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## UFO fever strikes

Cleveland residents think they've found something strange

By La Toya Hankins  
Gazette Staff Reporter

SHELBY — A little bit of UFO fever touched down in Cleveland County Sunday.

A field along Highway 74 is reported to be the site of a North Carolina version of a crop circle.

Residents report seeing blades of grass bent down to form some sort of pattern that is visible from an airplane.

Candy Hurtig of Shelby said she noticed the patterns when she went looking for a lawnmower with her husband early Sunday.

"When I saw them, I told my husband to turn the car around. It looked like something out of 'Unsolved Mysteries,'" she said.

Mrs. Hurtig said it appears the pattern is spread over 100 acres of wheat fields. She doesn't know what could have caused it, but she has her suspicions.

"The whole thing is just fascinating, it looks like something from up above just came down and pressed the field down in a pattern," she said.

A Cleveland County communications spokesman said their department has not received any calls about the field.

Wesley Mullinax who works in the Beaver Dam Pantry across the street from the field thinks the whole thing could have been caused by something a little more natural than a flying saucer.

"I think the storms we had not too long ago caused the field to be like that," he said. "I guess we just got around to seeing it."

"It looks like something from up above just came down and pressed the field down in a pattern."

Candy Hurtig  
Shelby resident

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - April 13, 1994

## UFO's Vacation In Florida Light Up State's Skies

### Callers Describe Sightings In Separate Areas

By Bland Pugh  
Mufon Asst. State Director

It seems that when it rains it pours. Over the past week Florida MUFON received several calls from different locations in the state about UFO sightings. The following is a report on one of these calls from the east coast of Florida. At this time I will not reveal the officers names or location, as this report is still under investigation. The officers have given their names and filed reports with the proper authorities.

Two police officers were working the late shift when the officer riding 'shotgun' spotted a bright light in the sky. That officers first reaction to this sighting was to dismiss it as an airplane making a routine approach for landing at a local airport, however, after observing the light it became apparent this was not an airplane. "When I first spotted it, it was like a big light with a smaller light trailing it and in between there was a waving or wavy tail, that was when it was coming directly towards our vehicle. Next, the object began to turn, normally you would see the whole airplane turn, but when this was turning, you saw the side view and you could still see the back lights." The officer went on to describe the object as smoky black. It was a perfect oval with a tail, going on to describe it as a hologram that waved in and out becoming transparent. As the object turned it was described as being "very long, extremely long".

At this point the first officer tapped the other officer on the shoulder and pointed the object out. Just as this occurred the object popped out. "Gone just like 'Genie', gone, like you turned out a light. Then the light reappeared to the left of us, starting out very small and progressively got larger." Both officers commenting they "thought it was going to land on their car, before the object popped out."

The officer said; "one of the strangest things was, when on two occasions it did a straight drop. Basically it appeared up in the sky, then it started dropping straight down, it was not like a falling star or it was not speeding. The best way I can describe it was, it was like a parachute drop you see at the amusement parks. The first time was the light itself going straight down." Both officers described it as "freefall". I asked the witness if there was a trail of light or any evidence of a residue from the object as it fell, both said there was not, only the light falling.

After this sighting the officers thought they would not see it anymore and had moved to another location a short distance away and were talking to another officer. Describing the sky as an orange-yellow, the first officer happened to turn and look in the rear view mirror and saw the object dropping a second time, only this time, there were two lights,

one on top of the other, like a figure '8' the object dropped behind a building and out of sight. The two officers moved their vehicle behind the building in an attempt to see the object, but did not see anything. Later, as the partner was doing paperwork, the first officer spotted another bright light in the sky, as it hovered several aircraft flew close to it. As each approached the object, it would disappear and then return after the aircraft had cleared the area. Finally popping out and disappearing altogether.

During separate interviews, I asked both officers about the colors, both described it as either brilliant white or saying "when the object passed behind or through clouds, it became a washed out reddish pink. Like a flash light that one would put red cellophane over." There was no sound associated with either sighting.

The officers called local flight controllers to inquire about possible aircraft and their location in the vicinity of the sightings, all reports were negative, thus discounting possible "Blimps, helicopters or other aircraft." Both sightings occurred between the hours of 4:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m.

KEEP LOOKING UP and BEHIND YOU, also keep your eye on this column for the next few weeks. I think you will be surprised.

BULLETIN, Buffalo, WY - March 31, 1994

## No explanation offered for sighting of 'lights'

No one has come forward with an explanation of the unusual lights seen in the skies over Johnson County on March 2 and again on March 7, but the list of people who reported seeing the strange phenomenon continues to grow.

Several more people called the Buffalo Bulletin after last week's issue was published to say they had seen these "strange lights," but none of those calling believed they could identify what they were.

One family said the lights seemed to come almost directly over their house and they could hear a "roaring" noise. They did not describe it sounding like a jet engine or a helicopter.

And the lights were also seen by some people in the Tensleep area the night of March 7. Phyllis Moses of Tensleep says, "We also saw those same lights (two sets of two side-by-side) hanging over the mountains for about 10 minutes."

"They didn't move much," says Mrs. Moses. "They were about where Tensleep Canyon is located. They moved on a ways and I presume they were at the top of the mountain... and then gone."

Alvina Curutchet, who lives east of Buffalo, says she saw the lights near her home on March 7. "It looked like they were out over a construction area on

the Interstate Highway," she says. "When I turned the lights on in the house to look for the binoculars, the lights suddenly moved away."

Sherri Gould of Buffalo says this same kind of sighting had been reported in Belgium during the past year. She is an associate director of the "UFO Contact Center, International."

