as to what could have caused the ice formation. Hargrove said

there was no odor to the ice he estimated to weigh about 75 pounds, and no discoloration. There is some speculation the ice may have come from a passing plane, but Hargrove said he did not hear a plane at the time the ice fell.

"I didn't know whether to be-

lieve it or not," said Hargrove, who admitted the falling ice gave him and his cattle a good scare.

CITIZEN-TIMES, Asheville, NC — Nov. 2, 1991

CR: J. Fisher

SUNY-B professor says he didn't believe in spirits until he witnessed

Ghost writing

■ It's Halloween. Tonight, the streets will fill with ghosts and goblins... witches and demons... and, perhaps, some space aliens. But is Halloween the only night these creatures exist? See page 5D for some theories on UFOs, telekinesis and more.

By ROBERT M. KAHN
Staff Writer

Gary L. Truce believes there's more than just a ghost of a chance that there are spirits among us.

And Truce, a professor of physical education at the state University Center at Binghamton, is not alone.

A June 1990 Gallup Poll about people's beliefs in psychic and otherworldly experiences reported that 25 percent of the 1,236 people surveyed believe in ghosts — up from 11 percent in a similar 1978 poll.

"It's easy for someone to say they don't believe something just because they haven't seen it," Truce says. "But if you just begin to experience something that's a little out of the ordinary then, BOOM, your realm of thinking begins to expand."

Suddenly, he says, you're not so skeptical.

Truce, who thinks belief in psychic phenomena should be balanced with a healthy dose of skepticism, became interested in paranormal activities after studying hypnosis in the late 1960s and early 1970s at the University of Cincinnati and West Virginia University. He taught a popular course about parapsychology between 1974 and 1982 at SUNY-Binghamton.

Now he's like a walking, talking version of the Time-Life Books' *Mysteries of the Universe* series. When something odd occurs, he always wants to know: "Is it coincidence? Or something more?"

"Six or seven years ago, if somebody had asked me if I believed in ghosts, I probably would have just said 'no,'" he says. "When a person dies, they probably just die, and you have to face facts that there's going to be nothing but darkness."

Yet, like most non-believers, Truce had always been intrigued, if nothing more, by the plethora of poltergeists people claim to have confronted.

"You always hear stories about 'a presence sitting in a rocking chair' or 'a person walking into a room and thinking there's somebody there,'" he says. "But, still, because I had never seen anything, I didn't believe it."

But now he does.

Truce says he got a telephone call in 1985 from a Broome County man who claimed his 11-year-old daughter kept moving pieces of furniture around their living room — without ever touching them. Truce disregarded the call; he had heard a lot of unfounded claims about telekinesis and decided an investigation just

wouldn't be worth his time.

Two weeks later, the man, whose wife learned about Truce from a friend, called back to say his daughter had begun lifting off the floor.

"She floated right on over to the ceiling last night," he told the professor. "My wife was walking up the steps, and my daughter flew up behind her like Superman."

Still, Truce was skeptical. But a few phone calls later, he decided to pay the family a visit.

While Truce, the father, mother, two daughters and a dog were sitting in the living room (he won't

name the town where the incident occurred), Truce says paper began flying into the room out of mid-air, like paper airplanes. Then, he says, a note appeared in the mouth of "Nancy," the formerly airborne offspring. "Nancy was talking and suddenly, BOOM, there was a note in her mouth," says Truce.

The note said "Hi, everybody," and then went on to list all the people in the room — including Truce. "It was like someone had been there listening to us," he says.

That someone turned out to be "Carly," who, in a later note, identified herself as a 4-foot, 9-inch tall, blue-eyed, blond-haired girl who likes sports, baton twirling and

going to school with Nancy.

The note also said: "I know you all think I'm a ghost, but I'm more like a genie. I can do lots of things. If you ever see me you can say 'Hi,' but don't try to talk to me. Love, Carly."

A frustrated phantom? Probably no one will ever know — Carly's appearances came to a halt in 1988.

None of this has been documented, Truce says, because no one knew when anything might be seen. He has audio tapes, but he never brought a video camera, he says, "because it could have all looked like it was planned, anyway."

Truce has no explanations. No beautiful little girl had been tragi-

cally killed near the house; there were no ancient cemeteries or overfilled funeral homes nearby.

