

# UFO

## NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

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REVIEW, Chino Valley, AZ — May 20, 1992 CR: T. Taylor

It's my turn . . .

## 'Crop circles' found in Chino Valley field

I was riding my bike on Road 1 West Sunday afternoon when I noticed some strange grassy depressions in the field south of Del Rio School. Three large circular areas—each one about 10–12 feet in diameter—were depressed in the tall grasses.

I stopped to take a closer look. The depressions, about 10 feet west of the roadway, looked very similar to those enigmatic "crop circles" we keep hearing about which occur in the fields of England. The grasses in the circles were lying down in large circular patterns; the designs were quite distinct from the tall grasses surrounding them.

When I got back to the Review office, I telephoned Leon Bonotaux, our local UFO buff, to see if he'd like to go out with me to photograph the "crop circles," but unfortunately he was just on his way somewhere else.

I grabbed my camera and a notepad and drove my truck to the field where I made some sketches (below) and took photos.

Not long ago, I saw a TV show featuring England's famous "crop circles." The "crop circles," the reporter said, were attributed by witnesses to everything from UFO activity to winds to pranksters. Some people have said they are the landing sites of flying saucers.

In England, the grasses of each circle had somehow been depressed in a circular pattern and the designs were concise and crisp—many with a key-like form.

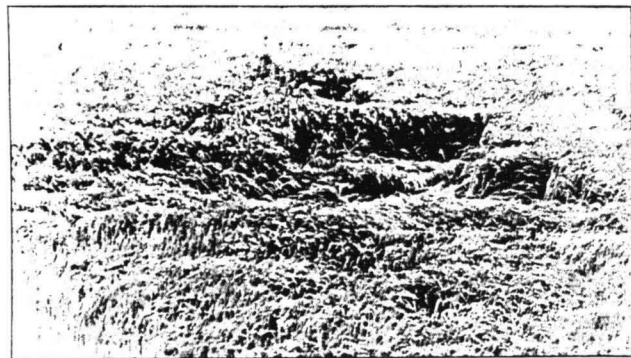
Some of the people the reporter interviewed said that they witnessed strange lights near the field the night before the circles appeared. When they went to the fields in the morning, the "crop circles" were there.

Our Chino Valley "crop circles" seem to be very similar to the ones of England, only smaller. One of them even had a key-like shape.

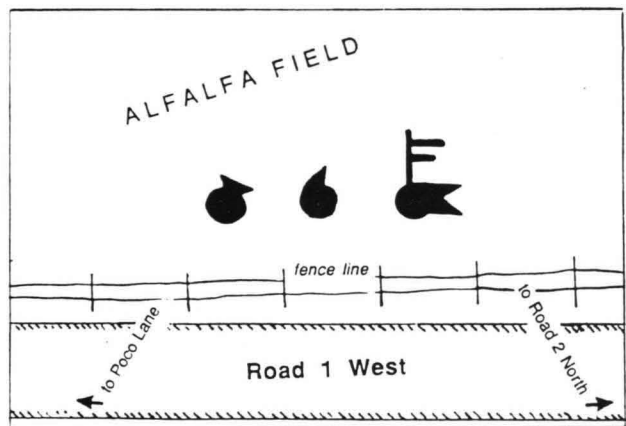
Are they part of some kind of message from space aliens, as the British believe? Or, are they just a natural phenomenon created by the wind? Has anyone else seen such things around town before?

Maybe I should contact Lyle Vann, that fellow out in Paulden who investigates Bigfoot sightings around Arizona—perhaps he's got an explanation for the appearance of Chino Valley's mysterious "crop circles."

Richard W. Kimball  
Reporter



Above: a "crop circle" found in a Chino Valley field. Below: a sketch of the three enigmatic "crop circles."



GAZETTE TELEGRAPH, Colorado Springs, CO — June 27, 1992

## ENCOUNTERS

## Conference on UFOs an alien experience

By D'Arcy Fallon  
Gazette Telegraph

LARAMIE, Wyo. — Maxine Parker remembers them coming for her, skinny "humanoids" with black eyes. They stretched her out on a table and subjected her to a physical examination. One of them, much taller than the rest, left his calling card: a device implanted behind Parker's left ear.

Parker, of Colorado Springs, is telling this story in Laramie, Wyo., at the 13th Annual Rocky Mountain Conference on UFO Investigation. She's come here, she says, to be with her own kind.

Parker, 50-ish, says she's usually nervous about recounting her abduction by aliens. But this time, she's surrounded by more than 100 others who believe they have been contacted or abducted by extraterrestrials.

For many attending the three-day gathering at the University of Wyoming, this is like a family reunion.

Across the country, UFO conferences are proliferating (there was one in Denver last month and one is scheduled in Colorado Springs in September). Conference-goers say some of the gatherings are chilly, dispassionate affairs where committed UFO buffs and scientific researchers eye each other with mutual suspicion.

"A lot of conferences are dogmatic, hardcore," says Pat Richardson, a 46-year-old computer programmer from Aurora who says he has experienced numerous alien contacts since childhood. "This is so much warmer, there is so much love."

Participants greet each other with hugs and smile serenely, as if they're in on a big secret. Most have come from Western states such as Wyoming, Colorado, Texas, New Mexico and California, although a handful have come from Great Britain and Australia.

Talking about UFO experiences can be cathartic, says Dr. Leo Sprinkle, who founded the conference when he was a professor in the University of Wy-



oming's counseling-psychology department.

"We're all contactees on the planet, we're just not ready to face it," says Sprinkle, now a psychologist in private practice in Laramie. "That's why there's so much anxiety out there. The knock (from extraterrestrials) is at the door, the telephone is ringing."

One of those who has answered the call is Florence, a 73-year-old retired printer from Sonoma, Calif. She asked that her last name not be used, but said she's been a contactee for many years. Casually she mentions that within a matter of days she's going to be taken to Melchort, another planet.

Is she excited about the trip? Florence, dressed in hot pink slacks and a navy blue wool coat buttoned to the neck, shrugs philosophically.

"I don't care; *comme ci, comme ça*," she says as she walks across campus, looking for the UFO conference room.

"Where the hell is the building," she says, shaking her head in exasperation.

Maybe on Melchort there will be better street signs.

REGISTER STAR, Rockford, IL — July 6, 1992 CR: S. Mendez

## A sailor's close encounter

Today's column begins a series on a subject that is met with skepticism and wonder, but about which I have always tried to keep an open mind. The rather controversial subject which scientists have studied for years is that of "extraterrestrials and UFOs."

I was recently contacted by mail at the Register Star, and by phone at WIFR, by a former crew member of the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt CVA-42. He served from 1958 to 1960. Over the last few years, I have periodically discussed information on UFOs. He said that somehow a group of people interested in the investigation of UFO sightings noted the column and sent him a copy in Michigan where he resides. He sent me letters from other people and photos of the ship, sketches, and a photo of a possible UFO. I'll share them with you this week. If anyone has witnessed a similar



SUE MROZ

experience, write me here at the paper if you'd like to share your story.

The former Navy man is Chester Grusinski and tells me that he and many crew members witnessed a close-up saucer-like object. . . so close, in fact, that they could see the row of lights on it as it approached their ship.

Tomorrow's column will feature his letter. There are some other interesting letters from Navy men and the government's response about that reported sighting and others.

WIFR-TV's Sue Mroz's column on science and nature appears here weekdays.

# UFO lands at Lukens...maybe

By MICHAEL P. RELLAHAN  
Staff Writer

COATESVILLE — Within the past year, it's survived the recession, a crippling 111-day Steelworkers strike and the abrupt loss of key executive personnel.

But now Lukens Steel Co. faces an even more potentially dangerous threat: alien invasion.

Well, maybe.

The company is investigating reports that one or more employees saw "an unusual object" land at the plant Wednesday, according to Lukens spokesman Evelyn Walker.

According to one source, the "object" was a flying saucer — silver in color with rotating multi-colored lights circulating around its watermelon shape.

While some dismiss the episode as people getting "too much sun," employees at the company are talking about it, and a UFO researcher said that acceptance by the public of the sighting as fact will be larger than many would think.

The UFO is said to have landed about 4:30 p.m. Wednesday in the middle of the steel yard on a steel plate. The source, who is the husband of a Lukens worker and asked not to be identified, said it touched down briefly

and then took off towards the old Coatesville Hospital.

However, a worker who was at the plant at the time of the sighting said he saw no flying saucer. "I saw a balloon in the air," said Gerald Wischuck. "I don't think there was anything to it."

Whether or not the sighting was valid, it had become the talk of the company by Thursday.

"There were rumors flying all over the mill," said the wife of one Lukens worker.

"I heard a couple of people talking about it," said John Semple, an employee at the Lancaster Archery Supply II target range in

Thorndale, where mill workers come to relax.

"I heard they saw a silver-type object with lights on it. And several different people are supposed to have seen it," he said. "It's a little far-fetched, but I guess anything can happen."

"Personally, though, I think the people just got too much sun," he said.

Walker, the company's corporate spokeswoman, acknowledged Friday that "apparently one of our security guards did see an unusual object above Lukens' property. Lukens is still investigating the incident."

Walker refused to answer a reporter's questions about how many employees saw the "object," what they saw, or when they saw it.

"The account varies from person to person," Walker said. She said, however, that the company had not yet come up with a "reasonable explanation" for the report.

"It takes a while to determine what it might have been, who saw it, was it an object, and what created the object," she said.

Walker also declined to say whether Lukens' employees were discussing the sighting. "You're the first (person) that has called me about it," she said.

A Coatesville police spokeswoman said Friday that no one had contacted the police about the sighting.

To David Jacobs, an assistant professor of history at Temple University who has studied the UFO phenomenon for years, the fact that there was a sighting is not surprising. What is unusual is that it was reported at all.

According to Jacobs, the U.S. Air Force estimated as long ago as 1947 that only one in 10 UFO sightings are reported. Jacobs thinks the numbers might be closer to one in 100.

"The stronger the evidence, the less a person wants to talk about it," he said. "If they see something in their backyard, then mum's the word."

Jacobs believes, however, that sightings of UFOs are much more accepted in the days of E.T. and Luke Skywalker than they were in the 1940s and 1950s.

"There's still a great deal of skepticism, to be sure," he said. "But there is far less fear than there was in the beginning of the phenomenon."

"There are so many people who have seen these things that the acceptance level is far greater than you would imagine," Jacobs said.

Jacobs said the one thing that distinguished the reported sighting from others is that it supposedly happened in public.

"They're usually not seen in public areas" like the steel yard, he said. "But broad daylight, in the middle of the day — that's not unusual at all."

—Staff reporter Barbara Mastriana contributed to this story.

GLOBE, Boston, MA - June 13, 1992

## UFO 'abductees' gather at MIT

Closed conference  
to probe traumas

David L. Chandler  
GLOBE STAFF

**T**here are hundreds of these people, and the stories they tell are strikingly similar, and similarly incredible: They were abducted by aliens, taken aboard a spaceship, poked, examined, sometimes scarred and eventually returned home.

For the most part, they don't speak publicly about these memories because of snickers they invariably elicit. But this weekend, in what may be the largest gathering ever of UFO abductees and the scientists and authors who study them, they will meet at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to discuss this phenomenon.

Sponsored by an MIT physicist and a Harvard psychiatrist, the closed, invitation-only conference is neither sanctioned nor endorsed by MIT, and all participants have signed a pledge swearing not to divulge what is said within its four days of sessions.

The meeting is intended to allow abductees and researchers to compare notes on experiences, how best to conduct such research, and how to help people troubled by memories they say they have of being abused by aliens. Because many of the 150 expected participants fear for their jobs if word of their involvement gets out, conference chairman David Pritchard, an MIT physicist, is trying to keep the whole thing under wraps.

While there has been talk that some MIT faculty members are unhappy about the conference, MIT news office director Kenneth Campbell said yesterday that he was not aware of any controversy. Until 2½ years ago, Harvard psychiatrist John Mack, cochairman of the closed meeting, said he was skeptical of the whole idea of UFO abductions. "I gave it no credence at all," he said.

But after interviewing more than 60 people who say they have been kidnapped and experimented upon by aliens, he said "the information I've gotten from them is just staggering." They tell "very consistent and powerful stories," he said.

While the claims of consistency among the stories told by abductees convince some people, others give it little credence. MIT physics pro-

**The meeting is intended to allow abductees and researchers to compare notes and decide how best to conduct such research and help people troubled by memories they say they have of being abused by aliens.**

fessor Philip Morrison, a leading advocate of a scientific search for extraterrestrial life, said humans live in the same cultural milieu and added he finds the reports of independently gathered accounts bearing striking similarities "a very faint argument indeed. . . . I would find it very far from being evidence that there's something out there."

Most abduction stories are similar to the one told by Pat, a pseudonym. Pat said she was lying on her bed several years ago when she became aware of a blue beam of light in her room. She went outside and saw police cruisers at a nearby lot. That's when she found herself transported upward into a UFO, where she was examined on a table, her eye was cut with a knife, and she observed alien beings and children who appeared to be half-alien, half-human.

Clearly shaken by her recollections of the experience, which she remembered years later through hypnosis, she said during a recent appearance on the talk show "Nighttalk with Jane Whitney" that "I wish I could be a disbeliever."

"This is not like seeing Elvis at the K mart," Pat said defensively on the Whitney show. But, she said, her accounts and those of other abductees are typically greeted with snickers, making them feel they have been victimized twice. It was the anguish of people such as Pat that caught Mack's interest. While not claiming to be able to say what actually happened to these people, Mack said in an interview that he is convinced they are victims of a real trauma who need help and understanding.

Others think, however, it is the very people doing the "investigations" who are inducing the traumas, and that it's a dangerous business. James Oberg, a Houston-based aerospace engineer, author and UFO debunker said in an in-

terview that he has heard of "complaints from people who need further counselling after they feel their memories have been screwed up by these people."

Mack, founder of the department of psychiatry at Cambridge Hospital, said he was a skeptic himself until he met Budd Hopkins, author of "Intruders," a book that set off the current furor of interest in the subject. As he listened to Hopkins' accounts of people from all over the country who told similar stories, he said, his opinion changed.

What seems to have struck Mack, Hopkins and others who are convinced there is something to the accounts is the similarity of details in stories told by people from different parts of the country and different walks of life who have apparently had no prior contact.

But what kind of trauma? Many scientists and mental health professionals are willing to believe these people have indeed experienced something traumatic. But some think there may be more mundane explanations — dimly remembered childhood sexual abuse, for example.

Like such cases, the abductees typically remember their experiences only years later, with great difficulty, and the memories tend to center on sexual "examinations" or reproductive experiments performed by the aliens. Many of the victims said they felt humiliated, and retain an intense hatred of their abductors.

Mack discounts the comparison, saying that "trauma doesn't work that way." He said the abductees relate many precise details of their experiences, including descriptions of the interior of the spacecraft and the kinds of instruments used to examine them. "You get 10 fundamental features" that are consistent among stories told by many of these people, he said, and an interpretation of childhood abuse "may be consistent with three or four."

The one thing almost everyone agrees on, in this highly polarized subject, is that the abductees, while sane and normal people, are very troubled by their experiences. But there is much disagreement on the best way to help.

Mack said the people he has talked to have found little help from other psychiatrists, and have been deeply troubled until they found someone who would believe their accounts. Part of his rationale for holding this conference, he said, was that mental health clinicians need to be familiar with a condition that causes so much anguish among their potential patients or clients.

HERALD, Boston, MA - May 17, 1992

## Harvard doctor probes claims of abduction by aliens

By JACK MEYERS

If you think you were abducted by extraterrestrials, maybe you should talk to Harvard Medical School psychiatrist John E. Mack. But not because you're crazy.

Mack has interviewed and administered psychological tests to a few dozen people who have reported being abducted by non-human beings.

"Many of them are quite normal," aside from claiming to have been kidnapped, examined, and in some cases "probed," said Mack. And none of them, he said, would be considered insane, delusional, or possessed by some form of

mass hysteria.

Neither would Mack. Aside from being a professor at Harvard Medical School, he is a highly regarded writer, having won the Pulitzer Prize in Biography in 1977 for his book "A Prince of Our Disorder: The Life of T.E. Lawrence," about Lawrence of Arabia.

But his recent research into what he calls "the abduction phenomenon" has again brought him a measure of public attention. In fact, he is the basis for the fictional psychiatrist in the television show "Intruders," which airs tonight, about aliens' contact with hu-

mans.

Mack, who said he has never seen a UFO or an alien, imputes no outrageous or unverifiable claims about the reality of the abduction stories of the 50-plus people he has interviewed. Instead, Mack — neither a believer nor a skeptic — focuses on the reports as a phenomenon for which psychology, and Western science altogether, has no explanation.

"I treat it as a trauma of unknown origin," Mack said. For almost everyone he has interviewed, the abduction experience — the helplessness and sense of invasion of their bodies — was psychologically painful, so that

many people apparently blocked the memories for years, he said.

While the reactions to the abduction experience vary, the memories and feelings people have of the alleged incidents have a remarkable degree of consistency, right down to detailed descriptions of the creatures and their behavior, he said.

"We can't account for what they're reporting by conventional psychological diagnoses," said Mack. That does not mean he believes the extraterrestrials exist, describing his posture as one of "suspended judgment." However, he is quick to point out that he has no other explanation. □



JOHN E. MACK



# These folks don't laugh at UFO tales

SANDPOINT — Wondering why the new next-door neighbors have peaked heads and an unusual glow? For answers to these and other alien questions, Chuck Kinney suggests you hover around the Gardenia Center next time he hosts a UFO Contact Center International meeting.

Now that Sandpoint has its own contact center, Kinney hopes to appeal to Inland Northwest residents who have more than a "casual" relationship with bug-eyed extraterrestrials.

If you've been abducted by aliens or have conversations with intergalactic friends on a regular basis, Kinney would like to hear about it.

As associate director of UFO CCI, the largest organization in the world, er, *this* world, for UFO contactees, it's his job to see no spaceship trip goes uninvestigated.

"Contactees need a place to go where they won't be laughed at," said Kinney, 30, who isn't shy about revealing he spent time on an alien ship when he was 9-years-old.

He also claims to have seen Big Foot, but more on that later.

First, back to the Gardenia Center, where 10 people showed up to watch a video about crop circles and swap UFO stories at Kinney's first meeting. Few of these people wanted their names in the newspaper, and it's little wonder.

One woman whipped out a snapshot she took five years ago in Sandpoint's city park and pointed to a tiny cloud in the upper right corner.

"Look closely and you'll see the outline of a spaceship," she said with the proud tone of a grandmother showing off pictures of her grandkids. "They like to hide behind cloud formations so they can observe us undetected."

She didn't have any snapshots of aliens in her wallet, but if she had, nobody would have been surprised. People who attend these gatherings compare UFO sightings so casually, they might as well be describing what they did on their summer vacation.

"When I was a kid, my dad often told stories about our neighbor, a space man named 'Old Man Gordon,'" Michael Jones, a carpenter from Hope, told the group.

Nobody snickered when he added that Old Man Gordon and his wife were short with pointed heads and could operate their household appliances without electricity.

Nor did anybody crack up when Jones told of dreaming about walking aboard a spaceship to join gold aliens in tight skin-diving suits.

"It's likely an abduction occurred," Kinney observed solemnly. "The experience is so traumatic, it's usually forgotten. But it can resurface later in a dream."

He said he discovered his own abduction 20 years later after hypnotizing himself with a special "contactee" cassette tape.

"I learned I saw Big Foot in my backyard in Michigan, when I was 9. I saw this hairy monster man shaking a pine tree like he was going to pull it up by the roots. The next day, that tree was gone."

A Big Foot sighting might be enough excitement to satisfy most people, but Kinney claims he was also abducted and beamed aboard an enormous silver spaceship that went unnoticed by others in his neighborhood.

"And there are other things I've experienced, but maybe I'd better not go into those," he said.

It sounds unbelievably weird or weirdly unbelievable, but then, people like Kinney have never cared much what skeptics think.

The rest of us must seem incredibly boring to those who phone E.T. more than home.



CATHY FREE  
Columnist

# Out of this world UFO group meets to discuss the 'big picture'

By MIKE HUDAK  
Free Press Staff Writer

Alliance's Paul Rozich, 45, has been searching for UFOs (Unidentified Flying Object) his entire adult life. He's never seen one. But as director of UFORA (Unidentified Flying Objects Researchers Alliance) and co-chairman, along with Jim Rastetter of the Tri-County UFO Study Group, he's talked to plenty of people who have.

Rozich, a graphics designer at his "day" job, became interested in the subject as a young man who was fascinated with the space program. His interest led to the formation of the Tri-County study group, which will be celebrating its 20th anniversary this November.

"The group meets every month at the Perkin's Restaurant three miles east of Alliance," said Rozich. "We have a permanent membership of 85 people, and we average about 50 guests per meeting. Most of the members are from Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania, but we occasionally draw from other states, too."

The meetings have changed through the years. In the early days, meetings revolved around reports of sightings. Now the discussions tend to be more philosophical in nature — talk of theological implications related to UFOs, and spirited debates about the whys and wherefors of suspected government "cover-ups" on the subject. Another popular topic in recent years has the "alien abduction" scenario — one given national treatment of the recent CBS "Intruders" miniseries.

"I haven't had time to watch 'Intruders,' but I read enough about it to know that it seems to be a reasonable account of what people believe has been happening to them," said Rozich.

According to Rozich, he's talked to five people since February who believe they've been abducted, including women from Alliance, Stow and Sharon, Pa.

"All I can say is that they seem sincere," he said. "Some of them have even brought along hypnotists in order to try to validate their stories."

Most abduction stories revolve around tiny (3½ to 4 feet tall) gray beings with large, almond-shaped black eyes, but some talk of reptilian creatures, and yet others of humanoid beings. "Child abductions" have been on the rise in recent years, and Rozich told of tales of children being telepathically told by aliens to teach hybrid alien-human children "how to play," a talent the visitors apparently lack.

