

UFO

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STAR, Indianapolis, IN - Nov. 22, 1993 CR: D. Worley

Strange lights make eerie sights on a rural road near Vincennes

By Paulette Gray

THE VINCENNES SUN-COMMERCIAL

Monroe City, Ind. — Shakings, rumblings and other strange goings-on regularly produce close encounters of an unexplained kind in this little valley about 15 miles southeast of Vincennes.

Sometimes it's reports that a Bigfootlike creature has been spotted slinking along the edge of a meadow, or that a female ghost is haunting a particular ridge.

Most of the time, though, it's eerie nocturnal lights that cause a stir.

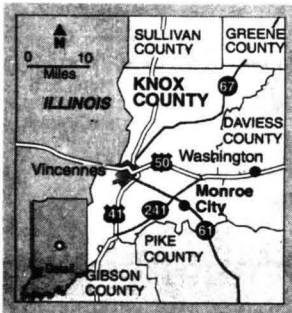
For more than two decades, curious visitors have come to Lucky Point, a sort of lovers' lane just south of Monroe City, to seek out those lights. Once they arrive, however, the only unusual thing most find is a line of utility poles that make an unearthly racket.

Jerry Sievers, a field investigator for the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network, known as MUFON, has collected and investigated some 250 reports of unidentified flying objects in Knox County during the past 20 years.

Sievers says the lion's share of reports have emanated from Lucky Point, where many residents and passers-by say they have seen nocturnal lights, generally orange or white, moving erratically through the air.

"Many of the calls I get begin with 'I saw a weird-looking light in the sky,'" says Sievers, a retired security guard. He admits many of the reports don't amount to much.

But Sievers, who became interested in UFOs and other unexplained phenomena during his youth, recalls the time he saw lights while skywatching at Lucky



Point.

"It was at 9 p.m. on August 22nd, 1988, and I saw a red light, slightly larger than a baseball held at arm's length, make a loop around the valley. White lines of light were attached to each side of the ball at about 45-degree angles," he said.

About 20 minutes later, Sievers says, he saw a fuzzy orange light about the size of a basketball rise above the road in front of him. It stopped, hovered and moved very slowly to the south, and five orange balls suddenly materialized, each etched with a black rectangular shape.

C.B. Bories, president of the Monroe City Town Board, says people have been seeing unusual lights at Lucky Point for as long as he can remember, but he's never seen anything himself.

Most of the people who've seen the lights, he says, are high school age and are drawn to Lucky Point by its reputation as a lovers' lane.

"It's a road that goes down over a hill toward creek bottoms, kind of scenic. There's only about two or three houses close by and I

guess people say they've seen things out there.

"Maybe they've seen it, maybe they haven't. I wouldn't know."

The only thing odd about Lucky Point, says Bories, is the humming and crackling sounds produced by the utility lines that traverse the road.

"You can hear these wires humming. This has been going on for a long time," he said.

Sievers says he doesn't know what the lights were, but suggests that an "electromagnetic anomaly" exists in the area near the utility lines.

He says reports have trailed off since their peak in the late 1970s and early 1980s, but he still receives reports from people saying they've spotted a UFO.

The calls he most eagerly seeks are much rarer — those from people who say they've actually seen a UFO land.

"Now we can pursue physical evidence," says Sievers, who founded UPRO, the Unexplained Phenomena Research Organization, years ago.

Unfortunately, most of the reports of landings come from oddballs who claim that flying saucers and Martians have infiltrated their back yards, he says.

As for those reports that seem serious, Sievers submits them to state, regional and international offices of MUFON, which maintain a computerized comparison file on UFO activity.

For all the time, work and expense he has invested over the past few decades, Sievers says, there's no question in his mind that it has been worth it.

The reason, he says, is "simply because they're here."

TIMES, New York, NY - Nov. 21, 1993 CR: E. Rager

U.F.O. Fans Ask Not 'If?' But 'How Was the Trip?'

By DOUGLAS MARTIN

Special to The New York Times

NEW YORK, Nov. 20 — Granville Angell denounced the way some people have begun to refer to visitors from outer space as "grays," though most of those sighted indeed seem to have been that color.

The psychological counselor from Lincolnton, N.C., said he spoke from experience, having been abducted himself by aliens a time or two. He said it would be more sensitive to use terms like extraterrestrial biological entities, visitors, beings or occupants.

So far Mr. Angell's patients have not included ET's, though he regularly tries to help Earthlings adjust to getting to know them. "The first trauma is having reality shattered," he said. "The second is when the person has the courage to come out of the closet and share his experience."

Saucer Buffs

Today at the Ramada Pennsylvania Hotel at Seventh Avenue and 33d Street, a person who had seen an unidentified flying object or even hundreds would hardly be branded as an oddball. Around 1,000 flying saucer buffs gathered to hear some of the country's leading experts discussing extraterrestrial intelligence, and how the world's governments, particularly Washington, are covering up their ever more intimate relationship with beings from far, far away.

To be sure, flying saucers have been an American preoccupation since at least the early 1950's. But the Brownies and Polaroids of yesteryear have given way to advanced visual technologies, including the direct monitoring of space shuttle transmissions on cable television. Moreover, hypnosis and other psychological tools are being more widely used to help people remember alien abductions.

It has all come together at this weekend's extravaganza at the Ramada. The gathering was the product of Whole Life Productions, a Los Angeles producer of natural food and holistic health fairs. "In California right now, this is the segment of the paranormal spectrum that's getting the most attention," said Paul Andrews, Whole Life's president.

There was something for everyone who yearned to believe that there was more to sentient life than human beings. For \$25 admission, attendees could hear lectures on how Martians may have shot down the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's probe of the red planet or how cave men interacted with alien visitors. For just \$30 more each, they could attend workshops on U.F.O. sightings on Long Island or the possibility of human evolution's being the result of alien genes.

"We've weeded out all the goofballs," said Gary Schultz, who spoke on alien technology.

At tables piled high with merchandise, they could buy copies of the "Cereologist: The Journal of Crop Circle Studies"; have sicknesses healed at the price of \$2 a minute, or book a winter solstice trip to Yucatan's pyramids.

Mr. Andrews cited several reasons for the upsurge of interest. One is the increase in assertions that an ultra-secret government

research area in New Mexico has long been the site of joint research with extraterrestrials. Another is unexplained huge circles in fields that U.F.O. buffs say are saucer landing spots.

But the biggest reason is new video technology, including the ability of home viewers to tap into space shuttle transmissions and study the heavens for themselves.

Did Reagan Hint at Aliens?

One speaker intended to use NASA tapes to prove the moon is inhabited, while another claimed photographic evidence of a rocket blasting off from Mars.

At a press conference, participants showed videos to press these points, a case that would have been strengthened had the television worked properly. Every so often, President Reagan's face would emerge from the static and he would say the differences between the Soviet Union and the United States would seem meaningless if they together faced an alien threat — a statement speakers insisted that Mr. Reagan made on five or six different occasions.

Robert O. Dean, who spent 27 years in the United States Army and claimed to have a "cosmic security clearance," told the news

No Elvis sightings. 'We've weeded out all the goofballs.'

conference that he had assembled a team of generals and admirals, as well as astronauts and cosmonauts, who were prepared to go public and shatter the global cover-up. All they need is immunity from prosecution for violating security clearances and a commitment to broadcast their testimony, possibly on C-Span.

Earthlings Might Panic

"We're not simply dealing with extraterrestrial visitation," Mr. Dean said. "It's a lot bigger than that. This makes Watergate, the Cold War, all of that, trivial in importance."

So why isn't the United States Government telling the truth? Michael Luckman, president of the New York Center for U.F.O. Research, cited three reasons. One is that if U.F.O.'s were officially acknowledged, people might no longer pay allegiance to leaders of individual countries. Second, aliens might be able to rule the world with their superior technology. Third, Earthlings might panic.

This was an intense group of people, including some who have been U.F.O. buffs for 20 years without ever seeing one. But Mr. Andrews drew the line at permitting the participation of "channelers" who act as conduits for the voices of long dead aliens.

"To be honest with you, there are people in this field who belong in an institution," he said with a laugh.

TIMES, New York, NY - Nov. 29, 1993 CR: E. Rager

Study Finds No Abnormality in Sighters of U.F.O.'s

By WALTER SULLIVAN

A study of 49 people who have reported encounters with unidentified flying objects, or U.F.O.'s, has found no tendency toward abnormality, apart from a previous belief that such visitations from beyond the earth do occur.

The survey was designed to explore the suggestion that such sightings are associated with disorders like epilepsy, or a tendency to fantasize. Abnormality of the temporal lobe of the brain, the outer, lower region, which figures in memory and learning, has also come under suspicion. It has been proposed that abnormality of the temporal lobe may be associated with intense religious experiences, visions or apparitions.

The study was conducted by four researchers in the department of psychology at Carleton University in Ottawa and reported in the November issue of the Journal of Abnormal Psychology.

Psychological Tests

The study group was recruited through advertisements in several newspapers that said: "Carleton University researcher seeks adults who have seen U.F.O.'s. Confidential." Each subject was interviewed for about three hours and paid \$5 an hour. For comparison, 127 people, recruited

An analysis ties sightings of U.F.O.'s to sleep paralysis.

from the student body and the local population, were similarly tested.

The tests included standard psychological tests used to identify subjects with various mental disorders and assess their intelligence. The U.F.O. group proved slightly more intelligent than the others. Members of the group were divided into two categories: those who said they had simply seen U.F.O.'s at a distance and those who reported more intimate encounters, classified as "intense" candidates.

The large majority of U.F.O. experiences were reported to have taken place at night, and almost 60 percent were associated with sleep. Of the experiences classified as "intense," the study said a quarter were "most probably explicable in terms of sleep paralysis," a condition that occurs in otherwise normal subjects either just as they fall asleep or as they wake.

The Carleton authors note that sleep

paralysis often produces a feeling of suffocation as well as auditory and visual hallucinations and "the sense of a presence." For a moment the person cannot move.

Strengthen a Previous Belief

"Hallucinating a space alien while paralyzed in bed," they said, was likely to strengthen a previous belief in alien life. Some of those describing U.F.O. encounters to other researchers have told of an aftermath of extreme stress. Such cases should be investigated for signs of sleep paralysis, the Carleton authors said, and the extent to which the resulting fear is exacerbated into full-blown trauma by belief in an extraterrestrial attack.

On the other hand, the researchers found that most of their U.F.O. subjects were relatively content and anxiety free. They apparently took comfort in their belief "that space aliens were concerned with and even guiding the destiny of humankind."

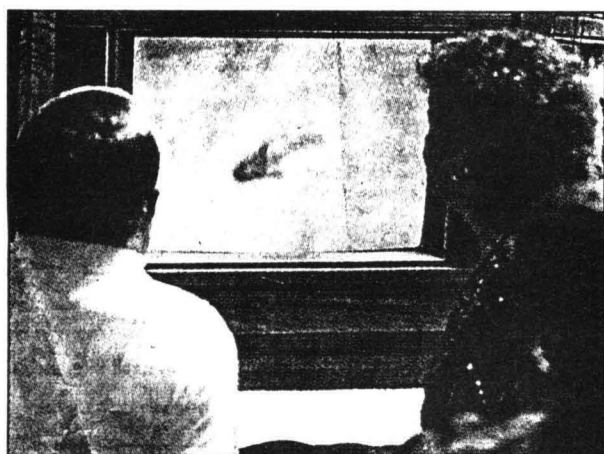
The authors of the study were Nicholas P. Spanos, Patricia A. Cross, Kirby Dickson and Susan C. DuBreuil.



Star Staff Photos
by Ron Ira Steele

ENTHUSIASM: Dick Criswell's interest in UFOs extends to futuristic models (above) hanging in his Westside home.

UFO FANS: UFO buffs (right) gather at Dick Criswell's home to watch a video of a sighting in North Carolina.



"Evidence" in the basement

She pretty much lost interest in the matter after that, yet, as an adult she spotted strong lights near her rural home in Kentucky and lately has seen mysterious black helicopters over her Northside apartment complex. A group of UFO believers now occasionally meet in her apartment to compare notes.

Westsider Dick Criswell has dozens of books and videos on UFOs, and a small collection of what he considers evidence, in the basement of his Westside home. Eleven people recently gathered in his living room to watch a video about a South Carolina man sup-

posedly abducted by space aliens in the 1970s and to ponder the possibilities.

"I've been interested in this subject ever since I was a small child," says Criswell. "Back in the '50s, people thought you were nuts if you believed in that stuff."

Criswell says he is interested primarily in abductions and physical evidence. Evidence can include tiny, melon-shaped scoop marks some people have in their skin. This is said to indicate that aliens may have taken tissue samples to examine.

Criswell is an unabashed believer that something is going on, though he appears to have a healthy sense of humor about the

subject, too. The aerator in his fish aquarium, for example, is shaped like a fanciful flying saucer, and he even has a homemade "UFO detector" in a bottle. The device, he says, really works! It was made by his father and works on magnetism, the theory being that most UFOs are believed to travel via magnetic fields.

One Indianapolis native, who now lives in Kokomo, was the subject of *Intruders*, a best-selling book from the mid-1980s about a woman who believes she was abducted and possibly impregnated by space aliens.

No fake name now

The book told a story of hypnot-

TRENDS

a nose for UFOs

Area enthusiasts are gathering for discussions aimed at determining what's 'out there.'

By Abe Aamidor
STAR STAFF WRITER

They're ba-a-ack! UFOs, which first burst into the national consciousness in the 1950s, are a hot topic of conversation again.

For one thing, there's a new, fanciful Friday night television show, *The X-Files*, which dramatizes UFO reports.

There also are area discussion groups, including one that meets regularly in a Westside home belonging to a video production company owner. Other groups meet in Greenwood, a Northside apartment complex and even over lunch at a Carmel restaurant to discuss UFOs and related topics.

A talk by Indianapolis native Robert O. Dean about secret government UFO reports drew more than 400 to the Indiana Convention Center several weeks ago. The turnout surpassed expectations, says an organizer for Perceptions II, a local group that sponsored the event.

And a Springfield, Mo., group, TRIAD, is sponsoring a UFO research conference Saturday and Sunday at Adam's Mark Hotel. Advance registration is strong, says organizer and co-founder Susan E. Bedell.

All of which leads to an obvious question: Not whether UFOs are visitors from outer space, but why the resurgence in interest?

Norma Croda became actively involved in UFO research about five years ago, after visiting Corydon in southern Indiana, where UFOs

have been sighted in the past.

"There were a number of people in the area who reported very close encounters with UFOs," Croda says. "One of them was the principal of the high school, and another was the sheriff. There were people out there all summer looking for UFOs. I myself never saw any UFOs, but there were some unusual lights."

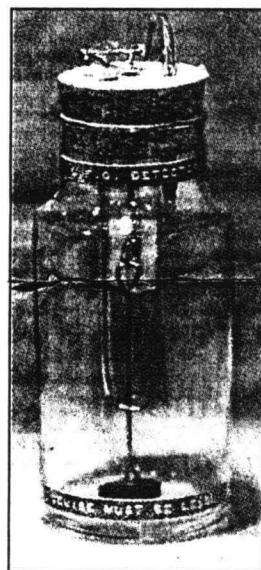
Croda, who makes her living as an office worker, is state section director of MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network. She says reports of UFO sightings (and alien abduc-

tions) are increasing. This may be due, she says, to an unfolding plan meant to help acclimate people to the notion that there really are such things as unidentified flying objects and life in outer space.

"Personally, I think that it's a gradual thing," says Croda. "It's becoming more and more out in the open. The media's covering it. Books are being put out that have very good evidence. I think we are becoming aware, and becoming aware in the right way. I think if (UFOs) landed on the White House lawn, everybody would go into a panic."

We are not alone? That's an

open question, but Croda certainly is not alone in her belief that UFO reports require further, serious inquiry. A report carried by *The Star* Nov. 1 noted that people who think they've seen a UFO or a space alien appear to be just as intelligent and psychologically healthy as other people, according to researchers at Canada's Carleton College.



UFO DETECTOR: Invention is based on the theory that UFOs travel via magnetic fields.

ic regression that helped Debbie Jordan recover memories of a possible alien abduction, and also reprinted a soil analysis that purported to show unusual ground characteristics in Jordan's back yard, where a UFO may have made contact.

The author, Budd Hopkins, will be one of the speakers at this weekend's TRIAD conference.

The book used a pseudonym for Jordan, but she has since begun to speak openly about her experiences.

"Eventually, most people will come to the conclusion that there

(continued on page 3)

BELIEVERS

Hoosier says aliens may have impregnated her

■ But information that author says supports the Kokomo woman's claims is either missing or not original.

By Abe Asmidor
STAR STAFF WRITER

Reports of UFO sightings or abductions are numerous; evidence to support the claims scarce.

Here is one case study: Debbie Jordan of Kokomo was the subject of *Intruders*, a best-selling book written in the mid-1980s by Budd Hopkins.

Jordan, known only as "Kathie Davis" in the book, believes she may have been abducted and even

impregnated by aliens in the late 1970s.

The book told a long story of memories lost and found through hypnotic regression, and cited evidence of unusual, scorched earth in Jordan's back yard when she lived in Indianapolis. There also were claims of "positive blood and urinalysis tests," confirming Jordan's impregnation, in the book.

Where's the paperwork?

Yet, in a 1987 interview with *The Indianapolis News*, and again in an interview earlier this week with *The Star*, author Hopkins said it was Jordan herself who made the claims of proof of pregnancy, and conceded that he did not actually have the documentation nor had he seen it.

(Jordan has said that she also does not have the documentation

in hand — her doctor had it but didn't want to get involved, she said.)

Furthermore, a soil analysis of ground taken from Jordan's back yard, purporting to show that it could no longer hold water, itself does not hold water. (Claims that soil cannot hold water are fairly common in UFO landing cases.)

Vernon Grebe of Mobay Chemical Corp. in Baltimore, who did the soil analysis, told *The News* in 1987 that the sample he examined did hold water and said he duly reported this fact to his superiors.

Family ties

This finding was excluded from the lab report reprinted in the book, however. Grebe did find that the soil sample was low in nitrogen compared to a control sample,

but what this would prove is unclear.

Additionally, Grebe said (and Hopkins confirmed) that the Baltimore lab was run by a relative of Hopkins, a man married to his niece.

Hopkins said the lab report he reprinted in his book was the only one he ever saw. "I wasn't dealing with Grebe," he said. Furthermore, said Hopkins, when he tested the soil sample himself, it did not dissolve in water.

Hopkins also said he turned to the Baltimore lab, not because of the family connection but because he knew no one else with the expertise to perform the soil analysis.

He added that any legitimate party with access to a lab can test his soil samples if they wish.

Tell us about it

Have you ever seen a UFO, or had a close encounter of another kind?

We'd like to hear about your experiences (or your opinion, if you think it's all bunk).

Call *The Star's* InfoLine at 624-4636, then punch 1022 on your telephone keypad. Leave a brief message or comment. Also, please leave your name and phone number in case we need to verify your story.

is something that exists other than us," says Jordan.

Another observer of UFO reports locally is Thomas E. "Ed-die" Bullard, a folklorist at Indiana University. "I wrote my dissertation on the subject," says Bullard. "It's been a longtime interest."

Like other observers, Bullard says there is no question that people are seeing something, and remembering something (for those who believe they have been abducted). But what that may be is up in the air, he says.

Abductees, while having the most incredible stories to tell, nevertheless are usually normal people, Bullard says. "We thought it was a rare phenomenon, but there seems to be an explosion in the number of reports of abduction in recent years. The question is, 'Is this the result of some kind of influence, are they making up stories, or did they always have memories of some strange kind of experience and they're only now coming forward?'"

TRIAD presents "Are We Alone? Current Case Studies for the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis," beginning at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at Adam's Mark Hotel. Speakers include Budd Hopkins, hypnotherapist John Carpenter, former astronaut Brian O'Leary and others. Cost is \$50 at the door. Additionally, those who want to learn more about local UFO discussion groups can contact Dick Criswell, (317) 299-5418.



Star Staff Photo / Ron Ira Steele

PICTURE THIS: Book fully details what UFOs look like and how they fly in formation.

WORLD HERALD, Omaha, NE - Oct. 9, 1993 CR: J. Kasher

UFOs Are in Eye of Beholder

Physics Professor at UNO Has Come to Believe They Exist

Sun Up Interview
By Robert McMorris

Physics Professor Jack Kasher has come to believe that some unidentified flying objects are what the supermarket tabloids say they are: visitors from other worlds.

He has never personally seen a UFO. "But from the reading I've done and the people I've talked to, it's very difficult for me not to believe that some UFOs are extraterrestrial craft. . . . Not all the people are crazy or lying. You just reach the point that you know something is going on. I sensed that several years ago."