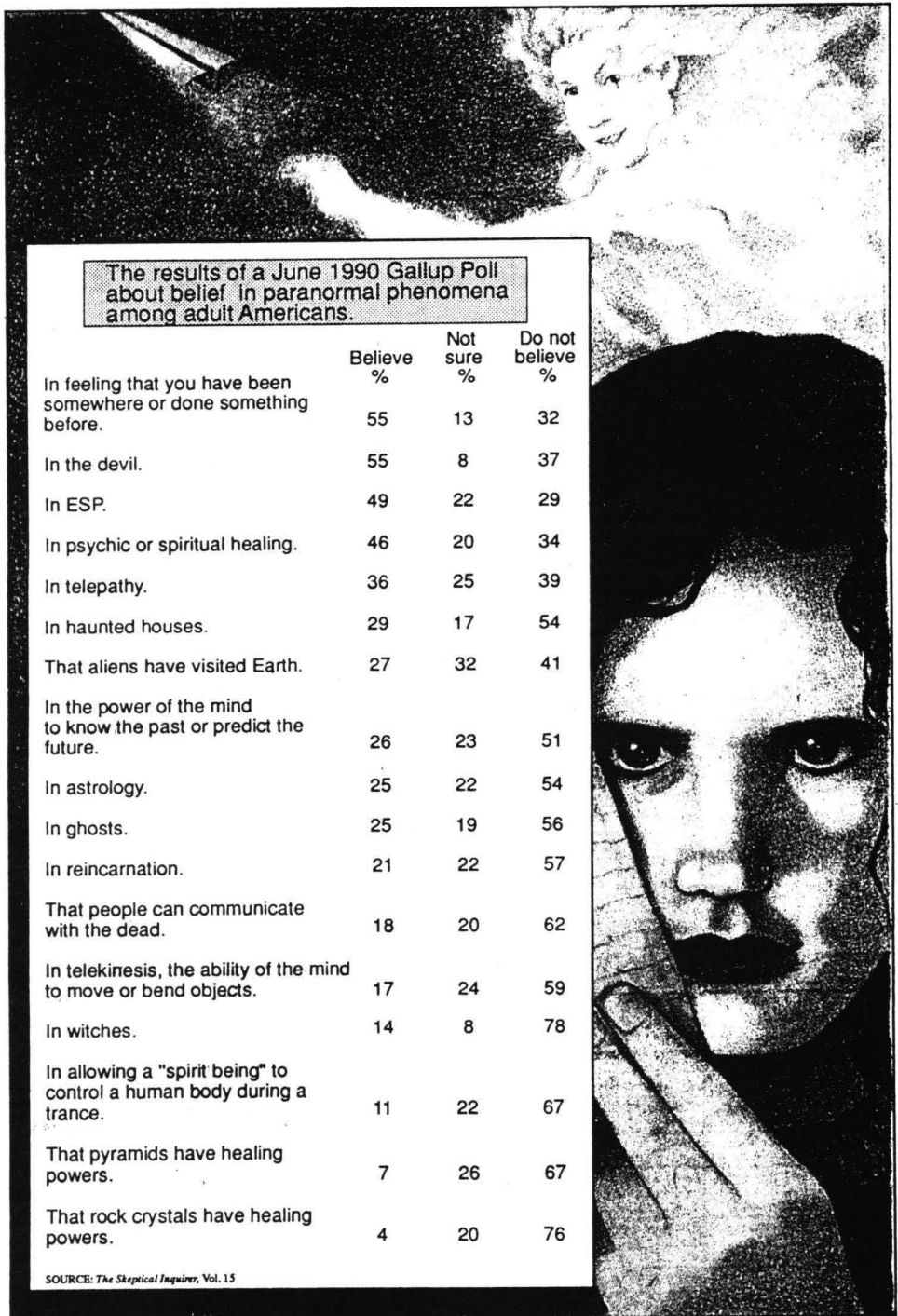
"I consider myself very fortunate to have experienced this. I could have lived 10 lifetimes and never seen anything like it," Truce says.

"We're all interested in ghost stories, but I want to see them investigated until we come up with substantial proof. If I hadn't experienced this thing with the two little girls, I'd still be saying, 'It would be nice to believe, but ...'"

The results of a June 1990 Gallup Poll about belief in paranormal phenomena among adult Americans.

	Believe %	Not sure %	Do not believe %
In feeling that you have been somewhere or done something before.	55	13	32
In the devil.	55	8	37
In ESP.	49	22	29
In psychic or spiritual healing.	46	20	34
In telepathy.	36	25	39
In haunted houses.	29	17	54
That aliens have visited Earth.	27	32	41
In the power of the mind to know the past or predict the future.	26	23	51
In astrology.	25	22	54
In ghosts.	25	19	56
In reincarnation.	21	22	57
That people can communicate with the dead.	18	20	62
In telekinesis, the ability of the mind to move or bend objects.	17	24	59
In witches.	14	8	78
In allowing a "spirit being" to control a human body during a trance.	11	22	67
That pyramids have healing powers.	7	26	67
That rock crystals have healing powers.	4	20	76

SOURCE: *The Skeptical Inquirer*, Vol. 15



TIMOTHY STANDISH ILLUSTRATION

SCIENCE

The latest mystery of the Sphinx: His age

By Tim Friend
USA TODAY

GIZA, Egypt — John Anthony West is resting in the shade between the great outstretched paws of the Sphinx. Its massive limestone head, framed by the pyramids of Cheops and Chephren, looms above, blocking the intense Egyptian sun.