According to Rozich, one of the biggest debates in UFO circles is how much the government knows, and why it's not willing to share what it does know with the "common folk."

There are four possible scenarios.

One, UFOs simply don't exist, and there's nothing to tell.

Two, and one that's probably the case at least some of the time, suspected UFOs are actually top-secret weapons and/or planes being tested.

Three, all the government knows is that we are being visited and studied by extra- or ultra-terrestrials, and actually doesn't know much beyond that, so it feels it's better to say nothing until more facts are known.

Four, the government is in contact with the aliens and says nothing because what they know could be damaging to the spiritual-sociological fabric of mankind as a whole.

"That last scenario revolves around the fact that perhaps mankind is nothing more than a genetic experiment of these alien creatures," said Rozich. "Remember, history as we know it begins about 3,000 years ago, and before that there's virtually no record of anything. It's as if man got smart overnight, and genetic experimentation by aliens is one possible explanation of that."

Rozich said there's also a school of thought in the UFO community that, if the genetic experiment scenario is correct, that the government is doing the right thing in withholding what it knows.

"If President Bush were to suddenly go on TV and tell us that we were being continually visited by aliens who were our true ancestors, could you accept this?" Rozich asked. "Just think of the theological implications this would have. It wouldn't rule out the possibility of a God, but it would certainly change the framework."

Rozich added that even if Americans accepted this news with something akin to calm and reason, others in the world may not.

"Consider the Muslims," said Rozich. "If America were to announce something like that, Muslims could well consider us the most blasphemous of all infidels, and immediately aim every nuclear warhead they had straight at us to avenge the good name of Allah."

Food for thought, eh? For those wanting to know more about these and related subjects, people might consider attending the next Tri-County UFO meeting, set for June 13 at 7:45 p.m. For further information, call 821-3946.

MESSANGER, Cairo, GA  
July 29, 1992 CR: M. Meadows

## Watching UFO Watchers?



Ed Komarek Jr., local MUFON field representative, says UFO witnesses in Grady County and vicinity are wondering who's flying those unmarked helicopters around their homes and adjoining surroundings. He provided this photo and reported that Mary Ann Meadows, a UFO witness, took the picture as a man inside the chopper photographed her when she stepped out into the yard at her residence of Cairo.

Komarek added that a neighbor reported seeing a chopper over his property while he was lecturing on UFOs, recently, in Gulf Breeze, Florida, an area he described as "a national hotspot."

"UFO literature is full of cases of witnesses under surveillance around the country and the world. Now, unless information surfaces to the contrary, perhaps Grady County can be added to that large number of cases attesting to high level military and government involvement in UFOs," Komarek said.

But Kinney says that's all right. Not everyone has the gift for gabbing with gadabouts aliens.

"I can understand why people think it's bizarre," he said, "but nothing can change my mind. I'm convinced UFOs exist."

He is also certain that spaceships created mysterious circles in England's wheat fields, even though two farmers admitted to making the elaborate designs as a hoax.

After showing a video about the crop circles, Kinney informed his class that similar wheat rings have been found in Japan, Turkey, Canada and the Midwest.

About 20 have been discovered in the United States, he said, but who knows? There could be more.

Which brings us to this:

Anybody checked out the Palouse lately?

JOURNAL/CONSTITUTION, Atlanta, GA — June 7, 1992

# Those ain't onions over Vidalia, says UFO group

By Jingle Davis  
STAFF WRITER

Vidalia, Ga. — Holiness preacher Rickey Monroe swears on a stack of Bibles that south-east Georgia's rural counties, famous for growing the world's sweetest onions, also are growing in popularity with visitors from other parts of the galaxy.

"Toombs County and the whole area is coming on as a hot spot for UFOs," said Mr. Monroe, 32. "Last year, we had a major flap with 30 reported sightings on a single night." Law enforcement officers in Toombs and Montgomery counties confirmed they received reports of unusual lights in the sky in February 1991.

A flap, for those unfamiliar with the lingo, occurs when a number of people simultaneously report UFOs in the same area.

Mr. Monroe is an unpaid section director and field investigator trainee for a Texas-based organization called MUFON Inc., an acronym for Mutual UFO Network.

The group's members think visitors from other parts of the universe pay visits to Earth.

Mr. Monroe and about 30 other organization members planned to hold their first meeting on Tybee Island Saturday night.

According to Mr. Monroe, strange, swift-moving objects are appearing regularly in the skies over Vidalia and smaller Georgia communities.

He said he's made 13 such sightings himself, including one where a large, well-lighted spaceship landed in a Montgomery County field planted in pine seedlings. After the ship departed, the seedlings shot up like Jack's beanstalk, he said.

Mr. Monroe and his wife, Amanda, said "shape-shifters" and other UFOs have beamed red lasers at cars, put on sky-dancing shows and taken soil and water samples from local swamps.

At their Vidalia apartment, the Monroes publish "The UFO Digest," a newsletter of purported alien activity. They also collect photographs, videotapes and printed material about UFOs.

Mr. Monroe theorizes the aliens are "monitoring activities" at area military installations such as Fort Stewart in Hinesville or Hunter Army Airfield south of Savannah.

"Or," he speculated, "they could be drawing power from the nuclear plant in Baxley."

CR: M. Freeman

# Speaker: humans may have a lot to learn from extraterrestrials

by Robert Roten  
Boomerang staff writer

A key speaker at a local UFO conference said humans might have a lot to learn from extraterrestrials communicating with us through human contactees, like how to control earth's population.

James A. Harder spoke to a group of over 100 people at the Washakie Center at UW Friday night at the 12th annual Rocky Mountain Conference on UFO Investigation, also known as a contactee conference, which runs through June 27 here.

Harder holds a degree in civil engineering from UC Berkeley, and a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering. He has been active in the study of UFO reports for over 30 years. He has served as director of research for the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization.

Harder was critical of a recent UFO conference at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology because of what he called the dominance of the "New York Paradigm," a

group which emphasizes violent UFO "abduction" experiences which cause psychological harm to the victims.

Harder, who has interviewed hundreds of people who allegedly have had contact with aliens, said many of the experiences are benign and in some cases the aliens reportedly try to help people. He also said that some of the aliens are said to be quite talkative about their civilizations and worlds. He said there may be much to learn from them.

Harder, who said he uses hypnosis as a technique for getting at the hidden memories of persons who have had alleged contact with alien beings, said he has been able to get information about alien cultures through people who seem to be in telepathic contact with them.

He asked one person, for instance, if the alien with which he was in contact knew of criminals on his own planet. Harder said the reply was, "Oh yes, we had a criminal once. That was 5,000 years ago. We learned about him in school."

Harder said during one interview he was told, purportedly by an alien, that the alien's entire race consisted of only about 20,000 people, 2,000 to 3,000 of which are on the earth. "That's your whole civilization?" he asked.

The reply, "Why would we need more?" Many aliens, reportedly, think earth is highly over-populated. Harder said one alien supposedly relayed information to him that the earth should not have to sustain more than 3 to 5 million people. There are now more than 5 billion people on the earth.

Harder said aliens who have contacted people have apparently influenced them to become active in environmental issues like "save the whales," he said.

Harder argued that if the earth had a lower population, there would be more freedom to those who are left and the earth's resources would not need to be exploited. He said, "We don't have a drought in California. We have too many people wanting to drink the water."

Harder argued that controlling earth's population is a problem which cannot be solved on a voluntary basis. He said if only

those who are intelligent and committed enough not to have children are the ones whose genes and teachings are not passed along to the next generation, the long term effect will not be the desired one.

According to Harder's investigations, one alien race came up with a unique solution to the population problem. Instead of a gene pool, they had a chromosome pool, the building blocks that make up chromosomes. He said that chromosomes from a number of aliens are combined to create one life. That resulting child has numerous parents, who are unknown to each other and to the child. Therefore, the adults of that species treat each child as their own, for the child may, in fact, be partly theirs. He said the few children born on that world have wonderful childhood experiences and are all "spoiled rotten."

So deeply ingrained into the human genetic makeup is the feeling that we have the right to have as many children as we want, Harder argued, that people would rather see a sex offender executed than castrated.

Harder said his investigations indicated there are many alien races in the universe, including one civilization dating back 140 million years. Some have human-like bodies, others have no corporeal bodies at all. One race he calls "T-People" are shaped like triangles and have no arms, legs or eyes. They communicate by telepathy.

Harder divides the aliens into two rough groups, the A-group, for advanced, benevolent and active aliens and the B-group who are beginners, bunglers, who are not so slick in "covering up" their meddlings in human affairs. He gave an example of a woman who was abducted by a B-group. Her earrings were inadvertently left behind by the bunglers. Later, he said, the couple found a pile of leaves on their kitchen table. Under the leaves were the woman's earrings.

Harder said there are currently 57 advanced civilizations in a group called the "Federation." He said, "There used to be 60 but three of them were kicked out." He said those three civilizations have become "renegades" and have been responsible for cattle mutilations on earth, among other things. Harder commented, "This is a very complicated universe."

Harder also speculated on why the aliens don't seem to communicate detailed technical know-how to humans. He said humans aren't ready yet for information on how to stop the aging process, because that would just cause more population problems.

Harder said humans don't need more technology. "We're not handling the technology we have very well, right?" He said what humans need is the wisdom to handle the technology they already possess.

In some advanced alien civilizations, Harder said, each member of the society feels a deep love for every other member of the society. "Good relationships, love and compassion, that has power for the future," Harder said.

Leo Sprinkle, a Laramie psychologist who has been involved in the UFO conferences since their inception, said that while he is withholding judgment on Harder's conclusions about UFO experiences, the experiences, whatever their origin, can have real meaning for those who have them.

A woman came up to Sprinkle following Harder's talk. She was crying, visibly upset following a brief self-hypnosis session at the end of the presentation. He said she may have just realized that she may have once had a UFO experience.

Sprinkle indicated that people who confront their fears about their UFO experiences and their inner feelings may find that they can discover much more valuable things about themselves than about alien civilizations on distant planets.

## UFO sightings spark interest

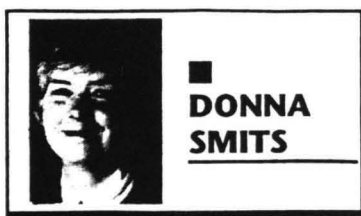
The year was 1956 and the place was Los Angeles. I was 10 years old, almost asleep in the bedroom that I shared with my 8-year-old brother. A normal occurrence, except that this was not destined to be a night like any other. A strange white beam of light shone through the curtains from outside.

Being a curious sort of kid, I stumbled out of bed to the window which overlooked the backyard. What I saw there, suspended as if on a string, caused me to feel no fear or anxiety. Instead, I felt elated and said to myself, "So, you came!" I remember trying to awaken my brother and hearing his sleepy groan.

In the morning, I related the incident to my parents and told them that I had seen a "flying saucer," which is what we called Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) in those days. It was about 20 feet in diameter with red, white and blue (no kidding) lights around the rim of the disc.

My folks, being the cautious and conservative sort of parents that they were, promptly explained that I must have been dreaming. Of course, I accepted their explanation because I had to, but I didn't believe it then and I don't believe it now. You see, I propose that I experienced a blackout from the time that I first saw the UFO until I encountered my parents in the morning. Only recently have I learned that "missing time" is part of the UFO phenomenon.

The year was 1971 and the place was New Mexico. We were returning home to California from a skiing vacation in Taos. The night sky of New Mexico is filled with an incredible clarity and the back roads are often deserted.



**DONNA SMITS**

### BOARD OF CONTRIBUTORS

Suddenly, about 100 feet distant in the light of the car's headlights appeared a "flying machine." It was traveling perpendicular to the highway at an altitude of approximately 10 feet! I gauged its speed to be "hell-bent for leather!" We slammed on our brakes and lurched to a stop.

We jumped out of the car to get a better look at the object and to track where it was headed. Incredibly, the night sky was eerily silent and empty. Whatever we had seen was silent and had no afterburners or running lights. I might have believed that we were seeing things, except that a car following ours down the highway had seen it, too.

I was hooked. Then and there, I decided to become involved and spend some time investigating UFO sightings. My research led me to the Mutual UFO Network, known as MUFON.

MUFON is the largest international organization dedicated to the scientific study and understanding of the UFO phenomena. Headquarters is based in San Antonio, Texas. The volunteer membership consists of physicists,

scientists, psychologists, M.D.s, engineers, educators and others interested in getting to the bottom of the UFO mystery.

And what a mystery it is! How about the Marin County insurance broker who purports to have been part of a team that retrieved the remains of an alien craft and its occupants in the desert outside Edwards Air Force Base when he was a young helicopter pilot? What about the Gilroy family shadowed by a UFO and a brilliant beam of light while driving north on Highway 101 one night? What about the local construction worker who saw a metallic disc hovering over a powerline outside of Watsonville one evening as the sun went down, and the Hollister woman whose family of five saw a probe-like object skimming rooftops around Morgan Hill recently?

Could the local teacher who was followed by a large orange glowing ball while driving on Hecker Pass be mistaken? And what of the local NASA man who works researching UFOs in his spare time because of several unexplainable occurrences in his own life?

Undoubtedly, many UFO sightings are misinterpreted, and a few reports are certainly hoaxes. But some mighty strange things are happening out there, and a few of us are looking for explanations.

Donna Smits is a teacher in the Gilroy School District. She is married and is a deacon in the Presbyterian church. The Board of Contributors is comprised of 19 local writers who share their views on a rotating basis each Monday and Thursday.

## UFO watcher supports stories of alien contacts

Fearon Hicks of Auburndale believes, and he claims to know at least two Polk County people have been contacted by beings aboard unidentified flying objects.

Hicks, state section director for the Mutual UFO Network, or MUFON, won't name either person.

"They don't want the publicity," he says.

One woman allegedly told Hicks that one minute she saw a UFO approaching the car in which she and her husband were riding, and seemingly the next minute, she awoke in her own bed with no recollection of how she got there.

Hicks also claims that a Polk County woman told him that in March she saw a rose-colored light about the size of a basketball hovering above her sleeping daughter.

Both the woman and her 16-year-old daughter were temporarily paralyzed, and later the daughter said she tried calling out for help but couldn't make a sound, Hicks said.

He said he found a "scoop" mark on the woman, similar to markings on other people who have reportedly had contact with extraterrestrials. The mark was apparently a scar where a tissue sample was taken.

Hicks said when he told the woman that there have been reports of aliens impregnating women, the mother gasped and admitted her daughter had missed her last menstrual cycle.

"I told her to get her daughter to a doctor right away," he said. Hicks said he first saw a UFO in 1953, when he was 4 years old and living in Lake Shipp Heights.

By 1958, UFO sightings in the area were so common neighbors used to sit in their yards at night and watch as the round discs and fireballs danced through the sky, he said.

He saw UFOs again in 1965, while fishing on Lake Eloise, and again in 1970 while serving in the military in North Africa.

Other Polk County residents have also reported seeing UFOs.

On March 19, about the same time as the woman and her daughter report being paralyzed by a UFO, Haines City police Officer Luis Delgado reported watching as a UFO paced his patrol car at 40 mph.

Delgado reported that when he stopped to take a closer look, the engine, lights and radios in his car all died, Hicks said. Delgado described the object as about 15 feet long, three 1/2 feet thick at the center, and glowing a strange green color.

Hicks said the government and media are "covering up" detailed reports and evidence that Earth is being visited regularly by humanoids from other parts of the galaxy.

"There are estimates that 20 million Americans have seen UFOs, even though only about 10 percent of the sightings are reported," he said.

The local MUFON chapter meets every other week. People interested in more information can contact Hicks at 967-1594.



## MOVIES

## Interviews with the Archangels



BY GEMMA FILES

The Archangel Uriel (a.k.a. Ruth E. Norman, head of California's Unarius Society), an 80-year-old woman with Christmas lights stuck in her petrified blonde beehive, idly tries to recall just how many times — exactly — she's piloted a spaceship.

Alan Moseley, leader of the neighboring Aetherius Society, proudly brandishes a "thought-energy-storing battery" that looks more like an egg-beater stuck in a blue concrete block.

Meanwhile, back in 1955, a man known only as "Lee" lovingly describes the "beautiful quilted white fabric" interior of the flying saucer he says once took him to Venus.

Director Dan Curtis just shrugs.

"Sounds kinda like the inside of a coffin, doesn't it?" he asks.

It's easy for Curtis to treat Uriel and company calmly — he's had three years of filming to get used to them. That's how long it took to put together his new feature-length documentary, *In Advance of the Landing*, a penetrating, evocative and occasionally quite kooky look at America's hardest-core UFO devotees, which premieres this week at the Bloor Cinema.

It all started back in 1982, when Curtis first saw photographer Douglas Curran's work on the same subject.

"I was just fascinated by these faces," says Curtis. "They were living such ordinary lives, but dreaming these amazing, Technicolor dreams. I wanted to find out what motivated them, and then tell other people about it."

A vain hope for most, but Curtis isn't exactly a monochrome type himself. Born in Vancouver, he came to film by a roundabout route — after studying economics, teaching geography in Ghana, acquiring a master's in adult education and doing a stint at TVO. It was 1981 before he finally formed Cygnus Communications and produced his first documentary, *Alex Colville: The Splendor of Order*, which immediately won three awards.

Narration-free, *In Advance* strings together interviews, stock footage and clips from "relevant" movies, such as *Earth vs. the Flying Saucers*, to show exactly what it's like being a



## PREVIEW

## IN ADVANCE OF THE LANDING

Directed by Dan Curtis. The Bloor Cinema, 506 Bloor St. W., 532-6677. May 29-June 4. Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave., 531-9959. June 16-18.

ground-level UFO-spotter.

We get to meet people like Paul Eichenberg, who spent more than \$15,000 building a flying saucer in his backyard ("Originally, I told my wife it was gonna be a tool shed"). And Betty Hill, America's first recorded UFO abductee, who still regularly drives out to the woods and flashes her headlights looking for further contact.

Lovably eccentric but far from raving, Curtis' subjects are uniformly smart, creative, intensely committed ... and real.

"One of the things that concerned me right from the start," says Curtis, "was just how easy it would be to send these people up. Finally, I just tried to make the kind of film I could sit down and watch with them — not catering to them, but not mocking them either. I think I've pretty well kept to that."

Curtis admits, though, that it was sometimes hard to keep as straight a face as he wanted to when dealing with people like the Unarians, especially when screening one of their training films, *The Arrival*, for instance, which Curtis eventually ended up excerpting, is classic unintentional kitsch and features the tag, "160,000 B.C. — based on a true story."

On the other hand, Curtis stresses, the depth of his subjects' faith in their beliefs is genuinely impressive. "In a century like ours, where everything seems to be falling apart, people have to find their hope somewhere," he says. "Some people look inward and find themselves. Other people look outward and find God. These people watch the skies. Who's to say one method is any better than another?"

As for himself, now that *In Advance* is in the can, Curtis looks forward to a well-deserved period of rest, at least until the next project comes along.

And what do Uriel and the others think, now that they've seen the finished product?

"Funny you should ask. I actually got a very sweet letter the other day from Charles Spigel, Uriel's right-hand man. He said he'd seen *In Advance* and liked it. They felt I was a brother of light, spreading the good word before the mass landing they expect in 2001. So there you are — not just any filmmaker!"

Curtis grins, then pauses.

"Think it'd do any good to list it on my next Telefilm application?"



Director Dan Curtis, left, and Archangel Uriel, a.k.a. Ruth Norman, 80, who expects a mass UFO landing in 2001.



By W.G. Eslinger, Director Ozark UFO Network

On May 14, 1992 the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* published a news item on page 4-A that was of such historical significance, it should have been the main front-page story. The subject was the results of a national survey released by the Roper Organization to the effect that one of every 40 American adults may have been abducted by an unidentified flying object.

The survey suggests that 3.67 million Americans have experienced at least four of the following events related to a typical UFO abduction:

- (1) Awakening paralyzed, sensing a strange figure or presence in the room.
- (2) Experiencing an hour or more of "missing time."
- (3) Feeling like you are actually flying through the air without knowing why or how.
- (4) Seeing unusual lights or balls of light in a room without understanding what caused them.
- (5) Discovering puzzling scars on your body, without remembering how or why they got there.

## Ozark UFO Report

One factor that makes this report so startling is that the survey was based on such a narrow criteria and produced so many possible abductions. Previous to this survey, major researchers on this subject had estimated the number to be one million. The 3.67 million figure can be expanded greatly by including those persons who have experienced only three of the five listed events or have experienced events other than the five.

Within a week after the Roper report was released, CBS ran a 4-hour television prime time miniseries on May 17 and 19 entitled "The Intruders." This documentary was based in part on the excellent recent book of Budd Hopkins with the same title. Mr. Hopkins is a top researcher in the U.S. in the UFO abduction phenomenon. The entire program was very well done in that the material was faithful to the script of actual events and the acting was very good.

It is to the public's loss it was not marked for attention by Arkansas newspapers, because this program dramatized a phenomenon that is a major historical event of potential cataclysmic results. It

can be justifiably stated that the abduction of millions of persons throughout the world is the most serious challenge ever to the human race.

Recent investigations in Boone and nearby counties indicate our beloved Ozarks is the scene of major UFO activity in the U.S. In the process of citizen reports of sightings to the Ozark UFO Network during the past four months, over a dozen abduction cases have been revealed and several others are under confirmation. Events that have transpired in the lives of abductees in this area are, in many cases, quite unique in character, unlike cases reported elsewhere. The same can be said about UFO activity in general in the Ozarks.

Sightings have multiplied during the past three years in our area as well as the rest of the planet. The most recent sightings reported by Harrison citizens occurred on July 5, 11:15 p.m. in the southwestern sky, and July 24, 5:30 a.m. near the north end of Gaither Mountain.