Relatively few fellow physicists share that view, he acknowledged.

A 25-year member of the physics department at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Kasher said:

"I get a lot of good-natured kidding in the department. But while other physicists here don't believe as I do, many are willing to listen to me.

They're open-minded. . . I don't think my opinion has harmed me professionally."

With or without his extraterrestrial interests, Kasher, 55, is a respected physicist with solid credentials. Holder of a doctorate from Boston College, he teaches general physics, theoretical physics and advanced laboratory for physics majors.

He and a colleague, Professor Dan Wilkins, are working on a three-year research project for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The study concerns solar objects called supergranules.

In addition to his physics classes, Kasher is a team teacher for a course called supernatural phenomena, and he is Nebraska director of the Mutual UFO Network, an organization that studies reports of strange aerial sightings.

About those sensational tabloids and their out-of-this-world UFO re-

ports: Kasher confessed that he sometimes reads them — even the most notorious one with obviously made-up tales. "When I buy one I look around, hoping that nobody I know will see me," he said.

No, he would not like his picture taken to illustrate his apprehension.

While at variance with many of his peers in giving credence to space-visitor speculations, Kasher has some distinguished company, he said.

"I've read some books on UFOs that are very competently done," he said. "Jacques Vallee, the French astrophysicist, has done some very interesting work in the field."

He also cited the work of Bruce Maccabee, an optical physicist at the National Research Laboratories in Washington, D.C.

The Mutual UFO Network is an international organization whose members include about 200 people



RICH JANDA / THE WORLD HERALD
JACK KASHER: Colleagues kid him but are open-minded.

with doctorates "and a much larger number with master's degrees," Kasher said.

However, he does not extend himself in trying to convert the skeptics.

"I don't go around waving my arms," he said. "I reject things that are fuzzy or unclear. I look at things with a scientific attitude. We should all be curious, I think."

"All people have limits of credibility beyond which they will not accept. Some people dismiss out of hand any reported UFO phenomenon."

Kasher has his own believability threshold. He said: "When it starts becoming a religion, it gets more and more wild. When people say they are mediums and channels for the transfer of information, that's beyond my threshold."

Facing the Skeptics

Challengers to the UFO theorists point to the lack of physical evidence suggesting the presence of extraterrestrial visitors.

Kasher's reply: "True, there is no physical evidence in the sense of a gadget that you can hold in the hand and feel it. It's like an elusive butterfly that never lands when you want it to."

students decide what they think about it."

The course was first offered with a capacity enrollment set at 30. "But 70 wanted it," he said. "Interest is still growing."

Kasher gives frequent talks on UFOs at meetings of civic organizations. "You'd be surprised at the response I get from audiences," he said. "Ever since I first started talking about UFOs, the reaction has been unbelievably positive. People seem almost eager to believe."

and 24.

His Catholic faith has remained strong, Kasher said. In fact: "I think my Catholic background has influenced me in my perspective toward the supernatural."

The UNO course in supernatural phenomena offers three semester hours of credit in philosophy and religion. "We deal with such things as near-death experiences," Kasher said. "There is a lot of good research in this area."

"Of course, such things are not scientifically provable, but that doesn't make them any the less real. Life after death is not provable; it is accepted on faith."

"In the classroom we approach these things with an open mind. We put it all out on the table, and the

require 4½ years. Most likely, their home galaxy would be many times more distant than that.

Kasher does not see the distance problem as an impossible gulf. It is not so formidable if one accepts that the extraterrestrials' science is infinitely more advanced than ours, he said.

He also saw "another way around" the problem by envisioning a universe that bends in an arc until its most distant point closes toward its beginning.

He illustrated the theory by bending a plastic ruler into a near circle. "Space does bend," he said.

Catholic Background

Born in Illinois, the son of an electrical engineer, Kasher moved to

Omaha with his parents at age 7.

"When I was at Creighton Prep I played football," he said. "I was the reason Prep and Boys Town stopped playing each other in the 1950s."

In those days Boys Town played a national schedule; Prep was a perennial football power.

"So the rivalry between us was fierce," Kasher recalled. "In this one game, I was deliberately hit in the mouth by an elbow, and I lost two front teeth. Prep decided the rivalry had gotten out of hand."

Kasher once aspired to the priesthood. After 10 years of Jesuit education, he dropped out, three years shy of ordination. "I decided I should be married and raise a family," he said.

He and his wife, Mary Jean, have a daughter, 17, and two sons, ages 22

He described a UFO sighting he investigated. "This took place at a farm near Ottumwa, Iowa," he said. "The farmer's daughter-in-law saw nine circular white lights. The next morning nine burned spots were on the ground."

"Nobody ever found an explanation as to what caused the burn spots. Various tests, including an analysis of the grass, ruled out all possible causes known to us. The crops have never grown back. I'd call that physical evidence."

Skeptics frequently ask how the extraterrestrials could transport themselves over the immense distances separating them from our planet. It is pointed out that even if they traveled from the nearest star system at the speed of light the journey would

Out of this world

Professor has experienced civil rights beatings, UFOs, dangerous students and more

BY CHUCK KLOSTERMAN
STAFF WRITER

Some people have a problem with John Salter Jr. His ideas seem a little too radical, and his stories are a little too intense.

However, John Salter Jr. doesn't see disagreement with his ideas or his stories as a problem. The only thing that bothers him are people without the vision to listen.

"I've never had problems with Catholics, Protestants, fundamental Christians, people of other faiths, true liberals or conservatives," Salter said. "The only people who I've ever had problems with are a few secular humanists who haven't had a new idea for some decades. These are the kind of people who want to keep the human race in the same dark cavern they're in."

Salter's 13-year tenure as a UND Indian Studies professor will end this May when the educator takes an early retirement. While the decision to leave was Salter's, he does feel some outside forces were already trying to push him off the campus. Salter's classes have been enormously popular, and he has consistently taken strong stances on controversial issues of social justice as well. Salter thinks those facts may have made him some enemies.

"In my time at UND, I've liked all of the students, many of the

"The only people who I've ever had problems with are a few secular humanists who haven't had a new idea for some decades."

JOHN SALTER JR.
INDIAN STUDIES PROFESSOR

faculty and some of the administration," he said. "However, from my perspective the atmosphere around the Indian Studies Department is no longer comfortable."

Civil rights pioneer

At UND, Salter is best known for his experiences with aliens and UFOs.

However, few people realize he was one of the critical leaders of the civil rights movement, both with Native Americans and with Afro-Americans in the deep South during the 1960s.

Salter played an especially large role in the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, where he was beaten and arrested several times — sometimes by civilians, and sometimes by police.

"I respect responsible police officers," Salter said. "However, officers in that place at that time were not responsible. I mean, I'm not intrinsically anti-cop. I was beaten by police."

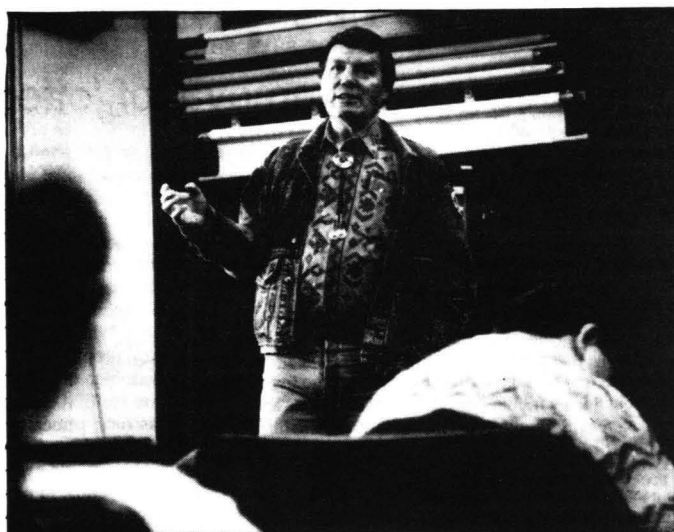
Salter worked with Medgar Evers and Martin Luther King as an adviser in the National Association for the Advancement

of Colored People, and in June of 1963 members of the White Citizen Council even attempted to kill Salter by forcing him off the road.

One of Salter's most brutal episodes is captured in the recent release of "Moments In Time: 60 Years of Associated Press News Photos."

One photo in the book illustrates a 1963 cafe sit-in protest in Jackson, Miss. Salter and his fellow protesters were beaten to a bloody pulp, burned with cigarettes and then covered with salt, pepper and other condiments for three hours while they sat at a counter in a non-violent protest of segregation.

Salter has also worked for Indian Rights in Arizona and Devils Lake, as well as directing community activities in the violent urban frontier of south Chicago. He is currently chairman of Grand Forks Race



John Salter Jr., professor of Indian Studies, will be retiring May 30 from his 13-year career at UND.

PHOTO BY BILL STICKELS III

Relations. The abduction

However, even a thousand years of race relations could not have prepared Salter for the experience he had in 1988. According to Salter, he had the ultimate multicultural experience — an abduction by extra-terrestrial life forms.

On May 20, 1988, Salter and his son were driving from North Dakota to Louisiana for a speaking engagement. However, the trip took a startling twist; for no conventional reason, the

Salters ended up in rural Wisconsin — and they had no idea how or why they were there.

According to Salter, he and his son were abducted by an unidentified flying object from the Zeta Reticuli solar system. Once aboard the spacecraft, they interacted with several aliens and went through a battery of medical tests. Although the visit was initially cloaked to both Salter and his son by a case of induced double amnesia, both men

eventually had a spontaneous recall of the bizarre event. Salter now believes he has had three previous encounters with aliens that had also been hidden by induced amnesia.

Not surprisingly, Salter's story has raised the eyebrows of several skeptics. In fact, one could argue that the outrageousness of the claim was a principle reason some people at UND wanted him out of the university.

Salter is certain the aliens are visiting our planet in order to save our society. He feels they are a friendly race of humanoids that are similar to earthlings both intellectually and emotionally. Above all, they are a peaceful, democratic culture that strikes a harmonious relationship between the individual and the collective. In short, Salter feels the aliens have the same goals he has worked toward for 40 years: social justice.

"No intelligent life is alien to me," Salter often says.

Career and future

If nothing else, Salter's career has been one incredible story after another. While teaching sociology in Tugaloo, Miss., a female student (enraged over a grade she received) brought a handgun to class in order to shoot Salter (she was disarmed by other students). During his tenure at a school in Chicago, he once had a 6-foot-6-inch, 300-pound paranoid schizophrenic take over his class armed with a knife in order to give his own personal lecture on "urban sociology." (Salter said it was actually quite interesting.)

Despite his laid-back demeanor, few men have had intensity follow them like Salter.

And Salter doesn't plan to stop. He may be leaving his post at UND, but he isn't leaving his lifestyle. Salter will continue his fight for social justice and his investigation of the UFO phenomena.

He also has plans for some major writing projects and lecturing.

"This retirement does not mean cribbage, croquet, ocean voyages or Las Vegas," Salter said. "In other words, it actually isn't retirement — not really."

Tales told of encounters too close for comfort

By MEG BARONE
Correspondent

NORTH HAVEN — On Nov. 5, 1975, Travis Walton claims he was abducted by aliens as six of his frightened friends and co-workers looked on.

On Nov. 30, 1989, Linda Cotile says she floated through the window of her 12th-floor apartment in lower Manhattan and up into a spacecraft, as witnesses — among them a prominent political figure — watched from below.

Skeptics have vilified Walton and Cotile for going public with their stories. They have been accused of seeking fame and wealth. But at the sixth international conference of the UFO Experience, hosted by Omega Communications at the North Haven Holiday Inn over the weekend, Cotile told a crowd of about 400 people, "I wouldn't wish my experience on a cockroach."

About 600 people from all over the country, as well as Canada and England, attended the two-day conference.

Walton and Cotile both spoke negatively of their experiences, each recalling that they fought off their "intruders." Walton recounted the physical pain, fear and hysteria he remembers in his brief period of consciousness during the five days he was missing. Cotile remembers throwing a pillow at one of the diminutive, large-eyed beings before they took her from the safety of her bed.

Cotile complained that the aliens stole from her those things she considers most precious — her privacy and feelings of safety and security.

Cotile said she went public with her story because her name was leaked to the press. Walton, who lives in Arizona, agreed to cooperate with the production of a movie based on his experience "to communicate the emotional impact of the experience." The bad dreams have tapered off, but 18 years after the incident, Walton said he is still in recovery.

The Paramount motion picture "Fire in the Sky" was released last spring and starred James Garner. D.B. Sweeney portrayed Walton.

It was difficult to sit through the first screening of the film because it forced him to relive the experience, Walton admitted. "It was white-knuckle time, but I managed to sit through it," he said. Seeing the movie was both cathartic and disturbing, he said.

Walton and Cotile are not alone in their experiences, said Bud Hopkins, an author and UFO researcher who spoke at the conference. Hopkins said two new cases are brought to his attention each day.

John White, the conference producer, credits people like Hopkins for helping to change public attitudes about UFO sightings and abductions, by educating the public and facing the skeptics with thorough research and solid evidence. He said the issue is gaining respectability and credibility with scientists, mental health professionals and the press.

Also responsible, White said, is the increased activity by aliens and an increase in the number of people who are coming forward to report their experiences with extraterrestrials.

"Every abductee in the world has a right to live without ridicule," said Cotile. "Don't let skeptics intimidate you," she told those who may be reluctant to tell their tales.

Conference attendee Adam Malawista of Long Island said that even though he has never seen a UFO or been abducted he has been subjected to ridicule just for believing in UFOs. That hasn't stopped him from seeking new information. Malawista will attend another UFO conference in Florida next month.

Out of This World

Local contact adds to the national debate about the existence of UFOs.

By Chuck Thurman

Under hypnosis, Anne DeSoto recalled several encounters with alien beings.

The government denies they exist. Supermarket tabloids make a living from sensational reports about them. And "rational" people don't talk about them in public.

Nevertheless, thousands of people across the country believe that they have either seen or been in contact with beings from outer space. And their experiences, coupled with evidence explored by scientists and the US government, suggest there might be more to the UFO question than mainstream science is willing to acknowledge.

"You bring up something like this and people feel like they not only have to say, 'I don't believe in it,' which is fine with me," says Watsonville resident Anne DeSoto, "but they have to say *you're crazy!*"

Diana Celeste Cornetto, a Santa Clara-based hypnotist, has hypnotically regressed four people who have visited her in the hopes of recalling more of the details surrounding their experiences. Cornetto also works with an ongoing San Jose support group for abductees. Although she makes no personal judgment about whether or not there are visitors to earth from outer space, she is emphatic in defending her clients' sanity.

"The experiences that these people have are very real to them," says Cornetto. "There's a lot of trauma, it's very emotional

and it's very scary. These are people who are very put-together, very credible people. These are people who are very rational.

"Usually what happens when they do come to me, they know they've had an experience and they come to me to find out that they're not crazy. What we do is reassure them that they're not the only ones."

That, alone, makes the subject of UFOs so fascinating. Far from being isolated experiences, there has been a veritable flood of UFO sightings in the United States, dating back to the mid-1940s. Although the vast majority of those sightings are easily explained through ordinary science and logic, there remains a significant number of sightings that neither government agencies nor mainstream science have been able to explain.

In his business life, Lester Velez is a Los Gatos business owner who sells electronic parts to Silicon Valley manufacturers. For the last four years, Velez has filled his free hours working as a Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) field investigator. He describes the most common experience related by people who say they've had contact with UFOs.

"The person is driving down the road and a person notices something in

the sky and gets closer and closer until suddenly this object is gone. Later, they may find marks on their body that weren't there before, or maybe "suntan" that wasn't there before, some physical mark.

"Under hypnosis, we find the ship did come down. The car dies because of an electromagnetic field. The people get out. They are put in some beam of light. They are escorted by some sort of alien and go on board the ship.

"They are examined — various probes are sent up their nose or ears. Sometimes probes are implanted. Sometimes sperm and egg samples are taken and then the person is taken back out to the vehicle. A short time later they come to consciousness. A lot of times they have no conscious recollection, sometimes they just remember a light."

Under hypnosis, it is also frequently revealed that contactees have had similar circumstances since early childhood. One such contactee is Desoto.

For years, she had a troubling memory from when she was four years old.

"I remember being in a field and seeing a small, wooden house and knowing that I had come there for something. I remember there were a lot of women in the

house and they were putting food on this big long wood table. I go past them to where there's a small room and there's a fireplace and there's an old man sitting in front of the fireplace and he's facing it in a rocking chair with a patchwork quilt over his knees and he's just this kind of tall, old man.

"I kinda creep up behind him because I'm a curious little kid. And I tentatively peek around to look at his face and next instant, I am screaming, I just rip away from him and I'm screaming. I just remember looking at his face, not seeing his face. I don't remember his face, even under hypnosis I could not remember his face. I do remember running in cold, bloody terror. The fear was so intense. I wanted to run until I fell off the side of the earth.

"I fell on the ground and I remember being face down on the ground and feeling that I wanted every pore of my being to be sucked into the earth. I just wanted the earth to hold me.

"I lay there for three or four seconds and I became aware that there was someone standing in front of me. So I lift up my eyes. I see these little brown shoes, like they wore in the '50s and you had to polish every week, and these bobby socks and these little legs. Slowly I keep looking up and it's this little boy. He's wearing little

shorts and he has blond hair and blue eyes. And he's talking to me but he's not using his mouth, he's just talking to me. He's very gentle. He's talking at me and he knows what's happened and he's saying it's okay, no one's going to hurt me. I just felt this enveloping gentle peace, protective love. It was the most wonderful feeling to go from cold, heart-stopping terror to everything's okay. He reaches out and takes my hand and my memory stops right there. All my life, that has bugged me."

In December 1988, DeSoto underwent another event that ultimately forced her to take a closer look at her previous experience. While driving along West Beach Road near Pajaro Dunes around 5pm, DeSoto and her boyfriend had a close encounter.

"We're just driving along and it's clear,

All of a sudden we're in an enveloping fog and he's going, 'That's funny.' And I remember going, 'Yeah, that's funny.' And the next thing I know, we're both blank, we are both completely blank, we're like automatons. This is conscious. I remember just sitting there blank, my mind wouldn't work, nothing. At the same time, we're both turning, we're automatons, looking to this field. The fog is about two feet off the ground, and about eight feet off the ground, enshrouded in the fog, is this humongous, gigantic, circular thing in fog totally surrounded by this orange light. We just kind of look at it and turn our heads back to the road."

DeSoto says the total time elapsed was less than 10 seconds and that she and her

boyfriend continued to drive during that time. They made an immediate right hand turn on to San Andreas road to investigate the object only to discover that there was nothing there. "We're just looking at each other, like 'Explain this to me.'"

Four years later, in December of 1992, after DeSoto and her boyfriend had parted ways, she sighted a UFO outside the condominium where she now lives. She called the UFO hotline, where her case was passed along to Kristie Jones and Lester Velez, who investigated the case. After determining that DeSoto had a compelling story to tell, they convinced her to undergo hypnosis

with Cornetto.

When Cornetto asked DeSoto if there was anything she wanted to explore, DeSoto says the primary thing that concerned her was her experience from age four. Although DeSoto says she is still unsure whether or not she was hypnotized, she says the session brought forth a flood of thereto unrevealed memories. DeSoto recalled the hypnosis session for *Coast Weekly* and the following memories are taken from that account.

She says she remembers the young child escorting her to the forest, then:

"All of a sudden it's there. I see a white thing. It's a ship, I have to admit, a very pretty little ship and it's on the ground. It's this really vanilla, almost see-through white, I wish I could describe it... It's all one piece, this kind of oval shape. Where it

(continued on page 6)



opens, it just opens, you can't see a door, it just opens. There are about five beings standing around the door. And it's like they know me and they're waiting for me. There's this one being with really long fin-

"There were about five of the brownish ones and two of the gray ones. One of the brownish ones is stepping through the wall..."

- Anne DeSoto
Contactee

gers, he's reaching out to touch my hair, I had really soft pretty blond hair, and remember pulling back, feeling "I don't think so." DeSoto describes the fingers as being long and frog-like in nature.

"I remember going in. It was dark, cool. I don't really remember a smell, but [when pushed for a recollection], what comes to mind was the way the earth smells when it rains, a nice, comforting smell. There were these lights, pretty little lights. I see a table, I'm really scared, the next thing I know I'm on the table and it's like a block of pewter metal. It was just one piece. I'm just laying on this table. I remember the beings on both sides of me doing something over my middle. I remember these metal things like something from the dentists. Sort of reminded me of a spider with long legs. And I remember this thin metal thing that is blinking and it has something at the end of it. Like a round thing that almost had a light in it, a different colored-light, it had grippers at the end of it. I just remember them putting this thing in my nose, I was crying and sobbing because they were putting this thing in my nose. I remember them putting a spreader in my throat."