Author, travel guide and self-proclaimed "rogue Egyptologist," West, 59, of Saugerties, N.Y., is on his third formal expedition to study the age and weathering of the Sphinx.

West is a rogue because he has a different notion about when the Sphinx was built and by whom. For years he has been convinced his beloved beast is older than anyone has imagined. Now he says he has the evidence to prove it.

"If the Sphinx predates dynastic Egypt, this would have major archeologic implications," says West, sipping water from a canteen and looking every bit the part of man on an archeological quest. "Quite simply, we would have to rewrite the history of when advanced civilization began."

The evidence, collected primarily by Boston University geologist Robert Schoch, suggests the Sphinx was carved from the bedrock of the Giza plateau at least 7,000 to 9,000 years ago, not 4,500 as many experts believe. It will be presented — and put to the test — Oct. 23 at the Geological Society of America's annual meeting in San Diego. At the very least, it will be controversial.

Schoch, 34, a Yale-educated Ph.D. with a potentially long and successful career ahead, dismissed West as an amateur when West first approached him about the Sphinx being older. But after studying it for a year, Schoch says he's convinced the Sphinx and the ditch around it were exposed to rainfall for at least a thousand-year period.

And that means the Sphinx could not have been built before the Sahara became a desert 7,000 years ago, and that means it couldn't have been built by any of the Pharaohs.

"Who actually carved the Sphinx? Yes, this needs knowing," says Ali Hassan, Egypt's



A NEW RIDDLE: Researchers are attempting to prove that the Sphinx predates the Pharaohs of ancient Egypt, which could push back the beginnings of advanced civilization by nearly 5,000 years.

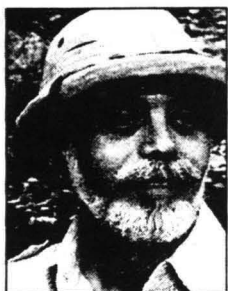
Showing its age

To prove the Sphinx is older than the Pharaohs, John West hired scientists to study whether it had weathered differently than other structures known to have been built in that period. Now West is satisfied he's right. Findings to be presented to the Geological Society of America:

► The Sphinx bears characteristic marks of water erosion, not sand and wind erosion like most of Egypt's monuments. Rains fell on Egypt after the end of the last ice age and before the Sahara was desert.

► Mud brick tombs 20 miles from the Sphinx that are 5,000 years old bear no signs of exposure to water.

► Seismological readings show that the floor toward the Sphinx's front has weathered twice as much as the floor at the rear, suggesting the main body of the Sphinx is twice as old as its rear end, West says. The Pharaoh Chephren may have sculpted the rear.



WEST: Traced Sphinx's age through pattern of erosion

deputy minister of antiquities, back at a hotel several blocks from the pyramids. "If it was made before the pyramids, then who were the inhabitants of the Giza plateau? They had to be someone with genius."

West and Schoch are giving the preliminary findings of their study to Hassan over lunch that includes besara, the same type of bean dish found in the tombs of the Pharaohs.

Hassan looks at the pair with

skepticism, but he says he will grant permission to conduct more studies. It is possible that the Sphinx is older, he says.

"I believe they are treating this from a scientific point of view," Hassan says. "And if they can prove to us the Sphinx is older, well, why not? Sometimes the results of scientific inquiry are unbelievable."

Two days later and an hour's flight south of Cairo, West's small team is taking refuge

from the afternoon heat at the Ptolemaic temple of Dendera. Inside, the air is cool and musty and the ceilings of its chambers are covered with hundreds of brown bats.

In a hushed voice, West asks his group to imagine the technology of the society that might have built the Sphinx thousands of years before the ancient Egyptians.

So if not the Pharaohs, who built the Sphinx? Schoch re-

Folklore and vital statistics

If the Sphinx could talk, it might tell us how old it really is, who built it and why.

► It's traditionally believed the Sphinx was built by the Pharaoh Chephren in 2500 B.C. Carved from a ridge of bedrock, it's 240 feet long, 66 feet high. Its base, 20 feet below ground.