There are many parts to the UFO subject, the most serious and outrageous being human abductions by UFO occupants. The physical,

mental, and emotional trauma suffered by many abductees cannot be described adequately. They are in desperate need of professional medical, mental health, or spiritual counseling (or all three) but usually they are reluctant to discuss their experiences even with family members. The reason? Fear of ridicule. The major news media and the government may be blamed for much of that.

Our organization has uncovered the many abduction cases simply because we have a knowledge of their problems and are willing to listen to their story. At this point, a conservative estimate can be made that several scores of citizens of all walks of life in our seven-county area of interest have suffered as abduction victims. Several of the known cases are being currently contacted by the UFO occupants. It is an on-going activity of intimidation ... call it terrorism if you will. Yes, pastors, it is happening to some of your folks, too.

The above is a general description of a dominant phenomenon in our Ozark world and the stark need of ordinary people who suffer from their personal contact with it. Med-

ical, mental health, and religious professionals should inform themselves of the unique nature of this human need and dedicate their help.

Our central mailing address is P.O. Box 1919, Harrison, Ark. 72601, telephone 741-7278. Sighting reports, inquiries regarding possible abduction experiences, and other requests for information are welcome.

DAILY TIMES, Harrison, AR - July 31, 1992

CR: W. Eslinger

# HAVE YOU BEEN ABDUCTED BY ALIENS?

## For more information

For those interested in seeking counseling services and/or a support group for people who have encountered extraterrestrials, call Tom H. Anderson, 957-1976.

Anderson charges \$50 for each session, which lasts about an hour, but he will negotiate fees for people in financial difficulty, he said. People interested in the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) may call 1-512-379-9216.

The following is a sampling of books about encounters and related topics:

- *Intruders*, by Budd Hopkins
- *Watchers*, by Raymond E. Fowler
- *Secret Life*, by David M. Jacobs, Ph.D.
- *Silent Invasion*, by Ellen Crystall
- *Clear Intent*, by Barry Greenwood
- *Dimensions*, by Jacques Vallee
- *Communion*, by Whitley Strieber

with women's abductions."

## COUNSELING IS SPIRITUAL

Anderson, who has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Roanoke College in Roanoke, Va., uses astrology as a basis for some counseling. He also has training in regressive hypnosis, and sometimes uses that technique in counseling clients who have had encounters with UFOs. The State of Florida does not register or license "spiritual counselors" or hypnotists.

Walter Andrus, international director for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), is familiar with abduction reports like those documented in *Intruders* and *Visitors From the Unknown*, a CBS program that aired Saturday night featuring people talking about alleged experiences with extraterrestrials.

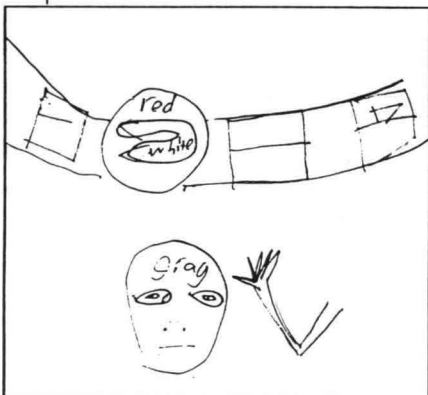
"Those cases in *Intruders* were based on real people's accounts, some of whom I know personally. Our organization was contacted for reference information for the miniseries," he said during a telephone interview. He described MUFON as the "world's largest" organization that investigates and researches UFO sightings. The organization, founded May 31, 1969, and headquartered in Seguin, Texas, also helps callers who have had alleged encounters find a support group or a counseling professional.

"We have obtained documents through the Freedom of Information Act that indicate various government organizations are studying UFOs, but they're doing so on unofficial status," Andrus said. There are public and private organizations and individuals researching the subject, Andrus said.

## Warning signs

If an individual suspects he or she has had a "close encounter" with an alien being, spiritual counselor Tom Anderson says there are certain signs to look for:

- "If you have powerful dreams of saucers or of being examined on an observation table."
  - "An unusual and unexplained interest in UFOs."
  - "Unexplained nosebleeds as a child."
  - "Fear of the dark or of being outside alone."
  - "Missing time, time that you can't account for."
  - "Feelings like someone is watching you or you feel a presence."
  - "Unexplained pregnancies and un pregnancies (false pregnancies)."
- Anderson emphasized that these occurrences do not necessarily mean the individual has had an encounter.



Photos by GRANT JEFFERIES/Bradenton Herald

## Evidence of visitation

Tom Anderson holds a drawing he made of a "Gray," a particular race with a grayish tint to their skin. This is the type of being most people describe. Above is a drawing by an 11-year-old boy, representing what he saw in his room one night at age 4. The top drawing represents the creature's belt.

lished May 14 in *The Wall Street Journal*.

"There are many types of contact that can take place with either the craft and/or the occupants," Anderson said. "And most of the contactees have been traumatized. They're afraid to remember. They're afraid to talk about it because when they do, people tell them they've just had a weird dream. But the memories and the trauma are still there. They need to know other people have experienced similar situations."

He hopes to start a support group for them.

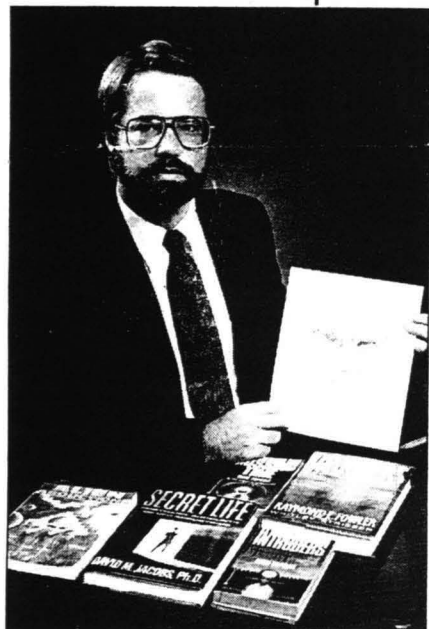
## ONE ALIEN RACE PREVAILS

Anderson said his intensive studies about extraterrestrials began in 1989 as a result of having several clients relay similar stories to him about abductions by extraterrestrials.

"It seems like the abduction stories feature one particular race, the 'Grays,' whose behavior is consistent," Anderson said. "They have a grayish tint to their skin. They take you against your will. And most reports indicate visiting a sterile observation room. Abductees experience an internal freeze, where they can't move their body but are aware of what's going on around them."

"Abductees report that the beings have mouths, but that they don't speak through them. They communicate with a super-potent form of telepathy that sounds like a voice loud and clear inside their heads. People also report an incredible amount of intelligence coming through their eyes and a lot of mind control."

"Everyone consistently says there appears to be no emotions to them at all," Anderson said. "Abductees also report being examined, like a physical. They say the beings are most interested in human sexuality and are harvesting human sperm and ovum to create a hybrid race. That sounds crazy. Supposedly, they're taking the genetic structure of humans and crossing it with the genetic structure of their race, which has no emotion and no way of reproducing anymore. That may be the reason for mysterious pregnancies that occur



Tom H. Anderson, a self-described "spiritual counselor," has interviewed 13 people about their experiences with UFOs or aliens.

ANNETTE GILLESPIE  
Herald Staff Writer

he phenomena are universal. Literally.

International stories and sightings of extraterrestrials and unidentified flying objects are riding a big wave of media exposure with such recent television movies as *Intruders*, a CBS miniseries based on Harvard psychiatrist John E. Mack. Mack is one example of a new generation of professional counselors for people who say they

have been traumatized during alleged encounters with or abductions by extraterrestrials.

Tom H. Anderson, a self-described "spiritual counselor" who works out of his home in Sarasota, has interviewed 13 people about their experiences with UFOs or aliens. He currently is counseling three individuals.

"I am counseling an 11-year-old boy who has been so frightened of the dark after an encounter he had at age 4," Anderson said. "He drew me a picture of a being that appeared to him in his room that particular night. He doesn't remember much after that. But he is very adamant about what he saw. He was referred to me because doctors have dismissed it as a nightmare or his imagination."

Anderson believes there are many people who have had encounters with extraterrestrials.

Roper Organization polls sponsored by the Intruders Foundation and the Fund for UFO Research show that "one of every 50 American adults — some 3.7 million people — indicate they may have had an abduction experience with an unidentified flying object," according to an article pub-

Although Anderson believes his clients' stories, some local mental health professionals say these "encounters" can be explained; however, they refused to comment when contacted by *The Bradenton Herald*.

Dr. Matthew Edlund, clinical director of Sarasota Palms Hospital and medical director of the West Coast Regional Sleep Disorder Center, said there are physiological reasons to explain why people believe they have had encounters with aliens.

"Most of the time people say this happens at night," Edlund said. "And it happens when people have had considerable sleep deprivation or during a dream state."

"People can have hypnopompic hallucinations when they're waking up or hypnagogic hallucinations when they're falling asleep. They may visualize images or faces."

"And they will strongly believe that they have absolutely experienced what was only a hallucination. That can happen to perfectly normal people."

Anderson believes the extraterrestrials do not "pick people at random." He said they seek out particular individuals who "are part of their genetic family."

He also emphasized that of the abduction cases he has studied, no one was physically endangered or killed, but many "contactees" suffer "post-abduction stress syndrome."

Symptoms, according to Anderson, include: alienation, lack of trust, fear of control, unstable emotions, panic attacks and a fear of going to sleep or sleeping alone.

Although accounts of alleged abductions by extraterrestrials abound, skepticism from the academic, professional and public arena is commonplace.

"It's bizarre, isn't it?" Anderson said. "I don't care that much about trying to prove that this is right but, ultimately, just helping people deal with the memories."

Anderson understands skepticism: "If I didn't believe, I'd say there were vivid imaginations all over the place."

(continued on page 7)



## Four women share their close encounters

### Believing can put strain on family

ANNETTE GILLESPIE  
Herald Staff Writer

**F**rances Breen says the topic of unidentified flying objects is something "you keep under your hat and don't talk about with everyone." Breen has been studying UFOs and related subjects since her first UFO sighting in 1966.

"I've also had more encounters here at my home," Breen said during an interview at her Sarasota residence. Breen, originally from Boston, Mass., moved to Sarasota in 1969.

"My first sighting happened one night with a friend of mine," she said. "We were going to a bon voyage party south of Boston. We were stopped at a traffic light and I looked up and saw a light



Breen: hard to tell others

slumped like a banana. It started to move back and forth, so I knew it wasn't a plane. And it was below quite a heavy cloud cover.

"I didn't say anything, but the next day there was an article on the front page of our local newspaper, *The Quincy Ledger*," she said. "The story was about a local woman's account of her sighting, which she reported about 30 minutes after I saw it. I was able to get in touch with her and agreed to call the newspaper to corroborate her story."

Breen was a member of the New England UFO Study Group for people interested in UFO sightings and encounters. She is interested in forming a support group with Tom Anderson.

Breen described a "close encounter" that happened the night of Jan. 28, 1988, in her bedroom.

"There was this tall creature dressed in a black robe standing to the right side of my bed," she said. "It stuck two fingers in my mouth. I also felt a spaghetti-thin instrument, what I'm guessing is what was used to possibly obtain saliva samples. It was really uncomfortable and I couldn't move; however, after really concentrating, I was able to say, 'In the name of Jesus the Christ, leave me alone!' and that's all I remember. I was sore under the tongue the next day though."

Breen thinks her husband believes her stories now, but doesn't like to talk about the subject. She also will not discuss her encounters with her best friend because "it makes her uncomfortable."

"The experiences are difficult to share, because there's nothing to have in your hand to show people," she said. "It's just based on what you see."

"I know that it must be very tough on close relationships when one person experiences encounters and the other doesn't believe them. It can really put a strain on a family."

### The loss of control is frightening

ANNETTE GILLESPIE  
Herald Staff Writer

**Y**vonne Beck of Siesta Key said even her husband does not believe any of her eerie encounters with extraterrestrials.

"We've been married for eight years but have been together for 17," she said during a telephone interview. "It's so hard to believe... even when it happens to you. It's so bizarre. No wonder it's difficult for people to come forward."

Beck, a 52-year-old interior designer, first remembers having encounters in the 1970s.

"I can't remember being 'on board' or anything," she said, laughing. "But I do know that during these encounters, you have no control. That's the frightening part. I remember wanting to scream, but couldn't. I felt like my larynx was frozen. I think they 'contain' you so you don't hurt yourself during what would be a fight-or-flight reaction."

"The encounters occur mostly at night. You have no concept of time when you're sleeping. You may have an encounter and have no idea how long you've been gone. I've always been an active dreamer, but this isn't like a nightmare for me."

Beck admits her most memorable encounter is a bizarre one.

"It happened in the middle of the night of Feb. 5 of this year," she said. Her husband was asleep in another bedroom. "I had a very different encounter. The blankets were bellowing, like a wind was coming through the room. When I woke up, I was nude and my body was straight up and I was resting on my shoulders. I saw this entity — I guess that's what you'd call it — standing between my legs. I couldn't tell if it was male or female. I couldn't move. I can describe it as being very similar to a gynecological exam. And then that's all I remember."

"That next morning when I woke up, I was hemorrhaging so bad it was like that of a miscarriage. It was making me sick."

Her gynecologist was out of town, but the office nurse took a blood test and found Beck to be anemic. When the doctor examined her the next week he told her "my condition was very unusual and that my uterus was swollen to that of a three-month pregnancy state."

Beck, who describes herself as a cautious person, said she could chalk this particular experience up to coincidence; however, she discussed other reports of both men and women experiencing examinations during encounters and some women experiencing false pregnancies afterward.

"I was frightened at first," Beck said. "Then I went through a denial phase. Now, I feel that the encounters are a positive experience and that these entities are just here to gather information and are not here to harm us. I might like to try hypnosis someday to remember more, but the encounters don't frighten me anymore, so I'm in no hurry to try it."

doesn't work all that well with me. I've got a strong, analytical mind — I used to be a commercial finance officer."

Kayser, now an art consultant, said that Anderson likened her stories to those of other patients.

"He did say that I kept saying (under hypnosis) that I didn't want to leave pretty, green, emotional Earth," she said. "That's because I remember that the environment in my encounters is sterile and that the beings have no emotion."

Kayser said her first encounter was a week-long stint of nightly appearances by "the visitors" in 1976.

"The first night, I was taken (from the bedroom) down a hallway, what I think now must have been a craft. There were doors on both sides. It was very sterile. Six short, gray beings were leading me. I didn't make out any facial

### Contacts exciting, not frightening

ANNETTE GILLESPIE  
Herald Staff Writer

**S**ara Quackenboss of Odessa dismisses UFO skeptics with her belief that others share similar encounters with extraterrestrials.

"It's not just my story," she emphasized. "It's happened to thousands of people."

Quackenboss, 42, said she would like to remember more about her encounters and has undergone hypnosis four times by different hypnotists without much success.

Although she discusses some of her experiences with Sarasota counselor Tom Anderson, she has not sought his help for hypnosis.

"I get a pain in the back of my head when I try to remember what happened," she said. "It's a specific point, like a column of energy, that gets more painful further into hypnosis. I can't explain it, but I'm not hypnotized easily."

Quackenboss, born in Washington, D.C., lived in Michigan and Colorado before moving to Florida in 1986. Her first memorable encounter with an unidentified flying object (UFO) happened at age 11 in Michigan.

"I spent the night at a girlfriend's house one

Saturday night and left her house at 12:15 p.m. that next afternoon," she said. "My parents didn't know what time I would be walking home so they weren't worried about me. It would normally be about a 15-minute leisurely walk, but I arrived at my house over two hours later."

She explained that "missing time" is one symptom common with encounters.

"I remember seeing a huge saucer-shaped object overhead in the sky," she said. "Even at age 11, it took my breath away and I knew it was a UFO. It seemed about the size of a football field. I just couldn't believe how big it was. I kept staring. I remember walking home and thinking that no one was going to believe me, so I didn't tell anyone."

Quackenboss, a seventh-grader at the time, said that three ninth-grade boys corroborated her story the next morning on the school bus.

"When they boarded, they were all excited and one said, 'Did you see the UFOs yesterday?'" she said. "One boy said yes and that his parents had seen them, too. That really made me feel better in knowing that I was not alone in seeing it. I really didn't talk about it again until I was in high school."

She also said she was more excited than frightened about seeing the UFO: "There's such a strangeness to them."

"This happened in the middle of the day," she said. "I know what I saw. It was not a mistake."

features, they were just images. I was led into a room. There was a taller, darker image at the far end of the room. The other gray beings circled around me. I remember it was ice-cold. And I remember yelling for help, but no words came out.

"At the end of that week, I was so exhausted from trying to stay awake at night. I was afraid to go to sleep. I thought that if I stayed awake that they would not visit me," she explained.

"The last night, they were circled around my bed — the short, gray ones and the taller, darker one. From the way they were circled around me, I felt like they wanted something sexual. You hear in different books and articles that supposedly these beings have no way of reproducing and they are conducting experiments with humans."

Kayser said her former husband was asleep beside her and when she shook him he did not respond. That is all she remembers.

"After that particular night, I just had a really strong, unexplainable feeling that it was all over. But I didn't tell a soul for years."

Kayser, who says she has ongoing encounters, also discussed an unexplained pregnancy after undergoing a tubal ligation procedure. "I know sometimes the operation isn't successful, but I didn't have any problems. I don't know if that was a coincidence or not," she said.

"I don't know what I believe and what I don't believe. If none of this is true, people really shouldn't laugh at people who say they have had encounters. Because I can guarantee that most were scared to death when it happened. Now I just try to think of them as new neighbors or a new race of people that have been able to find us, like Columbus found America."

### Memory loss is a sign of trauma

ANNETTE GILLESPIE  
Herald Staff Writer

**S**haron Kayser, who recently relocated to Reno, Nev., from Tarpon Springs, was referred to Tom Anderson for counseling about her experiences and abductions by extraterrestrials.

"I'm a rational, open-minded person, but I also analyze everything — especially with these experiences," Kayser said during a telephone interview. "When I saw the movie *Intruders* on television, it just made everything even scarier. It made me face the reality that what has happened to me has happened to other people."

Kayser, 43, explained that a lack of total memory recall about encounters is a common symptom among people who have experienced them.

"I think the memory block is comparable to anything traumatic that happens to you," she said. "For example, in cases of people being raped or molested as a child, the mind completely blocks it from the memory. I went through regression with him (Anderson) and it helped some. But hypnosis

# 36 years later, memories of Whitsett UFO

## Residents remember 'wispy angel hair' falling

By JIM WICKER  
Times-News

More than 36 years have passed, but the memory of a startling UFO sighting in Whitsett remains as clear as the October afternoon that the incident occurred.

"Everybody was scared and excited," recalls Jenny Ingle, a life-long resident of the community.

She said she was among the scores of people, including most of the student body at Whitsett Elementary School, who witnessed the unusual event.

"I'm convinced we're being visited by extraterrestrial beings; I'm sure something is happening," says Dr. H.D. Lambeth of Elon College, who was principal of the Whitsett school in 1955 and an eyewitness to the still-unexplained incident.

Lambeth, who later became a psychologist at East Carolina University, said he saw eight UFOs that "looked like shiny steel balls" high in the air above the school that afternoon.

"I was a navigator (with the Air Force) during World War II," Lambeth said. In his military role, he was also an observer. "I had a pair of binoculars in my car, and I got them and looked at the UFOs," he said.

At the same time the UFOs were

passing over Whitsett, according to both Ingle and Lambeth, a large amount of "wispy angel hair" matter fell around the school area.

"Before I knew it, one of the children tasted some of the stuff," Lambeth said, recalling the child said it tasted salty. He added that samples of the fine matter, which some people thought was a synthetic textile fiber, were sent to a Burlington Industries lab and examined.

"The lab people said the samples were a protein matter and were not any kind of synthetic substance known to man," Lambeth said.

He is convinced there was a connection between the falling angel hair and the simultaneous passing of the UFOs.

But there something else, Lambeth says, that was never explained: As the UFOs passed, several students and teachers saw a small, gold-bronze colored object fall into a nearby wooded area. Despite a search, he said, the object was never found.

The UFO incident, which occurred Oct. 27, 1955, resulted in the school's 120 students being dismissed early that afternoon, and in worldwide publicity that brought a few inquiries from foreign countries, Lambeth said. One of

## sightings vivid



the letters he received was from the Italian Navy.

Lambeth said he took a lot of kidding for a while from friendly skeptics he met at his barber shop and at local service stations, but he knew he'd seen something unusual over Whitsett. Ingle said she, too, saw the UFOs, as did her son Tony, who was then a student at the school, and two of her grandchildren.

"There was something mysterious that occurred later," Lambeth said.

A sample of the angel hair he had carefully wrapped and placed in his wallet for safe-keeping disappeared without explanation.

Ingle, a senior citizen, said the UFO sighting was the only one to occur in the community, to her knowledge, and the objects have not returned.

But Kathy York of Burlington is not so sure.

She said she and a friend, Jackie Chambers, saw a strange object in the sky between Burlington and Whitsett "one Sunday evening about 15 years ago."

While she says "some people might think I'm crazy, I know what I saw, and my friend saw it, too. We were going on I-85 toward Burlington when we

saw it. I kept changing shapes and I tried to get Jackie to stop so I could get a closer look at it, but she wouldn't and said not to look at it and maybe it would go away."

Although there have been numerous reports of UFO sightings in the Piedmont over the years, not all have been as mysterious as they first appeared to be, says former newspaperwoman Pat Bailey of Snow Camp.

"On an election night in the early 1970s, a lot of people coming out of the courthouse in Graham thought they were seeing a UFO when something passed in the sky overhead."

But it turned out it was only a plane that had been rigged with lights for some kind of a promotion," she recalls.

Both Bailey and Alamance County Sheriff Richard Frye say there have also been a few incidents in the past in which weather balloons and garbage bags launched by pranksters have been mistaken for UFOs.

Back in the late 1960s and early '70s, Bailey said, some people would fill light colored plastic garbage bags with hot air, place a candle in them and send them into the sky at night "as jokes to try to fool people into thinking they'd seen UFOs."