Unwilling to remember the rest of the examination process, DeSoto and Cornetto shifted their focus to the night of December, 1988 when DeSoto and her boyfriend had their close encounter. Under hypnosis, DeSoto remembered that although her boyfriend's house was only a five-minute drive from where they encountered the ship, they did not arrive home until after 9:30pm.

After laying sleeplessly in total dread until approximately 4am, DeSoto says she finally gave up and lay in bed helplessly. Although she does not recall falling asleep, under hypnosis she discovered it was an action-packed few hours between then and the time she got up.

"It's four something in the morning with my arms crossed over my chest and I'm scared out of my mind. I see 'them' start to walk through the wall, just like you would step over a log. I've never heard of this, I've never seen this. I've never read this and I'm like, oh, whoaaa, it's like they're just stepping right through like it's made of air. I just saw 'em coming through and they were the ones I saw as a kid."

"There were about five of the brownish ones and two of the gray ones. One of the brownish ones is stepping through the wall and our eyes met. And I remember thinking at him, 'What are you doing here?' It was like a split second communication, it's not like I could see an expression but I knew that [the being felt] surprise and embarrassment. He went to the end of the bed. I didn't recognize the other ones. People say they all look the same. They don't. You know the difference. If you drew them on paper they'd all look the same, but they're not."

The beings then proceeded to "float" her boyfriend out of the room.

"I saw two grays. The only reason I say they were grays is because I saw part of their face and their eyes scared me. They are skinny, and the brown ones didn't have anything on, they have soft hair. The two gray ones were flopping around in coveralls like painters would wear. Les says, 'what about their eyes, and I'm like I don't want

to look at those eyes. They're black, they're deep, it's like you can't see them but they can see into you. They know you. They go over to [DeSoto's boyfriend] and he's like hiding, he's real scared."

"He's laying in a fetal position and they just floated him through the wall. His back is to the ceiling. I remember his eyes they're just wide open terror. And he's screaming. Not audibly. He couldn't move. His soul was screaming, that's the only way I could describe it."

Mr. X, is a Pacific Grove resident who spoke about his experiences on the condition of anonymity. Although he hasn't undergone hypnotic regression, he does have conscious memories of something strange happening in his life. It bears some unusual similarities with DeSoto's recollections.

"In 1991, I lived in Seaside. In a nutshell, what happened is, I was awakened by my wife looking across the bed, her eyes wide open, at something. She's telling them to 'go away, go away.' I immediately turned to my left to see what she was looking at and this black figure went darting through the wall."

"It was maybe five feet in height and I would almost have to say that it was robed. My mind took a snapshot, a billionth of a second later it was moving, going, gone."

Mr. X, says this was neither his first nor his last experience with the unknown. Although he now works with computers (and studies physics as a hobby), he was once working in a restaurant when a man he didn't know came up to him and, according to Mr. X, said, "I feel like I need to tell you. I have been abducted three times, once in Watsonville..."

"What he described to me was driving along and he saw what appeared to be a bullet-shaped water tower above a telephone pole, and there were flames coming down."

The man pulled to the side of the road to find out what was going on, where he met what he described as firemen with large black eyes who told him "The mother ship will be here, don't worry."

A totally different sort of alleged contact is represented by Carole Austen, a grandmotherly Carmel resident, who says she channels communications from outer space. According to her extraterrestrial contacts on the Pleiades (who, she says, prefer to be referred to as 'other celestials') want us to know that they are friendly beings who are mostly interested in helping the citizens of earth. Austen says she is frustrated with many researchers because they spend too much time focusing on the frightening aspects of being abducted rather than on the spiritual opportunities such contact opens up.

And, in fact, once a contactee has worked through the fear and isolation that often accompany the abduction experience, many contactees say they achieve a new sense of inner-peace and understanding.

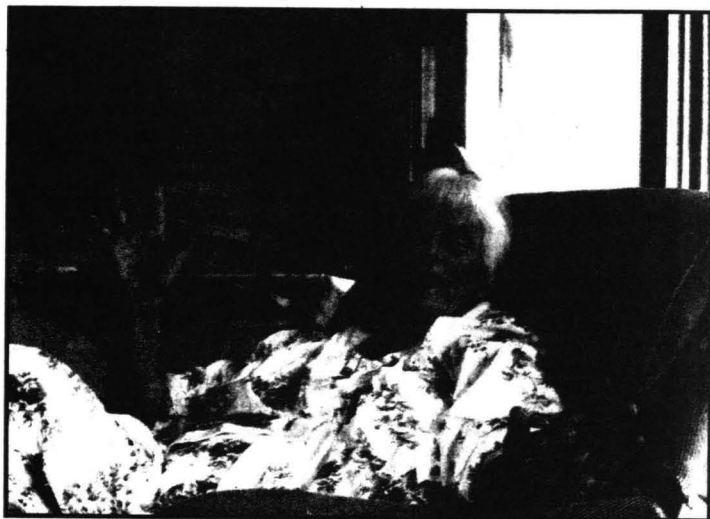
It's a long way from the images of UFOs described by Austen, DeSoto and Mr. X to the cold factual conclusions drawn by the US government — which now claims the whole subject of UFOs has been thoroughly dissected, analyzed and discarded.

The most famous United States study of UFOs was Project Bluebook, which examined nearly 13,000 reported sightings between 1947 and 1969. Of those sightings,

"Even if we had just eyewitness accounts, we would have plenty of evidence."

- Michael Lindemann
Researcher

all but 701 either had conventional explana-



Carmel's Carole Austen channels intelligences from the Pleiades.

tions or were of such a questionable nature that they were dismissed. The skeptics and debunkers were gratified. At the same time, those 701 inexplicable incidents still provide grist for the UFO community's mill.

Michael Lindemann, editor of *UFOs and the Alien Presence: Six Viewpoints*, tumbled into the field of UFO research while he was researching secret government weapons programs in 1989. Despite the 24 years that have elapsed since the Air Force closed the covers on Project Bluebook, Lindemann says it still provides a landmark in UFO research. "If we look just at the 701 unknowns [out of Project Bluebook's over 12,000 cases]," says Lindemann, "it still establishes beyond a shadow of a doubt that UFOs are very real."

Skeptics and debunkers, of course, point out that those 701 cases merely prove that people saw unidentified — not unidentified — flying objects. They will point out that UFO believers have yet to provide any hard evidence that the earth is being visited from ambassadors from outer space.

It's an argument that researchers like Lindemann find infuriating. "I want to differ with the general skeptical announcement that eyewitness accounts are not evidence," says Lindemann, "skeptics are fond of saying 'all you have is stories, ergo you have nothing.' That is simply nonsense. Even if we had just eyewitness accounts, we would have plenty of evidence. We don't have proof, but we have plenty of evidence."

There are also those who say the government has a whole lot more than eyewitness accounts.

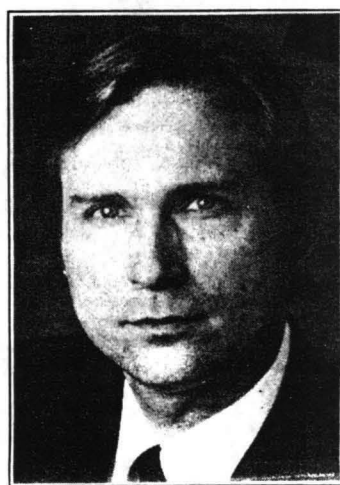
One of the most celebrated UFO incidents dates back to July 1947 when something crashed near Roswell Air Force Base in New Mexico. The day after bits of wreckage were retrieved from a remote location on Mac Brazel's ranch, the Air Force announced that they had picked up pieces of a non-earthly space craft. Those bits of wreckage were sent, under guard, to Wright Air Force base near Dayton, Ohio.

Somewhere along the way, though, the Air Force reversed its decision and announced their previous announcement was incorrect. They held a press conference where they said the crashed object was actually a radar balloon and displayed bits of wreckage to prove their case.

Debate has raged ever since. Although the Air Force stands by its second story, there are eye-witnesses who say the wreckage displayed did not come from the crash site, and that the real wreckage continued its journey to Wright. It is a matter of record that ranch owner Brazel was held by the Air Force for several days. After he was released, he complained of being intimidated, and thereafter spoke very little of the crash or what he found.

Interestingly, despite the thoroughness of Project Bluebook, there is no mention of the Roswell incident.

Some UFO researchers say such incidents constitute evidence that the government and military know a lot more than they're telling us. Stanton Friedman is a nuclear physicist who has worked for General Electric, Westinghouse, Aerojet General and TRW. He is also an outspoken critic of the government's tight-lipped policies regarding UFOs. In *UFOs And the Alien Presence*, Friedman is quoted as say-



ing, "We certainly are dealing with a 'Cosmic Watergate.' That is, the government has withheld the best data, and put cover stories all over the place to make getting at the truth all the more difficult."

The National Security Agency (NSA), one of our government's most secret security agencies, denied having any interest in UFOs until the early 1980s. Then, when Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS) filed suit against the CIA, it was discovered that the NSA had on file 18 documents relating to UFOs which they refused to release, citing national security interests. Attorney Peter Gersten filed a second request to obtain the documents, received only censored versions of two documents, and NSA spokesman Eugene Yeates admitted that the NSA actually had 239 documents on the subject. When a Freedom of Information request was filed for those documents, the presiding judge reviewed a 20-page abstract of information they contained and ruled that "the public interest in disclosure is far outweighed by the sensitive nature of the materials and the obvious effect on national security their release may well entail..."

If government agencies are to be believed — a stretch, given their denial of past investigations — they are no longer interested in UFOs. When *Coast Weekly* contacted the CIA, Nancy Barnes in the media relations department told us, "We don't have anybody to talk about UFOs. We started sending everybody to the Air Force years ago. You're going to have a tough time getting anybody to talk about UFOs because we haven't done anything in a long, long time."

"I can't speak for the entire government," said Major Dave Thurston at the Air Force press desk in Virginia, "but I can tell you the Air Force perspective. We no longer investigate UFOs. We investigated from 1947 to 1969 [Project Bluebook]...and we determined there was never any threat to national security nor that they represented any sort of technology unknown to us."

If that response suggests that the government does possess knowledge of the technology, or that it possesses high-performance aircraft that are mistaken for extraterrestrial space ships, Thurston isn't saying.

Paraphrasing another government official faced with the same question years ago, Thurston said: "If there were [such aircraft], I couldn't tell you about it. I am not aware

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of any such technology, but if there were we couldn't discuss it."

In the face of government denial and a lack of research done by major universities or research facilities it has been left to independent researchers

"If there were, I couldn't tell you about it...if there were, we couldn't discuss it."

— Major Dave Thurston
USAF

and grassroots groups like MUFON to take on the task of gathering information to support the theory of extraterrestrial visitors.

"We get information fed to us via a UFO hotline in Washington State with somebody on the line 24 hours a day," Velez says, describing the MUFON research process. "The information is then disseminated to state directors who screen it to see if it's something he knows about." Providing there is no known prosaic explanation for the sighting, sighting information is then passed on to a state section director with a county-wide jurisdiction.

"Once it gets down to that level, it's given to a field investigator who makes inquiries, by phone, usually. If it sounds like there's more to the story — like traces, contact, marks — then people will go out and look at the area with camera, geiger counter, compasses in hand to try to investigate all the physical aspects."

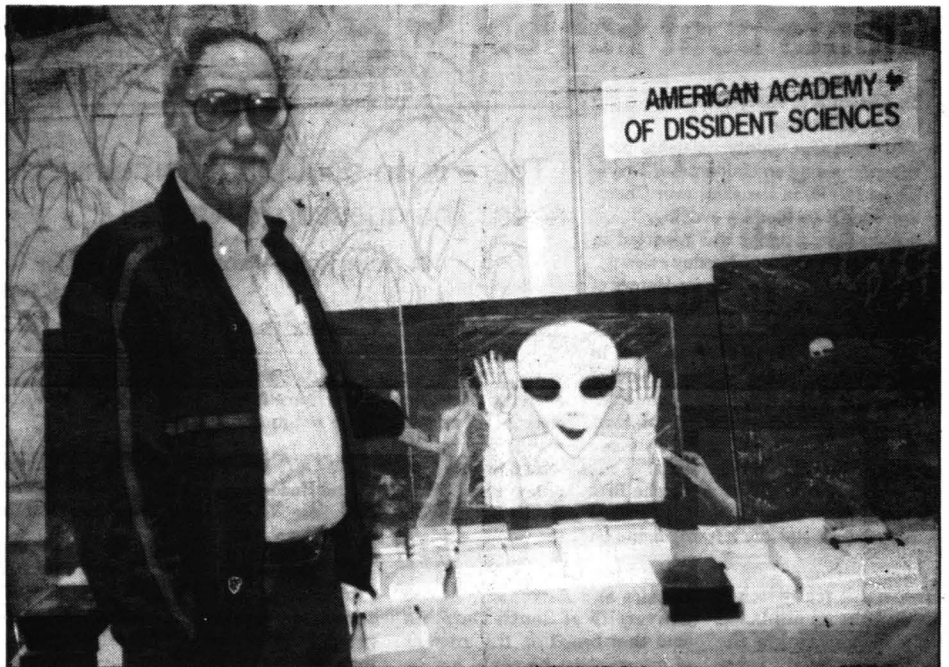
These grassroots efforts have yielded enough circumstantial information to provide scientists like Friedman with enough evidence to believe that something is going on.

"The case for flying saucer reality is far better than the case against most convicted criminals," Friedman says in *UFOs and the Alien Presence*. "People say there is no physical evidence. Well, if a footprint and a fingerprint are physical evidence, then the physical trace cases are certainly physical evidence. And the same things keep happening all over the world."

What it all means, nobody seems quite certain. The most frequent three words heard in researching this story were "I don't know." All of the people we spoke with were extremely sincere and even though, quite frankly, we expected to find a high 'flake' factor, everyone seemed as rational as might be expected in these closing, confusing years of the 20th century.

MUFON's Velez, thinks perhaps the answer lies beyond the reach of Western logic. "I don't ever think we're ever going to solve this thing through Western scientific means. I think it's more a spiritualistic thing."

Meanwhile, research into UFOs and aliens continues, mostly by earnest amateurs and a brave handful of scientists who are willing to put their reputations on the line by even touching the subject. Will we ever find the answer? Maybe. Maybe not. At the very least, the subject offers up a heluva good mystery, and one that has yet to be explained.



Trentonian Photo/LAURA FORTUNATO
Artist David Huggins of Hoboken points to a painting of an alien. Huggins claims to have had many out-of-body experiences during which he met extraterrestrials on spaceships.

■ Fifty people gathered in Bordentown for a UFO conference to find out what those pesky aliens have been up to.

By LAURA FORTUNATO
The Trentonian

BORDENTOWN —

It was an intense crowd that hovered about to hear lecturer Cope Schellhorn talk yesterday about an often muffled area of extraterrestrial research — animal mutilation.

Some "oohed" and "ahhed," while others sat dazed and grimacing as Schellhorn showed pictures of cattle and sheep whose body parts and blood he said had been siphoned away by aliens.

His audience of about 50 people were attendants of the 30th National Unidentified Flying Object Conference yesterday at the Days Inn in Bordentown.

Cattle's blood — which Schellhorn claimed shares properties with human blood — and tissue from vital organs of animals and humans, is now being used by extraterrestrial beings to provide important scientific data for creation of "hybrid" beings, Schellhorn explained.

"There is an interconnection between human abduction and animal mutilation," he told the crowd. "Much of it involves bioengineering."

For the most part, the genetic engineering by aliens is much like the research and experimentation by scientists on Earth, Schellhorn said. And, he suggested, their work may not be mutually exclusive.

"I believe they are cooperating with each other," said the former English professor who now researches, writes and lectures on ex-

UFO talks expose aliens' 'science'

"It was frightening. (While there) I had a reproductive experience. I gave birth to a hybrid."

— Mindy Gerber

traterrestrial life.

"But that's not something your average senator is going to know about."

And there are other secrets that the government may hide, said retired Air Force Maj. George Filer, who also lectured yesterday.

Aliens are abducting humans at record pace and putting them through sometimes violent and sexual experiences, Filer said.

"People talk about flying cars, drilling in their stomach, and tremendous pain," Filer said. "And some are having sexual intercourse against their will."

For Mindy Gerber of East Windsor, the ordeal seemed all too real.

"I was transported out of my bedroom and other places and onto a spaceship," said Gerber, who has had four such voyages.

"It was frightening. (While there) I had a reproductive experience. I gave birth to a hybrid."

And some people are transformed into aliens, Filer said.

Take artist David Huggins, an older fellow who displayed a dozen paintings depicting his out-of-body experiences. Huggins said he sometimes returns to a spaceship where he has an alien body.

"We have a body here and we have bodies there," Huggins said. "I know (when I go there) I'm inside another body. I'm 19 years old."

Yesterday's lectures seem to captivate those with a yearning to understand the unexplained.

"People, in general, are searching for things to believe in," Schellhorn said. "If you're convinced there is an extraterrestrial presence in your reality, then you will never be the same."

Westmoreland-based UFO study group disbands

By The Tribune-Review

A Westmoreland County-based research group investigating unidentified flying objects and other unexplained phenomena has disbanded.

The Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, founded in 1981, was dissolved last week, according to the man who headed the group since the start, Stan Gordon.

An electronics technician, Gordon has been

investigating UFOs, Bigfoot and other unexplained phenomena for more than 30 years.

Gordon said because of his pending marriage, he no longer has the time to devote to the pursuit.

"The cost of operating a UFO group has become very expensive over the years, and I won't be able to carry on as before," Gordon said.

He said he also will resign as state director for the Mutual UFO Network.

Gordon will not, however, removed himself

entirely from paranormal investigations.

He said he will continue as an independent researcher and investigator, but on a limited basis.

"I will still take calls from the public and media, and I will investigate incidents in the local area," he said.

Gordon has been studying unexplained phenomena since 1959. He founded a study group in 1970, started the Pennsylvania Center for UFO Research in 1975, then launched PASU six years later.

Women report seeing UFO

By ANGELA L. WORTHY
Ledger Staff Writer

At least four county residents have reported seeing an Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) in the skies over Cherokee County on Monday evening.

A similar incident was reported in McConnells, S.C. on Tuesday evening.

Shirley Adams and Ponice Hames of Gaffney said they were traveling McGill Road at about 11:30 p.m. Monday on their way home from work in Smyrna when they noticed a bank of clear bright lights hovering in the sky.

"Ponice noticed the lights first, then she turned and asked me, 'Did you see that big light headed toward us?'"

Adams explained of when she first noticed what both women described as large bright steadily burning lights on

There is no doubt that something has been seen. The question is what.

- Dr. John Saffo, Professor of Physics & Astronomy
University of South Carolina

either side of a connector bar. The object itself appeared to be red in the middle, Hames said.

Somewhere between the CKC Volunteer Fire Department and Hopewell Baptist Church on Old Chester Road, the women said they spotted the object

once again through a clearing in the landscape.

"If it was moving, it wasn't fast and it was much too low for an airplane," Adams explained. She said the object made no noticeable noises.

It was then the women say the

object hovered in front of their car.

"It came down and I couldn't tell how far away it was, but it looked like it was right in front of the car," Hames explained.

"The lights started to dim and turned to a purple glow that looked like it was edged with green. It was a funny looking, strange object."

According to Adams, the lights brightened once again after a few seconds and the object then disappeared into the sky.

At about the same time, Doris Matuska, who lives in Grover, on the North Carolina-South Carolina border, said she saw similar lights.

"I saw a bunch of lights in the sky and at first I just thought it was probably

an airplane, but it really looked much too big to be an airplane," Matuska said, explaining the object had banks of bright lights across from each other.

Earlier Monday evening, at about 7:30 p.m., Hames' daughter said she also saw bright lights in the sky above her home on Highway 18.

"I walked out to my car and noticed the lights," she said, adding the lights might not have been from the same object seen by the other women.

"I just saw a big, bright light in the sky. I didn't think much of it at the time, then when my mother mentioned what she and Shirley had seen, I remembered seeing them."

The (Rock Hill) Herald also reported two residents in the York County town of McConnells who claimed to have seen a similar object in the sky Tuesday evening.

McConnells is located on Hwy. 321 between York and Chester.

Dr. John Saffo, Professor of

Physics and Astronomy at the University of South Carolina said that based on the amount of information he could not be sure what the women might have seen, although he was not skeptical of the report.

"Most UFO reports are made honestly," he said.