► The ancient Egyptians called it Hor-m-Akhat — Horace of the Horizon. Horace was a falcon-headed God of resurrection, a sun god. It faces due east.

► The Arabs called it Abul Hol — Father of Terror. No one knows why.

► If blowing sand isn't removed from the Sphinx, it becomes buried to its neck in sand for about 3,000 of the past 4,500 years but kept clear for 65.

► Nose was shot off, probably by Mameluke artillery, the elite guard of an 18th century sultan. Some say Napoleon shot off the nose, but he was a mason and considered Egypt sacred.

► The Riddle of the Sphinx actually is from a Greek Sphinx and was answered by Oedipus. No record of an Egyptian Sphinx riddle exists.

The riddle: Who walks on four legs, then two, then three? Answer: Man, as a baby, an adult and an old person with a cane.

fuses to speculate. But West...

"The architects of the Sphinx could well be one of those legendary lost civilizations that appears in the mythology of people all over the globe," he says. "But I hate to use the A-word because it drives everybody so crazy."

That's "A" for Atlantis.

Schoch, bending his lanky 6-foot-2 frame, emerges from a subterranean crypt, unaware he is sweeping bats from the

low ceiling with his pith helmet. At the mention of the "A-word," his face freezes in horror as if he had opened a sarcophagus and been stricken with a mummy's curse.

"I want nothing to do with that!" His voice rises an octave. "And frankly, it's distracting from the real work that we are doing. We have a legitimate finding based on the Sphinx's weathering and it shouldn't be clouded with speculation."

In the bordering village of Nazlet El Samman, Abraham Borie, who sells oils and essences made in the tradition of the Pharaohs, is sitting before a brightly colored tent prepared for a wedding. Sipping heavily sugared tea and gazing over the palms at the silhouette of the great pyramid, Borie says he never believed the archeologists who claim the Sphinx is only 4,500 years old.

"Our history goes back much farther than these Europeans and Americans tell us," says Borie, who will be the village's mayor in two years. "The history handed down in our families tell us the Sphinx could be 5,000 years older."

Hassan agrees the Sphinx may belong to Egypt's pre-dynasty period. But at the moment he's more intrigued by three cavities discovered with seismographs under the limestone floor on the side of the Sphinx and between the paws.

The existence of such cavities has been rumored for centuries, says West, and some say they contain the records of the society that built the Sphinx. West does not mention the "A-word" again.

Hassan says if Schoch and West can define the boundaries of the cavities, he will permit a hole to be drilled and cameras inserted to see what, if anything, is inside.

"I think the question for me is, why are there cavities near the Sphinx? To hide what and for what reasons?" says Hassan, as he prepares to lead West's team back to the Sphinx for a closer look.

Here in Egypt, where ancient monuments bend and shimmer behind waves of heat rising from the floor of the Western Sahara, all things are possible.

MOSCOW NEWS, Moscow, USSR - Oct. 20-27, 1991 CR: Y. Matsumura

Yakutia has its Nessie?..

Studying the Kular mountain range, the biology team of the Yakutsk branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences pitched a tent on the shores of a small lake, Khaiyr, North Yakutia. This is where the miracle occurred.

The phantom appeared suddenly: a strange monster crawled out onto the shore. "It had a small head on a long shining neck, a huge body with blue-and-black skin and a vertically protruding spinal flipper," an eyewitness struck by the unexpected encounter, shouted for his colleagues, who came

running when they heard him shriek. Meanwhile the monster disappeared in the deep waters of the lake and only its wake on the water's surface and the trampled grass were the indirect proofs of the incident.

Soon the animal came to the surface a few hundred metres away from the team of observers.

We learned from the inhabitants of a small Yakutian village lying not far from there that muffled sounds and strange splashes were heard on the lake from time to time. The recollections of two pilots reinforced our belief. In 1939-1940 flying over these places, from an altitude of 700-800 metres they noticed in the lake two

long dark spots which seemed to be living creatures. Descending to an altitude of 50 metres, the pilots clearly saw the round bodies of strange animals which, scared off by the noise of the plane, disappeared into denser waters.

Lake Khaiyr is some 100 km from the Laptev Sea. It is 600 m long, 500 m wide and not more than 10 m deep. How could plesiosaurs that became extinct over 60 million years ago be found there? One of the versions follows:

At one time there was a sea in the place of today's tundra. When it receded and the Ice Age set in, the lizards habitating its coastal waters

sunk into hibernation. Millions of years later the melted ice freed them from captivity and they came back to life in the warm waters, just like Polar tritons, heat-loving animals found in large numbers in Yakutia and the Magadan Region at depths from five to 20 metres in 10,000- to 12,000-year-old glaciers.