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - July 17, 1992

# UFO Dances In Sky For TV Camera Crew

## Jacksonville Cameras Record Object Glowing Above Bay

by Bland Pugh

Yet another TV crew on assignment from Jacksonville, FL, has come to Gulf Breeze in search of the "UFO", and they were not disappointed. The "Research Team" gathered at the Southwest end of the Three Mile bridge for its nightly vigil, the weather was perfect, the moon shown brightly, and a gentle breeze was blowing across the bay. Approximately 20 people sat around as Lori Aragon of Channel 12, Jacksonville, moved from person to person interviewing and gathering information. Then just as if on cue, the "Gulf Breeze UFO" made its appearance. Lori's cameraman was able to capture the sighting on video, as were the "MUFON INVESTIGATORS", still pictures were also taken. The sighting was to the Northeast, the object was very

low on the horizon, appearing first as a very dim red light, it increased in intensity, pulsing as it moved upwards and towards us, after approximately 4 minutes it turned brilliant white before going out as if by rheostat.

The TV crew visited Vidalia, GA, prior to their trip to Gulf Breeze, investigating reported sightings there. They interviewed several local MUFON members and witnesses from the Vidalia area before coming here. It seems that the "Gulf Breeze UFO" knows when a camera crew is here, since the first of the year the "UFO" has batted 1000 making appearances on every occasion, allowing video's to be taken. Every TV crew has been successful with one exception, this being a cameraman that was so excited he was unable to

find the "UFO" in his viewfinder until one of the "Research Team" told him to "take your camera off of zoom until you have it in the viewfinder, then zoom back into it for a closeup."

Reports about the July 4 sighting continue to come in on our Hotline 438-3261....a report came in on our WCOA radio talk program from a gentleman that videoed the UFO while watching the fireworks from the docks near "Joe Patti Seafood". Two reports of daylight sightings are currently under investigation, one being on the beach, the other in Alabama. The "Skywatchers" continue at both Shoreline Park South and the Southwest end of the Three Mile Bridge. We welcome anyone wishing to join us, for more information call our Hotline 438-3261.

NEWS-LEADER, Springfield, MO - July 3, 1992 CR: J. Carpenter

# UFO meet promises to sway 'Doubting Thomases'



Al  
Carlson

There are so many people who claim to have spotted UFOs — or ridden in a flying saucer — that they seemingly outnumber skeptics like myself.

I've never experienced a close encounter of the third kind, although I once shook hands with Oral Roberts.

John Carpenter has an antidote for incredulity. He promises the Midwest Conference on UFO Research this fall in Springfield will help transform Doubting Thomases with at least a modicum of intelligence into True Believers.

"I would encourage any skeptical person to attend," said Carpenter, a Springfield social worker who is on the board of the 4,000-member international Mutual UFO Network. "If they sit through the whole thing, they will come out with a different perspective. It's kind of like, 'Take a challenge.'"

"I've gotten feedback from other people, and they say we've got the best lineup for the entire country for the whole year. Our main goal is to educate, to bring the best data from the best sources. The tabloids and all that really muddy the waters. This is the good stuff. This is the real story."

It will be told by 10 speakers, among them an Emmy-winning documentary producer, a laser-optics physicist for the Navy and the person Carpenter calls "the Ted Koppel of UFO investigations."

No speakers with pointy ears. No one with webbed feet. No TV antennas protruding from heads. No one like the Chicago resident who showed up at an Arizona convention last year claiming to be the interplanetary traveler Omneec Onec.

The Springfield conference will discuss abduction research; patterns sculpt-

ed into crop fields; UFO encounters with U.S. jets; monuments on Mars; and other topics. Speakers will include:

■ Linda Howe. "A Strange Harvest," her documentary on animal mutilations, won an Emmy in 1980.

■ Bruce Maccabee. The Navy physicist analyzes photos of UFOs.

■ George Knapp (a.k.a. "Ted Koppel"). Knapp produced a documentary that focused on a scientist who had been involved in the U.S. government's secret testing of recovered UFOs at a site about 100 miles north of Las Vegas, Nev. Carpenter said two people in Springfield have friends who worked there.

The conference will be held Sept. 18-20 at University Plaza Hotel. Cost is \$35 per person through Sept. 12, \$40 after. For more information, call 882-6847.

People from as far away as Minnesota,

California, New York and Florida have inquired about the conference.

Interest in the Ozarks seems assured. A Springfield man recalled his childhood encounter with aliens and their crashed ship for a Fox Network program last year. A Mount Vernon couple say they've talked to aliens and been in UFOs. People trek to Northview to view mysterious lights.

Carpenter expects the conference to draw 400-500 of the committed and the curious, but not the cynical.

"Most skeptics won't go. They don't want their world shook up. A lot of people have trouble hearing things they can't explain or have control over."

Al Carlson is a copy editor for The News-Leader. His column appears each Friday.



## Please Listen, Mr. Mayor

Mr. Mayor, Pensacola/Gulf Breeze has been on national and international TV many times. Articles have appeared in many papers all over the USA, Europe, Asia and South America on the UFO activity in Gulf Breeze. Just about every night you can find people, from here and far, at the end of the bridge, Shoreline Park and the beach on sky watches with some pretty sophisticated equipment. Your position, when last reported, is that you don't believe that UFO's exist. That's fine; but, please pay attention. I get calls and letters from all over the country about UFO sightings. Weekend visitors from most of the neighboring states who come here strictly on the chance that they might see a UFO spend a lot of time and money locally. Many ask about what facilities are available and where can they go to see a UFO? Naturally, I help out as much as I can. Many plan their vacations here in hope of seeing a UFO. Several said that they prefer our Gulf Breeze, to other areas in Florida because of the sightings. The beaches may have some influence there as well. Would you believe that Gulf Breeze has been referred to in the media as "The UFO Center of the World"? I hope that this doesn't upset you too much; but, a fact is a fact and it can't be ignored.

Now Mr. Mayor, as a banker, you understand money. The majority of the people who call want to know where Gulf Breeze is located. Those responsible for the research and documentation of Ufology in this area have brought more people here than any other local organization. In my opinion, I think that deserves your attention since the influx of money that UFO publicity brings to Gulf Breeze will continue to attract more and more people.

I would like for you to place Gulf Breeze in a promotional mode in order to attract more visitors. Unfortunately, when I'm asked about the support that the city gives to the UFO sightings, I have to tell the truth. This utterly confounds people.

Our little city is known all over this country and many parts of the world as a result of UFO exposure. There are many towns, Mr. Mayor, who would love to be in such an enviable position. Our media exposure, to name a few are: Unsolved Mysteries (several times), Inside Edition, CBS, Hard Copy, A&E "In Search Of", A Current Affair, PBS and many newspapers in this country and overseas.

Surely Sir, you can no longer ignore this type of publicity. Don't you think that it's about time for you to publicly acknowledge the existence of UFO's? You don't have to say that you've changed your mind. As a matter of fact, you should support your position. That's as American as baseball and apple pie. I have no problem with that. But, the bottom line, Sir, is that you are the official spokesman for Gulf Breeze and the senior official. Also, in my opinion, the majority of the people of our city are UFO believers. Therefore, as the representative of the Gulf Breeze people and the surrounding communities, please give official support to the people who are conducting and documenting UFO sightings. These sightings are going on every night and documented two to three times each week. If you would offer a proclamation on the subject, a UFO week; or, any acknowledgment of some sort, would help.

Mr. Mayor, UFO watchers and believers are taxpayers. If you continue to ignore the subject, these same taxpayers will demand an accounting at some time. Many of those folks are prominent business Gulf Breeze people. I would appreciate an audience with you, or a rebuttal in this paper, on the subject. For your information, the Gulf Breeze

SUN HERALD, Biloxi, MS - July 24, 1992 CR: W. Clendenon



Charles Hickson autographs a copy of his book "UFO Contact at Pascagoula" that he gave to Biloxi Mayor Pete Halat on Thursday as Halat and Dick Wilson, head of Biloxi's Cultural Affairs Department, look on.

Thursdays as Halat and Dick Wilson, head of Biloxi's Cultural Affairs Department, look on.

## Close encounters of the Coast kind

### UFO meeting subject of movie to be filmed

By KEN FINK

THE SUN HERALD

■ A Louisiana woman hopes to snatch filmgoers with her movie on the abduction of Charles Hickson, who claims to have beamed aboard an alien craft on the shores of the Pascagoula River.

At a press conference Thursday in Biloxi, Hickson and executive producer Midge Soderbergh, of Baton Rouge, La., gave few details about the \$10 million feature film, "Snatched," expected to be released by January. Filming is scheduled to begin on the Coast in September and end by late December, but specific sites have not been chosen, nor actors named.

Hickson and fishing buddy Calvin Parker claim they were taken aboard the UFO on Oct. 11, 1973. UFO fervor heightened after published reports about their adventure aboard the spacecraft, in which Hickson said he was examined by beings who communicated by "buzzing" sounds. They were in-

side the craft about an hour, he said.

Hickson, a steel construction contractor on the Coast, would not discuss other encounters — including one six months ago — he has had in the past 20 years.

Soderbergh did say that "some of his experiences and how they occurred have a lot to do with our children and the future of their survival."

In past interviews with The Sun Herald, Hickson predicted that by the end of 1982, "we won't know this world. We'll be in a different world next year. Wait and see."

In another interview in 1990, he said that "in 1992, there won't be any doubt that there is another world."

Why has Hickson been chosen for numerous encounters?

"It will all come out in the movie," he said.

"I've had the chance to make movies, but Hollywood wanted to fantasize it. I couldn't go along with that. Midge is capable of bringing my feelings to the screen."

Soderbergh said she had similar experiences during a Gulf expedition when she witnessed magnetic anomalies and unexplained lights, but she was never abducted.

About 1,000 people will be hired for the

film in August and most will be Coast residents.

Soderbergh's son, Steven, directed the 1989 film, "sex, lies and videotape," his first major motion picture. He is not involved with "Snatched," his mother said.

The film will be partly based on the 1983 book, "UFO: Contact at Pascagoula," by Hickson and William Mendez. Ed Conroy, a San Antonio, Texas, author, is writing the screenplay. Funding for the movie came from people interested in the phenomenon.

This will be Soderbergh's second attempt at film production. In 1978, she did a documentary on turn-of-the-century artist and philosopher Dr. Walter Russell. Soderbergh said parts of it were used on the PBS documentary series Nova.

Negotiations are under way in Los Angeles to find someone to play Hickson. Soderbergh said she is "not at liberty to name the lead role," but that he will be "a major film star."

Walsh Production Company in Bayou Goula, La., will cast and film the movie, for Contact: UFO at Pascagoula Inc. of Atlanta, a corporation through which money is being raised for the filming.

REGISTER STAR, Rockford, IL  
July 7, 1992 CR: S. Mendez

## UFO sighting

In today's column, you'll read a letter from a sailor, who was on board the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1958, and who decades later is seeking information on what he refers to as the "58" UFO sighting. I'd like for you to read his letter and the many interesting documents from this man that I will share with you for the next several days.

If you'd like to share any UFO experiences, I'd like to hear from you, and so would this midshipman, who was so moved by his experience, he still searches some 34 years later.

Dear Mrs. Mroz,

Information enclosed about other crew members that have seen UFOs while aboard the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt CVA-42, I would like to contact anyone who knows about the UFO sightings seen by ships crew members, tracked on radar or any sightings



SUE MROZ

while the ship was commissioned. Copies enclosed of trying to get information from the Navy Dept. and copies of slide film of UFO incident of 1952 taken from the deck of the F.D. Roosevelt while on "Operation Mainbrace." It shows a spherical object in the upper right frame, from just cause Mr. Barry Greenwood. We wrote to Unsolved Mysteries to see if they would be interested in the F.D. Roosevelt's UFO sightings. They wrote back with copy enclosed and please send me a copy of your article of the F.D.R. Sincerely, Chester Grusinski USS F.D.R. CVA-42 1958-60 WIFR-TV's Sue Mroz's column on science and weather appears here weekdays.

Chamber of Commerce has been very cooperative and supportive in this phenomenon.

I would appreciate a response to this appeal.

Respectfully Yours,  
Joe Barron

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT, Boone, NC - July 27, 1992

## UFO buffs to gather

From Democrat Staff Reports

If you have ever seen a UFO, think you might have, or are just interested in the phenomenon, you might want to attend the meeting of the N.C. chapter of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network (MUFON).

The group will be coming to Watauga County Sunday, Aug. 2, for a meeting at Parkway Elementary School. The meeting is scheduled from 1-6 p.m.

MUFON is a statewide group of people who have seen or believe they have seen UFOs.

Chuck Donaghue of Watauga County, state section chairman of MUFON, said he expects anywhere from 50 to 75 people to converge on Parkway School for the meeting.

Donaghue said that the group is serious about exploring UFO sightings and the UFO phenomenon.

"It's real," he said. "It's not spoofing anymore. It's serious."

Donaghue said many people have seen UFOs but are embarrassed or afraid to admit it.

"People are reluctant to speak about them," he said. "It's not mainstream."

Donaghue said MUFON is like a support group, where members can get together and talk about their experiences. But MUFON members also try to analyze what they have seen.

"It's an effort to collect data, to sort through it and to attempt to see what's going on," he said. "This is a safe place to come and talk."

Donaghue said many of the people who have seen UFOs may not realize it.

"The chances are that most of us have seen one," he said.

Donaghue said he was once a skeptic about the existence of UFOs. But he said he has had sightings and believes UFOs exist.

"I'm not a skeptic anymore," he said.

Visitors to the Sunday meeting are welcome but are asked to pay \$2 per person to help cover the food and drink costs for the conference.

CR: G. Fawcett

# UFO believers confident — we are not alone

By TOM ZUCCO  
St. Petersburg Times

CLEARWATER, Fla. — The believers, people like Caryl Dennis who made the leap, say the signs are everywhere.

Look at the recent UFO sightings in Belgium, the Florida Panhandle and dozens of other places, including Haines City, where just in March a policeman said his patrol car was lit up by a giant, green disc hovering overhead.

Then there are the cattle mutilations — where only certain parts of the animals are apparently surgically removed. And the crop circles — strange impressions found in fields worldwide. There are never any tracks leading to or from the sites.

Explain that. And what about the alien abductions? Some say there may have been millions. And apparently the aliens don't just beam you up for a quick peek at the control panels. Several women claim they've become pregnant, only to discover a few months later that the fetus had mysteriously vanished.

No, Dennis and the believers say. It seems pretty conclusive. We are not alone.

And some of us may be a lot closer to the aliens than we think.

In an unassuming house in Clearwater, Caryl Dennis has spent the past 10 years studying UFO sightings and cases of alien abductions.

And trying to get people interested.

She has made it her job. She is an author and lecturer who specializes in colorology (the study of how colors affect people) and ufology.

"It's not about faith; it's about research ... thousands of hours of research," she said, pounding her finger on a stack of notes.

She is sitting in the den of her home, surrounded by books, magazines and boxes of files filled

I can't say people aren't being abducted by beings from another planet who are cross-breeding. But it would be nice to have a single shred of scientific evidence to support it."

— Dr. Gary Posner, Tampa Bay Skeptics

with accounts of sightings and contacts.

"I do this because I can," she said. "I don't have children. I don't have the expenses or responsibilities that other people have. I have the freedom to gather the information."

"And I feel like it's why I'm here."

It didn't hurt that her parents studied UFOs, and that she grew up in what she described as a haunted house.

"Lights would go on and off," she said with a smile, "and we'd see things moving around and hear stairs creaking. People who've lived in the house since researched it and found that everyone else who lived there described the same thing."

"So my perspective is different than most people. I'm much more open to possibilities than a lot of other people are."

When she speaks of aliens, she rarely uses the word they.

Too general a term.

"We have to be careful saying 'they,'" she said, "because we're being interacted with by all kinds of different beings from different planets and different dimensions. Different ones do different things. But it's very consistent, and that's what proves to me that something is going on."

The belief that UFOs might exist is fairly common. It's an understandable quirk of the human psyche, skeptics say.

But the belief that people are routinely taken aboard alien

spacecraft is something most people wouldn't admit even if they did believe it.

Yet Dennis tells of people who reported waking up with scars they didn't have the night before. Or having implants in their bodies that no doctor or scientist could identify.

And then there are the pregnancies.

"One doctor reported he had a female patient with 20 medically confirmed pregnancies that disappeared at three months," Dennis said. "There were lots of others. They have positive pregnancy tests, they have sonograms, and after three months, nothing is there."

Total silence.

"I know," she added. "I thought it was bizarre too, until I started meeting the women who experienced it. And when you talk to them, you know they didn't make it up."

"It seems to happen to women who don't know anything about this. That's what validates so much the reports we get."

"Sometimes it really didn't happen. But lots of times, it does."

Alas, the skeptics are everywhere. These people claim there is a rational explanation — be it weather balloons (UFOs), predators (cattle mutilations) or simply a vivid dream (abductions).

They also say most UFO and alien sightings occur after the release of a UFO or alien TV show or movie, and most of the aliens described have many of the same characteristics — hairless, large

People have come forward, and they're made to look like idiots. There's a man who came forward who said he was working on nine alien space craft in the desert. And now he's gone into hiding to protect himself."

— Caryl Dennis, UFO believer

eyes, a slit for a mouth — as the aliens from planet Hollywood.

In fact, the aliens described usually resemble a cross between E.T., the beings from "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and a creature or two from "The Outer Limits."

Dr. Gary Posner, a St. Petersburg physician and founder of the Tampa Bay Skeptics, a group of about 100 people that investigates claims of paranormal phenomenon including UFO abductions, says people who claim to have been abducted may have been led to think that by a hypnotist.

"I'm fairly well versed in the UFO abduction," Posner said, "and the problem as I see it is that people who are not really trained in psychology or psychiatry or even counseling are proclaiming themselves abduction researchers."

And those researchers, Posner said, often use hypnosis to get people to reveal they were abducted.

"It would then appear," Posner said, "and this has been confirmed, that through leading questions by these hypnotists, the 'victims' are telling the story the hypnotists are, perhaps subconsciously, trying to get them to tell."

"I strongly suspect that if these victims of abduction were actually visiting a psychologist or psychiatrist, people who have no interest in promoting UFO stories or selling books, the findings would be quite different."

Posner says there is a dangerous side to this seemingly harmless fantasy world.

Such experiences "could be

psychologically destructive to the abductees for the rest of their lives," Posner said. "They believe that once you've been abducted, you will continue to be abducted, as will your children. A simple belief in UFOs is harmless enough. But once you become an abductee, you become initiated into a cult in which there is no way out."

"I can't say people aren't being abducted by beings from another planet who are cross-breeding," Posner added. "But it would be nice to have a single shred of scientific evidence to support it."

But therein lies a Catch-22, say the UFO/alien believers.

There is no evidence because so many people are afraid to come forward. And they don't come forward because there is no evidence to support their claims.

Dennis believes there are a legion of people who have seen a UFO or an alien but who won't speak up because of fear of ridicule.

"People have come forward," Dennis said, "and they're made to look like idiots. There's a man who came forward who said he was working on nine alien space craft in the desert. And now he's gone into hiding to protect himself."

"But there's something happening here. And we can deny it all we want, pretend it's not happening and call everybody kooks and liars. But it's not going to change the fact that this is happening, and we're going to have to deal with it one of these days."

She paused, and with certainty, she added: "It wouldn't surprise me if it was real soon."

JOURNAL, Albuquerque, NM - July 12, 1992 CR: T. Adams

## UFOers Market Alien Ideas At Albuquerque Symposium

By Matt Smith

JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

If you've always suspected that life on earth was engineered by space aliens who periodically capture humans and have sex with them, Linda Moulton Howe has a \$45 full-color coffee table book for you.

"It's gone into its second printing," she says.

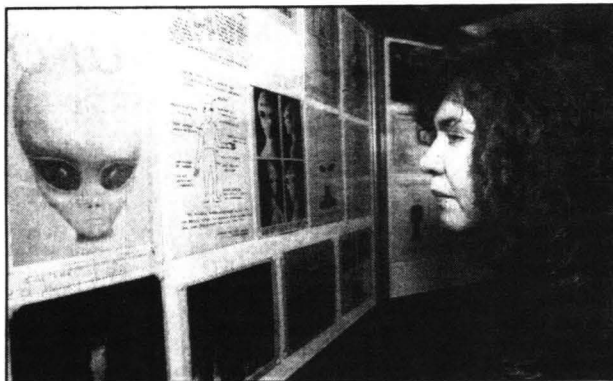
And if you think the U.S. government has conspired to hide the fact that an advanced race of beings lives inside the Earth, which is hollow, Tim Beckley promotes a series of \$85- to \$150-per-customer UFO seminars you can attend.

"I have a book coming out on Jimmy Hendrix and his metaphysical experiences and his experiences with UFOs," says Beckley, who owns Inner Light Publications of New Jersey.

Howe and Beckley were two of an estimated 1,000 people from around the world attending the 23rd annual Symposium of the Mutual UFO Network at the Albuquerque Convention Center Saturday. The network is an international organization with about 4,000 members, says President Walter Andrus.

The symposium, which continues today, began at 9 a.m. Saturday with a speech by Howe, an independent television producer.

Howe's theory, which she conceived after examining mysterious cow deaths in Idaho, Kansas and Colorado, includes ideas held by



JIM THOMPSON / JOURNAL

Marie Yates of Los Angeles studies an artist's rendition of an alien Saturday during a symposium in Albuquerque.

several of the speakers, booksellers and mere faithful at Saturday's conference.

The U.S. government is purposefully hiding the presence of aliens, who for years have been taking genetic samples of humans and even having sex with them, and governments of the world might be secretly waging a war against those aliens, Howe says.

"The government denies it because it is hard to accept the idea that alien life forms have the power to pluck us out and inseminate us in order to create different life forms," she says.