"There is no doubt that something has been seen. The question is what."

Saffo, who is director of the Astronomy Program at USC, attributed many such sightings to natural occurrences such as ball lightning, swamp gas or atmospheric turbulence as well as misidentifications of objects in the sky.

"Also, determining the distance of an object can be tricky," he explained, attributing the difficulty to perception.

"You can't tell just from appearance, especially if the object was reported as being seen from different areas at the same time."

"Just because lights appear to

get bigger or brighter does not necessarily mean the object is getting closer. It may be very large and far away or very small and close. It's all in the viewer's perception."

Steve Kern, Air Traffic Supervisor at the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport, said he did not receive any reports of unusual aircraft activity in the area Monday night.

With Cherokee County on the edge of the airport's airspace, he said that some airplanes might turn on their landing lights when traveling over the county preparing to land at GSP. These lights, he explained, are steady-burning lights on the underside of the planes.

However, aircraft are still required to burn red flashing and white strobing anti-collision lights at all times, unlike the object described by Adams, Hames and Matuska.

According to Kerns, commercial jets crossing Cherokee

County are at an altitude of about 10,000 feet and begin to descend over the county while preparing to land at GSP.

Propeller-driven airplanes fly at about 6,000 to 8,000 feet when they begin descending over the county and occasionally the airport will receive planes from Shelby, N.C.

The planes from Shelby do not reach altitudes of more than 2,000 to 3,000 feet over Cherokee County, Kerns said.

Local law enforcement agencies, including E-911, said they had not received any reports of unusual activity.

Officials at the Federal Aviation Administration were unable to be contacted due to the holiday.

Although Adams and Hames were apprehensive about making the report, they said they are sure of what they saw in the night skies over Cherokee County on Monday.

Although experts and officials have not been able to explain

the object, according to Dr. Saffo, that does not mean there isn't an explanation.

"To say that this occurrence and others like it are not explainable is not entirely accurate," the professor said.

"They may be explainable, but simply have not been explained."

Irregardless, the brightly lighted object is not something its witnesses will soon forget.

"I can't say I ever became alarmed or afraid," Adams said. "I was more fascinated than anything."

Hames agreed. "The scariest thing about it was that eerie purple glow. I've never seen anything like it."

According to Saffo, reports of unidentified object sightings can be made to several UFO groups in Atlanta, Ga., as well as to the Computer UFO Network, called CUFON, in Seattle, Wa. CUFON can be reached by calling (206) 721-5035.

TRIBUNE, LaCrosse, WI - March 21, 1993

UFO-chasers are all business

La Crosse brothers say they're an open ear to unexplained occurrences

By CHRIS HARDIE
Of the Tribune staff

If you mention the words unidentified flying object to some people, they'll quickly change the subject and bring up the word counseling.

But mention the subject to Jim and Steve Solberg, and they'll be all ears. The La Crosse brothers are eager to hear from anyone who has had an experience with unexplained lights or objects in the sky.

The Solbergs said they have always been interested in the subject, but realized that many UFO sightings lack a solid, scientific investigation or can be attributed to looniness. So they decided to investigate sightings for themselves.

"Too often there is not good investigation and good science done," Steve Solberg said. "The field is kind of left to crackpots or people that kind of have their own axe to grind."

For Jim Solberg, 47, the idea of being a UFO investigator would not have occurred to him a few years ago. But last summer Solberg underwent a liver transplant, which he said gave him a new outlook on life.

"That's why I took the risk getting involved in UFOs," he said. "Life is short, you might as well be doing something interesting and fascinating."

Solberg is not convinced of the existence of UFOs, saying he is trying to obtain proof.

But Steve Solberg, 45, who has attended several national UFO conventions, is convinced that there is something in the skies. Exactly what that something is we cannot understand, said Solberg, who is part owner of a home inspection company.

"I don't think they are from another planet," he said. Instead, he suggests that it is some type of phenomenon from our world, perhaps something from another dimension.

The Solbergs realize that by going public with their hobby they are opening themselves up to some possible ridicule or contact from publicity-hungry crackpots. But

they want other people who have had sightings and don't report them to know that someone is willing to listen.

"The worst thing about the whole field is there is a popular assumption that people talk about UFOs because they want to get attention," Steve Solberg said. "For every person who talks about it, there are 10 who don't talk about it because they don't want the attention."

"The thing I feel most strongly about is the people who have had these experiences. They need to be understood. It sounds crazy, but to them it's something they experienced and it's real."

So far the brothers have investigated three unexplained sightings in the area in the last three weeks. Along with talking with eyewitnesses, the brothers take notes, drawings and gather any kind of information they can, attempting to corroborate it if possible. Names in the report can be anonymous.

Their findings will be sent on to the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS), where they will be judged on a five-point system based on strangeness and credibility, Steve Solberg said.



Ron Johnson of the Tribune staff

EYES IN THE SKIES: Steve, left, and Jim Solberg expect that their hobby will open them up to criticism, but they're committed to their hobby.

"If 10 witnesses see a light going across the sky, it would be a five for credibility and a one for strangeness," he said.

There have been several recent UFO sightings in eastern Wisconsin, and the Solbergs say they expect to hear from others around here.

"There's a lot of stuff happening in Wisconsin," Steve Solberg said.



WHAT THE... Left to right, Errin Hartigan, Luke Hardy, and Justine Macris observed a luminous UFO hovering in the night sky as they drove between Fairfield and Bakersfield, Saturday. (Photography by Stefan Hard)

UFOs Eclipse Understanding of Witnesses

Strange Night Lights Observed From E. Fairfield, Berkshire

By Stefan Hard

EAST FAIRFIELD — Errin Hartigan, frightened, told Justine Macris to keep driving, not to stop.

Macris, frightened herself, didn't stop the car, but her curiosity had her slowing down to about 25 m.p.h. to better observe the glowing, "eggplant-shaped" object hovering overhead in the cloudy night sky.

The teens were heading home on Vermont Route 36 near the Fairfield-Bakersfield town line at about 10:30 p.m., Saturday evening, after visiting friends in Fairfield. With them was Luke

Hardy—all three are seniors at Enosburg Falls High School and residents of Enosburg Falls.

Macris and Hartigan, sitting in the front of the car, had spotted the object first, nearly straight ahead out the front windshield as they travelled out of E. Fairfield towards Bakersfield.

"It was a white light—at first I thought it was a streetlight," said Hartigan, "but then I realized it was too high. And it was more of a yellow-white light."

"At first I thought it was a planet, but it was too big and it was in front of the clouds," said Hardy, who sketched an oval shape for the object. All three

agreed the object was roughly oval, but not a perfect oval—it sagged a bit in the middle. Hardy described the light as blue-white, but the two girls described it as yellow-white. All three described the luminous object light as having a glow, or aura of brightness around it.

"It was almost like headlights in brightness," said Macris.

"There were no red lights on it like you'd see on an airplane ... and it was hovering, it wasn't moving," she said.

"It was no airplane, and it was not a helicopter," said Hardy.

Hartigan said she saw variations in brightness over its lower surface, bands of bright and

dimmer areas that gave her the distinct impression of "windows."

The three teens said the brightness of the object fluctuated.

Macris said several faint light beams shone out from the craft and dissipated in the night air.

Macris said as the car rolled along at about 25 m.p.h., it appeared that they were going to pass by the object, which appeared to be hovering below the clouds.

Hartigan and Macris said they felt they were being watched by the object, and they became frightened. Hardy, in the back seat, demanded a better view. Macris rolled open the sunroof on the car, and when Hardy stuck his head in the opening to get a better look, it vanished.

"It just disappeared," said Macris. "It didn't move away, it just disappeared."

None of the teens heard any sound coming from the object above the sound of the car moving at 25 m.p.h. Their estimates of the time they spent watching the object varied from one minute to three minutes. Macris said during their observation, the car rolled from the bridge just east of E. Fairfield village to the where John Howrigan's cow barn burned to the ground in June—about a quarter-mile.

Hartigan, Macris, and Hardy spent the rest of the drive home trying to come to grips with what they saw, and reached no conclusions except that it was like nothing they'd ever seen before.

Knowing her teacher, Linda Collins, had an interest in unidentified flying objects (UFOs), Macris recounted her sighting, Monday, in Collins' class at Enosburg Falls High School.

They weren't alone.

"I told what happened, and Al Gratton spoke up and said, 'No way, I saw something strange, too!'" said Macris.

Gratton, an EFHS student who lives in W. Enosburg, told the class he'd seen a strange light in the sky that same night in Berkshire between 10 and 11 p.m.—within the same hour that the three Enosburg Falls teens observed a UFO in E. Fairfield.

Gratton said he was the only passenger with a friend driving south on Vermont Route 105 between Richford and E. Berkshire when a flashing light in the sky to the southwest, towards Berkshire Center, caught his attention.

Gratton said the flashing light "was not quite like a jet," it flashed on for a few seconds, then went out for a few seconds, and repeated the cycle, but each

time the light went on, the source of the light was in a position that implied an erratic flight path.

"It moved to different spaces when it blinked, jittery-like," said Gratton. Gratton said the light moved vertically and horizontally to new positions faster than an airplane could. He said the light was white with a yellow-green tinge. He remembers heavy cloud cover.

"It was a lot bigger than any light I've ever seen in the sky—brighter and larger in area," he said.

Gratton alerted his friend (who was driving) to the light, but the light only blinked once more, and his friend didn't see it.

"He asked me if I'd been drinking," Gratton said. "I hadn't."

A Vermont State Police dispatcher said she had not heard of any UFO sightings being reported to the St. Albans Barracks, Saturday. A spokesperson at Plattsburgh Air Force Base said the crew of an Air Force KC-135 tanker jet returning to the base low over the Fairfield area at about midnight, Saturday, did not report seeing anything strange.

Jim Smith of St. Albans, who collects accounts of UFO sightings to satisfy an intense interest in the phenomenon, said Bakersfield "used to be a very busy place" in terms of UFO activity in the late 1970s.

Smith said witnesses of UFOs in Bakersfield during that period typically were teens, alone in the woods hunting, fishing, or cutting wood, and observed "mostly bright lights in sometimes very erratic flight movements."

Smith said he had many sightings of unusual lights in the sky over Bakersfield when he used to travel every weekend between Johnson and Highgate.

"Usually they were bright lights near the big hill off to the right of Route 108 as you approach the outer limits of Bakersfield coming in from Enosburg. The lights went around or hovered over that hill," Smith said.

Tyrone Shaw, a long-time resident of Bakersfield, said he saw a UFO outside his home on the Lost Nation Valley Road on an April night in 1976.

Shaw said he went out to look at the night sky at about 11 p.m. and saw an orange glow to the east over a ridge. He said a craft that was "essentially a fuselage with swept back wings and orange and purple lights on its belly" approached and hovered directly over his house, emitting a "low rumble like a B-52 makes when it's 30,000 feet overhead."

"I was astonished," Shaw said. "I shouted, 'take me'—because I've always wanted to ride on (a UFO)—and when I did it shot off to the west," out of sight.

Shaw said he's heard of many other sightings of strange night lights in the sky in Bakersfield over the years.

"I don't know why they come here," Shaw said.

West Salem: UFO gathering site?

La Crosse brothers investigate what hovers overhead

By CHRIS HARDIE
Of the Tribune staff



"It wasn't just a light in the sky. The man referred to it as a craft."

— Jim Solberg

They may be just early spring flights of fancy, but recent sightings of strange lights around La Crosse have some believing there could be more in the night skies than just stars.

In the last three weeks, there have been three unexplained sightings of lights in the skies, say two La Crosse men who investigate unidentified flying objects.

While they have no explanation for the sightings, Jim and Steve Solberg say they are taking them seriously.

"We don't know if they are true or not," Steve Solberg said. "We more or less want to find out for ourselves."

The Solbergs say the first sighting was near West Salem on March 3, the second was near the south end of La Crosse on Monday and the third was again near West Salem on Thursday.

The March 3 sighting, witnessed by four adults and four children, was described as a bright light displaying a cross-like pattern along with moving multicolored lights.

Jim Solberg, who interviewed the eyewitnesses, said they were about a mile away from the lights. The shape of the object was not clear.

Monday's sighting, by a husband and wife who live south of La Crosse, was a closer one, Solberg said. The object was first seen about 8 p.m. hovering over the Mormon Coulee Cemetery, shining a bright light onto the ground.

The object then moved north and

then south, illuminating the ground at first and then displaying a red, oscillating light. There was also a sound accompanying the object, Solberg said.

The couple, which tried to follow the light in a vehicle, described the object as sort of an oblong saucer, Solberg said.

"It wasn't just a light in the sky," Solberg said. "The man referred to it as a craft."

A preliminary description of Thursday's sighting near West Salem was similar to Monday's, Solberg said.

The brothers say they want to hear from anyone else who has seen something strange in the sky.



Close encounters with researchers are on the agenda

By JIM BECKERMAN
Staff Writer

Don't expect UFO researcher Ellen Crystall to spout ridiculous stories of little green men. To start with, they're closer to beige. "It had huge yellow eyes that wrapped around the side of his head, no clothing that I could see," says Crystall, recalling her closest encounter of all — in 1980 in Pine Bush, N.Y., where she had gone, flashlight in hand, to investigate a UFO "hot spot."

"It was 3 feet tall, very thin, a beige appearance. It had a worried look on its face," she says. No sex organs to speak of, she adds. "It looked like a Gumby, that sort of eunuch type of appearance."

Crystall will be one of more than 20 UFO experts who will be appearing today and Sunday at UFO Conference East, which is expected to draw more than 2,000 people to the Ramada Pennsylvania Hotel in Manhattan.

The first event of its kind on the East Coast, the conference, sponsored by Whole Life Expo, will feature lectures and exhibits, as well as some 30 workshops on subjects ranging from UFOs and the Bible, to "crop circle" research, to the "secret life of abductees."

Alien abductees, that is — people who have been snatched from their houses and cars and subjected to assault.

"People who have sightings are so terrified," Crystall says. "They go into therapy — they're looking for people to support them."

Sightings of unidentified flying objects, that is — also known as "flying saucers," or now, in the Spielberg age, "close encounters."

Which is to say, beings from other planets who pilot their spaceships over the heads of awe-struck onlookers — who then repeat their stories to incredulous police officers, skeptical newspaper reporters, and finally to Oprah.

People like Ellen Crystall.

A New Milford native who has discussed UFOs with Joan Rivers, Larry King, and Geraldo, Crystall has written a book, "Silent Invasion: The Shocking Discoveries of a UFO Researcher" (Paragon House, 1992), and has founded a research organization, Contactee, with its own newsletter.

The Pine Bush hot spot where Crystall saw her beige Gumby is one of thousands throughout the world, she says.

They are located about every 100 miles — each one with a fleet of about 50 ships. "You take that around the world and start doing the mathematics," she says. "You come out with a quarter of a million ships."

Which may account for the one in every 10 people who, Crystall says, has seen a UFO — and the one in 50 who is believed to have been abducted by one.

"It was diamond-shaped, it was huge, very big, many lights, white and green," says David De Lia, a Cliffside Park resident who was one of many who

saw, well, *something* flying up and down the Hudson River on the evening of St. Patrick's Day 1988.

"I called the Cliffside Park Police Department to report this, and they said they had received at least 20 or 30 calls regarding the sighting," says De Lia, who says he's seen three UFOs.

De Lia says that when he phoned Teterboro Airport, the direction from which another witness claimed he saw the craft coming, he was informed by the man on the other end that it was an ultralight aircraft. Then, says De Lia, the man added: "Officially, we're supposed to say ultralights. Unofficially, we don't know what

the hell it was."

It should be explained that these spaceships, sighted en masse since the late 1940s when pilot Kenneth Arnold coined the term "flying saucer," are flying back and forth from underground bases at each of the "hot spots."

From there, says Crystall, they wreak their interstellar havoc — which includes abducting humans for medical research, and impregnating women with alien children who are snatched away before the pregnancy comes to term.

Where are "they" coming from? Any number of places, says Crystall, who believes that a consortium of planets may be involved in this secret Earth invasion.

"All these ships are going back to something very big that's parked nearby — and that could mean the outer edge of the solar system, or even further away than that," Crystall says.

Whoever they are and wherever they're from, Crystall believes they're up to no good.

"It's hostile," she says. "It's not benign. You don't abduct people, you don't terrify people if you're benign. Some of the abductees are being treated as rape victims by psychologists and psychiatrists. There are indications that they are undermining our society, and nobody's paying any attention."

With more than 1,500 photos and 2,000 sightings of UFOs to her credit, Crystall has been researching this topic since 1971, when she went to a California hot spot for a lark, at the urging of friends, and got more than she bargained for.

"I went to a nearby hill, and that's when the saucers came in close for a couple of nights," says Crystall, who now lives in the Poconos in Pennsylvania. "I took several pictures. I could see them clearly."

Neither Crystall, nor De Lia, nor any other UFO sighter is asking skeptics to take their stories on blind faith.

There's plenty of hard evidence, they say — ranging from shifts in the magnetic field, detected by scientists, to "landing circles" in cornfields and grasslands (as distinguished from "crop circles," which are gigantic pictures carved into fields in precise mathematical patterns, which also may be alien-related).

Then there are the photos — ranging from streaks of light in the sky to the "Tesla fields," the globes of force-field energy that can be picked up only with a camera.

This the aliens borrowed from the famed electrical genius Nikolai Tesla, inventor of the Tesla coil, who was in contact with them.

"The Tesla field is supposed to protect something inside it, whether a piece of machinery or a craft," Crystall says. "It can be as small as a tennis ball or as large as a city."

"I don't understand why people make light of it," De Lia says. "We're on a planet hurtling through space. Why is it so unusual to think there might be intelligent life in a nearby solar system? When people laugh at these stories, it's because deep down they might believe it's true, and they're scared. A lot of the laughter is nervous laughter."

Among those conducting lectures and workshops will be Richard Hoagland, former NASA consultant and science adviser to Walter Cronkite and CBS News on "The Monuments of Mars" (4 p.m. today); John Lear, veteran airline pilot and son of the Lear Jet inventor, on flying saucers (8 p.m. today); Budd Hopkins, a leading expert in UFO abductions, and David Jacobs, author and associate professor of history at Temple University, both speaking on abductions (noon and 4 p.m. Sunday, respectively).



FOREIGN NEWS

SURREY/NORTH DELTA NOW, Delta, B.C., Canada - Sept. 25, 1993



Alison, Nicholas and Daniel Watts outside their Newton home, where they say they saw a UFO on Sept. 15.

LEAH S. BRIGGS/NOW

UFOs taking Surrey for a ride

■ Surrey residents are among planet earth's best travelled, if reports of spaceship abductions here are true.

By Tom Zytaruk
STAFF REPORTER

People are disappearing in Surrey. Since 1989 some 20 Surrey residents have claimed to have been abducted by aliens, says Lorne Goldfader, director of the UFO Research Institute of Canada. A majority of the abductions occurred around the city's electrical power grids. Many of the abductees claim to have been taken into a spacecraft, but most choose not to go public for fear of ridicule.

As the experience is often accompa-

nied by amnesia, says Goldfader, it often takes a while before the abductees are able to piece together what happened to them. The memories usually surface through association, triggered by seeing an object that looks like something they saw in the craft, or medical conditions causing them to recall alien surgical techniques.

So far none of the abductees have contacted the Surrey RCMP. "We haven't got any reports of people gone missing or abducted by UFOs," Surrey RCMP Insp. Larry Gallagher said Friday.

On Sept. 10, several Surrey residents reportedly saw a large UFO hovering about 75 to 100 feet above a townhouse complex in Newton.

Residents reported their electrical appliances were affected and one family's computer spewed out bizarre hieroglyphics, which were later analyzed and deemed unrelated to the sighting.

Witnesses stood amazed, gazing at the large disc-shaped object. It was about the size of a 747 jet, they say, its circumference dotted with red strobe lights.

The sighting occurred at dusk. Daniel Watts, 16, was on his front lawn when he heard neighborhood children screaming and looked to the sky. The object's underbelly was seamless and looked like it was made of aluminum.

The craft remained stationary for about 15 seconds, giving Daniel time to call out for his mother. Alison. She reached the

front steps in time to see the object "flip" on its side and dash away, and then she rushed upstairs to make sure her baby Nicholas was still there.

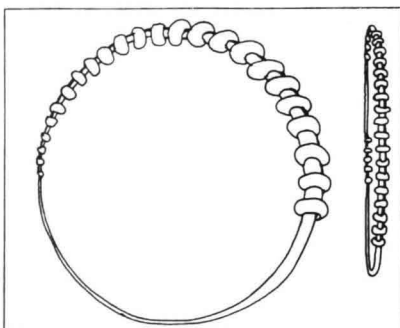
"You hear about abduction attempts," Alison explains. "I was awestruck. I didn't know what to feel, it was unreal."