Scientists speak of insufficient fodder: each animal weighing about a ton must devour dozens of kilos of fish daily. But an aquatic animal in a state of rest uses little energy and therefore needs less food. When water temperature is two or three degrees (it remains as such most of the year) the vital processes of animals are being

retarded and they may sink into hibernation.

Several expeditions have been to Lake Khaiyr, but all were unsuccessful. What of the testimony of those who maintain they saw the monster crawling away from the shore? What about the opinion of the natives? The Yakuts are courageous people, who are not afraid to face the severe and rigorous tundra. Even when temperature drops below 50°C and there is a snowstorm, they try to skirt the lake. They do not fish and do not pitch tents there. None of the old residents can claim to have seen the lake monsters but none of them denies that they exist.

Rabochaya Tribuna

PRESS & SUN-BULLETIN, Binghamton, NY - Oct. 31, 1991 CR: D. Dains

Professor asks students to explore possibilities

By ROBERT M. KAHN
Staff Writer

Just because you can't see something is no reason to believe it doesn't exist, says Gary L. Truce, a professor of physical education at the state University Center at Binghamton.

"In my teaching, one night I present all the possibilities of something like the Bermuda Triangle," he says. "Then, the next night, I show all the ways those beliefs could be negated."

Here are some of Truce's theories on several unexplained phenomena:

► **Unidentified Flying Objects:** Truce worked as a hypnotist for the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ind., in 1976. He assisted people with recalling things they might have seen or experienced.

Truce, who is still on call for the organization, believes in UFOs because he studied one case that was similar to seven reported around the world at the same time.

At four locations outside the

United States and at three sites in the country — in Pennsylvania, Kansas and Kentucky — people reported seeing 4- to 4½-foot tall forms that resembled humans, but who had arms down to their knees and unusually large heads.

► **Telekinesis:** Sometimes things that appear otherworldly have scientifically based explanations. The ability to move objects without physical contact may be one of those cases, Truce says.

Because people have their own individual electromagnetic pat-

terns, telekinesis may be related to biochemistry, he says.

► **Deja vu:** Truce likes two theories about deja vu (that feeling you get that a place is strikingly familiar, even though you know you've never been there before).

People sometimes find themselves in situations that are similar to past encounters, Truce says. That can evoke feelings of familiarity.

A more provocative explanation came from one of Truce's former students, who suggested that life

"is like a movie." It's all there on one reel, but it only unfolds frame by frame, the student theorized.

"But there's nothing to say that somehow we can't cut through that film and take a glance at another frame that hasn't come up yet," Truce says. "It sounds absolutely impossible, but if time isn't quite what we think it is, it could well be that past, present and future are all occurring at the same time."

Atlantis' survivors really built Sphinx, American theorizes

By MIMI MANN
Associated Press

GIZA PLATEAU, Egypt — Lovers of legend have been tantalized since antiquity by tales of Atlantis, the paradise washed into the sea without a trace.

Now comes John Anthony West, an American author, playwright and travel guide. He wants to prove that survivors of Atlantis built the Sphinx, the half-man, half-beast that wears a Pharaoh's crown and crouches at the foot of the pyramids.

Egyptologists say that West is wasting his time, that his premise is nonsense.

West, undaunted, said: "If we can prove the Sphinx is older than we think, then we can get around to which lost civilization built it," and the lost civilization that easily comes to mind is Atlantis.

"It's impossible to believe ancient Egyptians could produce the Sphinx, if you believe Egyptologists that ancient Egyptians were priest-bound necrophiles, an intellectually inferior race obsessed with the afterlife," he said.

Advanced writing and the technology to move stone blocks weighing 200 tons, like those in a temple beside the Sphinx, are not a development but a legacy from unknown benefactors, said West, a native of Saugerties, N.Y.

In a newspaper article, Egyptologist Zahi Hawass called West's theories "American hallucinations." Hawass is antiquities director of the pyramids area, including the Sphinx.

"We have older monuments in the same area," he said. "They definitely weren't built by men from space or Atlantis."

With a geologist and a geophysicist in his 10-man team, West came to Egypt in April hoping to prove that the monument is much older than its generally accepted age of 4,500 years. They planned to spend two weeks alongside the 240-foot-long limestone statue, but their close-up work was restricted to three days.

Hawass described West as an amateur with "absolutely no scientific base for any of this. It's nonsense, and we won't allow our monuments to be exploited for personal enrichment. The Sphinx is the soul of Egypt."

Among West's books is *Serpent in the Sky*, an untraditional view of ancient Egypt published in 1979. He said he plans one about the Sphinx called *The Secrets in the Stones*.