But some attendees at the symposium, who shelled out \$50 apiece to attend, were ready to accept that and more.

Robert Girard, a Florida resident who was retailing books like "Look Up," believes the human race has been bred like cattle to be used by mysterious higher beings, and that they are disappointed with their creations.

That means trouble, Girard says. "What would you do if there were a room full of cockroaches?" he asks. "You'd kill them."

Evidence abounds for government-alien conspiracy theories, according to believers like Girard and Howe.

Howe says after she documented dozens of cattle mutilations in the mid-1980s that scientific evidence showed were likely done by aliens, government agents warned her to stop investigating.

She says she was called to Kirtland Air Force Base in 1983 and was guided through a series of strangely locked doors. Then a man "pulled out several pieces of paper from his desk drawer," she said.

The papers revealed the government had found and concealed six flying saucers during the last 45 years, Howe said.

"I am not aware of any such incident," countered John Clendenin, a spokesman for Kirtland.

Typical, says Howe. "Denial and ridicule are the most important tools the government has," she says.

In her book "Alien Harvest," Howe says aliens are harvesting human flesh, blood and semen in order to create a hybrid race. Alien tinkering has been the source of human evolution all along, she says.

Howe says she has addressed 10 conferences and symposiums so far this year, and she had to practically push through a coterie of fans after her speech Saturday morning.





KENT TODAY, Larkfield, England - June 18, 1992 CR: T. Good

# New group has a mission that's just out of this world



Richard Stepney: "We will check and log reports of UFOs carefully"

A NEW Medway group aims to compile evidence about UFO sightings and paranormal events in Kent and the South East, including the mystery of crop circles. But the members say they are most definitely not a north Kent version of ghostbusters — or cranks. **STUART SOMERS** boldly made his way to North Street, Strood, to investigate.

"I STRESS that we are not cranks," says the man who has pledged to get on the trail of unidentified flying objects, ghosts and assorted phenomena.

Former Hundred of Hoo School pupil Phil McGann, 27, is a member of the Association of UFO and Paranormal Events, which operates from a decidedly terrestrial base at the Lost Ark computer and games shop in North Street, Strood, next door to the Lips ladies' fashion store.

Their mission: to investigate and log UFOs, ghosts, crop circles and other strange experiences. Shop manager Phil said: "We have only just set up the organisation and we are the only such group in the South East of England."

"We have official backing from the London UFO Study Group. There are a lot of people out there who do not believe in such things but there are also many people who believe they have witnessed strange sightings but are too embarrassed to say."

"I won't disbelieve anything unless it is proven wrong, but one thing that really annoys me is the little-green-man-from-outer-space syndrome. "But we just can't be the only planet with life on it. We will investigate sightings throughout Kent and the rest of the South East."

His colleague and friend, Richard Stepney, 24, of Murray Road, Frindsbury, said: "We have had no experiences of UFOs or the paranormal but we have always been interested in the subject."

"Many people say they have seen strange lights in the sky and now we will have a team of investigators who will check and log reports carefully."

Richard, who went to Temple Boys School in Strood, added: "We are not ghostbusters, but we are genuinely interested in UFOs and the paranormal. We will be having lectures and visits when the group is established."

"We can't get rid of a ghost — we can only log it. Some people may laugh at us but that's up to them."

He added: "The word 'alien' is a bit of a cliché these days, but there is no doubt that the evidence of life on other planets is increasing all the time."

"I do not believe that the creatures will have big ears and little bodies, but there have been recent sightings of strange craft from the pilots of aeroplanes."



The group at their headquarters

"The mystery of the crop circles is as yet unexplained and I am convinced that there must be some extra-terrestrial explanation."

Another group member is Lorraine King, 19, of Hawthorn Road, Strood. She said: "I am an art student at Maidstone Art College and I help the group with all the paperwork. I have always been extremely interested in the unexplained."

London UFO Study Group chairman and founder Roy Lake said: "I am delighted that this new group is being set up and I will be visiting them to tell them how to log reports correctly and accurately."

"They have already put me in touch with a lady from Maidstone who claims to have witnessed something strange. I cannot say more because that would breach our confidentiality."

"I definitely saw a UFO over Dagenham in Essex in the early morning of a winter's day in 1969."

"It was like a chandelier in the sky which then became elongated, round, and then it shot off at a fantastic speed."

John Spencer is the vice-chairman of the British UFO Research Association, and author of *The UFO Encyclopedia*, which the new Medway group is using for reference.

Mr Spencer says his association is dedicated to the scientific investigation of UFO phenomena and stresses the importance of an objective approach.

In the introduction to his book, Mr Spencer writes: "Nearly 45 years have passed since the start of the modern era of UFOs, when in 1947 Kenneth Arnold sighted a formation of objects over Mount Rainier in Washington State, USA."

"In that time, tens, perhaps hundreds, of thousands of people have reported seeing UFOs in just about every shape and size; thousands have reported entity sightings of humanoids and creatures."

Mr Spencer believes the evidence proves "beyond a doubt" that the UFO phenomena is real. "The UFO phenomena, it seems to me, is about people; the things they see, and think they see; the things they experience; the things they fear."

● If you claim to have witnessed a UFO or a paranormal event then ring the hotline numbers on Medway 294740 or 081 594 4797.

JOURNAL, Bolton, England - March 12, 1992 CR: T. Good

## Peter puts his alien theories into print

LOWTON author Peter Hough is about to spring into print again with fellow writer Jenny Randles.

Next Thursday (March 19) their book entitled "Looking For The Aliens" will be on sale.

It investigates the interface between the human and the unexplained, the everyday and the other-worldly.

As Peter told The Journal: "There have been lots of books about UFOs, NASA's Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence programme (SETI) and the 'alien' in the literature of horror and science fiction."

"We thought this was wrong. All these ideas about 'aliens' should be brought together and compared, instead of shoving them into separate compartments."

"The bottom line is our imaginative capacity to turn an idea into a reality by going out and looking for proof of alien beings."

The book is based on the authors' many years of experience in the field of UFO research, and makes full use of some quite amazing first hand accounts.

"We examine the evidence for UFO abductions and alleged

crashes of extra terrestrial craft.

"We take a fresh look at Biblical astronauts and present new information on eight photographs depicting alien identities," Peter said.

"Looking For The Aliens" also acknowledges the factual and academic opinions of the scientific establishment.

"NASA were very cooperative with our project and sent us a lot of scientific material, including photographs," Peter explained.

"We also interviewed Professor Sir Graham Smith, head of Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope installation and solicited the professional opinions of sociologists, psychologists and physicists."

The book also explores the images and perceptions of other-world entities as depicted in literature, films and the arts.

"We were very lucky to interview top British horror novelist Ramsey Campbell and science fiction authors David Langford, Bob Shaw and Arthur C Clarke."

"Looking For Aliens" is published simultaneously in soft-back and hardback by Blandford at £8.99 and £14.99 respectively. The book contains over 50 illustrations.

Peter's solo work, "Withcraft - A Strange Conflict", was selected by the Daily Telegraph as amongst their ten most notable paranormal titles of 1991.

GULF NEWS, Dubai - June 8, 1992 CR: T. Good

## Six UFOs 'appear' at ET show

From Our Manila Bureau

PILA-LAGUNA - Six "Unidentified Flying Objects" (UFOs) appeared "on schedule" here on Friday night to cap a symposium dubbed "Extraterrestrial and Identified Flying Objects".

About 1,000 people who gathered at the town plaza here witnessed the "show" by the "UFOs" which a group of "extraterrestrial contacts" claimed to be the spacecrafts of extraterrestrials (ETs) belonging to the "Intergalactic Fleet" according to a local newspaper.

The sighting of the UFOs, which occurred between 7:55 and 8:45 p.m., capped a symposium organised by the ET Club headed by poet Augusta de Almeida, a local resident. Almeida, who claimed to have had contacts with ETs for the past eight years, said the appearance of the UFOs was made possible after she asked through mental telepathy for an appointment with them at 8 p.m. so that those attending the symposium would believe their existence. The first "UFO" appeared five min-

utes ahead of the appointed time and just as Almeida was about to answer a question on tangible and scientific proofs on the existence of ETs. (There they are. They, themselves, answered your question. This is the proof)," she exclaimed.

First to appear was an object that looked like a plane passing hundreds of feet by the side of the town hall.

Almeida said that the "ship" was actually round but had lights like an ordinary airplane "to camouflage itself." The lights at the town plaza were put off and the crowd roared and applauded with the appearance of the first "UFO."

Actor Roy Alvarez, who attended the symposium, cautioned the people against pointing at the "UFOs" because pointed fingers radiate negative force. He said they can point at the UFOs with bended fingers instead.

Three more UFOs, looking like moving stars, passed quickly and then vanished in the skies. They could not hear any sound coming from the objects but Alvarez said this was be-

cause the people were noisy.

The fifth "UFO" looked like a flying saucer with faint red lights that glided across the sky. Last was another set of bright yellow lights that passed quite low by the side of the town hall.

Most of those who witnessed the so-called "appointment with ETs" were the curious, with some coming from Bulacan province and Metro Manila. Most of them left convinced on the existence of UFOs and ETs.

Almeida claimed that there are about 27 million ETs and UFOs, with five million working in this planet on a mission, assisted by ET contacts. The ETs mission, Almeida said, is to evacuate "to space cities" the people on Earth when the planet begin to tilt on its axis.

She said that millions of spacecrafts will descend on Earth and lift everyone who has high vibration frequency on the "Grand Lift."

Almeida identified seven pick-up points during "the Grand Lift." These are: Paoay Cathedral in Ilocos Norte; St. Joseph Church in La

Trinidad, Benguet; San Andres Church in Candaba, Pampanga; a Floating in Dagupan; in Pila, Laguna; Penafraancia Church in Naga City; Daraga Church in Daraga, Albay; and San Miguel Church in Irosin, Sorsogon.

She said that those who will be picked up during the "lift" are the people who have the positive qualities of love, mercy, compassion, selflessness, charity, humility, patience, generosity, faith, forgiveness and spiritual devotion. She said these qualities increase vibration frequency.

Almeida said that the ET soldiers look like the "ET" in the Steven Spielberg movie "E.T." with large eyes, nose and ears and small height. But those who are higher in command look like handsome men. She claimed to have seen one ET that looks like a man.

She said that she communicates with ET through mental telepathy and that other people can also see the ETs and communicate with them if they have high vibration frequencies.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD GAZETTE, Herts., England - June 4, 1992

## Close encounters heading our way?

BEINGS from outer space could be targeting Dacorum for a landing, a local UFO group has claimed.

The Associated Research Team which is mounting a vigil for possible sightings says the landing could take place at any time.

A spokesman for the group said: "There has been an increase in crop circles in the Dacorum area over the past three years. There could be a close encounter in the Dacorum area, especially out towards Tring and Wilsone."

The spokesman also claimed that an unexplained high-pitched whining sound had been heard by residents in the Bourne End area recently.

Green flares and coloured spheres floating in the sky had also been seen around the county, including the Dacorum area, said the spokesman.

CR: T. Good

## Satanists linked to bizarre 'find' by crop circle watch

# RIDDLE OF THE HACKED HORSE

In the early hours of Sunday July 29, 1990, a white horse was found dead beside a huge crop circle hoax near Westbury. Some say the horse died of natural causes . . . others that it was brutally mutilated. DEBORAH HENDERSON reports.

**A**N INVESTIGATOR into the supernatural believes Satanists sacrificed a horse at a Wiltshire beauty spot.

Clive Potter says a dangerous black occult group called the Friends of Hecate could be responsible for butchering and mutilating a white horse that was found dead at Bratton, near Westbury.

The horse, which allegedly had its left ear and genitals hacked off, was discovered two years ago near the scene of Operation Blackbird - the three-week-long £1 million crop circle watch set up by circles researchers Colin Andrews and Pat Delgado.

Mr Potter, a researcher for Pendragon - a group which investigates anomalous phenomena and an investigator for the British UFO Research Association - claims that the bizarre incident has been hushed up.

"Despite all my inquiries, and much to my surprise, I have encountered what seems like a cover-up, although I am loathe to use a term like that," he said.

**M**r Potter says the horse was discovered by two men, Eddie and Vince (who have both requested anonymity), who travelled from their West Midlands home to Bratton to watch for crop circles.

Eddie and Vince, who are the only eyewitnesses to come forward, were camping on the White Horse Hill. On the morning of Sunday July 29 they got up and went out to find a toilet.

While searching, they came across a shape in a field at the bottom of a steep horseshoe-shaped valley at the rear of the famous hill. On closer inspection it turned out to be a horse lying dead on its left side with its feet caught up in a fence.

"Its sex organ had been clearly removed, along with its left ear," said Eddie.

"The horse could have died only a couple of hours before our discovery as there was still a mass of foam protruding from each nostril. Also rigor mortis was only just beginning to set in."

Eddie claimed that the horse had clearly struggled, as evidenced by hoof marks in the ground. There was no blood to be found, other than a spot about the size of a 10p piece about four feet away.

**E**ddie and Vince immediately told another circle researcher, who in turn contacted Wiltshire Police as well as the Blackbird team.

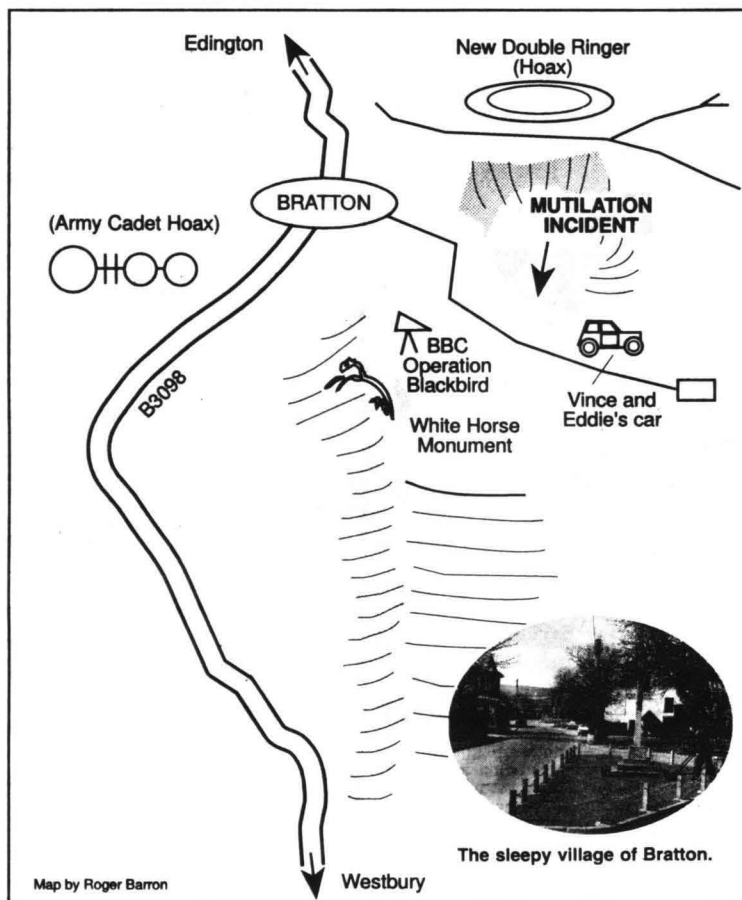
"Eddie and Vince were allowed to enter the Blackbird site and describe what they had discovered," said Mr Potter. "They were then escorted back to the animal by stewards, the site manager and people dressed in military uniform."

"No-one else was allowed to visit this site until after the police had arrived and removed the carcass."

Mr Potter believes the mutilations were the gruesome work of a black occult group such as the Friends of Hecate, "who are known to be based in Wiltshire."

He says not only is the symbolism of a white horse important, but also the fact that the sacrifice took part near the crop watch site.

"I believe that whoever did this thing was trying to propitiate some spiritual force that many believe is behind the crop circles phenomenon."



The site at Bratton where researcher Clive Potter says the horse was found.

## This is what people say

**Colin Andrews, co-ordinator of Operation Blackbird:** He said that the whole incident had been "hyped up".

He said he had been approached by another crop circles researcher who said she had heard about a horse that had been mutilated.

"I suppose I should have looked into it, but I was committed to my operation. I didn't witness anything myself, but I followed it up with the police sergeant who told me, with some conviction, that the horse had run into a fence and had a heart attack."

"No part of the animal's body had been removed. I am sure that had there been anything seriously wrong, the police would have said so."

**Wiltshire Police:** A spokesman told the Evening Advertiser that he could not trace any record of the alleged white horse incident and that nobody at Westbury police station could remember it.

Mr Potter also wrote to Wiltshire Police asking for information last December. In a letter dated December 17, 1991, Acting Superintendent Steven Coxhead at sub-divisional headquarters in Trowbridge replied: "I have checked our records and inquired of the local officers, but can find no trace of any such incident."

**TV producer and circles researcher John McNish:** "The horse died of natural causes. After it

died someone did a couple of very nasty things to it. Colin Andrews checked it with the police."

**Dr Terence Meaden, of the Circles Effect Research Group:** "At first there was no talk about the mutilated horse. Everything was kept very quiet. It was only much later that we got to hear about it."

**Paul Fuller, an investigator with the British UFO Research Association:** "The whole thing is very distasteful. Crop circles tend to attract a lunatic fringe."

"Last summer a similar incident allegedly happened at Alton Barnes when a mutilated sheep was found lying on an altar."

## Alien theory for corn circles

BRITAIN'S controversial corn circles could be the work of an intelligent life force from outer space.

The world's first conference into the crop circle phenomenon at Winchester yesterday heard that the hundreds of circles could be an educational test from another planet.

George Wingfield, from the Centre for Crop Circle Studies, told the conference: "It is arrogant to assume that all the circles must be the work of human hoaxers."

"It is difficult for people to understand but I think that we are looking at the work of an intense being from another universe."

The two-day conference at King Alfred's College heard from other members who believe the mysterious circles contain healing properties.

Research costing Project Argus £20,000 is already underway in the Wiltshire triangle, where circles are studied and samples taken away for research.

Work already carried out - just week's into this year's crop circle season - has apparently revealed new details never found before.

## 'White light in sky' puzzle

BRIGHT lights in the sky startled a South Lynn man late on Sunday night but left him unsure whether it was a "close encounter".

Mr Alan Parsons of Wisbech Road, South Lynn, described the scene: "It was a bright white light, very high in the sky over towards Gaywood. I thought it was a star but it was too big for a star. It was as big as the moon but it was in the other direction."

He was outside his girlfriend's house, also in Wisbech Road, shortly after midnight when he spotted the huge white light moving very slowly across the sky.

By the time he called his girlfriend to look the light had disappeared with a flash, leaving an orange trail in the sky for a few brief seconds.

**BRIGHT**

Mr Parsons estimated the light was in sight for less than 30 seconds. He admitted it could have been a flare although he thought it was too high in the sky and too bright.

Unconvinced the object was a bona fide UFO, Mr Parsons said: "I don't know what it was. I was just amazed and taken aback by it."

RAF Marham had no aircraft flying at the time nor had they received any other reports of strange sightings.

Coastguards at Yarmouth said white flares were sometimes used to acknowledge vessels in distress but said none were set off or reported on Sunday.

● Did you see it? Have you had a close encounter? Contact Karl Penhaul at the Lynn News, (0553) 761188, ext 4626.

## Wasn't seeing things, just horseshoes

Canadian Press

ST. ADOLPHE, Man. — What Wilfred Younger saw in the field from his kitchen window went against the grain.

Those confounding crop circles were back but this time they were in the shape of horseshoes, just south of Winnipeg.

"He called me over to see if he was seeing

things but he wasn't," said his wife Roberta. There were eight or nine horseshoe-shaped figures, she said. "It's just weird."

The patches of flattened grass ranged from 12 to 18 metres (35 to 55 feet) wide.

"I'm a real skeptic about these kinds of things but you have to wonder," she said.

In most cases, areas of wheat and corn fields are flattened to form patterns.

Winnipeg UFO researcher Guy Westcott said he doesn't believe they're a hoax.

"They really can't be man-made, there's no way to do it without leaving a trail through the field," said Westcott, who plans to visit the latest sighting.

A more likely explanation is bubbles of ionized air bursting in the fields, leaving the rings behind, he said.



By MATTHEW CHAPMAN

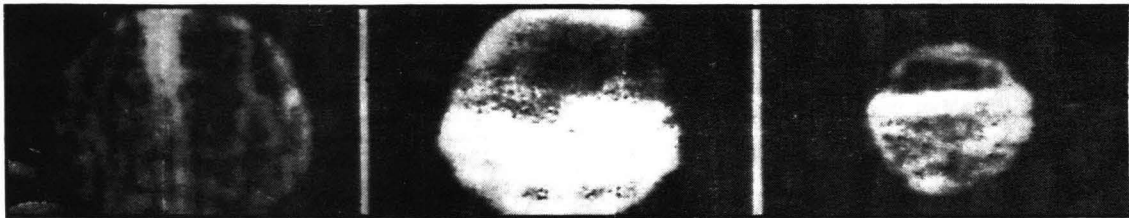
ON A CLEAR summer's afternoon a glider pilot is circling slowly in the skies above RAF St Athan in South Glamorgan with only a gentle breeze disturbing his progress.

Suddenly to his right he sees a large flash in the sky and looks over expecting to see another aircraft flying alongside him. Instead he saw what he later described as a small black, egg shaped object, stationary in mid-air several hundred yards away from him.

"The object remained in position for no more than a minute, then it literally vanished into thin air," the glider pilot later wrote in a report on the sighting.

The incident has been classified as a sighting of an unidentified flying object, which means although it may not have been an alien spaceship nobody has any other feasible explanation.

The 31-year-old Newport pilot



MYSTERIES IN THE SKY: These bright objects were filmed by a TV camera crew over New Zealand.

## Close encounters with the unexplained

was lucky in having another witness to the same object. An air cadet flying nearby also saw it hovering above the RAF station's control tower.