A number of other UFO sightings were recorded in the Lower Mainland around that time, by Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam residents. More sightings occurred in Golden Ears Park between August 31 and Sept. 13.

"There's a helluva lot of stuff going on," says Goldfader, especially in B.C.'s interior and the Great Lakes region. But UFOs

don't worry him. "If they wanted to do anything really bad to us, they would have done it before we had nuclear weapons."

Reports of abductions usually start rolling in about a week after a sighting, says Goldfader, but he hasn't received any in connection with the latest sightings.



An eyewitness sketch of the UFO seen over Newton Sept. 15, with the UFO hovering over head (left) and approaching head-on (right).

CR: G. Conway

TAVISTOCK TIMES GAZETTE, Devon, England - Sept. 16, 1993
CR: G. Conway

Strange, silent craft sighted flying across the night sky

DID ANYBODY see anything strange in the sky last weekend?

Drawn outside by a commotion in the car park at around 12.35 on Sunday morning, Ray Cornforth of Spring Hill Hostel and Flats noticed some lights in the sky approaching from the direction of Plymouth Road.

As the lights got nearer, they turned almost 90 degrees and Mr Cornforth 'saw two rows of cabin windows in the thing' which he said was 'the size of a medium-sized aeroplane but had no wings and appeared to have two fuselages like a catamaran.' He estimated it was about 1500-2000 feet up in the sky.

In view for about a minute altogether, it then went through Tavistock along the line of the main street and on towards Okehampton before disappearing from view.

'The strange thing was that there was no sound whatsoever,' said Mr

Cornforth, 'and there were five or six people there with me who would testify that there was no noise.'

'I asked them what they thought it was and they said they thought it was an aeroplane, but there was no noise and I checked with British Airways - there was no commercial flight at that time and there were no military flights on Sunday morning.'

Asked what he thought it was, Mr Cornforth said: 'Well, it was obviously a UFO because it was an unidentified flying object, but I don't know what it was.'

'I was quite excited to see it actually. But I'm not looking for publicity,' he said. 'I just want to know if anyone else saw it.'

Did anybody see anything strange in the sky last weekend?

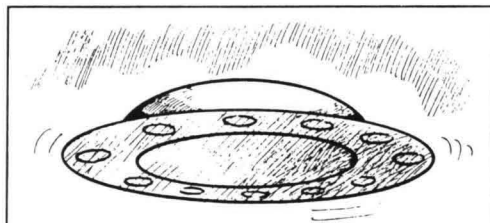
Have YOU seen W Norfolk UFOs?

MYSTERIOUS bright, flashing UFOs DID appear off the South Quay last week - as reported in Tuesday's Lynn News - claim two more Lynn men.

Andrew Boughen (20) told the Lynn News he was the unknown fisherman on the quay who alerted David Hamer (35) and Anthony Fenton (36) to the strange red, green and yellow lights, which they claim came across the River Ouse in the sky towards them in the early hours of Thursday morning.

"I shouted out and Mr Hamer and Mr Fenton looked and saw them too. They chased along the quay after them, but then the lights were by me again, between Hillington Square and the quay. A white beam came down and then it shot off into the sky," said Mr Boughen.

He and his friend Thomas Musgreaves (20) said they returned to the quay on Friday morning, where they met Mr Hamer, Mr Fenton and Mr



ALIENS OVER LYNN

Hamer's two sisters Shirley and Leeanne Hunter, who were all waiting to see if the lights would appear again.

At 12.27am they claim they saw the same flashing lights coming across the river from West Lynn. They disappeared and then two groups of lights appeared again at 1.14am. They claim a similar sight also greeted them in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Mr Boughen said: "The lights had no shape at all, and there was no engine noise, so it wasn't an aircraft or a shooting star, be-

cause they don't have coloured flashing lights.

"It was definitely a UFO," Mr Musgreaves was more sceptical: "We're absolutely intrigued by it all. I don't have any idea what it was, but I'm open to any possibility."

RAF Marham has no aircraft flying after midnight.

● **HAVE** you seen a W Norfolk UFO? Do you have an explanation for strange lights in Lynn's night sky? Let the Lynn News UFO Desk know - contact Judy or Julie on Lynn (0553) 761188, extension 4630.

ADVERTISER, Andover, England

Sept. 10, 1993 CR: T. Good

New sighting of a UFO

THE skies over Andover are taking on a technicolour hue as a second sighting of a brightly coloured UFO was reported to the Andover Advertiser.

Derek Vine was just about to leave his Admirals Way house at 5.15 am one day last week when he saw a brightly coloured ball of green light shoot across the top of Ladies Walk and then vanish.

The earlier UFO sighting was of a huge, silver coloured object over Goodworth Clatford.

Describing his experience, Derek Vine said: "There were high flying aircraft around at the same time but it wasn't anything to do with them. At first I thought it could have been connected with military manoeuvres at Middle Wallop Army Air Corps, then I saw the report in the Andover Advertiser about a possible UFO at Goodworth Clatford and now I am wondering."

He has reported the facts to Malcolm Terry, organiser of an unexplained phenomena group at Enham Alamein.

'I firmly believe there is life out there' Looking for that close encounter

"Flying saucers" have sparked interest — and ridicule — throughout the world. One woman scoffs at the scoffers. . .
CHRIS ELLIOTT reports.

WITH so many air bases in Mid-Anglia, it is not surprising that people frequently report seeing strange objects in the sky.

Most sightings, however, turn out to be military or civil aircraft, or something more mundane, such as weather balloons.

But some are more difficult to explain — and leave people not just puzzled, but sometimes quite anxious.

They wonder whether they have had a genuine encounter with a space ship from another world, or whether their eyes and ears have simply deceived them.

Often, it can help to talk to other people who have had similar experiences, and that is why the Cambridge UFO Group has been formed.

It meets every month at the Unicorn pub in Trumpington and so far has about 20 regular members.

Its founder member, mother-of-two Carol Kingsland-Christy, said: "People who have seen a UFO normally take a lot of stick if they mention it to someone else. They are ridiculed."

"Because of that, they tend to keep their experience to themselves. They have seen something, and they are bursting to tell someone, they want to get it out of their system."

"But they know how most people will react. And until now there has been no-one sympathetic they can phone or meet up with."

"That is why the group has been set up."

She admitted that many of the objects seen could be explained.

"People see things like balloons and satellites and imagine they are space ships," she said. "But some, a lucky few, do see something really good, something genuinely from another world."

"I firmly believe there is life out there."

When a new person contacts the group, they are encouraged to describe in detail what they have seen, and they get a sympathetic hearing.

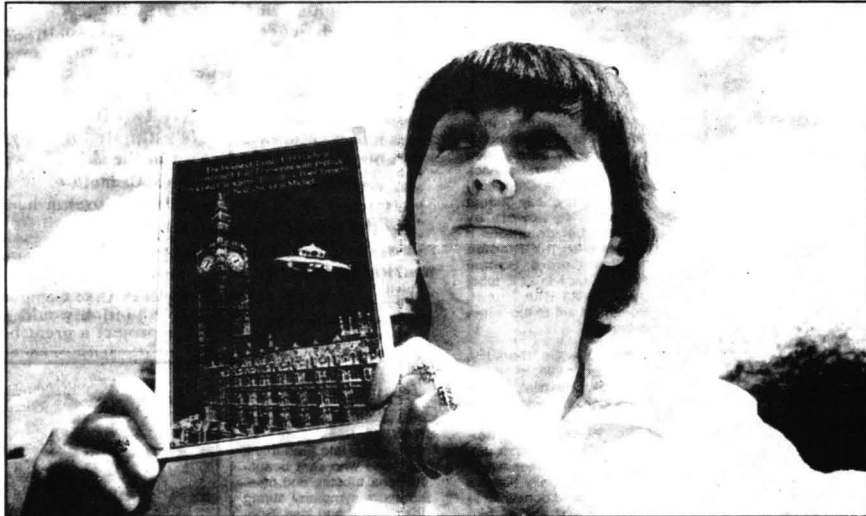
The majority of sightings are at night, and many involve night workers, such as security guards.

"All they know is that they have seen something — what, they don't know. And they want to talk about it," Mrs Kingsland-Christy said.

"It is not just a question of seeing a UFO. Seeing one does something to you inside. It affects your psyche, it makes you start asking questions."

"We are all conditioned as children to fit into society's concept of how we should be. We concentrate on our material possessions and what we can get in life, and hardly ever do we look up at the sky and wonder why we are here, where we came from, and so on."

UFO spotting is not a new



Look out . . . Carol Kingsland-Christy, who has launched a UFO group in Cambridge.

Picture: Paul Craske. 4490931A.

Lengthy list of strange sightings

Here are some of the strange incidents from the News library files:

February 1957: Reports flooded in of a saucer-shaped object with a fluorescent green glowing base, hovering 500ft above Cambridge. No one could explain what it was — the paper dubbed it "The Thing".

October, 1967: Mysterious lights in the shape of crosses were reported moving across the sky. Reports came from Newmarket, Cottenham and Eynesbury.

January, 1969: A woman's cottage at West Wickham was nearly demolished by an object which passed overhead. The building shook violently, and tiles on the roof were dislodged.

Minutes before it happened, the woman's cat and two dogs "suddenly started up, their hair standing on end, dashed into the bedroom and dived under the bed", the News reported. A number of trees near the cottage were later found with scorch marks. Local RAF stations disclaimed responsibility.

June, 1977: Objects and lights were seen all over the Royston area, with sightings at Royston, Arrington and Meldreth.

January, 1979: Two incidents within the space of a few days were recorded. At Girton, witnesses saw a shaft of light in the sky, which lit up a field "as if broad daylight" before shooting

skyward and disappearing. And in Cambridge's Radegund Road, a light "like a huge headlight" was reported.

November, 1979: One of the most unusual incidents. Villagers at Harston, and in nearby villages, said they were held spellbound by a fireworks-style light display in the night sky — for three hours. People suspected the United States Air Force — but the Americans denied any of their aircraft were flying.

January, 1980: A glowing half-moon shaped object was said to have hovered over Teversham. A plane from nearby Marshall's Airport? No — the airport was closed that day.

July, 1983: A police sergeant claimed to have spotted a huge, 50p piece-shaped object flying through the sky above Toft.

November, 1987: A saucer-shaped object, glowing brilliant white, cruised near a man's car at Prickwillow, outside Ely, then accelerated and vanished.

September, 1988: The Royal Greenwich Observatory in London received numerous reports from Cambridge residents of "loud pulsing noises, and a bright orange ball" in the sky above the city.

August, 1991: A mother and her son, driving near Swaffham Bulbeck, claimed to have seen a "blue-white, luminous light" in the sky.

HERALD EXPRESS, Torquay, Devon, England
May 20, 1993 CR: T. Good

UFO spotted in S.Devon skies!

FLYING saucers have made a re-appearance in South Devon!

Torquay Hotelier Norman Field of Torquay was amazed to spot a UFO in the sky over Torbay in the dead of night.

Norman was lying in bed at the Lansdowne Court Hotel near Torquay police station when he spotted a strange light in the sky.

And to add to the mystery, his daughter-in-law's neighbouring bedroom lit up at exactly the same time —

1.30am on Tuesday.

Wife Susan explained: "Norman saw a dark red thing moving very fast — not exactly in circles but in loops. It was sort of in the Paignton direction and it just disappeared."

Flabbergasted

"We never pull the curtains as like to lie and look at the moon and the stars, but he's never seen anything like that before."

"He was absolutely flabbergasted because he's a

non-believer. I was asleep so I missed it."

But Norman is convinced it was no star or plane. His sighting is the latest of a string of reports of UFOs in the area.

Paignton woman Mrs Pamela Jackson swears she had a close encounter in March when she spotted bright amber lights in the sky.

Reports of unexplained lights in the sky over South Devon have puzzled the experts for years.

New UFO: Unidentified Frying Object

By Emily
Compston

A PARTY of 30 had their barbecue interrupted at the weekend by a UFO.

Kelly Bare, aged 15, was at home in Williams Close, Longwell Green, when she and other revellers spotted a white light, darting rapidly across the sky.

Burgers and hot dogs were temporarily forgotten as amazed party goers attempted to capture the object on film.

"It was quite exciting. At first we thought it was a helicopter, but then it started dodging all over the place," said Kelly.

Lee Winterson, of the Bristol UFO research is currently investigating all the reported sightings and film taken last month, of objects hovering over Hartcliffe, is in the process of being professionally enhanced and analysed.

Demand for Euro inquiry into UFO

A KENT author wants the European Parliament to investigate a UFO sighting over Brussels.

Derek Sheffield, 64, of Regent Street, Rolvenden, a former printing consultant, has presented an application to Euro MP Ben Patterson.

He says the European Parliament should make the results of its investigation public.

He gives details of a massive triangular-shaped unidentified object that was seen by thousands. It appeared over Eupen and four months later over Wavre in Belgium, three years ago, he says.

Mr Sheffield put forward evidence that extraterrestrial civilisations exists in his book *A Question of Reason*, which was published last year.

This week the British Airways crewroom at London Heathrow Airport asked for a copy of Mr Sheffield's report to the European Parliament.

One of their pilot's recently spotted a silver disc "travelling at an unbelievable rate" on his flightpath.

The Belgian Ministry of Defence has also contacted him to say they will investigate his report and he is now planning a visit to meet police and pilot witnesses.

What's up? No one really seems to know

UFO mania really began around the time of the second world war. Since then many sightings have been claimed by East Anglian people, including:

● 1990 onwards — the past three years have been punctuated by several sightings, but most have been easily accounted for.

Among sightings were the strange lights above Norwich in February 1992, which prompted

many calls to the police who explained they were part of illuminations used to celebrate the reopening of a restaurant.

And in June 1990, UFO enthusiasts eventually announced a theory to account for strange circles which had appeared on a country lane at Hingham, near Wymondham — they believed they were caused by motorcyclists.

However, July 1990 saw the arrival of corn circles in a North

Walsham field after nearby residents spotted mysterious lights. The circles also appeared at Tibenham, near Long Stratton.

● 1980-1990 — The decade which saw the emergence of corn circles was overshadowed by the alleged sighting by American Servicemen of a space craft in Rendlesham Forest near Woodbridge.

The men claimed they saw a red, sunlike light flying through

the forest, leaving marks on the ground and trees.

● 1970-1980 — Norfolk and Suffolk were visited by lights in the sky throughout the year. These lights were variously reported as blue, green, red and orange.

There were several sightings at Lowestoft, and an unnatural blob of metal was also discovered at Overstrand beach.

● 1960-1970 — Pulsating sounds

were heard in Caister, lights were seen over Cromer and flying saucers were spotted at Lowestoft.

Among descriptions were flying mushrooms, cigars, bell-shaped craft and fiery crosses.

● 1950-1960 — UFO fever hit East Anglia with scores of reported sightings all around the area.

Almost every month brought a new report of mysterious lights or objects in the sky.

I was snatched by a UFO... then I had an alien's baby

By MURRAY DAVIES

ON a calm summer night Karen and her boyfriend were strolling along a country lane in Somerset.

Suddenly they heard a humming noise and a strange object flashed overhead in a terrific blast of wind.

Later there was a 30-minute gap in their evening that they couldn't explain.

Weeks afterwards Karen, 19, found that she was pregnant - although she claimed it was impossible.

She began to suffer nightmares about having an ugly baby equipped with incredible intelligence. It was almost a relief when, after three months, she was told she'd miscarried.

Five years later, in 1984, she heard the same humming noise and woke to find a tall blond creature with large blue eyes at her side.

She was floated out of her bedroom window into

★ UFO experts from all over the world will this week discuss the startling theory that aliens are kidnapping women for genetic experiments that will enable them to breed with us - to create a new race.

★ The Sheffield conference will hear that aliens have visited Earth for centuries. Earlier intruders are now known as GREYS - evil gnomes - or NORDICS - gentle wizards. The new theory is based on the alleged abduction of hundreds of women over the past 30 years. Here are some of their incredible stories...

a UFO. She vaguely recalls being medically examined and knowing that something "very important" had happened.

In another incident three years later, she awoke to feel tiny fingers touching her own. She is convinced that a little child was holding her hand.

As her husband switched on the light Karen saw a ball of light float from the room.

UFO researchers now believe that Karen is just one of a growing army of women being abducted by aliens.

Between 1965 and 1975 only 20 cases were reported worldwide. Now

there are about ONE HUNDRED each year.

UFO experts say it is part of a long-term programme of genetic engineering, using the Earth as a laboratory. The aliens have repeatedly told their victims they cannot breed among themselves so they need to mutate humans into their likeness for inter-breeding.

Human contacts with aliens are becoming more sinister. Earlier victims were invariably men who enjoyed the publicity.

Women contacts now outnumber men by two to one and most are unwilling to talk about their experiences. Their very unwillingness to talk lends

credibility to their experiences, say believers.

Victims suffer trauma and repressed memories similar to rape victims. Only an estimated one in 10 report their stories.

The first reported abduction took place in BRAZIL in 1957 when a farm hand claimed to have been sexually examined by aliens. No-one took his story seriously. But a few years later, in NEW HAMPSHIRE, USA, a woman suffered the same experience.

It was the start of a growing explosion of reported abductions and medical experiments.

● In January last year Maria was driving in the HUNGARIAN countryside when she saw a light coming towards her.

She woke in the middle of a snow-covered field. Her lights and engine had failed. Her body was covered in burn-like wounds with unusual puncture marks and a strange rash.

The car door had been welded shut through extraordinary heat.

Maria became pregnant and ultra-sound examina-

tion showed up the image of an abnormally developed foetus, which later simply disappeared.

● Debbie Tomey from INDIANA began a lifetime of strange experiences at the age of seven when, she claims, she met an unusual little boy who "played a trick" which involved a cut to her leg.

This, it is claimed, was the aliens tagging her, as we tag animals, so she could be found later.

When Debbie was in her teens she says she was twice taken aboard a UFO.

She felt her stomach being squeezed. Something was placed inside her and she felt a strong suction device at work.

Five years later, in 1983, she believed she was shown her alien child during a further abduction. The child was about four, with white hair, large eyes and an egg-shaped head.

● In the late Seventies Susan says she was kidnapped in the NORTH of ENGLAND and placed on a table inside a UFO.

She was examined by creatures with large eyes, pale skins and very blond

hair. Afterwards she began to have strange dreams and became unexpectedly pregnant.

A few weeks later she found blood on her bed clothes and discovered she was no longer pregnant.

Two types of aliens - the Greys and the Nordics - are said to have been visiting the Earth for centuries. Our forefathers, knowing nothing of other worlds, called one group evil goblins, the other wise magicians.

THE GREYS are dwarfs with white or grey skins and high, pear-shaped heads. They have slit mouths with extremely large, dark eyes.

These are the evil gnomes and goblins of legend.

THE NORDICS are friendly, almost human looking. Around six-foot tall, with beautiful cat-like eyes and long, very blond hair, they tend to be kindly observers.

They warn that the Greys are concerned only with their own survival.

● *Aliens: The Real Story* by Jenny Randles, £14.99 (published by Robert Hale in November).

EVENING COURIER, Halifax, England

Sept. 18, 1993

They didn't believe my UFO story

Hangingroyd Road, Hebden Bridge.

IT WAS interesting to read about PC Alan Godfrey's UFO in the 'Evening Courier'.

I saw a circular craft back in 1945. It was stationary and silent and the reason I noticed it was because of a break in the clouds.

I stood watching this thing for about five minutes, then turned to look at something else and it had gone.

I was in Leicester at the time and when I told people about it, I was told: "You have been reading too many 'Eagle' comics."

True, the only place where one could read about delta-wing and circular craft was in "Eagle" comics. When Governments tried they found delta wings flew but were unable to get circular craft to fly more than 100 mph.

I have since found out why. Circular craft are propelled by a vacuum at the front and can travel at fantastic speeds.

(Pastor) P. A. BENSON

CR: T. Good

SUNDAY MAIL, Brisbane (?) , Australia - Sept. 12, 1993 CR: P. Norman

CANING ALIENS OR SHAPING FUTURE?

A MORE than slightly bemused cane farmer, Jack Walden, arrived back at his Sunshine Coast hinterland property at Woombye yesterday to find his bottom cane paddock full of media and flying saucer devotees looking for proof that aliens had landed.

"This is just so enormous! You've got a world first here!" an elated George F. Scott of Pomona, a member of the Gympie branch of the Queensland UFO Research Bureau, said.