Many of West's concepts are based on the thoughts of the late R.A. Schwaller de Lubicz, an Alsatian who believed that Egypt's monuments formed part of a larger cosmic order. De Lubicz traced the Sphinx's decay to an ancient flood.

"Egyptologists think of him as a nut case," West said. "Our work could prove him right."

As evidence to support his theo-

ries, West said the Sphinx and two adjacent temples differ architecturally from any Old Kingdom monuments.

Also, he said, the Sphinx is too eroded, marred by fissures unexplainable by wind or sand erosion, considering the monument has been buried by the desert for most of its recorded history. Similar erosion is evident in the temples.

Egyptologists trace the Sphinx to Chephren, an Old Kingdom Pharaoh who built the second pyramid, reigned 26 years and died in 2494 B.C. His face on statues and the Sphinx's face look alike.

This is West's version:

The Sphinx and the two temples were built 10,000 to 15,000 years ago, about the time that the Greek philosopher Plato said Atlantis disappeared. The flood came. The monuments lay undiscovered for thousands of years, until ancient Egyptians found them and spruced them up.

Thomas Dobecki of Houston, West's geophysicist, used seismological sounding devices to scan the Sphinx area for evidence of hidden cavities or buried relics.

"The data is good," he said, "but I've got to go back and study it. Then I'll tell West the age of the Sphinx. He may like it or he may not."

The Greek statesman Solon first mentioned Atlantis in the Third Century B.C., saying he learned of it from Egyptian priests.

Plato later embellished the story. His pupil Aristotle said the aging philosopher fabricated the whole thing.

Some scientists theorize that the Minoan civilization on Crete was Atlantis, and what Egyptian priests described to Solon was a devastating volcanic eruption in 1470 B.C. that destroyed several Mediterranean islands.

Geologist Robert Schoch of Boston University, whose academic credentials got the West team its permit from the Egyptian Antiquities Organization, said two visits to Egypt convinced him that the Sphinx predates Chephren.

"How much older is it?" he said by telephone from Boston. "I don't know, but older. I'm not saying 10,000 or 15,000 years old. It needs more study."

Lal Gauri, a University of Louisville geology professor, has conducted detailed studies of the Sphinx. "It's clearly absurd to assume that the damage we see couldn't have been caused in the past 5,000 years," he said.

"In fact, I suspect much of it is modern and continuous. You can stand any day at the Sphinx and see rocks fall. As for the flood, there are no telltale signs, like salt or water marks."

Kent Weeks, an Egyptologist at



Associated Press

STONE COLD: John Anthony West, center, takes seismological readings on Giza Plateau.

American University in Cairo, said there is no doubt that the Sphinx was created by the Egyptians. He said no civilization older than

Egypt's left a record of anything like the Sphinx.

"The fact is the Giza Sphinx is the first of its kind and unique," Weeks

said. "Every kind of Sphinx we know, whether in Paris or on the steps of the New York Public Library, came later."

Crazy clocks have whole town baffled

A BIZARRE mystery of lost time is unfolding in a small town in the East Midlands. For nobody seems to be able to explain why some of the digital clocks in the area are keeping a time of their own.

It all started on an ordinary winter's morning when 44-year-old Alan Joyce was roused for work.

As usual, his digital alarm clock woke him at 6.30 a.m.

It was only when he was getting ready to leave for work that he realised there were no signs of life anywhere else in the street.

But the little town of Castle Donnington was usually coming to life by this time!

He looked at his wrist watch and was surprised to find it was only 5 a.m.

Although a little annoyed, Mr Joyce thought nothing of the incident and reset his alarm for 6.30 a.m.

'Time warp'

But the same thing happened again the next day.

When Alan mentioned this to his son he was surprised to find that the same "time warp" had happened with his digital alarm clock.

Alan initially thought that there might have been interference between the two digital clocks as his son had only recently bought his. They tried using just one for a while but the clock continued to gain time every day.

Alan decided to ring the local Electricity Board to see if there had been any recent changes in electricity supply and explained his experiences.

The electricity board claimed the problem was not coming from them and that there had been no alteration to the electrical supply to the town.

Mystery

But when Alan, a company director, took his clock to work in Loughborough, it worked perfectly.

An Electricity Board spokesman said, "We are now aware of 15 people in Castle Donnington who are having problems with electrical appliances."

"We've had stories of televisions changing channel by themselves and a microwave oven going berserk. It was quite funny to start with but now the people of Castle Donnington are finding it a real headache. People are having to go out and buy clockwork alarms."

"We've done every possible test on the supply to the town but we can't find anything wrong. If we can't find an answer soon we will have to get the local radio and airport to check their equipment."