"After the object disappeared we scoured the sky both with binoculars and the naked eye; this was no balloon, aircraft or weather device I have ever seen before," the pilot wrote later.

Sightings such as the one

which took place over St Athan on September 15, 1991, are common throughout Britain and Wales has its fair share of unidentified flying objects

Just back from Wiltshire, having captured on videotape her own unexplained sighting, Kerry Blower is kept up to date with almost every incident reported in Wales. From her home in Cwmbran she makes regular

forays across Wales as the local representative of the British UFO Association, cross-examining the latest witnesses to strange goings on in the sky.

For years now the Welsh have been visited, buzzed, frightened and even abducted by UFO's, if hundreds of witnesses are to be believed.

Ships of all shapes and sizes have been seen hovering over

towns and villages:

● September 23, 1982, two policemen report having seen a "star like" UFO land at Monmouth, the third incident in Gwent that week.

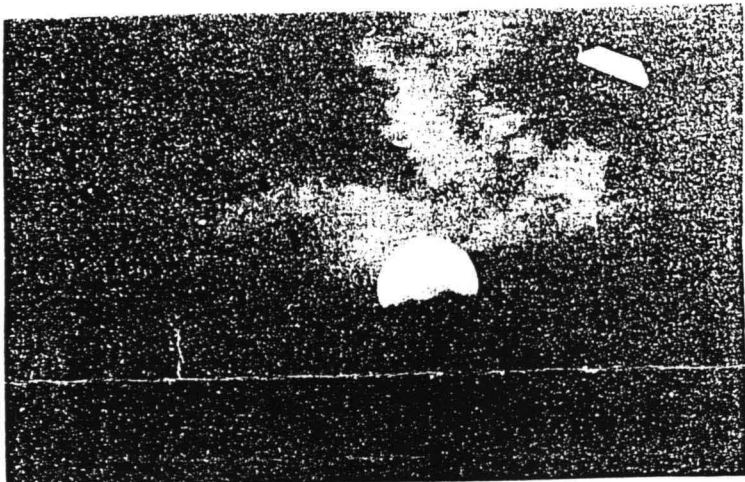
● February 17, 1978, strange quartz like crystals said to change colour and generate heat drop from the sky during a severe hailstorm over Haverfordwest.

● January 20, 1983, six separate sightings, including two by policemen, of a giant triangular object hovering and then moving over the Llandaff area of Cardiff.

Recently Kerry Blower went skywatching in the Wiltshire countryside with her husband and a friend and witnessed what she says was one of the most extraordinary sights of her life.

Late at night as the group were looking for satellites in the night sky they saw nine bright spots of light hovering and apparently revolving some way away from them. Kerry always carries a camcorder with her wherever she goes and one was on hand to capture the sight.

For those who are mystified by the UFO phenomenon it is of little comfort to know that Kerry herself has no explanation for what she saw. "I don't know what they were but at the moment I just want someone to give me some answers," said Kerry.



TAMAL or alien craft? Dramatic photo was snapped by alert tourist April Fuller.

## 'Tamal'-Type UFO Blamed for Blackout

STAFF REPORT

AN unidentified flying object (UFO) using what officials describe as a "tractor beam" sapped electrical energy from the Arenal hydroelectric plant early Thursday morning, causing a nationwide blackout that lasted half an hour, officials said.

"It was the most incredible thing I ever saw," said Arenal plant manager Ingenio Tomapelo. "The thing just hovered there for several minutes shining this tractor beam down onto the main generator."

Tomapelo said he witnessed the event from the window of the plant's control room where he watched helplessly as the gauges registered dropping energy output.

"It looked like a tamal, just like the kind my grandmother used to make, except that it glowed," said Tomapelo. "They drained all our power in a matter of minutes."

NATIONAL Emergency Commission President Jorge Trejos said the commission received reports of UFO sightings from the Guanacaste provincial capital of Liberia to the small town of La Fortuna at the foot of the Arenal volcano.

From these reports the Emergency Commission approximated the route of the UFO. It was first reported spotted over Liberia around 12:15 a.m., spotted over Canas at 12:16 and made its appearance at the Arenal plant only two minutes later.

After several minutes of hovering over the plant, it sent down its tractor beam at 12:21. Three minutes later, the lights went out all over the country and the UFO immediately abandoned the Arenal plant.

AT about 12:30, Ernesto de la Verdad, manager of the El Volcan restaurant in La Fortuna, reported seeing the UFO hover briefly over Arenal Volcano before disappearing inside the crater.

"We were watching the volcano with some tourists, and all of a sudden we see this glowing object over the crater," de la Verdad told The Tico Times. "At first we thought it had something to do with an eruption, but then we saw we could make out its shape. It looked like a tamal, exactly like my grandmother used to make, except that it glowed."

One alert tourist, April Fuller, from Oshkosh, Wisconsin took a picture of the alien craft.

MINISTER of Public Security Luis Fishman ordered Civil Guardsmen to the top of the volcano to investigate the strange occurrence and enlisted the assistance of tour operator Gabino Hidalgo, who offers a controversial crater tour that many believe to be dangerous (TT, March 20).

President Rafael Angel Calderon told reporters that he had no knowledge of the UFO, but welcomed any positive contributions the aliens could make to the country.

## Star-gazer's new UFO sighting

AN amateur star-gazer believes an alien spaceship has been taking a close peek at the Poole area.

Harry Deemer, 66, spotted a brilliant white light streaking across the skies over his Green Road home at 10.30 pm on Monday night.

It was the fifth time Harry had seen the strange flying object - which he believes is a spaceship - in the last two years.

"I was in my garden when I looked up. It was coming from the north and moving fast. It was three times brighter than Venus," he said.

"Then it slowly dimmed and went out as though it could see me looking up," said the keen astronomer.

Harry, a retired factory cleaner, last saw the silent, glowing, ball-like object in August last year, when it approached from the east.

"It's wonderful, but I'd like to know if anyone else has seen it," he said.

Bournemouth Airport director Doug Wilson said he had not heard any other reports of a UFO.

"I haven't a clue what it was, but it doesn't sound as though it's anything we would have operating from the airport."

EVENING ECHO, Bournemouth, England - May 28, 1992 CR: T. Good

SWINDON EVENING ADVERTISER, Wiltshire, England - June 9, 1992 CR: T. Good

## Unidentified flashy objects

STRANGE lights hovered over Old Town, Swindon, for three hours early today - and left nightowls baffled.

"There was one light flashing continuously and little lights kept coming off it," said one woman. "It moved backwards and forwards and at one point a really big light shot straight down to the ground. It definitely was not a star."

RAF Lyneham say there was nothing untoward on their radar and Swindon police have received no UFO reports.

MAINICHI DAILY NEWS, Tokyo, Japan - June 14, 1992

## UFO mysteriously appears in photo

MONTEVIDEO (AFP-Jiji) - A snapshot purporting to show a silvery UFO landed on the front page of an Uruguayan newspaper Friday, after a professional photographer unknowingly recorded the alleged flyby on film.

The photograph run by El Diario was taken June 1 in broad daylight in the city of Colonia, 177 kilometers west of here, and shows a metallic object above the local lighthouse.

Photographer Nilo Molina, 58, said he did not notice the unidentified flying object when he took the picture, and was shocked to discover the image after he developed a roll of film.

CR: Y. Matsumura

## Air chiefs shoot down UFO that flew out of 'The Sun'

A UFO which "buzzed" a passenger airliner at 14,000ft appears to have been nothing more sinister than a speculative kite flown by journalists suffering a post-election story drought.

The mysterious "black lozenge-shaped object" was first sighted in a Civil Aviation Authority report on airmisses published three weeks ago. Then, the pilot reported that it passed within 100 yards of his Gatwick-bound Boeing 737 travelling at 400mph - nearly a year ago.

By Steve Boggan

CAA investigators confirmed it had shown up on air traffic control radars, but they failed to identify it.

However, journalists all over the country had no such problems and, after yesterday's Sun told amazed readers that it "buzzed" the jet, moving "like a helicopter flying at low level", radio stations and newspapers inundated the CAA and Bri-

tannia Airways, the jet's owner, with excited calls.

"We had some pretty hysterical journalists on the phone," Richard Hedges, Britannia's spokesman, said. "They wanted a story about little green men and just wouldn't accept that there wasn't one."

"Pilots who feel they came too close to any object must file a report as a matter of routine - there was even a suggestion, which was ruled out, that this might

even have been a black bin liner caught in a freak air current."

The reason there was no flying saucer story was because the Sun article omitted to say that the pilot reported the object as being like a balloon or part of a balloon ... just 18 inches wide.

"They would have had to be very little green men to fit in there," Mr Hedges said.

The CAA said the most likely explanation was a balloon, although it failed to

trace the release of one that could have flown so high at that time.

"Either way, it had nothing to do with anything extra-terrestrial," Robert Farrugia, of the CAA, said. "If you dissect The Sun's story, it is actually factually correct ... it just fails to mention the size of the UFO. We've already had reports of radio stations putting it out as a flying saucer story."

"We don't mind too much - it must be a slow news day."

# Our PEOPLE

**Glen Freeman**  
NEWS REPORTER

Seen any little green men lately?

Barbara Tandory hasn't, but unidentified flying objects still play a fairly significant role in her life.

"I'm a reporter," Tandory said. "Not a UFO reporter, so please don't make that mistake."

But somehow stories of close encounters seem to follow her like crazy.

Tandory is a Polish-born writer well-versed in political economic theory, who now by chance is known as the UFO authority of the Kootenays.

"It all started as a lucky coincidence really," she said.

"I was made aware of the phenomenon by a personal source — a friend."

And soon Tandory realized that reports of UFO sightings didn't come from wackos who had seen too many Star Trek reruns.

"There are a lot of people who have seen UFOs in this community," she said.

"UFO reports are coming from the mainstream of society. In fact, some of those people are in important positions here."

For the past four years, Tandory has been interviewing anyone who would talk about their experiences and writing their stories in such publications as the very credible B.C. Report.

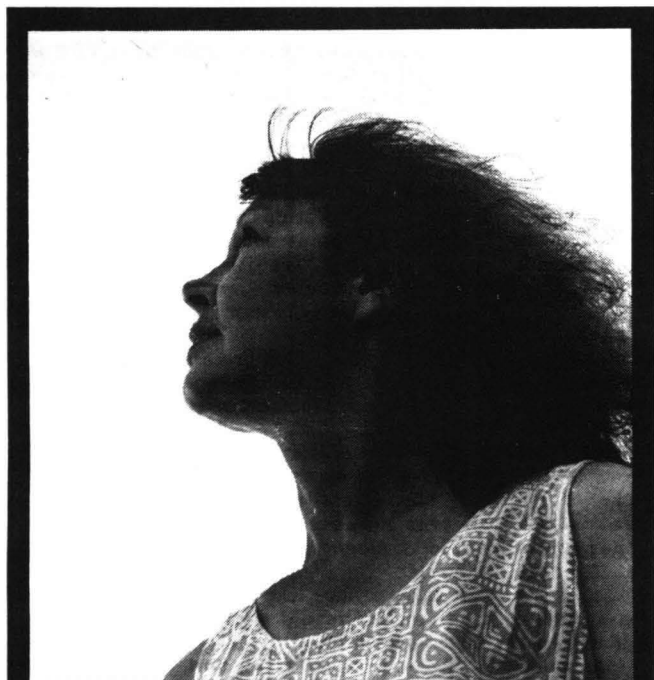
"After all these interviews I do believe them," Tandory said.

"I don't know if I believe in UFOs, but I believe the people who have seen them."

"Personally I don't have any evidence to either believe or disbelieve in them."

## Out of this World

But if Tandory believes the people she interviews, doesn't flying saucers?  
"I must rely on a quote by a leading UFO expert Allen



When it comes to UFO sightings, Barbara Tandory has her eyes on the stars and her feet on the ground

News photo by Glen Freeman

Hynek, the man who established a centre for UFO studies and worked with (the American government's UFO investigation program) Project Bluebook," Tandory explained.

"Hynek said 'We don't have UFOs, we have UFO reports.' I would add that we have a mass of UFO reports from all over — something which would seem to represent a historical trend."

So perhaps we don't have little green men running around in spandex.

Then what in the world — or universe — is the explanation for sightings?

"We haven't ruled out UFOs," Tandory said, "but the extra-terrestrial hypothesis is just one explanation."

"Some people think they are time travelers, people from another dimension. And maybe they are just figments of our imagination — dream characters of sorts."

While Tandory says she has a "weak spot for the psychological explanation," a reasoning that the human psyche is somehow involved in sightings, she doesn't rule any possibilities out.

"Who's to say? The phenomenon is far too varied to have it explained with one theory. And it is a phenomenon that is unbelievable by definition."

And unfathomable by practice.

"When I got in to writing on UFOs I thought in a year or two I'd have a grasp of things, kind of like going back to Grade 1," Tandory said. "I've been doing my research for four years now, and I still feel like I'm in Grade 1."

No doubt it's a huge topic. But it's an even bigger universe.

MIDWEEK, Stratford-Upon-Avon, England - May 13, 1992 CR: T. Good

## Airship key to UFO mystery

**MORE sightings have been reported of large flying machines in the skies of South Warwickshire following last week's Midweek report on UFOs.**

The accounts suggest that at least three large, cigar-shaped dirigibles carrying different markings, have passed over the area.

One carried the down-to-earth legend "Kraft Cheese," a second the name "Virgin" and a third the name of the French car firm, "Renault." One report came from a resident in Masons Road, Stratford, who identified the Kraft Foods airship and dismissed speculation about a visitation from another planet.

Residents in Avenue Road, Avon Crescent and Lodge Road saw the same airship on 23rd April. It was at a height of about 80 to 100ft according to one eyewitness, while another put it at between 200 and 400ft and said it was "quite impressive and dominated the sky."

A resident at Blackwell, near Shipston, saw the blue-and-white Virgin airship on 23rd April. The same airship was spotted low over Alcester on Tuesday, 5th May.

A Bishops Tachbrook woman said the Renault airship had twice passed over her

house, quite low, in recent weeks making a whining noise like a powered hang glider.

A detailed description of the Kraft airship came from former RAF aircrewman John Francis, of Orrian Close, Stratford, who has been interested in UFOs for some years. He said it was like a Zeppelin and he watched it travel along the track of the North Warwickshire railway until it reached the AMEC building. It then changed course and departed at great speed making a loud rumbling noise.

Mr Francis, a wireless operator during the Second World War, said the airship, which was about the length of two buses, was so low he felt he could almost touch it.

"There were windows in the side of the balloon, and underneath there was a compartment where I assume someone would be piloting the aircraft," he said. "The only thing that struck me as eerie was that it was flying so low at night when it was dark with lights on."

ASIAN TIMES, London, England  
June 14, 1992 CR: T. Good

## China bids for first world UFO conference

BEIJING — The Chinese Unidentified Flying Object research organization this month declared its hope of hosting the first world UFO conference next year.

The country has consulted the matter with the United Nations and is preparing to deliver an official application, said Wang Changting, acting chairman of the organization. "We possess advantages," Wang told a national UFO conference. "China has the largest population of people interested in the UFO question, and it has achieved distinguished results." Wang claimed the action echoes the UN's desire to explore extra terrestrial life forms and may contribute to social stability and science develop-

ment. He continued that the idea now has been supported by over 10 countries and regions.

Wang's organization has 3,600 formal members with 40,000 researchers having direct contact with it. "Millions of Chinese people are paying attention to UFO's," said the acting chairman, a senior engineer.

UFO researchers from the Chinese academy of sciences and other institutes exhibited their breakthroughs at the conference, which covers ball lighting, super-conduction and space travel fuels.

China set up its own UFO research body in 1978, and it is a member of the China Association for Science and Technology, largely supported by the government.

EXAMINER, San Francisco, CA - July 26, 1992

## Crop circles make the rounds in England

### Variety of sizes and shapes increasing

REUTER

BRIXHAM, England — A mysterious force is haunting the British countryside, enthraling observers, baffling scientists and infuriating farmers.

The season of crop circles is here again, with more than 50 sightings already reported of strange formations appearing in fields across southern England.

Some experts believe the formations, ranging from simple circles to huge intricate designs, could be traces left by UFOs or signs from spirits trying to communicate with man. Others blame pranksters or the weather.

"This is an extraordinary phenomenon; there's been nothing like it in recorded history," said Michael Green, chairman of the Center for Crop Circle Studies, a body of scientists and mystics set up two years ago to study the enigma.

The phenomenon started in Britain 12 years ago, when three round areas of flattened crops, each about 60 feet across, appeared

in oat fields near the southern town of Westbury, Green said.

Sightings in the early years amounted to a few simple circles. But then the number, size and complexity of shapes increased dramatically.

The study group has so far recorded more than 2,000 sightings, mainly in southern Britain but also across Europe, the United States, Canada and Japan.

But an army of skeptics argue that they are merely the work of hoaxers.

Such talk does not discourage photographer Peter Glastonbury, one of many amateur enthusiasts who will spend the summer months scouring their local countryside for crop circles.

Glastonbury has spotted two formations so far this season, including a dumb-bell shape near the southwest port of Brixham.

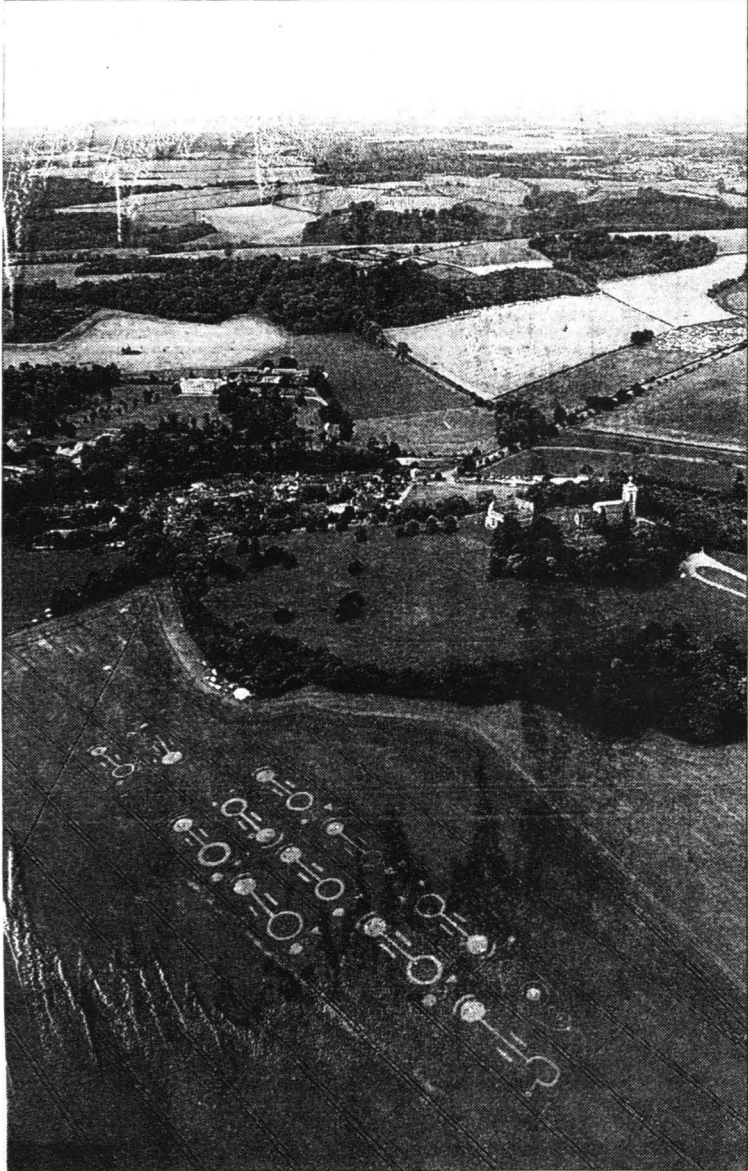
After examining the formation — a 50-foot circle and a 26-foot circle joined by a 6-foot channel — he is convinced it is not man-made.

"There are usually telltale signs when people have faked it, such as tracks across the field," explained Glastonbury.

CR: C. Jines



Picture: ADAM HINTON



All in a night's work: the hoaxers' effort is plain in a Buckinghamshire field

## Crop circle hoaxers reap reward of a round £3,000

By Toby Moore  
Environment  
Correspondent

NOW WE know. The perfect crop circle takes three people five hours to create with an aluminium ladder and some bits of old pipe. No experience necessary.

"Just a technical challenge, really," said Mr David Overd, a designer with Westland Helicopters and joint winner of the first Olympiad for crop circle hoaxers, held over the weekend in the dead of night at a secret Buckinghamshire wheat field.

Mr Overd and two colleagues from his company's design department beat 11 other groups — some with several years' experience — to claim a first prize of £3,000.

All spent Saturday night and Sunday morning, from pub chucking-out time to dawn — prime hoaxing time — creating a highly complex crop circle to rigorous standards in marked off areas of a large field at West Wycombe.

The winning team entered their allotted area using a hinged ladder as a bridge. Then, with a tape measure as a guide, they flattened the wheat with small lengths of plastic piping.

Mr Adrian Dexter, 27, leader of the winning team, said this was only the second circle either he or his team members had created.

"This was about the easiest £3,000 I would normally expect to make at night," he said.

Each team, scrutinised by invigilators with infrared binoculars, had just five hours and one area of field measuring 180ft by 66ft on which to produce a design incorporating 15 triangles, circles and squares.

The competition was organised by the Cereologist Magazine and the Koestler Foundation.

# Amorous aliens' close encounters



ALIEN beings have repeatedly snatched humans from Earth to conduct breeding experiments, says David Jacobs who has interviewed with those who say they were abducted.

Mr Jacobs, a Temple University professor whose speciality is 20th century U.S. history, acknowledges the bizarre nature of the evidence he presents in his book, *Secret Life — Firsthand Accounts of UFO Abductions*, is more often the stuff of sensational tabloids dismissed as bunk by most serious scientists.