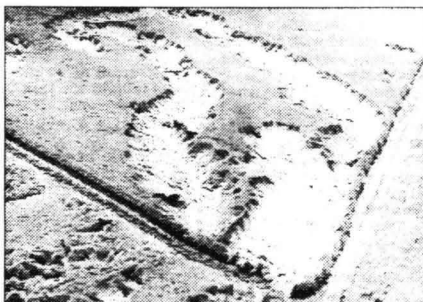
Areas of flattened cane on Mr Walden's property are being given wildly different interpretations, including a visit from aliens.

"I'd just been to Blackbutt when I got a message that all this activity was happening," said Mr Walden.

Present in the otherwise empty field were news staff from Channels 9 and 10, The Sunday Mail, and two flying saucer believers who confessed they were absolutely riveted by what they were seeing.

"Ah well," said Mr Walden philosophically. "Even if aliens have landed, the cane'll harvest all right."

"Maybe they'll have the technology to make



The flattened cane seen from the air - Channel Nine picture

the cane stand up because it's a variety, Number 110 we call it, that lodges (falls over).

"I've been cane farming for 23 years and dad's been on the property since the early Forties, and we've never seen any signs yet of visitors from outer space."

"But I'm not too worried about killing any aliens when I fire the cane."

Mr Scott, who was with fellow UFO bureau member Carlo Riva, from Traveston, said: "We've just had the most incredible experience, the two of us."

"I've seen a lot of crop circles in the UK and they are very precise and symmetrical. What we

got in the canefields is incredible... rectangles, they've sculpted the cane."

And who are they? "It's an intelligence from outer space," said Mr Scott. "It's not local people. It's got to be extraterrestrial intelligence."

"It's like somebody's been up with a laser tool and sculpted it with a complexity you can't believe."

"Somehow or other there's a message in these things."

Mr Walden said: "If aliens have landed, I might have to get a few more cartons of XXXX so I can shout them a drink."

□ CARLOS ALBA

"They were small and looked alike, standing side by side, and they were definitely not human," he told the Press and Journal. "They had black eyes as I recall."

Mr Van der Plas claims the event took place 18 years ago when he was a child in Australia. He recently underwent regressive hypnosis with the help of world-famous UFO investigator Bud Hopkins.

He said he awoke one night to find a light

shining through his bedroom window and two creatures at the foot of his bed.

Mr Van der Plas claims he later passed out at his school desk - a result of post-traumatic shock - suffered skin damage and had vivid dreams about a silver egg-shaped object.

He now believes he was experiencing the after-effects of inter-planetary abuse by the aliens.

"If they walk into your bedroom at night, it's an assault whether you like it or not," he said. "I believe it was for a medical or biological purpose."

DORSET EVENING ECHO, Weymouth, England - Sept. 1, 1993 CR: T. Good

Keep eyes to the skies for crop circles!

AS the crop circle formations come to an end in cereal crops with the onset of the harvest, can I please take this opportunity of thanking all your readers on behalf of my team of researchers and myself.

Please, readers, farmers, landowners and members of the general public, remember that this enigma does not confine itself to cereal crops only, so it's still a case of keeping your eyes peeled for other crop circle formations.

Can I also thank all the readers who have sent us detailed information on the linked part of the enigma, the lights in the sky and at ground level.

We are building up a database on the sightings that cannot be explained away as flares, aircraft or helicopters and are most definitely increasing in numbers, not only in Dorset but world-wide from the reports I have received.

So once again I am asking your readers to keep their "eyes to the skies" and report any sightings to our hotline telephone numbers: (0202) 723127; (0305) 813476 or (0305) 267392 whereupon a form designed for the purpose will be sent to them for completion. We will keep their name and address in confidence if they request so.

Dorchester is lucky this year to be hosting an international conference on Crop Circle Formations and associated phenomena at the Corn Exchange on the weekend of October 2-3, and any person wishing to attend is advised to book their ticket now from: The Cerealogist, 20, Paul Street, Frome, Somerset BA11 1DX.

Any readers wishing to become members of the Centre for Crop Circle

LETTERS

The Editors
Dorset Evening Echo
57, St Thomas Street
Weymouth.

Studies and to receive a quarterly journal plus updated information on what's happening in the enigma both in this country and world-wide should write, enclosing an S.A.E. to my public relations officer, Mr Richard Peacock, 92, Poundbury Crescent, Dorchester DT1 2NX.

The conference will be hosted by the Earl of Haddington and a long list of national and international speakers. People will have a chance to put questions to a panel of experts.

Can I please inform all your readers that as from September 3 our address will be as follows: David and Virginia Kingston, C.C.C.S. Convenor for Dorset, 1, Pemberton Close, Weymouth DT3 6QY. Telephone: (0305) 813476.

DAVID KINGSTON, County Convenor, Centre for Crop Circle Studies, 17, Great Western Road, Dorchester.

"A visitation has connotations of contact or communication - there was no communication at all."

The IUN - founded in 1987 - includes psychologists, scientists and photographers in its 300-strong membership.

Spokesman Philip Mantle said he hoped the conference would show sceptics that the study of UFOs is a proper scientific discipline.

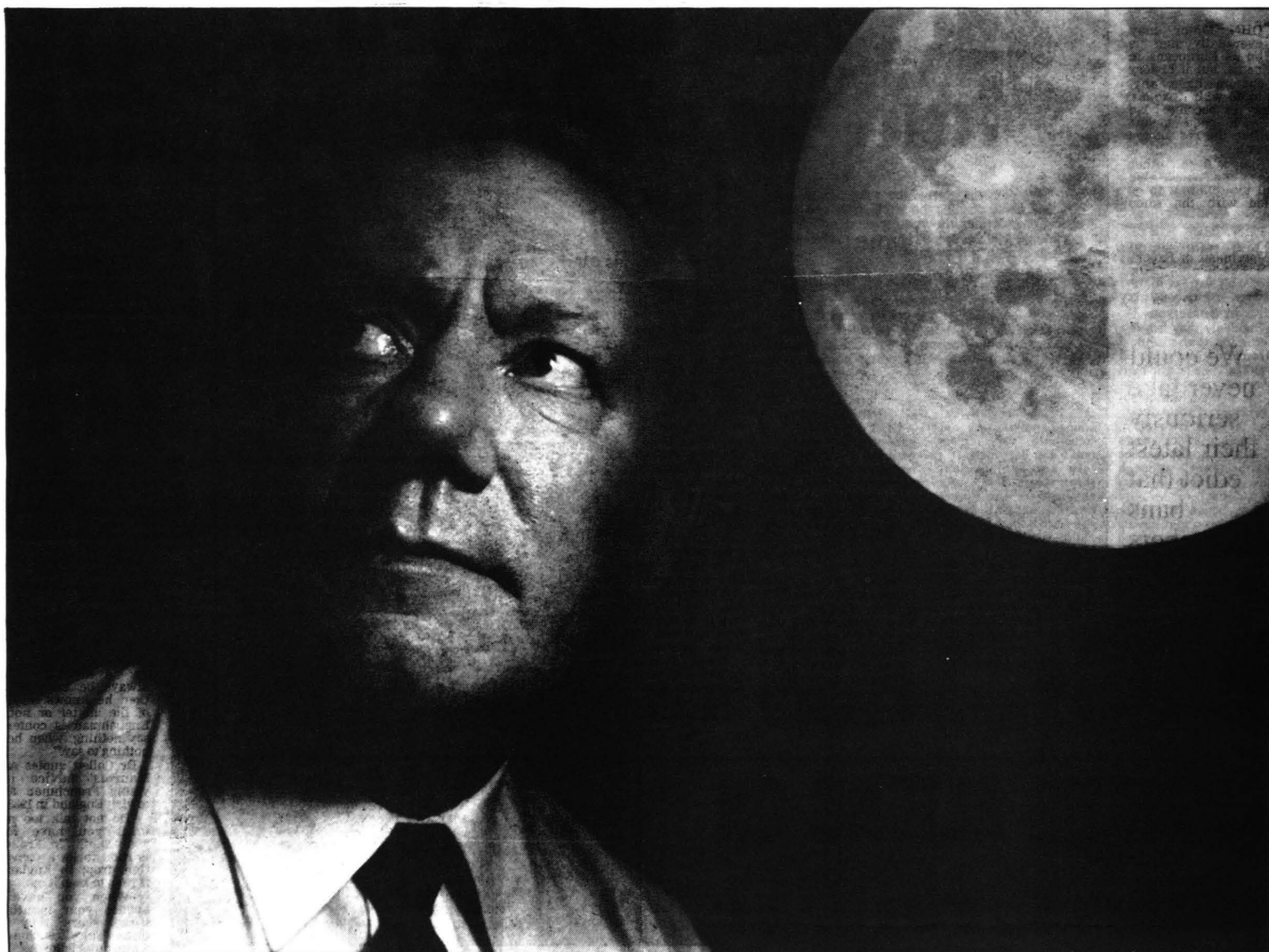
"We usually find, after talking to someone for a while, they realise we are not crazy," he said. "We are not hunting little green men."

Man set to tell of alien kidnap ordeal

ALIENS from outer space kidnapped, assaulted and carried out medical experiments on an Aberdeen office worker, a conference will be told tomorrow.

Dirk van der Plas, Brighton Place, claims he had blackouts, panic attacks and skin lesions after the visit.

He will tell the Independent UFO Network's annual conference in Sheffield that he was removed from his bedroom and taken to a silver, egg-shaped spaceship by two humanoid UFO entities.



THERE IS INTELLIGENT LIFE DOWN HERE... and Doug Cooper, being an example of it, sees no reason why there shouldn't be intelligent life elsewhere, too

Beam me up, Scottie



JACK HOLMAN
The Big Interview

"True," says Doug Cooper, an accredited investigator for the British UFO Research Association.

"The trouble for people who do dismiss UFOs is that many, many reports have come from level-headed, well educated and intelligent witnesses.

"When you sift through the evidence and discard the mistaken objects and practical jokers I reckon you are left with one in 10 reports that cannot be explained away.

"As far as I and a great many other people are concerned, that one in 10 was an unidentified flying object."

Among the convinced are a Nasa space engineer, many scientists and bright people from all walks of life. They say the evidence for UFOs is now too overwhelming to be ignored.

"That does not mean we all believe in little green men with eyes on stalks," Doug says.

He can appear a little guarded because there are people to whom "flying saucer" is a sort of Pavlovian key phrase that provokes instant guffaws.

"But many of us do believe there is an intelligence from way out there" - he waves an arm at the sky - "that is showing an increasing interest in our planet."

Which is why the reports of a UFO over Devon, Somerset and Cornwall at the end of March does not send him leaping with excitement; it is simply yet another sighting to be logged and investigated.

This one was first reported by police officers, men

trained not necessarily to believe everything they see.

On this occasion they had no doubts what they saw in the sky - not an aircraft, not a freak cloud formation, not a flock of birds but an unidentified flying object.

"That's the key phrase - an object in the sky that we cannot identify, powered by a propulsion unit unknown to us, unless, of course, our scientists have come up with something that authority is keeping quiet about.

"But why would they? That's not likely, so it must be from somewhere else."

And why not? Let Doug Cooper explain.

"If the universe is as old as they say, a few billion years or so, and if the number of stars, or suns, is about equivalent to the number of grains of sand on this planet, which means for every star there must be a few planets, give or take a billion, then surely there must be some other intelligence out there.

"We live on one of the youngest planets in the universe so when you think of the progress we have made over the last century just imagine what may have happened thousands of years before we came into being.

"More and more people are putting aside religious indoctrination and querying whether man on Earth is the only intelligence around. I think it is inconceivable that he is."

And that just about sums up your open-minded UFO researcher's philosophy. Don't

knock what you can't prove wrong.

Nobody can prove him right, either, but UFO believers claim that the evidence for the existence of an intelligence not of this world is mounting - hovering over us, in fact - more often than we know.

This evidence includes some remarkable film shots from Mexico taken by 17 different people, all unknown to each other.

"They were taken in 1991 and 92," Doug said, "and one of the UFOs is identical to one photographed by a farmer in Switzerland seven years previously. The films have been put together in a video; I'll show you."

He did. In a phrase, I was amazed.

"Thought you would be," Doug grinned. "It was no accident; they were showing themselves to us."

Clever camerawork geared to a capricious mind can fool lots of laymen. But this video was compiled from 17 verified unrelated sources and the objects in the sky were indeed like UFOs.

More to the point, the space engineer from Nasa was seen discussing them and agreeing that they were just that - unidentified flying objects.

So what about Doug Cooper, a young 56 despite the grey hair; is he anybody's fool? Not by background and training he isn't.

"London-born with an education that wartime bombing made a bit of a lottery. Sometimes we got taught,

other times we didn't.

"I joined the Post Office and then when they called me up for my National Service I thought here was a chance to learn more so I signed on in the Royal Engineers.

"I served 22 years and finished as Warrant Officer 1st Class and in those years I visited 22 countries.

"That was partly because of my job - I became the Army equivalent of a Foreign Office courier, taking confidential documents abroad; you know, the brief case chained to the wrist business.

"When I came out I tried a variety of jobs but I couldn't settle. Then Marion and I moved to Devon and I started my own management services business and now I manage a shopping centre in Taunton and one here in Honiton."

Marion is his wife whom he met when she was also serving in the Army. They have five children, four daughters and a son, who is the youngest. Doug grinned. "We were determined to get a boy."

His interest in UFOs began in the Army when he was stationed in London.

"At the top of the building were the RAF, and a Flight Sergeant and I became mates, used to have a pint together regularly, when I wasn't flying around the world with secret Service documents.

"One day he said to me 'We've got some amazing photographs in the office - God knows what it is... ta-

ken from an RAF Shackleton.' He was under orders not to talk about it but he did say 'I know there is something flying around, that ought not to be up there.'

"I read everything about the subject I could lay my hands on and I reckon it takes a great deal to spoof me when it comes to UFOs.

"Countless times I've had to tell well-meaning people that what they saw was a freak cloud formation, or the sun glinting weirdly on something. As I say, I reckon only one in 10 is a genuine sighting."

Even that is one too many for some people. They will remain convinced that people who devote time to researching unexplained objects in the sky are off their rockers.

Of course, the Flat-Earthers thought Columbus was barmy and would sail straight over the edge.

"I'm not trying to convince you," Doug Cooper said. "All I would want is that people keep an open mind. Not blank, just open."

And as Sherlock Holmes told Dr Watson, when you have discarded all the impossibilities, what is left, however improbable, must be the truth.

Just a mistake — or are we being watched?

TWO IN A ROW

THREE IN A ROW

4/SQUARE SHAPE

3/TRIANGLE SHAPE

CHASE GAMES

PETE McMARTIN
Vancouver Sun

In the press release, the Unidentified Flying Objects are illustrated as blobs, flying in various formations. They suggest a Dalmatian.

According to the press release, put out by the U.F.O. Research Institute Of Canada ("24 Hour Reporting Service — News Updates Daily,") the UFOs and their different configurations were sighted by "at least 50-100 people minimum" over the twin peaks of Golden Ears park last Sunday night between 9 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

The fact that search and rescue was looking for a lost hiker in the same area at the same time — using military flares, a helicopter and a low-flying aircraft in the search — has not dissuaded UFORIC.

"It sounded like UFO activity until I phoned search and rescue," said UFORIC director Lorne Goldfader, "and they told me they had just plucked a fellow off the mountain."

He was willing to admit to "a classic case of misidentification," until he got a number of phone calls from people who insisted that, yes, they had seen flares, but that they had also seen other lights.

"I pieced together another scenario," Goldfader said.

"Two events going on at the same time." The search-and-rescue flares, he said, were yellowish and gradually descending.

"The other objects were whitish, at a higher altitude and they remained at a constant altitude. They changed from square formation to a triangular formation. They played tag. I'm not 100-per-cent sure, but I think there was

I'm not 100-per-cent sure, but I think there was some UFO activity going on at a higher elevation.

LORNE GOLDFADER

some UFO activity going on at a higher elevation."

There were, Goldfader said, two main sets of witnesses:

● A "party of nine" at a Coquitlam house (although it is unclear in the UFORIC news release whether the nine were partying or merely a party.)

● A "group of independent witnesses" near the Port Coquitlam dike road.

Goldfader also reports one young boy who "was sent to the roof of his house by his parents to take photos, which we intend to see when developed."

UFORIC has been tracking UFO sightings in the Lower Mainland area since 1989, when Goldfader founded it. He estimates his records include about 300 genuine sightings.

A postal employee, Goldfader saw his first UFO in 1977. He was living in the West End. "Dec. 17, 1:30 a.m. It was a large egg-shaped object, pulsating, moving slowly across the sky."

He has since seen "two major sightings, three minor sightings and other stuff I won't even talk about, because I refuse to talk about it until I obtain physical evidence."

An alien event for William

MYSTERIOUS lights in the sky have again been seen near Stroud — just weeks after a UFO expert declared the district a hot spot for flying saucers.

The latest sighting to baffle experts occurred when retired RAF sergeant William Raymond (71), of Park View Drive in Cashes Green, spotted a brightly lit orange ball in the sky.

"My wife and I were sitting in our living room, looking out of the window towards Randwick when an orange object raced across the sky at a phenomenal pace.

"I have seen dozens of aircraft and I know what a meteorite looks like — but this was something completely different," he said.

This week's sighting is the third reported this month.

NEWS & JOURNAL, Stroud, England
Sept. 22, 1993 CR: T. Good

Sky light

A strange light seen hovering in the sky early this morning has Greenock people baffled. The bright green and red light was spotted hovering about a 1000 feet above Helensburgh by a security guard working in the grounds of Tesco. Security manager Robert Dick of Viscount Security said: "It was unlike anything we've ever seen before and the possibility of wee green men did cross our minds." The Clyde Coastguard at Greenock said this morning that he had no record of the sighting.

GREENOCK TELEGRAPH,
Renfrewshire, Scotland
Aug. 6, 1993 CR: T. Good

Flying saucers and the mugs' game

'Fact' sometimes proves stranger than science fiction. Lizo Mzimba talks to people who get carried away by UFOs

CORN circles may have shrunk from the headlines this summer, but interest in UFOs never fades. The seventies had Close Encounters, the eighties ET and the nineties have Fire In The Sky — a "true" story of an American tree feller, Travis Walton, who was abducted by extra-terrestrials from an Arizona forest. Could happen to anybody.

"The majority of people don't know that they have been abducted," insists Tony Dodd, director of investigators at the UFO organisation Quest International. "It only comes to light in certain circumstances."

According to Tony, many people have suffered unknowingly since childhood. "People are first abducted as children. They're selected — we don't know why — and implanted with something in their body which acts like a tagging device. Then they are taken to a facility and laid on a table where some sort of genetic engineering is done to them. But it's not a one-off experience for the abductees."

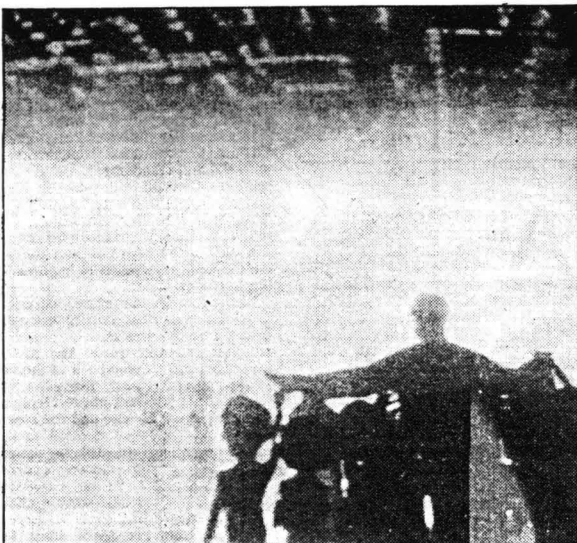
Apparently not. For Janice Georgiou, the visits are so routine she claims to be on first-name terms with her alien friends.

"I don't believe they are totally extra-terrestrial," she says. "I think there is some kind of genetic connection between us."

Despite such familiarity, the meetings have not been harmless. Janice, a 44-year-old housewife and mother, claims she was abducted while asleep in her bedroom one quiet Friday afternoon and has been left with burn scars after she was experimented on by two aliens. "One had in his hand a long straight instrument," she recalls. "It looked white hot and he started to come towards me. With all my strength I managed to move my left arm and push his arm. But the instrument touched my stomach and burned it."

So have you been visited or are you a visitor? Mike Hutchinson, who has researched the UFO phenomenon, has a simpler explanation.

"Some of these people are lying. Others, under so-called hypnotic recall, start fantasising."



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS: It's life, but not as we know it

Such scepticism discourages many young people from coming forward with their experiences of UFO encounters, says Philip Mantle of the British UFO Research Association.