For Alan Joyce and the rest of the town, the mystery continues.

LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT, Conway, AR - Oct. 21, 1991

Calf at Wooster killed, mutilated

A newborn female calf owned by Mack and Mary Hankins of Wooster was killed and mutilated late Friday or early Saturday.

The calf was discovered at 5:30 p.m. Saturday by Hankins, according to Mrs. Hankins. "It was right down here behind the house too, not very far behind the house," she said.

The tongue and one eye were cut out along with the calf's reproductive organs. The calf was born sometime late Friday or early Saturday.

"We have no idea whatsoever" who killed it, Mrs. Hankins said. "We don't know if someone parked their car alongside the road and walked in there

or if they just walked in from somewhere."

The calf was worth about \$150 to \$200. "That was a nice calf, a big calf," Mrs. Hankins said.

The mother cow is unable to use her hind legs, but her injury appears to be related to the birth and not to the calf's mutilation, Mrs. Hankins said.

The city of Wooster and residents of the area are offering a cash reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the killing. Anyone with information concerning the crime should contact the Faulkner County Sheriff's Office at 450-4914.

WEEKLY NEWS, London, England - Jan. 19, 1991 CR: D. Speed

Farmers blame occultists for mutilation of cattle

By Sandra Cordon
The Canadian Press

When Hank Skarlicki found one of his pregnant cows dead in a feedlot, its tongue cut out and the fetus ripped from its body, he was frightened and worried.

But police and veterinarians are skeptical of such fear. They say the damage was likely the work of Mother Nature herself.

A farmer for 40 years, Skarlicki says he had never seen anything like it. He discovered the carcass of the six-year-old cow last February behind his house near St. Paul, about 130 kilometres north-east of Edmonton.

The top half of the cow's udder was removed. One eye was pulled from its socket. The cow's cheek was peeled back.

"My theory is occultists," Skarlicki says. "It could even be space people. I don't know, but I lean towards occultists."

Skarlicki is one of several Prairie farmers who believe that unexplained deaths and mutilations in their herds are the work of cults.

"There's always a possibility these could be cult-related," says RCMP Cpl. Owen Arthur of Sask-

atoon, who specializes in cult activities. "But it has never been proven one way or another."

Examine carcass

Eugene Janzen, a herd medicine specialist at the University of Saskatchewan, examined the mutilated carcass of a four-year-old Charolais-cross found in early July by Ron Watson on his ranch east of Saskatoon.

Watson believes the cow was cut up for some form of ritual, but Janzen has no doubt it was simply scavenged by a variety of birds and small animals that feast on soft, high-protein internal organs and genitalia.

The cow's udder was "pretty chewed up," says Janzen. Scavengers had "pecked out the eyes and eaten out the bum."

"It looked like someone had taken a spade to the rectum . . . It was pretty rough."

But Watson insists the cuts made to remove the udder and anus from his cow were almost surgically precise.

"I could see knife cuts," says Watson, suggesting the veterinarian may not want to cause a panic by admitting the cow was ritually

carved.

"There was no question it had to be done with a knife," says Watson. "Whoever did it was careful. They took what they wanted. It wasn't hacked off."

Janzen believes a metabolic disorder brought on by recent wet weather may have caused the cow to collapse.

He says the rancher admitted he has rarely seen a cow die in pasture and might not recognize scavenging patterns.

Watson and Skarlicki both say their cows appeared healthy and were left unattended overnight before they died.

Skarlicki called police to investigate but didn't request a post mortem to discover what killed his cow. Like Watson, he insists the wounds on the cow's body were clean and precise.

"It had to be done by a sharp instrument — it was definitely no scavenger."

Arthur says only a few cases of cattle mutilation have been reported to the RCMP this year, including one near Lloydminster on the Saskatchewan-Alberta boundary.

30 claim Ogopogo rose Monday night

VERNON, B.C. (CP) — Ogopogo, the legendary monster of Okanagan Lake, has surfaced again.

"We couldn't believe what we were seeing," table attendant 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 about 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 1.8- to two-metre-long hump-like protrusion jutted briefly out of the water.

Carman Zieman, who operates a jet-ski rental operation on an adjacent lot, was among the first to notice the disturbance.

"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 metres offshore, at a point where a steep dropoff causes water depth to plunge more than 200 metres.

Moved quickly

He said the frothy water moved along the lake at a speed of about 20 kilometres an hour, kicking up waves more than 1½ metres high.

"Part of it came right out of the water," he 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.

"A bunch of guys jumped into boats and drove out to the spot, but by that time they couldn't see anything," he said.