But he says that "down to the most precise detail", the 60 abductees' stories of more than 300 incidents are remarkably similar, and he has found no reason to disbelieve them.

"What we have here is an enormous number of people saying unbelievably incredible things, things that fly in the face of reason, yet all their stories are the same, down to the most precise detail."

### Experience

Dr John Mack, a Harvard University Medical School professor who plans his own book on the subject, said in a foreword to Jacobs' book: "Population surveys suggest that hundreds of thousands and possibly more than a million persons in the United States alone may be abductees."

In a telephone interview Mack, a psychiatrist, said he had worked with some 40 people who claimed to have had these experiences.

"I intended to dismiss the phenomenon when I first heard about it — the people I've seen, I don't have an explanation. But I know they've undergone a powerful sense of being intruded upon and traumatised. My findings are very similar to his. It's disturbing — there's a great scramble to fit this into a familiar category," he said.

Far from being close encounters with benign beings as imagined by fiction writers or screen directors, the abductees in Mr Jacobs' book describe their experiences as "horrendous, heart-rending, a daily dose of pain".

In some cases several members of a family were snatched by aliens and the abductions

by BARBARA NOVOVITCH

sometimes were repeated over a period of many years.

The abductees "come from all walks of life, it doesn't matter who they are, what education level or what they do, what race or nationality," said Mr Jacobs.

They tell of being abducted usually at night from their beds, when they are physically lifted by a beam of light to an Unidentified Flying Object, disrobed and physically examined from feet to head, with particular emphasis on the genitals.

One of the first popular accounts of UFO abduction was published by Look Magazine in 1966 — the story of Betty Hill and her husband, Barney, who said they were abducted in 1961.

The Hills said they were subjected to a physical examination aboard the space craft. The incident became the subject of a book by John Fuller, which in turn became *The UFO Incident*, a 1975 television film.

According to Mr Jacobs' interviews, which he conducted while the subjects were under hypnosis to probe their unconscious memories, some described metallic objects being implanted in their ears or sinus cavities and sperm was extracted from men during the examination by means of a suction tube.

Women, and even little girls, were probed and poked with needles and syringes, and they tell of "egg harvesting" and "embryo implantation".

Throughout their abduction the humans were "controlled" by the aliens' large hypnotic eyes. One frightening procedure recalled by all abductees is what Mr Jacobs calls "mindscan", in which an alien comes close to the abductee on the examination table and stares unrelentingly.

"It's like the eyes overwhelm me," one abductee said.

"Their eyes go inside you. You just are held. You can't stop looking. If you wanted to, you couldn't look away. You are drawn into them."

When the abductees are returned, generally after two to three hours, they have only vague conscious memories of what happened.

## Crop circles in Hungary spur UFO frenzy

Deutsche Press Agentur

BUDAPEST — A young boy says he saw a yellow dome-shaped object fringed with red light. His father claims he saw a clearly-outlined rectangular mass of light appear over the center of the town of Szekesfehervar.

The object apparently left behind a circle 125 feet in diameter along with several triangles

in a nearby cornfield.

Hungary is in a fever over unidentified flying objects.

The pilot of an air-sea rescue helicopter first spotted the strange crop circles at the end of June.

Since then, Hungarian UFO fans have been flocking to see the circles for themselves at Szekesfehervar, near Lake Balaton.

Some parents even place their children in the middle of the circle, in order to fill them with "magical energy."

Others believe they're in direct contact with the "crew" of the UFO and that the latter will actually appear there in the flesh.

Laszlo Marnitz, who informed the daily newspaper *Kurir* about the alleged extraterrestrial visit, has an explanation for the strange sightings.

He says the extraterrestrials cannot be seen by mere mortals because they live in at least 16 dimensions.

He added that the strange geometric patterns in the cornfield can only be explained away by a UFO because the corn sheaves weren't broken, just bent down. The sheaves had furthermore been bent in just the one direction, because the circle was caused by a magnetic field, he adds.

Marnitz, a self-professed UFO-logist, says he's quite sure the UFOs don't land when they visit Earth, they just hover above the ground.

Some of the corn sheaves are now being scrutinized at an agricultural station in the nearby town of Velence and compared with "normal" specimens.

The latest evidence is a 26-foot circle in a cornfield near Enying on the south bank of Lake Balaton.

## Woman's shock UFO 'sighting'

A HALSTEAD grandmother thought she was seeing things when she looked out of her livingroom window.

There was this "flying saucer" hovering just below rooftop height of two houses in neighbouring Oak Road.

Daphne Jackson, of White Horse Avenue, said people may laugh but she is adamant she saw the UFO when she went downstairs for a "whisky and martini" in the early hours be-

by  
RAY HARDISTY

cause she couldn't sleep.

"I swear," she said, "I hadn't even touched my drink when I saw it."

Mrs Jackson said it happened just after midnight. It first appeared to be a pale blue, oval-shaped cloud "just like a saucer" about four feet across with a raised middle.

"It was going back-

wards and forwards and up and down," she said. "The next thing it did was to turn and light up and start to come towards our house. Then the light went out and it disappeared. I couldn't believe my eyes."

Halstead Police said they had had no reports of UFOs in the area and neither had Stansted airport control.

Dai Hughes, airport general manager, said they had had no reports "either visual or on radar."

# Andrew to spark crop circles row

By ALAN WHEELER

LEIGH author Andrew Collins is bracing himself for another storm of controversy with the publication of his new book containing startling claims of the crop circles riddle.

Visiting the strange circles and shapes of flattened corn — which appear in the fields of Britain and other countries in summer — could seriously damage your health and possibly cause cancer, he says.

Mr Collins' new book, *The Circlemakers*, published by his own company ABC Books next Thursday, says low-level radiation in the circles has led to many investigators becoming unaccountably ill.

Mr Collins, who has carried studied the phenomena over several years, says in his book he demonstrates how crop circle visitors in Britain, Canada and New Zealand have fallen seriously ill after contact with the indentations.

## Culprit

He issued his warning after hitting on his theory about the mystery's cause — highly-condensed masses of low-level radiation drawn from the atmosphere to the Earth's surface by magnetic forces.

On hitting the ground these release high-frequency sounds that leave geometric indentations in crops and a residue of low-level radiation at the point of impact, much virtually undetectable by scientific



CONTROVERSY: Author Andrew Collins

instruments and not even thought to exist until recently.

Mr Collins says orgone radiation is the corn circle culprit, a form recorded as early as 1939 by Australian scientist Wilhelm Reich, who was exiled and living in America.

Reich's discovery and later experiments on this radiation led to severe physical illnesses among the staff at his institute in Rangeley, Maine, although other scientists said he had failed to conclusively prove the existence of orgone radiation.

One disturbing claim to emerge from the research was the discovery of dense forms which Reich called Deadly Orgone Radiation or DOR.

This appeared to generate cancerous cells in the living tissue of mice and it is this

condensed form that appears to be involved in crop circle creation, says Mr Collins.

Using Reich's research, Mr Collins paints a whole new picture of the crop circle enigma, one that he says explains its apparent links with everything from folklore to unaccountable lights, ancient sites, earth energies, shamanism, UFOs, weather control, strange effects on animals and humans, even psychic experiences and non-human intelligences.

## Magnet

In 1990 the mystery took a leap forward when the circles developed into more complex formations of circles and rings joined to long corridors, with other new features such as boxes, spurs and haloes.

These "pictograms" have appeared in Wiltshire, Hampshire and Cambridgeshire as well as in countries like Germany and Canada.

Essex has also proved a magnet in recent years, with examples at Little Holland, Fordham and Jaywick Sands among others.

Hoaxers and pranksters have confessed to faking some corn circles around Britain, but serious investigators say these have been easy to spot.

Mr Collins is no stranger to controversy, attracting protests from fundamentalist Christians over books such as *The Black Alchemist*, and at lectures he has given on psychic matters.

# Close encounters of the barley kind in Hobbema field

ROSS HENDERSON  
Journal Staff Writer

Hobbema

"It's excitement city in the UFO world."

— Guy Desrosiers,  
Society of Earthbound  
Extraterrestrials

Over the past few days Hobbema residents have been making a steady pilgrimage to a barley field of an area farmer.

The attraction is crop circles that mysteriously appeared some time early Sunday morning. The barley in part of the field has been flattened and discolored.

"It's mysterious, eh? There's two of them. There's a big one and then there's a little one beside it," said George Montour, whose son Joe farms the field.

Laureen Omeasoo, a receptionist at the Samson Band office, said it's all people on the reserve are talking about.

"I've been hearing it all day long," she said Wednesday. "There is a lot of people going out there. There is a guy taking some women from the band office to take a look."

Montour thinks an unidentified flying object created the ovals in his son's barley field.

The odd phenomenon has also attracted the attention of two Edmonton groups with a special interest in UFOs.

"It's excitement city in the UFO world," said Guy Desrosiers of the Society of Earthbound Extraterrestrials.

Desrosiers and Gordon Kijek of the UFO Study Group have made treks to check out the mysterious ovals — the largest of which Kijek measured at 14.3 metres by 10.6 metres.

The barley in the oval is flattened and is yellowed slightly, compared with the greener, untouched

crop, Desrosiers said. He is taking soil and crop samples today for analysis by city labs.

Kijek is sending samples to Alberta Agriculture and other agencies, including an office in Winnipeg of the North American Institute for Crop Circle Research.

Does he think it's from a UFO? "We, as a group, make it a very strict policy to not write any cheques that we can't cash," he said. "And we will avoid speculation at all costs. What we try to do is investigate the event as thoroughly as possible."

He said they're not ruling out anything.

Kijek said Alberta is the hot spot in North America for crop circles, which, he said, should really be called UGMs, unidentified ground markings.

Eleven of 37 reported UGMs last year were in Alberta, he said.

The Hobbema UGM isn't so mysterious to RCMP Sgt. Roger Walsh, who visited the oval.

"As far as I'm concerned, it looks very much like a wind swirl. Like, you'll get those little dust twirls in the summer time, has, basically, just done a little bit of a circle there."

No UFO sightings have been reported, Walsh said, although everyone is fascinated by the oval.

"The word gets around a small community and everyone is teehing about it," he said.

# IS IT THE WORK OF CORNY HOAXERS, EXPERT ASKS

PICTURE: Geoff Schofield



BAFFLED BUFF: It's a head scratching job for corn circle buff Danny Mapp (15)

# Corn circle best yet

by John Marsden

A MYSTERIOUS crop circle — hailed as the most impressive in Britain this year — has appeared in Leicestershire.

A county investigator into the paranormal has launched a series of tests on the site at Countesthorpe.

She was called in after the corn circle was spotted by Danny Mapp (15), a corn circle buff himself.

Ms Rita Goold said: "It is a

beautiful circle and the best in the country so far in 1992.

"The inner circle is 70 feet across with tightly flattened wheat lying in an anti-clockwise direction.

"Then there is a 15 foot circle of standing wheat and a further eight foot ring flattened."

Ms Goold, who comes from Countesthorpe, used sensitive

equipment to measure radiation levels, which proved normal.

She is currently based at a corn circle research centre in Avebury, Wiltshire, and drove 140 miles back to her home town when she learned of the circle.

Samples of corn have been sent to a laboratory for analysis and she photographed and measured the circle.

But Ms Goold — who describes herself as "an investigator of anomalous phenomena" — has not ruled out the possibility that

the circle was created by clever hoaxers.

She said: "There are slight signs of entry and some of the corn is slightly broken. That points to the chance of hoaxers.

There are three theories on the formation of the circles, she said.

One is that they are formed by a circular electrical "vortices" effect; another is that UFOs are responsible; and a third is that they somehow come from within the earth.

# Seagulls give UFO alert?

CHARMOUTH Road residents Eric and Jean Reed believe they saw a UFO over Lyme Regis on Saturday afternoon, and they wonder whether others had the same experience.

"We were in the garden when we heard seagulls making a terrific row over an object in the sky above the Ware Cliff area," said Eric.

"At first I thought it was a modern type kite or small barrage balloon. It was wobbling about and drifting across the town, following the valley.

"I put the binoculars on it and saw what appeared to be a cylindrical black object like a kitbag or large polony sausage. It continued to wobble about and then it turned sideways, straightened up and went over towards Pen Cross and eventually disappeared.

"I have never seen anything like it before. It was 300 ft or 400 ft up and looked like it could have been some gas-filled bag, perhaps.

"We would be interested to hear from anybody else who saw it. We can't believe we were the only ones because the seagulls were making a tremendous din."





## Are computers sowing seeds of higher 'life'?

By BILL DIETRICH  
Seattle Times

If humans evolved from more primitive life, will a higher species ultimately replace us? And if so, is its primitive beginning growing in our computers today?

That is the scary question at the end of a new book called "Ar-

tificial Life: The Quest for a New Creation" (Pantheon, \$25) by science writer Steven Levy, who found himself fascinated and disturbed by scientists' attempts to duplicate life inside a machine.

"I wound up schizophrenic about it," Levy said. "That's a big deal, making humans obsolete. And we won't know to pull the

plug on these things until it is too late."

These "things" are digital bits of information that, given existence by human programmers, go on to grow, evolve, reproduce, move, eat and multiply inside their computer. The most common and destructive form to date is the computer virus, a creation

as primitive as its biological counterpart.

A computer virus spreads from machine to machine, usually from swapping computer disks or through phone or electronic wires. Once inside, it can destroy existing information. It grows, eats, even mutates. But does this make it alive?

That question is central to Levy's book, which quotes scientists who fear that computer viruses are small beer compared with the evolved creatures that could invade electronic networks and machines in the future.

"No one's going to stop these

WALL STREET JOURNAL, Princeton, NJ - Aug. 5, 1992

## Though Most Swear It Isn't There, They All Wish It Would Go Away

By CAROL HERNANDEZ  
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL  
Taos, N.M., residents are abuzz about a buzz.

Though skeptics say it's a figment of the town's New Age imagination, a growing number of people insist the place is home to a low, throbbing drone that everybody calls, simply, "The Sound."

Most people can't detect it. After a Taos News story on the subject, however, letters flooded in from people who not only claimed to have heard the mysterious noise, but also had explanations for it. One writer called the sound a call from God, while another said a "spiritual feminist" named Moonhawk told him a colony of alien feminists was digging its way from beneath the Picuris Mountains. A woman wrote to say it was merely traffic noise, a discovery she made after leaving her body and flying over the county.

The true believers recently received some scientific support when Dana Houghland, an acoustical engineer from Denver, measured the sound. Her instruments registered the wavering tone in a range from 17 hertz, about where human hearing begins, to 70 hertz. She says, "The frequency is low enough that more people tend to feel it rather than hear it."

Believers insist they weren't crazy to begin with, though they concede the constant humming is starting to drive them nuts.

"This kind of sound does something to your mind," complains Catanya Saltzman, a former modern dancer who says she gave up her career because the sound affects her inner ear, throwing her off balance. That isn't all it affects: Once while making sandwiches, she sliced a piece of bread into a hundred tiny pieces, not realizing it until her husband, who didn't hear the sound at the time, pointed it out. "I lost time in that moment," she says.

The sound keeps Peggy Sparks awake at night. One night, the registered nurse called her sister, who didn't hear the sound, and asked her to drive around with her to find its source. But her sister refused, saying it was too late to go out. "It's like people that have sighted UFOs and stuff like that," Ms. Sparks says. "Unless they hear it themselves, they think you're a nut."

David Fernandez, a county commissioner who doesn't hear the noise himself, harbors this theory: "Nature and people are part of the same thing. This sound might be the heartbeat of an ancient and unique culture in this place."

CR: V. White

ECONOMIST, London, England - June 27, 1992 CR: M. Rofe

## Almasty international

PARIS

THEY'RE off to find the almasty—a big, hairy, two-legged creature living in the Caucasus mountains. More than 500 eye-witness accounts of these beasts are said to exist. Local people claim to have fed, touched, and even—on rare occasions—had sex with them. Now a Franco-Russian expedition, "Almasty '92," wants to get hard scientific proof of their existence.

Adult almasties, it is said, stand about 2 metres (6½ feet) high. Their arms reach down to their knees, their legs are short and their dark-skinned bodies are covered with coarse, long, reddish-brown hair. The females have long, narrow breasts which they sometimes throw over their shoulders. Locals say they are nomadic and nocturnal, sleeping by day in caves, stables, abandoned huts or nests made from broken branches in trees. They are said to communicate by booming like bitterns.

Until fairly recently, almasties were unknown to the wider world. Publicity surrounding the Anglo-American search for the Himalayan Yeti in 1956 persuaded the Caucasians, who had previously thought their shaggy anthropoid to be of little interest, to inform the authorities. The Soviet Academy of Sciences mounted an expedition in 1958, but failed to find its quarry. It did, however, stimulate the curiosity of Marie-Jeanne Koffmann, a French-born surgeon and mountaineer, who had served as an army officer in the Caucasus during the second world war. She set off to the Caucasus on her own, returning with 40 eye-witness accounts, a fascination with crypto-zoology (the study of unknown animal species) and a determination to settle the issue once and for all.

With Sylvain Pallix, a journalist and film producer, Dr Koffmann has at last been given her chance. At the age of 72 she



is to lead a team of ten Russian and four French scientists. Mr Pallix will record their achievements—and, he hopes, their quarry—on film. Their aim is to get close enough to an almasty to be able to anaesthetise it and take skin, blood, and saliva samples. They also hope to fit their guest with a radio-transmitting bracelet to track its movements.

Skeptics fear Dr Koffmann may be disappointed. They point out that, although moulds of what is claimed to be an almasty foot print have been taken, no corpses or skeletons have ever been found. And not all that the locals say about the beast is entirely convincing: glowing eyes, for instance, are rare among primates. Besides, even if the almasty did exist, it might be on the verge of extinction. Sightings, once fairly frequent, are now rare. The most recent was claimed in August last year by Gregory Pantchenko, a Russian zoologist and one of the expedition's members. He says he watched an almasty for a minute and a half from about 4 metres away one moonlit night. Unfortunately—you guessed—his camera had no flash.

scientists from doing this," Levy said. "If people understood what is happening here, you would see the religious right going bonkers."

Aristotle proposed that it was the soul that made a living thing different from the lifeless, an idea expanded upon by religious leaders.

The principle that life is sacred is central to debates on abortion, capital punishment, war, euthanasia and other issues.

But beginning in the 1930s with the conception of the computer, a handful of scientists have argued for a broader yet less spiritual definition of life, implying that it can exist inside a machine. The Danish physicist Steen Rasmussen recently put it this way:

The British scientist Alan Turing demonstrated that a computer can emulate any process. The Hungarian-American John von Neumann contended that the essence of life is process, that life was essentially nothing more or less than the organization of matter and energy by information.

So if computer information exhibits the characteristics of life, such as being able to reproduce and evolve, it is "just as much alive as you and I. Such an artificial organism must perceive a reality which for itself is just as real as our 'real' reality is for us," Rasmussen said.

To artificial life, the universe inside machines is as real and all-encompassing as our universe is to us. And indeed, computer scientist Ed Fredkin believes that our universe is a computer, a construct of information in which we are part of the software program.

Levy spends much of his 390 pages trying to explain this strange notion to lay readers. While author Ed Regis painted this stuff as simply flaky in his 1990 book "Great Mambo Chick-en," Levy argues it needs to be treated seriously. "I wanted to build a case for this being science," he explained, "before I got to the part that sounds like science fiction."

Artificial life should not be confused with artificial intelligence, which is an effort to make computers "think" independently, like the human brain.

Artificial life is an effort not to duplicate the human mind but to duplicate biology: to make electronic creatures that go far beyond their original instructions and which evolve in ways the computer programmer cannot predict. One goal is to make dumb machines, with insect-level brains, that cooperate to do smart things, just as ant colonies do.

Certainly what has been accomplished to date is impressive and eerie. There are Chris Langton's "loops," which multiply and build like a coral reef; "Poly-world," which develops new, competing species inside the computer; and Aristid Lindenmayer's L-System, in which single electronic "cells" evolve into recognizable plants such as ferns and flowers.

There are Craig Reynolds' electronic "boids," which flock and fly like real birds around computer

obstacles. Plus spontaneous mutations and parasites that drive electronic evolution, such as Richard Dawkins' production of an insect-like design from a single computer pixel, or dot.

Dawkins, a biologist, is excited by these experiments as a way to explain the mysteries of evolution.

Scientists have been puzzled, for example, as to why life would arise when it resists the natural tendency in physics for things to erode, disintegrate or burn out toward disorder, a process known as entropy. Artificial-life experiments suggest this tendency toward greater complexity is in fact natural, the result of physics laws still not understood.

Computers have already invaded machines ranging from cars to appliances to home entertainment. Swarms of self-duplicating midget robots have been proposed to NASA as early pioneers of Mars. In a future world where computers have been mated to every machine, and where machines evolve, design and build themselves, could they outstrip their human creators — and doom us like Neanderthals?

Some artificial-life scientists foresee this as a natural step in evolution, in which the human mind is transferred to superior machines that live for millennia. Doyne Farmer argues, "If we succeed, (these successors) may be glorious, enlightened creatures that far surpass us in their wisdom and intelligence."

Others express more doubts. "If you ask me honestly, 'Steen, why are you doing this?'" scientist Rasmussen confessed to Levy, "I can't answer you. I feel that in some way I am committing sin by the things I am doing."

Yet the lure so far has been as irresistible as the race for the atomic bomb. In 1980 a NASA team pondering robots as planetary explorers asked in a report, "If we create another race of beings, then are we not ourselves ... gods?"

## TV show seeks input

The television show "Sightings" is looking for local residents who have had sightings of their own.

Producers of the show are coming to the area in search of the Puyallup Screamer, which was reported to be in the area in the 1970s. Terry Albright, research coordinator for the show, believes the screamer could be a Big Foot.

"Most of the people who have sightings are afraid to talk about them," Albright said. He added response to the shows, which focus on phenomenon, have been well received.