"I interviewed one young man in Wales who after one visit started writing poetry. He said to me, 'Whatever you do, don't tell my friends.' We try to protect teenagers from the stigma attached to their experiences."

Of course, where there's a slice of the unknown offered, there's always someone willing to give you odds on it turning up trumps.

"We take regular bets of up to £1,500," says Graham Sharpe of William Hill, who are offering 100-to-1 odds on extra-terrestrial life being discovered within a year. "It's been a particularly popular bet since Nasa started their 10-year search of radio waves from space."

Many punters are pinning their hopes on Nasa and think it's just a matter of time until proof of alien life in outer space materialises. But they may have to wait. According to a UFO conference report released this year, sightings are well down. And the Independent UFO Network says out of the 100 reports received last year, only 10 remain unsolved.

"I believe there's no smoke without fire," says Arnold West, a past chairman of the British UFO Research Association. "There've been too many unexplained occurrences to discount it."

Visit true?

1995: Russia's Mars probe lands with Earth CD-Rom, Visions of Mars, on board. Handy for all those alien CD-Rom users everywhere.

1993: In Cleveland, "baby-faced" aliens apparently land in a householder's driveway. A Cabbage-Patch dolls comeback, perhaps?

1992: Lerwick Observatory record 17 sightings of a "very low, very fast, large white object". Obviously Concorde making a detour.

1991: In Huddersfield, a man mistakes Venus for a flying saucer. Easy mix up really.

1990: Two American scientists develop a language to communicate with aliens. The world asks why?

Aliens or just a ghost?

A BOGHALL woman had a ghastly experience on the Bathgate Hills last Tuesday.

Or was it ghostly? For Mrs Margo Waddell of Elizabeth Drive saw six or seven white shapes moving in formation on the road to Knockhill.

Now she wants to know — were they ghosts or some sort of UFO?

The incident happened at about 10.30/10.45pm on May 11 and the shapes were seen by both Margo and her husband, Robert.

"I never said anything to him at the time, but when I asked him if he'd seen anything, he said 'those white spots'."

"He described what they were and his description was the same as mine. That's how I knew we had both seen the same sort of thing."

Margo said that the spots seemed to move ghostly than a UFO. "There was no direct beam coming down or anything like that."

"It was a dead calm, clear night. The spots were transparent and they kept in formation, four on the top and three on the bottom. They were about four or five feet off the ground and between 20 and 30 feet away from me."

"I've never seen anything like it before in my life."

● Were you in the vicinity of the Bathgate Hills on that night? If you know anything about this incident or have had any type of similar experience, contact the *Herald & Post* at 64 North Bridge Street, Bathgate, EH48 4PP or call us on (0506) 634436.

HERALD & POST, Bathgate, England - May 20, 1993 CR: T. Good

TAVISTOCK TIMES GAZETTE, Devon, England
Sept. 23, 1993 CR: G. Conway

Yes, I saw that flying bus too . . .

THE UNIDENTIFIED airborne craft reported in last week's *Times* may have had another witness.

Ans Reed of Mary Tavy said her husband, Bill, 'who is not given to fantasy', also saw 'a funny thing in the sky' that weekend when he was driving home late from Plymouth.

Like Ray Cornforth, Mr Reed reported seeing two rows of windows in what 'looked like a double-decker bus'

that was flying towards Okehampton or Exeter before it suddenly disappeared from view.

Mr Reed didn't think any more of it until he read the story in the *Times* several days later.

He is sure he saw the same thing as Mr Cornforth, though it was earlier in the evening - around 10 pm - and he does not remember if it was Sunday or Monday night.



Circles of confusion... the patterns in the corn at Cherhill

UFO adds to circle puzzle

CROP circle watchers are investigating links between a mysterious new crop pattern and Unidentified Flying Objects.

The pattern below Cherhill white horse, near Calne, consists of a number of circles, half circles and corridors. It appeared on Saturday night.

A Dutch-American team with a camcorder and tripod has been looking at the weird pattern which it believes may be linked to a UFO incident it claims to have filmed earlier the same night near Marlborough.

The enthusiasts are now appealing to local farmers to allow them to leave messages in harvested cornfields or display strings of coloured lights to help

them communicate with what they believe to be an alien force.

Police were called to the scene at 7pm on Sunday when hoaxers were reported to be making circles, but the "criminals" turned out to be a team studying the pictogram.

Now Americans Eric Beckford and Joan DeNeve have set up Operation Magpie at Wessington Park in Calne and are to spend the next week continuing the search for UFOs.

Flying Officer Simon Cree, of RAF Lyneham, says an exercise just drawing to a close over Salisbury Plain might explain the phenomenon. "It involved a lot of Hercules flying at night and making light configurations," he says.

SOUTH SIDE STORY, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada - Oct. 8, 1993

Crop circles and physical traces

Crop circles! What are they? The question should really be "What aren't they?" For one thing, they are not actual physical traces left behind by flying saucers. And most important, they occur only at night and only in crop fields and such, never on hard surfaces like rock, sand, gravel, etc. I think there should be a distinction made between crop circles and flying saucer landing sites. A physical landing trace case usually includes the sighting of an object (flying saucer) on or near the ground. After it leaves, there is visible evidence of interaction with the environment, such as burnt patches of grass, scorching of the soil, sand that's been blown away, pod marks, etc.

Three years ago, in mid-September 1990, a physical landing trace was discovered on Manitoulin Island. It is located 1/4 mile from the main road, in an area consisting of gravel and limestone, that is surrounded by trees. There were two donut-shaped indentations, each measuring 9 feet in diameter and both were 16 feet apart, from center to center. The people who took the first photographs described them

as having a sand-blasted effect on the spot where the gravel was blown away, revealing the limestone underneath. Although they were reported to a radio station as being crop circles, they were not part of the same phenomena. One of the four photos appeared in last month's issue.

Crop circles are a different matter. British researchers are baffled at the fact that bent over crops keep growing and show no signs of any physical contact. They say their evidence does indicate the circles are formed in about 5 to 10 seconds and are caused by some tugging force, though the roots are not pulled from the soil. If the crop circle makers are really hoaxers, then they would have to be faster than a speeding bullet to accomplish their task! Personally, I feel that there is an extraterrestrial intelligence at work here. There is sufficient evidence to indicate that this is so: complex patterns, enormous size and striking biological and radiological anomalies in the plants and soil. There are videotapes showing unidentified lights descending into the crops! And eyewitness reports of strange objects shining beams of light

into the fields!

Still-- no one was willing to look at the facts. People jumped on the bandwagon, spreading rumors and "far out" explanations: hoaxes, electro-magnetic forces from within the earth, atmospheric conditions, and so on. Soon after, a couple of self-proclaimed hoaxers came forward and "admitted" to the world that they were the ones creating "wheat patterns." As soon as the word HOAX was put forth, the media dropped the story and left researchers holding the bag! But why the emphasis on British crop circles when this is a worldwide occurrence? Countries such as Germany, Spain, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, the United States and Canada are also hosts to the crop circle phenomena. And last year, a new twist to the phenomenon was revealed. Dead, crushed and strangely desiccated porcupines have been found in two crop formations on the Canadian prairies. If hoaxers were involved in creating these formations, how did they convince the poor animals to simply stay there and take the abuse while they walked over them with their ropes and boards? Maybe they had help from Dr. Doolittle, the only man I know that can talk to the animals! Or perhaps, they are frequent flyers who have collected enough free air miles to fly to these countries in order to create their masterpieces! Some of the crop formations are so enormous that it would take hundreds of hoaxers to create them. For instance, in the last five months, two crop formations appeared in Northern Spain, one of which measured 1 mile in length! Quite an undertaking, wouldn't you say?

Just one more thing. During my research at the local Reference Library, I came across a newspaper article dated July 24th/63. The headline reads as follows: Says Crater Shows Landing Craft From Another Planet? It mentions the discovery of a 10 foot crater in a farmer's potato field (possibly made by a flying saucer) and a 50 foot circle of flattened barley in another field, in Wiltshire, England. This indicates to me that the crop circle phenomena began long before 1978, the year that the hoaxers claimed as the starting point for their crop circle-making careers. (Maybe we should give the hoaxers some of those giant peanut butter cups. They could use the help.)

Michel M. Deschamps
Provincial Section Director
for Sudbury, Ontario
MUFON (Mutual UFO
Network, Inc.)

CR: M. Deschamps

EVENING COURIER, Halifax, England - Sept. 4, 1993 CR: T. Good

TV SHOW SPARKS NEW UFO CLAIMS

By VAL JESSOP

As he tried to call for help his car and personal radio failed to work and the next thing he knew it was an hour later when he was 100 yards further down the road.

Now Mr Spence, formerly of Calderdale but now living in Allerton, Bradford, has told the "Evening Courier" that he had decided to speak out after hearing about some of Mr Godfrey's encounters.

"I had a terrifying experience while cycling back to my home in Barkisland late at night some years ago when I saw a green human form radiating blinding light on the horizon.

"At first, I saw what appeared to be a red stop light of a car or bicycle on the brow and then, as I got closer, a blinding green light emerged in the shape of a human being. I could not distinguish anything else but it was emitting a very powerful light," said Mr Spence, who is self-employed in computers.

"It had a hand up in a beckoning manner but I turned around and fled, cycling home another route," he said.

Mr Spence said the incident happened in 1972 but he can remember it as clear as it was yesterday.

A NEW witness has come forward to substantiate claims of sightings in Calderdale of aliens and unidentified flying objects.

Thirty-two-year-old Mr Paul Spence has spoken out about his own frightening encounter of a third kind after hearing about those of former Todmorden policeman Mr Alan Godfrey.

Several sightings of UFOs in Todmorden were featured in a TV programme last night - called "Strange But True", introduced by Michael Aspel.

Twelve years ago Mr Godfrey, then serving in the police force at Todmorden, claimed he saw an alien spaceship while on duty in Burnley Road, Todmorden.

Several months earlier he had been sent to investigate a body mysteriously dumped on top of a coal heap in Todmorden Railway Station yard. A strange substance, which could not be identified by forensic experts, was found on the dead man's neck.

In last night's programme West Yorkshire coroner Mr James Turnbull admitted he was still baffled by that death.

Mr Godfrey also repeated how he got out of his patrol car and came face to face with a UFO, the size of a double deck bus.

COLCHESTER EVENING GAZETTE, Essex, England - July 30, 1993

UFO spotted over town

TWO teenagers walking back from a friend's home believe they saw a mystery UFO above the skies of Clacton.

Michael Conroy claimed a large circular white light was 300ft in the air over Lake Walk and Jameson Road at 10.35pm on Wednesday.

He added the UFO shot a beam of light out before it faded back.

Michael, 16, of Thomas Road, Clacton, added the light was there for about three minutes before suddenly vanishing.

Mark Thompson, 16, of Saxmundon Way, Clacton, also saw the craft and said: "I'd never seen anything like it before."

Michael added there was no noise so he did not think it was a plane.

The teenagers added they would tell the Essex UFO Research about the sighting.

Spokesmen from Stansted Airport and Clacton airstrip both confirmed there were no low-flying aircraft over Clacton at the time.

CR: T. Good

Brocklehurst trucker with 'good eyesight' also reports UFO

Brocklehurst resident Don Ferguson just hopes nobody will think he's crazy, but he too saw a strange-looking circular object hovering in the western sky Sunday night.

He was watching television between 9:30 and 9:45 p.m. Sunday when he looked out his living room window, which faces west, and saw a shiny circular object ringed by lights hovering on the horizon over Kamloops Lake.

"This is the first time I ever saw anything like that and I don't drink so it wasn't that," Ferguson said.

He added he is a professional truck driver with good eyesight.

"I know what I saw," he said.

The bright object that looked like the edge of a big saucer hovered near the hills towards Kamloops Lake for about five minutes, then turned on its side making it look like a quarter moon and disappeared.

The body of it was bright and shiny like light, he said.

Ferguson said he read the story in Tuesday's Kamloops Daily News about the Brocklehurst woman who said she saw the same thing at 1 a.m. Monday morning and he wanted to corroborate her story.

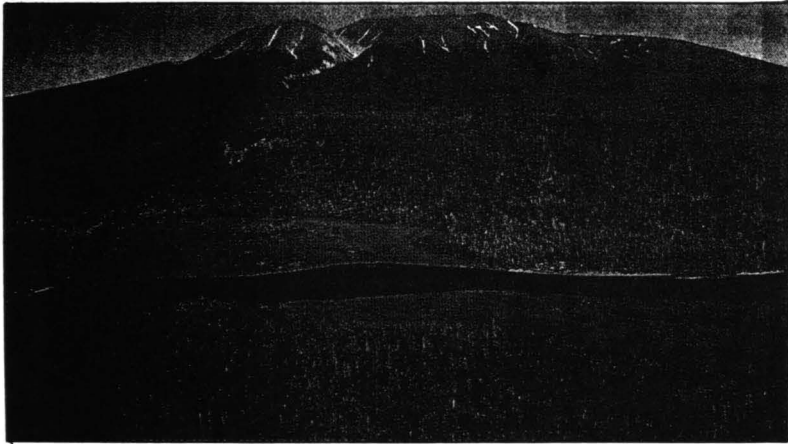
The only difference is he saw the unexplained sighting more than three hours earlier.

Ferguson said whatever it was, it must have come around twice.

"I thought it was a plane (at first), but this didn't look like any plane," he said, explaining that it hovered in the air instead of flying.

The object seemed to stay out of the way, almost as if it didn't want to be seen, he said.

"I don't think they wanted anyone to see it whatever it was," he said.



ERIK HILL / Anchorage Daily News photos

Several people say they've heard the buzz on Dinglishna Hill, near Mount Susitna.

BUZZED OFF

FEW
PEOPLE
SEE THINGS
—OR HEAR
THEM—
THE WAY
DON
COUILLARD
DOES



Don Couillard demonstrates dowsing near his homestead: "It's the magnetic field generated by the dynamo in the center of the Earth," he says.

By DOUG O'HARRA
Daily News reporter

For years, Don Couillard has heard a buzz. A mysterious and almost inaudible droning that has no apparent source or explanation.

From the day Couillard began building a log home among the cottonwoods on a hillside overlooking the base of Mount Susitna nearly 20 years ago, he has heard the noise — threading through the forest like the hum of a high-voltage power line.

He's heard it while eating supper, while doing chores, while lying in his bed falling

asleep. Some days it was louder, some days it faded to nothing. Some other people have heard it, including his former wife and a few neighbors. Some haven't, including his nephew and two journalists from this newspaper who visited Couillard earlier this month.

In any case, Couillard's life in the Bush near Alexander Creek, about 30 miles northwest of Anchorage, has always been scored by a monotonous theme. The buzz.

"It was buzzing me and buzzing me to find out what it



A meter registers an electrical current from a cable Couillard has attached to trees.

was," says Couillard, a retired Air Force and commercial airline navigator. "It annoyed me that I didn't know what it was."

Couillard isn't alone in hearing such a noise. Hundreds of people all over the world have apparently been hearing some sort of low-frequency sound for years. A large number of them live in Taos, N.M., and near London, England — and their complaints of a persistent and irritating noise generated international attention this summer.

The "Taos Hum," for instance, is being taken seriously by a congressional committee and officials in the area. Theories range

from top-secret transmissions by the U.S. military to vibrations from seismic activity in the Earth. But an eight-member team from the University of New Mexico spent a week in town last month and failed to find an answer.

The scientists of New Mexico and U.S. House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and England's Low Frequency Noise Sufferers Association have all been grappling futilely with the unknown. But Don Couillard of Dinglishna Hill, working

alone with his wits and a hand-held electrical meter, believes he's figured the damn thing out.

"That buzz is no longer annoying to me," he says. "It's beautiful music, because I know what it's doing."

And as far as Couillard's concerned, the buzz does nothing less than reveal the source of life itself.

(continued on page 18)

THE TOUR OF WONDERS

Don Couillard parks his four-wheeler at a rickety bridge over a swampy slough at the base of Dinglishna Hill. In the bright sunshine, he marches back and forth over the murky channel, two bent coat hangers in his hands.

"Concentrate on holding them level, holding them level, holding them level," he intones, his eyes narrowing as he marches slowly across the bridge, "and Mother Nature will do the rest."

Then the hangers swing across his chest, into a line parallel with the stream. Two visitors — myself and Daily News photographer Erik Hill — try it with the same result. The wires swing into line with the flow of water in the creek. Very strange.

"It's all because of the flow of this electricity through the atmosphere," Couillard explains. "It's seeking out the easiest path of resistance."

But this demonstration of dowsing — an unexplained phenomenon in which handheld rods apparently respond to the presence of water — is only one of several mysterious things that Couillard has painstakingly recorded in the woods around his home.

Over the years, Couillard says, he's seen an aurora float through the trees. He's observed his plastic clothesline vibrating for hours. He's recorded magnetic variations on the hill above his home. But most important, he believes he's discovered electricity flowing through the air.

That's the key, Couillard tells us.

From the creek, Couillard escorts his visitors up the trail to the site of his research: 200 feet of steel cable mounted on insulators in the cottonwood. A wire from the cable is attached to a steel pipe in the ground with an alligator clip. With an air of someone imparting a truth, Couillard clips a small volt-amp meter between the pipe and the wire.

The meter registers a tiny electric current in the wire.

"Do you see that?" he says. "This is the main proof right here to show that I'm really working with science. It shows that electricity is flowing from the atmosphere to this cable."

His theory goes, basically, like this: The magnetic dynamo at the Earth's core — which creates the Earth's magnetic field — generates a constant electrical flow throughout the atmosphere. It explains dowsing, St. Elmo's fire, lightning, static electricity, the aurora, the vibrating clothesline and the current in Couillard's wire. It explains the "buzz," which occurs, he says, because of the "good connection" nearby. His Dinglishna Hill is an extinct volcano, he believes, with a lava tube completing a circuit to the dynamo within the Earth.

Couillard sees almost theological significance in this. All of this electrical activity, he concludes, must be the source of life itself, the cause of cell division, the basis of the connection between all living creatures.

"You know what it is? It's God," he says at one point. "To put it differently, it's the magnetic field generated by the dynamo in the center of the Earth."

"I don't have all the answers here, but something's got to control the process of life, something's got to control it."

WORKING IT OUT ALONE

The youngest of 12 kids and the son of a blacksmith, Couillard grew up in rural Vermont and studied biology at college. But he spent his career as a navigator on military and civilian airplanes in the era before electronic aids. In Strategic Air Command bombers during the Cold War, in cargo planes and in airlines during the 1960s, Couillard had to calculate routes and positions the old-fashioned way, using celestial aids and a compass.

As a result, he says, he's been "studying" the magnetic field all his life.

In the 1970s, he moved to Alaska, where he worked in the Air National Guard and as a flight instructor. After he and his wife, Wendy, divorced, Couillard lived alone in the log home he built and milled on Dinglishna Hill, a stunningly beautiful and well-kept place that nestles in a lush forest of towering cottonwoods and shoulder-high devil's club. Inside, the place has a homey feel. He has a couch and chair next to his 12-volt color television, powered by the solar panels mounted above a two-story "observatory." A bookshelf contains more than 20 years of National Geographic along with books. Bottles on one shelf contain the tip of a finger Couillard severed while laying the floor to Wendy's home nearby; another contains two microscopes.

Another shelf contains Couillard's collection of videos he's made of public television science programs. Every afternoon at 4, he catches the reruns of "Star Trek: The Next

Generation." In the evenings, he watches public TV, reads and studies and thinks.

And listens to the buzz.

Couillard didn't really pursue his investigation of the buzz until after his divorce. That event, he says, freed up enough time to experiment and research.

"Now that I have my solitude," he says, "I can do what I want."

Couillard, who says few people now visit him at all, has filled his time by producing and distributing a home video — sort of his own version of a "Nova" program complete with Perot-style charts and a pointer. In it, he records the buzz with his Sansui amplifier and films the vibrating clothesline. He describes the other phenomena in detail. He films 17 minutes of a pair of robins raising chicks in a nest outside his picture window. His enthusiastic wonder at the miracle of nature fairly dominates the scene. As does his theory that the fuzz on the chicks' heads absorbs life-giving electricity from their parents' bodies.

And Couillard has been talking about the buzz and his theory to anyone who will listen, including Alexander Creek residents and visitors as well as several dozen physicists, geologists and volcanologists in Hawaii, Alaska, Seattle, California, Indiana, New Jersey and London.

With his white beard and his long hair, with his soft-spoken and courtly manner, the 59-year-old Couillard comes across as sincere and earnest. He vaguely resembles Kriss Kringle in "The Miracle on 34th Street" as he confidently and patiently explains the elaborate theory that accounts for his observations. And he can't understand why no one else is excited about them. The response from scientists, he says, has been particularly frustrating. No one will investigate, he says.