But some of the witnesses, who can't explain the bizarre incident, said they are 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 the result of a school of sturgeon, similar to the kind he regularly saw on freshwater lakes in his native Saskatchewan.

"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.

She said the provincial Fisheries Ministry has never recorded a confirmed sighting of a sturgeon in the lake.

The Blob

Mysterious Mass Of Tissue Found

By Bill Smith
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

St. Louis County's top animal-control official has labeled it simply "the thing."

Others are dubbing it "the blob."

At any rate, the 7-pound mass of muscle and tissue discovered two months ago along a West County road continues to perplex veterinarians, biologists and a host of others who have tried to figure out what it is.

"We feel there's a simple explanation for it; we just haven't found it," said Dr. Dan Knox, a veterinarian who is administrative chief of St. Louis County Animal Control.

"Someone out there knows what it is," he said. "If we can find out who it belongs to, we'd be glad to give it back."

Knox said the mass was discovered in early September by someone on horseback riding along Highway 100 near Deer Creek Road in far west St. Louis County.

At the time it was found, Knox said, it was in a five-gallon, green glass bottle. Knox said the bottom of the bottle had been cut away, the mass apparently placed inside the bottle and then the bottom glued back.

The bottle initially was taken by police to the St. Louis County medical examiner's office, which determined that the mass was not some type of human organ or remains.

Since then, the mass has been studied by veterinarians of the St. Louis Zoo and was even sent to the Woods Hole Marine Biology Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass.

"They ruled out totally anything to do with a marine animal," Knox said of the laboratory, "but they had no idea what it is."

A key to the investigation, Knox said, may be 12 to 15 hairs that recently were discovered on the surface of the mass. Even though the hairs were not attached, Knox said, they may provide a clue to the identity



Dr. Dan Knox holding a 7-pound mass of muscle and tissue that has experts perplexed.

of the chunk of tissue.

The hairs are being analyzed by veterinary pathologists at the U.S. Department of Agriculture here.

"We don't know how it got along the road," he said. "Maybe somebody had it in the trunk of their car and they took it out while changing a tire and they just forgot to pick it back up."

Knox said that the tissue mass had undergone major deterioration and that the deterioration was making the work of the investigators more difficult.

If he had to speculate, Knox said, he would guess that the mass is part of the reproductive system of a large mammal. But if it is, he

said, it is unlike any that veterinarians and biologists who have studied it have ever seen.

"It's just a matter of scientific interest," he said. "We could have thrown it away, or we could keep it and try to figure out what it is. We decided to keep it."

For the time being, the mass is being kept in a refrigerator at a St. Louis County animal control office.

"Early on, people were referring to it as an alien," Knox said. "I don't know what an alien looks like; I've never seen one."

"But I'd assume it wouldn't come to Earth in a glass bottle."

POST-DISPATCH, St. Louis, MO - Nov. 2, 1991 CR: COUD-1

'Alien': Blob From Outer Space Turns Out To Be Fungus

By Virgil Tipton
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Gilbert and Simone Andujar still plan to make their own wine vinegar, even though a hunk of the fungus they use to do so was until recently thought to be from outer space.

"There's nothing wrong with it," Gilbert Andujar said Thursday with a laugh.

When a bottle containing the mold was found two months ago along Highway 100 in west St. Louis County, the object inside baffled the experts. It

weighed 7 pounds, had a skin and looked like it had once been an important part of an animal.

Veterinarians couldn't figure it out. Biologists couldn't figure it out. And health officials and TV commentators jokingly speculated that it had come from another planet.

"It was called 'The Alien,'" said Dr. Dan Knox, a veterinarian and chief of St. Louis County Animal Control.

But on Thursday, health officials tentatively identified it as *Mycoderma aceti*, a fungus that has been used for

centuries to convert wine into vinegar.

The Andujars, who own a restaurant, had been using the fungus to make vinegar for themselves and their friends. Simone Andujar started with small pieces that she found in a bottle of commercial vinegar.

About two months ago, the Andujars left a bottle containing a hunk of the stuff outside their restaurant. A passerby found it, liked the bottle and took it home, Knox said.

But then, "his brother said, 'This stuff may be toxic. We need to get rid

of it,'" Knox said.

So the discoverer tossed it from his car along the side of Highway 100 near Deer Creek Road. On Labor Day, a horseback rider found the jar and turned it over to county police, who gave it to health officials.

Knox said the fungus — a distant relative of mushrooms and bread mold — grows a skin. That skin had thrown the experts off the track.

Gilbert Andujar said he failed to recognize the blob as his fungus when he saw it in news reports.



James A. Finley/AF
A fungus used to make wine vinegar that baffled experts.