Anyone who would like to talk with the producers can call Albright collect at (714) 596-4866.

COURTIER-HERALD, Enumclaw, WA - June 24, 1992

## Sheriff shows Footprinters a big 1-0-1



BRIAN DALBALCON/DAILY WORLD

OCEAN SHORES — During his talk at the Footprinters Association convention, Sheriff Dennis Morrisette shows off a composite Bigfoot skull made from bone fragments found around the world.

sette shows off a composite Bigfoot skull made from bone fragments found around the world.

## Morrisette outlines sightings here

By Peter J. Backman  
Daily World writer

OCEAN SHORES — The unofficial guest of honor at the International Footprinters Association convention here Thursday was Bigfoot himself.

While he wasn't able to attend, he was the topic of a speech given by Grays Harbor County Sheriff Dennis Morrisette — complete with a cast reputed to be a Bigfoot footprint.

Morrisette and the Sheriff's Office have been keeping an eye out for the mysterious celebrity for some time, ever since reports of Bigfoot sightings began reaching the department in the early 1980s.

According to Morrisette, there are more than 2,100 reported sightings of the famed missing link on record. That, along with other evidence, leads Morrisette to believe that Bigfoot may be more than an Indian myth or a popular

folk story.

In the summer of 1982, Grays Harbor deputy and resident "sasqualogist" Dennis Herford was called to respond to reports of Bigfoot sitings near Porter Creek in southeast Grays Harbor.

In the course of the investigation, Herford discovered large tracks resembling footprints that went on for over a mile. The foliage along this path was disturbed, the sheriff said. The impressions in the ground measured more than nine feet apart.

Morrisette said a cast of an imprint was made and hairs found in the imprint were sent to the Arizona State Museum's Human Identification Laboratory.

The hairs were matched against human hair samples and primate samples. The laboratory concluded that the hairs matched none of the samples they had on file.

At the speech delivered to the Footprinters, an association of business rep-

resentatives and peace officers, Morrisette displayed the cast and a skull model assembled from bone fragments gathered from around the world.

The skull and the footprints have led experts on Bigfoot to conclude that the creature, *Gigantus Pithicus*, was likely more than seven foot tall and weighed more than 600 pounds, Morrisette said.

While Herford is now with the Department of Natural Resources, he continues to research Bigfoot sitings with Professor Grover Krantz of Washington State University.

Krantz was responsible for obtaining and assembling the skull fragments which were displayed as a whole at the luncheon.

Morrisette concluded his presentation with the promise that if the sheriff's office is able to track Bigfoot down and capture him, "you will see my bald head and shining face on Arsenio Hall next to Bigfoot."

COLUMBIAN, Vancouver, WA  
July 24, 1992

## Keep track of Bigfoot at barbecue

The second annual Bigfoot Barbecue and Potluck will be held in the sort of wooded mountain territory favored by the elusive ape-like creature called Bigfoot or Sasquatch, but no one expects the mysterious creature to show up.

Instead, the program will include speakers, slide shows, films, displays and lots of food, says Jack Livingstone of Vancouver, a spokesman for the sponsoring group, the Clark County-based Pacific Coast Sasquatch Investigation Team.

The event, with no admission charges, will be Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 1-2, at Eagles Cliff Store and Campground, southeast of Mount St. Helens and east of the town of Cougar.

Livingstone said there are several campgrounds in the area, and the event is expected to be a family affair with participants coming from many western states and Canada.

Guest of honor will be the Rene Dahinden of Vancouver, B.C., who has investigated Bigfoot sightings around the world, including in the former Soviet Union. He'll speak, show slides and sign his book on the mystery.

Another speaker will be Will Jevning of Vancouver U.S.A., top officer of the sponsoring Investigative Team, who will talk about his Sasquatch hunting expeditions. He'll also describe the four times he has seen what he believes was the elusive creature.

Because many youngsters are expected with their parents, the meeting will include a showing of the family-oriented comedy, "Harry and the Hendersons," about a Seattle family's encounter with a friendly sasquatch.

Exhibits will include castings of what are believed to be tracks made by the creature, maps showing where sightings have been made and many photos.

Livingstone says everyone's welcome, even skeptics. For information, call (206) 238-5335 or (206) 573-0423.

CR: M. Dobbs

CHRONICLE, San Francisco, CA - July 14, 1992

## Loch Ness Under a Microscope

First scientific study of Scottish lake hasn't much time for monsters

Associated Press  
Fort Augustus, Scotland

The first scientific survey of Loch Ness began yesterday, with researchers expressing annoyance at the inevitable talk of monsters.

Scientists participating in the three-week Project Urquhart preferred to stress that it will involve mapping the giant ravine across northern Scotland in which the loch lies. They will attempt to determine its depth and describe its wildlife.

"Since the project was announced two weeks ago, I must have been asked 200 times why my association is taking part in a monster hunt," said Gwynfryn Jones, director of the Freshwater Biological Association. He plans to study the loch's fish and microscopic plant and animal life.

"The smaller the organisms we study, the greater the chance that we shall find something new. I am sure I could go out on the loch now and find new kinds of bacteria, but I think that wouldn't excite you very much," Jones said.

The loch, a gloomy and forbidding place, is hemmed in by towering hills covered with heather and pine trees. It is 24 miles long, up to 1.75 miles wide and was measured in 1903 at 754 feet deep.

The latest survey is named after a ruined castle that was a frequent location for sightings of "Nessie," the legendary Loch Ness monster.

Thousands of alleged sightings and some curious photographs claim to show a long-necked, hump-backed creature. Believers say it belongs to a family of pre-

historic reptiles, the plesiosaurs, whose ancestors were trapped in Loch Ness during the Ice Age 12,000 years ago.

Skeptics say the monster is a fantasy to attract tourists or the result of a dram too much whisky.

Andrew MacKillop, 84, a monk at the Benedictine monastery in Fort Augustus, said there are about 4,000 affidavits of sightings of Nessie from "Highlanders who can be trusted."

"It takes courage to say you've seen it. But I have, just here," he said, pointing to the waters beside the monastery. "It was in 1961. It had a long neck, was slate gray and had a small head. It didn't frighten me at all. The water was all churned up as if boiling when it disappeared and the fish were all jumping about in a frenzy."

Nicholas Witchell, a British Broadcasting Corp. newscaster and author of a book on Loch Ness legends and sightings, spent 2½ years organizing and preparing Project Urquhart.

"Professional scientists have been somewhat reluctant to come here. But it makes little sense that the largest freshwater lake in Britain should be a no-go area for them," Witchell said.



## Something prowls the moors: Kidderminster Jungle Cat

By SUSAN YOUNG  
London Observer

LONDON — Sightings of big cats in Britain are vying with the traditional summer sport of crop-circle spotting among those who love a good mystery.

Shaggy cat tales are now so frequent that the Fortean Times, which collects esoteric stories, receives up to 50 newspa-

per cuttings a month about wild pumas and the like, while London Zoo experts are consulted about twice a week.

The notorious Exmoor Beast and Surrey Puma have been joined by the Hampstead Puma, the Kidderminster Jungle Cat and the Hayling Island African Swamp Cat, to name but a few of the most recent reports.

The appearance of such animals is now

so frequent and widespread with sightings as far apart as Devon, Pembroke, Derbyshire and London that their existence is being taken very seriously.

Theories abound as to what may be lurking in the British countryside and how it got there, but a definitive answer could

be coming from Detective Constable Steve Ashcroft, a London policeman who is spending his spare time following up big cat reports and interviewing witnesses.

"I get fed up with people suggesting it is a mystery," he said. "There has got to be a logical explanation, and I'm trying to find it by a process of elimination."

"I work as if I am dealing with a crime. I'm trying to demystify the whole subject. I'm looking for hard evidence, like a carcass or a footprint, and then I follow up whether there have been any escapes in the area."

"For a start, I've been trying to discover how many big cats there are in the country legally, but it's a nightmare. You ring a zoo listed as having seven of a particular animal, and they tell you they've only got three and have no idea about the others."

"It's even worse with animals in private collections. Only environmental health officers can tell you how

many dangerous animal licenses there are, but owners are not necessarily going to report an escape because they might not get another license."

Ashcroft's enthusiasm is all the more extraordinary for the fact that he has never sighted a big cat, although he believes he may have had a close encounter. His interest dates back to a camping holiday on Exmoor in 1987 when he was awakened by "something twanging the guy lines in the night." The next morning he discovered the neatly gnawed skeleton of a newly dead sheep 50 yards from the tent.

"We hadn't heard anything. It made me wonder what on earth could do that without making a noise," he said.

Ashcroft is convinced exotic big cats are living — and breeding — in Britain in reasonable numbers. His possible and definite residents include the tiger cat, African golden cat, caracal, Asian golden cat and leopard cat.

His evidence includes

*"I get fed up with people suggesting it is a mystery. There has got to be a logical explanation . . ."*

— Constable Steve Ashcroft

large numbers of sightings, many by impeccably reliable witnesses, the odd photograph, footprints and even the occasional corpse, such as an African swamp cat killed by a car on Hayling Island.

He also has a cast of a large pawprint from a trap on Exmoor, which has been identified as from a puma weighing 120 to 150 pounds. One of the most recent stories comes from the countryside around Kidderminster, where sheep have allegedly fallen victim to three

big cats. The local paper, the Kidderminster Shuttle, quoted a farmer who said he saw one animal chasing a horse until it collapsed and died of exhaustion.

Nick Morris, a natural history enthusiast who saw and photographed one of the Kidderminster cats, describes a black animal with gray markings. "I saw it a couple of fields away, and it was too big to be a domestic cat. I saw it for about 40 minutes," he said.

Ashcroft is convinced the photograph is genuine and is working through the possibilities of what the animal could be and where it might have escaped from. He believes it's likeliest to be a swamp cat, native to Egypt, Cambodia and Sri Lanka. But while they come in many colors, black is unknown.

Another recent and well-documented sighting was in Hampstead, where two businessmen saw what they described as a "Labrador-sized golden brown cat" climbing a tree. Searches revealed nothing.

London Zoo cat expert Doug Richardson said the description he was given convinced him the two men had seen a puma. "There is probably enough evidence now to say that there is the odd big cat around. I think pumas are probably the favorite, because they were in private hands in the greatest numbers."

"West Hampstead is about 8,000 miles out of their normal range, but they are extremely adaptable, with a geographical range from the Yukon to Tierra del Fuego."

According to Richardson, the idea of big cats living incognito in a big city isn't so unlikely. Researchers had discovered — by accident — that leopards were living on the streets of Nairobi, "scavenging in bins like foxes," he said.

There is no doubt sightings have increased dramatically since the early 1960s. The 1976 Dangerous Animals Act, which meant all such cats had to be registered, led to many unscrupulous owners dumping their exotic pets in the countryside. Until then, pumas were comparatively cheap and popular with people who wanted an exotic cat.

Other exotic cats may be escapees from zoos and private collections, but experts like Ashcroft believe the remainder must be breeding in the countryside.

However, exotic cats may have been terrifying British peasants for centuries. One school of thought suggests there may be a native British cat yet to be identified.

Henry VII and actor David Garrick were famous puma owners, and there's a growing suspicion that folklorish "Hounds of Hell" stories on which Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "Hound of the Baskervilles" was based might have been cats — exotic escapees from the nearest country house.

Ashcroft will continue gathering evidence until he has the answers — and preferably a live cat or close-up photo. "It's not so much a whodunnit as a whatdunnit," he said.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - July ?, 1992 CR: G. Conway

## MYSTERY KILLER RIPS CATS

By Wendy McLellan  
Staff Reporter

Either a deranged person or a wild animal is cutting cats in half in Kerrisdale, says the Vancouver city pound.

Georgina Taylor let her eight-year-old cat out for an evening prowling last weekend but she never came back.

The back half of Misty's body was found on a lawn three blocks from Taylor's West 35th Avenue home. The rest was missing.

"It looked like a clean cut to me," Taylor said. "If she was killed by a coyote, you'd think there would be bite marks. And there was no blood — just half a cat lying there."

"She was the most wonderful cat. We loved her to death. It's sad. People around here love their cats."

Misty, a purebred Russian blue, was the fourth Kerrisdale cat found severed since May 15, said Jim Cousins, assistant supervisor of the city pound.

Yesterday the pound picked up another half a cat. "It's either a wild animal or a human — we're hoping it's not a human," Cousins said.

"It seems a little bit odd that these half-cats keep showing up. It's kind of a mystery."

The cat found yesterday was cleanly severed, Cousins said. "It's in half all right. And all the insides were either washed or licked out."

He said people living in the 3000-block between West 20th and West 43rd Avenue should keep cats and small dogs inside for a while.

"We're picking up more than our share of mutilated pussy cats in that area," he said.



Staff photo by Rick Loughran  
Georgina Taylor displays photo of cat Misty, whose body was torn in half.

# Is a 'Bigfoot' roaming the hills?

By SHELBY R. PLETCHER  
Staff Writer

Is "Bigfoot" back? Was there ever a "Bigfoot" in the first place?

A strange and unexplainable creature has been spotted by reluctant witnesses in Somerset County.

For years, people have been looking for a solution to sightings that some refer to as "Bigfoot." Many have refused to talk about the tall, hairy, human-like creature that they have stumbled upon in highly wooded and remote areas. Those who have seen the thing keep it to themselves for fear of ridicule. The occurrences, perhaps a bear, prank or even "Bigfoot," remain unanswered.

Reports were published in the Daily American in 1981, with names of witnesses withheld upon request. Strangely enough, whatever it is, has been spotted near the same area where many encountered it in the past. And once again, these people have chosen to remain anonymous.

The most recent unexplainable occurrence took place about 16 miles south of Somerset in the Village of Scullton. The

witness, owner of a home in that area, saw something that his children had told him about the year before.

Less than three weeks ago, the home owner was awakened at around 3 a.m. to his dogs barking frantically. He walked through his home to the light switch for the back yard, but he found nothing out of the ordinary. However, when he made his way back to bed, he glimpsed something looking in his large picture window.

"I was about four feet from the living room window, and I saw something with a manly shape looking in. Whatever it was was almost nine feet tall, and about 31/2-feet wide. It was completely covered with dark-colored hair and stood on its hind legs just like a human."

The man turned away to switch on the front light, and the creature disappeared.

"I wish now that I hadn't switched on the light. That thing had more of a manly shape than an animal, and its arms hung down by its side, not like a bear. I believe it was around my home for a few days, because the dogs had been barking a lot for two

nights before I saw it."

He said that he has never seen anything like it before, and firmly believes that it was the creature called "Bigfoot." He added that he now believes, unlike before, that something is out there.

Dennis Jones of the Pennsylvania Game Commission said that bears frequent that area of Somerset County. However, Jones said that a bear could not stand up on its hind legs for such an extended amount of time, especially the larger ones. He believes that what the man saw was definitely not a bear but does not know if it was a creature or a prank.

The unexplained incident was the third that had happened around the family's house. Last spring their young son came home from riding his four-wheeler and said that he had seen "Bigfoot." His sister, 21, thought that he was seeing things until she saw something herself three days later.

Last May, between 6 and 6:30 a.m. the woman walked out into the driveway. She opened her car door, but before she got inside heard a loud crash from the



(Drawing by Carolyn L. Pritts)

woods.

"I looked up and saw a large, hairy creature, just like a man, standing with its back toward me. I let out a scream and the car door had begun to ding. The thing heard the commotion and took off running, and I went the opposite direction."

She believes that the creature is highly intelligent and that it may have been migrating through the area.

Another witness in the Rockwood area tells of a strange incident that happened in the fall of this year. Four people were with her when she caught a side-view of what she believes to have been "Bigfoot."

"I was driving a Caravan, taking two 15-year-olds, one 16-year-old and a seventh grader to the high school at around 7:30 p.m. We rounded a curve, and this tall thing covered with hair ran right across the road in front of us. The thing was taller than our vehicle, and I don't know how I kept from hitting it. Whatever it was, I don't want to ever see it again."

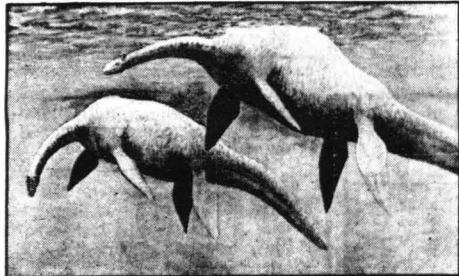
A scientific research unit in Greensburg, the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, has been following such strange-creature reports since the 1960s. Director Stan Gordon says that there are well-documented incidents that are still a mystery, while others can be logically explained. Sightings of the creature are taken very seriously by the group and the organization would like to find a logical explanation for what is or isn't roaming the woods.

Currently, the group is investigating a sighting that took place near Washington, Pa. Other reports have come in from the Chestnut Ridge area along with the reports in the Somerset area five years ago.

Gordon has never seen a "bigfoot" and does not know for certain that one does exist.

"Something is out there, and whatever it is we'd like to get to the bottom of it or find a reasonable explanation for what people are seeing. Our hotline number is (412) 838-7768, and we will not hesitate to conduct on-site investigations to determine if this thing is a prank or not."

CHRONICLE, San Francisco, CA - Aug. 1, 1992



An artist's conception of Scotland's famed Loch Ness Monster.

## Have They Found Nessie?

REUTERS

Drumadrochit, Scotland

Scientists using sonar equipment to try to solve the riddle of Scotland's Loch Ness monster said yesterday they had made underwater contact with a mystery object.

A submarine used by the Project Urquhart expedition probing the lake in search of the enigmatic creature affectionately known as "Nessie" tracked the unexplained object for two minutes before losing contact.

Expedition official Robert Manson said: "We found an underwater target which cannot be explained. It was loud and solid-sounding and in the opinion of the sonar operator was the largest mid-water echo he had ever found in the loch."

A Norwegian survey ship, the Simrad, is being used to conduct the first detailed study of Britain's largest inland lake since early this century.

There has never been confirmation of the existence of Nessie, the name given to what some believe is a descendant of the dinosaurs lurking deep within the lake's waters.

Nessie's fame, rivaling that of Scotch whisky, has created a legend that has spawned an entire tourist industry attracting thousands of visitors hoping to catch a glimpse of the beast.

Some claim they have sighted the monster and have produced blurred photographs of what they said was a head or a flipper.

Project Urquhart's co-founder, television news anchor Nicholas Witchell, said the mystery object registered on the strongest scale of the sonar detection system.

But he said cautiously: "Even the most sophisticated sonar equipment is susceptible to spurious echoes."

SOUTHEAST EVENING ECHO, Essex, England - July 29, 1992 CR: T. Good

## Hay look at this, it's raining straw!

AFTER all these months of drought it's finally raining in Hadleigh—straw!

The mystery downpour started after lunch yesterday, with eyewitnesses claiming to have seen large lumps of straw falling from hundreds of feet up.

No rational explanation could be offered by sceptical Met Office spokesman Barry Park.

Mr David Jenkins, of Commonhall Lane, said: "There were large handfuls of straw, like you would put in a rabbit hutch, falling out of the sky."

Mr Jenkins, who is retired, added: "There were hundreds and hundreds of them, they must have been whipped up by the wind or something."

Mr Paul Boore of Hall Crescent claimed to have seen hundreds of lumps the size of a quarter bale falling from 1,000 feet up, looking as if they had dropped from a cargo plane, and clumps of straw in the trees of nearby John Burrows recreation ground where they landed.

A baffled Mr Park at the London Meteorological Office said although tornadoes or even

dust devils could pick up straw, weather conditions were unsuitable and could not lift up the amount described to such great heights.

Mr Mike Perryman, local representative for London UFO Studies, said: "We've had reports of objects dropping from the sky — frogs, acorns and even fish — but I haven't heard of this one before."

There have been many reports of UFO activity along the Thames estuary, and it was possible this could be related, he said.

Anyone wishing to assist Mr Perryman with his investigations into this phenomenon should ring 0375 377280.

But Peter Howard, manager of the Salvation Army Farm Colony, Castle Lane, said the simple explanation was whirlwinds, which whip up straw before it has been bailed.

Mr Howard, 64, said: "I remember seeing a similar thing back in 1948 when the wind went across the fields."

"It is associated with very hot weather and usually comes before storms. In two or three days we should be getting rain."

POST, Denver, CO - Aug. ?, 1992 CR: C. Carpenter

## War fails to scare off Virgin apparitions

By Uli Schmetzer  
Chicago Tribune

MEDUGORJE, Bosnia-Herzegovina — The civil war in Yugoslavia may have defied the message of peace and love that went forth each day from this shrine, but the guns have not stopped the daily appearance of the Madonna among the vineyards and olive groves of Medugorje.

The wooden confessionals, a row of garden sheds where men and women whisper their sins in many languages, are shuttered now.

The Rev. Iko Skoko prays with men going into battle rather than pilgrims seeking absolution and tranquility.

Only a bearded Bohemian with a knapsack and a New York

model with a cross of penitence around her neck wander across the Church Square where 12 million pilgrims have gathered over the past 11 years to share in the miracle of the apparition.

The pizza parlors, souvenir shops and guest houses that mushroomed to accommodate the faithful are closed, too.

Their owners, peasants from Medugorje, have returned to tend the fields and vineyards that provided their daily bread before the report that six local teenagers saw the Blessed Virgin on Mount Potperdo the evening of June 24, 1981.

But miracles still do happen at Medugorje.

The lone Yugoslav warplane that sped across the sky above

the shrine last month dropped two bombs. One fell into an orchard, the other into pastures, where it killed a cow and a dog. The shrine remained unscathed.

Serbian nationalists crossing the countryside to occupy parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina inexplicably stopped three miles short of the shrine and wheeled their tanks and howitzers north toward Mostar.

And each night, precisely at 6:40 p.m. Vizka Vita, 27, one of the original six seers, says she still sees the Virgin in a long gray coat and white veil, with a gray cloud wafting below her slipped feet. Since the war has ravaged this nation, the Holy Mother hasn't missed a single apparition, Vita said.