"I can't get anybody out there," he says. "Nobody will come up, even the people down at the creek. What is the matter with these people?"

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

From the scientific end of things, part of the problem is that Couillard stubbornly ignores anything that contradicts his ideas. For instance, volcanologist Christina Neal of the Alaska Volcano Observatory in Anchorage has explained to him repeatedly that Dinglishna Hill is NOT an extinct volcano. Period.

Couillard sort of brushes her observation aside. "I'm not trying to make Tina out to

be a liar or anything," he says. "I've walked all over it and it sure looks like an extinct volcano to me."

Other scientists have urged Couillard to stick to recording data about the strange buzz — which cannot be explained and seems to interest them — and stop trying to concoct a gargantuan theory of all existence. (Several have told him that most of the phenomena he observes aren't mysterious at all but can be explained by static electricity in the air or magnetism in the local bedrock.)

An associate editor of Nature told Couillard in 1991 "to confine yourself to describing these phenomena in as much detail as you reasonably can, so that their nature and significance can be further explored. At this stage, it seems premature, to say the least, to jump to any far-reaching conclusions of the sort you briefly mention."

John Paskievitch, a geologist with the Alaska Volcano Observatory, viewed his videotape and urged that Couillard narrow his investigations to what he could document and prove.

"What it seems you are attempting to do is to explain all aspects of life, the universe, and everything through one unifying theory," Paskievitch wrote Couillard.

And these scientists seem to express various degrees of uneasiness with Couillard's belief that "the magnetic dynamo in the center of the Earth is the most logical explanation to the secret of life."

"I think the value of people like Don Couillard is that they help push the rational boundaries of science," Neal says. But "some of what he says is tinged with madness."

But Couillard is patient with them. When pressed, he says, well, sure, maybe Dinglishna Hill isn't an extinct volcano. Maybe some other aspects of his theory need refining. He doesn't, he admits, have all the answers. Not yet.

"We're ready for a breakthrough here," he says. "The whole process of life is a whole lot simpler than we think. ... The way I see it, we've got the puzzle almost together with just a few blank pieces."

"I've been listening to this buzz for 16 years, and it was buzzing me and buzzing me to figure out what it was, and now that I've figured it out, it's buzzing me to tell the world. Now whether the rest of the world believes it or not is another story, but I will be persistent until somebody proves me absolutely wrong. And nobody has proven me wrong yet."

NUGGET, Sisters, OR - Oct. 27, 1993

Hunters report Bigfoot tracks at Cow Camp

By Barbara Butler

A lot of strange things may happen near Sisters, but this is one of the strangest. Ray Crowe of the Western Bigfoot Society in Portland was contacted by a Portland couple who had hunted off Cow Camp Road on October 3 and 4.

There they had found a heavily used game trail, but the tracks were all from Bigfoot, according to Crowe.

Strange noises had bothered the family the night before. The dog in their motorhome went nuts, a large Labrador refused to go out of their daughter's tent. They heard splashing noises in the creek and a strange rumbling noise.

The hunter felt as though something was trying to tempt him outside, but a spotlight revealed nothing. Something bumped against their utility trailer and there was a putrid smell.

The couple claim to have found dozens of tracks of at least three individuals, some

months old. They cast tracks of three critters. The largest showed five toes, 14 inches long and 8 inches wide at the ball of the foot. The smallest was a 7-8 inch track.

Their son, accompanied by his 11-year-old daughter, was hunting the Squaw Creek Falls area and they found a large track like a gorilla's track, wide at the front with five toes, the big toe like a thumb and pointed toe nails, not claw marks. They reported they could see where had stood by a tree, peeking out from behind.

The next day, October 5, the son claimed to have seen a 5-foot, 500-pound black creature moving incredibly fast. He glimpsed it six or seven times, and it had a round face, pointed head and a thick jaw. However, his daughter said that what he saw was another hunter.

There were also some other claims of hearing chanting on a "dead" radio station, like Indians chanting something like "cha-twa." (The dial was at 6 or 7 AM).

Sounds like it was a little early for Halloween.

JOURNAL, Atlanta, GA - Oct. 9,

1993 CR: S. Parker/COUD-I

POLICE

COBB COUNTY: Goats,

sheep mutilated on farm. It

isn't hard to get Donnie Groover's goat — he'll sell you one for a barbecue — but if whatever has been after his herd lately doesn't stop soon, he won't have a goat to get. Over the past two weeks, eight goats and two sheep have been found dead and mutilated on his Cobb County farm on Roswell Road, about five miles east of Marietta. What's killing them? "I really don't have the slightest idea," he said Friday. With the help of Cobb Animal Shelter officials, a box trap has been set out to identify the killer. In most cases the animals have been disemboweled, but John McClure, director of the animal shelter, said one goat barely had any marks at all while another just had a small puncture wound on the right shoulder.

UAF scientists target mystery lights

By WENDY HOWER
Staff Writer

They might look like carrots. Or sometimes jellyfish. Or even castles in the sky.

Scientists have no name for odd-shaped flashes of light that appear above storm clouds and extend into the upper atmosphere. No one knows what causes the 35-mile-high flashes, which could affect high-altitude aircraft and alter the ozone layer.

For the first time, two physicists at the Geophysical Institute of the University of Alaska Fairbanks have captured 19 examples of the lightning-like flashes on video. Professors Davis Sentman and Eugene Wescott, who recorded the phenomena while flying in a DC-8 over the Midwest this summer, released data on Thursday suggesting these high-altitude flashes are not rare at all.

"You see them out of the corner of your eye, but when you look,



Wendy Hower/News-Miner

LIGHTS—Geophysical Institute scientists Eugene Wescott, left, and Davis Sentman describe their research on "sprites," flashes of light that appear above storm clouds.

they're gone," Sentman said.

Sentman has dubbed them "sprites" because they are elusive like the fabled woodland fairies. They last a fraction of a second and

glow no brighter than northern lights.

Wescott said the sprites they recorded ranged in height from 18 to 60 miles, with an average of about

35 miles. Sentman estimated that the flashes were six miles wide and more than 200 cubic miles in volume.

Normal lightning bolts travel between the bottom of thunderclouds and the Earth. Meanwhile, above the clouds, the mysterious flashes appear about once for every 300 lightning strokes below, Sentman said.

Sentman and Wescott did not even see the flashes until they watched their video in slow motion, they said.

Skywatchers have reported seeing momentary flashes above thunderclouds since 1886. The phenomenon was proven in 1989 when scientists at the University of Minnesota happened to record unusual illuminations on a video taken with a ground-based television camera.

Wescott and Sentman were intrigued. They secured a \$126,000 grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and used

NASA's DC-8 aircraft, equipped as an airborne laboratory.

The mission took the researchers to Costa Rica, Ecuador, Bolivia and all over South America in July. But they missed the height of the thunderstorm season and found no flashes above thunderclouds.

Back in the Lower 48 at the end of the trip, they decided to try one more flight. This time, they flew from California to the Midwest. While traveling past a line of thunderstorms 40,000 feet above Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska, they captured 19 examples of the flashes over a period of 100 minutes.

Scientists understand little about the flashes, Sentman said, because they occur in the stratosphere, which is too high for airplanes and too low for satellites. Scientists used to think of the stratosphere as a "benign, boring" region of the atmosphere, he said.

Sentman and Wescott are discussing plans with NASA for more research missions. They want to find out what causes the flashes and how they chemically affect the ozone layer. The flashes could be depleting the ozone layer or even enhancing it, Sentman said.

The researchers also want to find out how the flashes might affect aircraft and weather. NASA is trying to develop a "space jet" that will travel the stratosphere.

Scientists suspect the flashes are a form of electrical discharge because they are associated with thunder and lightning storms. But most of the flashes observed by Sentman and Wescott did not occur directly above thunderclouds, they said.

Another theory suggests the flashes could be reflections from fluorescent compounds in the stratosphere that are illuminated somehow from below.

Footprint can't be the sasquatch's, unless the beast travels overseas

I read with interest Stewart Bell's *On a myth and a footprint* (Oct. 23), in which he reviews three recent books on the Sasquatch, a.k.a. Bigfoot. The article was accompanied by two pictures. One was of a footprint in snow beside the head of an ice axe. That famous picture was taken near

TIMES-COLONIST, Victoria, B.C., Canada - July 28,

1993 CR: M. Price/COUD-I

Menlungtse by the 1951 British Mount Everest reconnaissance expedition. Menlungtse is a 7,000 metre peak on the Tibet-Nepal frontier, about 80 kilometres west of Mt. Everest. The picture is claimed to be that of a footprint of a yeti,

a.k.a. abominable snowman. Such creatures may inhabit the high Himalaya, and could be cousins in fact, as well as in mythology to our own sasquatch. Whatever the footprint may be, it cannot be that of a sasquatch, unless they have an improbable tendency to intercontinental travel, an attention-getting exercise which should be anathema to such shy beasts. ANDERS OUROM Vancouver

Mutilated Animal Is Found

NEWTON CO. TIMES, Jasper, AR
Sept. 9, 1993 CR: S. Valentine

A mutilated cow was found Saturday afternoon on the Mac Ewing farm near Vendor.

The skin of the cow's jaw had been cut and peeled off and the tongue had been cut out.

The Ewings believe the cow died sometime Thursday or Friday. They notified the Sheriff's Department and Deputy Mark Rupp investigated Monday afternoon. The investigation is continuing.

Breeding Caddys disturbed by plane

By Patrick Murphy
Times-Colonist staff

Two pilots say they came within spitting distance of a pair of legendary sea monsters in Saanich Inlet this month and chased them at speeds up to 65 km/h before they disappeared.

"It was trying to get away from us," said Don Berends, chief pilot of Cooper Air. "It was definitely a creature and it wasn't a fish or a seal or a dolphin or a porpoise."

"It was not extraordinarily weird. We said, 'We're not going to tell anyone about it. They will think we're crazy.'"

What Berends and student pilot James Wells probably saw in the late afternoon of July 14 was a pair of Cadborosaurus sea monsters breeding in the inlet, said biologist Ed Bousfield, monster hunter and associate researcher at the Royal B.C. Museum.

"[The pilots] are trained, good observers whose estimates of distance, size and speed is excellent," Bousfield said in an interview.

"The thing that makes me believe them is when I made a drawing of what they described, they corrected me when I talked to them independently."

"There is no way they could be correcting me if they had not seen it."

Berends was in the right-hand seat of the Cessna float plane as



John McKay/Times-Colonist

■ JAMES WELLS points toward the area of Saanich Inlet where he saw the sea monsters while practising landing a Cessna float plane.

Wells was practising landing in the west end of Brentwood Bay between Willis Point and the old Bamberton cement plant. It was around 4:30 p.m. on a dull, overcast day.

"I saw something irregular," Berends said. "It was not clearly a monster, but it was different from what we usually see."

"We saw them in front when they made a splash. They [each] had two humps."

"We landed right where it had been and then we saw it rise out of the water in front of us and we were still moving at 50 miles per hour and it started moving

away. They were 20 to 40 feet away and going quite quickly."

"We didn't know how strange a thing it was until later."

The humps were 15-20 centimetres deep and they could see daylight under them. Berends said they were whitish, grey-silver, while Wells said the color was gunmetal blue.

Neither saw a head or tail during the minute-long sighting.

They waited a day or two before calling Bousfield, who has hunted monsters for years and has written scientific papers on Cadborosaurus.

He has old photographs of

beached Caddys and said baby monsters have been caught and released at Pirate's Cove in 1968 and John's Island in 1991.

He said scientists believe this is the breeding season for Caddy within 50 kilometres of Sidney through the inlet and Gulf Islands. The monsters move to shallow water with a sandy bottom to deliver their young live, he said.

Sightings are rare because the monster is a nocturnal creature, but when Caddy is seen in the daytime, it is invariably on dull, cloudy days, he said.

Bousfield estimates the length

of the ones the pilots saw at about nine metres.

He said an aerial search of the inlet could turn up more sightings and he would love to have a video record of a Caddy. Bousfield can be reached at 380-3787.

Berends said they saw "a similar creature slipping out of the water a half mile away," but admitted at that distance it could have been a seal.

"This was just one of those strange things that happens once in a lifetime," he said of the sighting of the pair.

"I'm not going to waste my time on [hunting] for it, though."

Lake Erie monster: The real thing or just a floating log?

HURON, Ohio (AP) — Lake Erie perch fisherman Charles Douglas knew something was amiss when he throttled his boat up to 30 mph. Whatever was following him was keeping up.

"I think I saw a log in the water — but it could swim," said the 55-year-old service station operator.

Boating 10 miles off Vermilion during the Fourth of July weekend, Douglas was heading north toward the rich fishing grounds along the U.S.-Canadian border when he saw something dark, about 30 feet long and moving quickly.

Could it have been the Lake Erie Monster, cousin to the mythical Loch Ness Monster and the Abominable Snowman?

"At the time we saw this object I wasn't thinking monster," said Douglas, who doubts he saw a real sea monster and asked to keep the exact location of his business secret because "people think you're nuts when you see something unusual."

Twice, Douglas gunned his engine and steered his boat toward the dark figure. Twice it disappeared. Fearful that he might hit something submerged, Douglas halted the search and headed north.

"I can't actually say it was moving, but I was going 30 mph and it didn't seem like it was leaving us

"I can't tell you for sure what's out there. I've talked to a lot of people who have seen something they can't explain."

— Tom Solberg

fast enough," said Douglas, who has been out on the lake more than 25 times this year.

For years, boaters have told stories of their encounter with the monster, which is said to be dark green or brown, 30 feet to 40 feet long and appears to undulate while swimming. No one has reported seeing its head or all of its body exposed, and no one has gotten close enough to tell whether the beast is scaly or slimy.

Tom Solberg, a 52-year-old marina operator and self-appointed Lake Erie Monster folklorist, is too busy during warm-weather months to make it out on Lake Erie much.

He has never seen the legendary beast but has during the last four years mapped 24 reported sightings.

"I can't tell you for sure what's out there," the burly Solberg said as he perched on a stool at the marina he operates with his brother, Mike.

"I've talked to a lot of people who have seen something they can't explain."

He has signed up 10 businesses to back a \$102,700 reward for the live capture of any previously unknown Lake Erie creature. To qualify for the reward, the captured beast must weigh at least 1,000 pounds and be at least 30 feet long.

And he has recruited retired Ohio State University marine researcher Charles E. Herdendorf to judge any reward claim.

Monster fever is spreading. The Chamber of Commerce in this lakeside community of 7,000 likes the attention the legend has attracted and is encouraging businesses to think monster.

The results include a restaurant offering "a monstrous view" of the lake, a plumber able to handle "minnow or monster size" problems and a car dealer's "blowout monster sale."

The mayor has proclaimed the city in northern Ohio halfway between Cleveland and Toledo as the "National Live Capture and Control Center" for the monster.

Not everyone has taken the bait. Doug Johnson, who has studied Lake Erie marine life for 20 years as a state aquatic biologist, says the story of the monster is just that — a story.

The biggest lake creature he has seen was a 6-foot, 80-pound sturgeon that washed up on Kelley's Island.

Some people believe the Lake Erie Monster may be nothing more than a school of 6-foot sturgeons swimming toe-to-head in undulating fashion.

But Johnson doesn't buy that,

either.

"I really think it's very improbable," said Johnson. The sturgeon is a bottom-feeder, he said.

State researchers spend their time studying Lake Erie's walleye, not looking for monsters.

"We haven't had a monster alert," Johnson said.

But Solberg said he will be vigilant until the beast is caught.

And if something is out there, boaters and swimmers shouldn't fear the Lake Erie Monster, Solberg said.

"Since there aren't any recollections or reports of it hurting anything, we assume it's not a harmful thing," he said.

"I don't think we have a 'Jaws' problem here."

Secret door found in Great Pyramid of Giza

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES

Exploring a passageway that has not seen a human presence for more than 4,000 years, a Los Angeles-based filmmaker and a German robotics engineer have discovered the door to what may be a hidden chamber in Egypt's Great Pyramid of Giza, final resting place of the Egyptian Pharaoh Khufu.

The door, which has copper fittings that could be locks or handles, has not been opened yet because it lies at the end of a 63-yard-long shaft that is only 8 inches square.

The researchers discovered the door while exploring the shaft with a miniature robot carrying lights and a television camera. Black dust just outside the door suggests that the chamber — if it exists — may contain organic material, such as the body of Khufu, who is better known in the modern world as Cheops, said producer-director Jochem Breitenstein.

No bodies or artifacts have ever been found in the pyramids of Giza because of centuries of looting, but Breitenstein believes that the inaccessibility of the putative chamber could have preserved its contents from grave robbers.

The robot is now being fitted with a fiber-optic camera that will be slid through a narrow crack under the door.

"It's a very important find, possibly a sensational one," said archaeologist Ivan Edwards, retired curator of Egyptian antiquities at the British Museum.

But there are doubters. The report of a possible hidden chamber "is very annoying," said archaeologist Rainer Stadelman, head of the German Archaeological Institute in Cairo. "There is surely no other chamber."

The discovery was made as part of a project to ventilate the interior of the Great Pyramid. Humidity released by the hundreds of visitors to

'It's a very important find, possibly a sensational one.'

— archaeologist Ivan Edwards, retired curator, Egyptian antiquities, British Museum

the tomb each day has been degrading the limestone interior.

The highest room inside the pyramid is known as the King's Chamber because it is generally assumed to be Khufu's final burial site, and that the body was stolen. The room has two 8-inch-square shafts leading to the north and south faces of the pyramid. These shafts, which have long been plugged by debris, are believed to be passageways for the pharaoh's soul to reach the stars.

But about five feet from the end of

ing a chamber that contains religious statuary or similar items because the Egyptians often built structures inside pyramids before walling them

the shaft, the texture changed abruptly. The remainder of the shaft was composed of highly polished white tura limestone. Similar usage of the tura limestone has been observed in the entryways to chambers in other tombs, Breitenstein said.

At the end of the polished section was what appears to be a door, made of the same tura limestone and with tongue-and-groove fittings on the side which suggest it can be raised and lowered. A small gap exists at the bottom of the stone, but the camera could not peer through it.

Edwards says he is hopeful of finding a chamber that contains religious statuary or similar items because the Egyptians often built structures inside pyramids before walling them



Associated Press

NASA officials talk about Observer's troubles during a news conference.

Group sees deliberate NASA effort to disable spacecraft

WASHINGTON (AP) — A group that says there was life on Mars suggested yesterday that NASA may have intentionally disabled the Mars Observer so it could take no pictures of artificial structures on that planet.

Richard Hoagland, founder of a group that claims a city once was built on Mars, said at a news conference that there was a possibility that a "rogue group" within NASA intentionally shut off the agency's Mars Observer spacecraft so that it could not photograph the city.

Hoagland said he has been trying for almost 10 years to get NASA to investigate what he believes is a picture of a face carved on the surface of Mars.

He said that a study conducted 30 years ago suggests that there is a "McCarthyesque fear of fundamentalists and religious fanaticism" in NASA and that as a result the agency is reluctant to admit there is evidence that intelligent life once existed on Mars.

"There is an inside group that does not want this pursued. Maybe they literally pulled the plug," said

Hoagland, founder of the group called Mars Mission.

"It's absolutely the craziest thing I've ever heard," said Mars Observer project manager Glenn Cunningham. "There is absolutely no conspiracy. Everything about this mission is open to the public."

In Washington, NASA spokesman Dwayne Brown denied that NASA was withholding information or that the Mars Observer was intentionally disabled.

"We are not a classified agency and we have always been very open with our information," he said.

Hoagland and his associates based their whole case for life on Mars on two photographs taken of the Martian surface by the Viking space probe in 1976.

The photos show a mountainous structure that with a combination of light and shadow appears to be half of a face.

NASA scientists have dismissed that conclusion, arguing that what appears to be a structure is a mountain that was photographed at the moment that sunlight and shadow created a vague impression of a half-

face.

Hoagland and his group, however, have subjected the image to computer enhancement. They insist that its shape and angles are consistent with a structure built by intelligent beings. It is, they suggest, a face that was carved on the face of Mars by creatures who once lived there.

Carrying the research further, Hoagland and his group have reasoned that since the face was carved on the planet, then there must be other constructions nearby. In the same pictures they found angular uplifts which, in their scenario, they now call pyramids.

And since there are pyramids, then they have concluded that another group of structures nearby must be the center of a city. They call it Cydonia for the region on Mars where it is located.

To document its claims, the group distributed copies of the front page of the Aug. 17 edition of the *Sun*, a weekly supermarket tabloid that bore the headline "NASA scientists stunned as ... face on Mars vanishes."