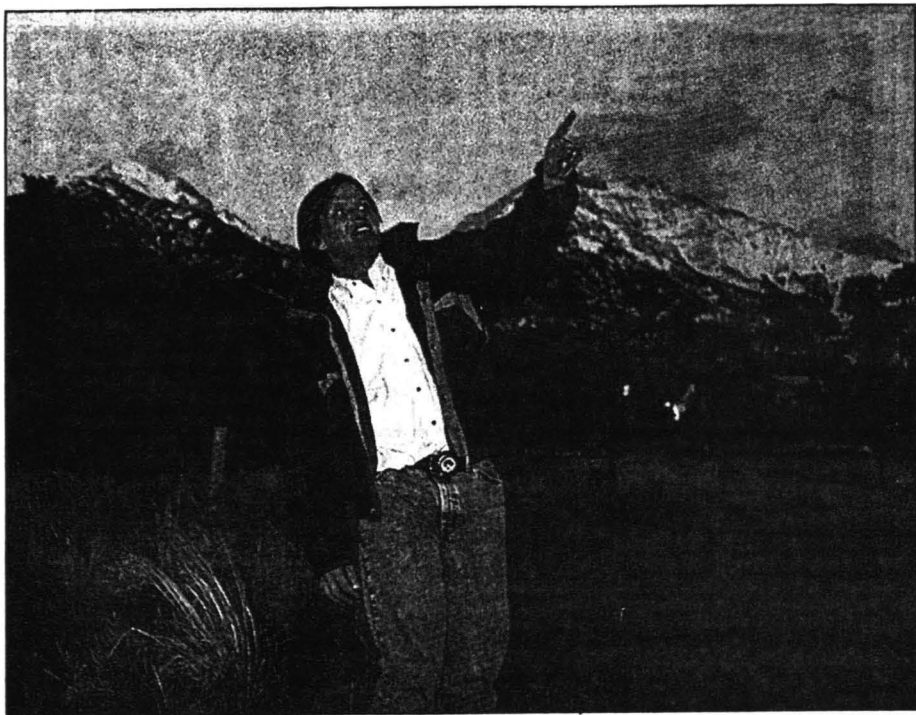
"This is an organization which tries to help people who have had a 'contact experience,'" says Mrs. Gould.

"I've been a psychic all my life," she says. "I've helped law enforcement people search for missing persons in places like Colorado."

Mrs. Gould says she did not see the lights in the sky earlier this month, but she senses there has been a lot of activity in the Buffalo area.

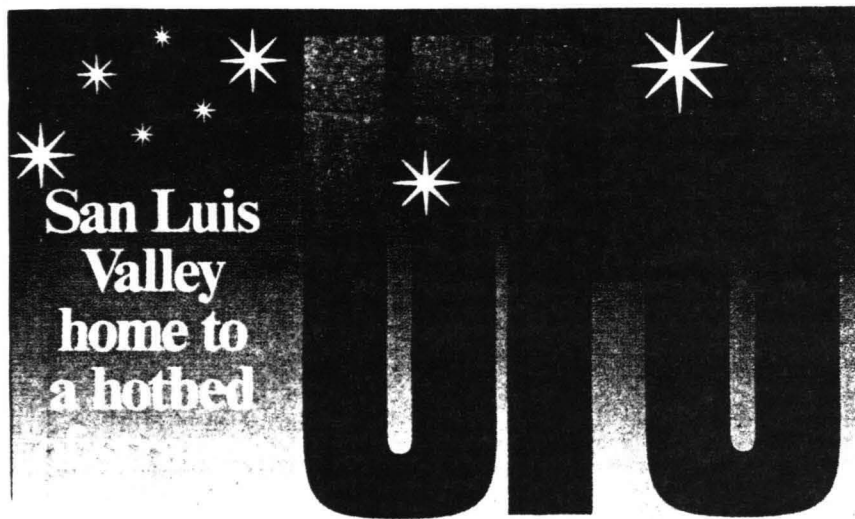
Most people who had seen the strange lights simply don't have an explanation to offer. Some say they don't believe in UFO's, and suspect it might have been some kind of secret military aircraft.

Whatever it was in the sky over Buffalo and other parts of Johnson County, remains a mystery for most people. Yet, there is a large number of residents who did see something that was "very unusual" and seems to defy any "easy explanation."



The Denver Post / Bill Briggs

**KEEP LOOKING UP:** Chris O'Brien sees more in the San Luis Valley skies than stars.



**By Bill Briggs**  
Denver Post Staff Writer

**T**HE SAN LUIS VALLEY — UFO stalker Chris O'Brien swerves his battered pickup into a crystal shop parking lot and grinds to a stop in a puff of good old earth dust.

On his passenger seat rests a notebook bulging with glossy photos of mangled farm animals and weird lights. In his head spins a Rolodex of theories — some humdrum, some fantastic — that attempt to explain what's going on here.

He steps into a waiting black sedan, a flatlander's car, and prepares to host another tour of this raw and rugged place. He'll navigate for the next few hours, past the icy peaks and through the vast stretches of greasewood and rabbitbrush.

For O'Brien, it will be just one more trek to find the truth.

"I call it The Mysterious Valley," he says with a trace of Big Apple accent. "It's unique. No other area in the country has the variety of anomalous activity or the recent levels of weirdness."

"And," O'Brien smiles, "I love a good mystery."

Surveying the land from behind black sunglasses, O'Brien launches the trip with a southward point of his index finger and the words "This way." The sun is splashing the valley floor with a brilliant yellow beam. A brown hawk watches from a nearby utility pole.

By day, it's hard to envi-

sion this Colorado ground as a hotbed for the flying saucer crowd. Yet as the black sedan slices through the flats, O'Brien, 36, tells tales of mutilated cows and glowing green orbs in the night.

"Here, it's not news. You'll hear, 'Oh, these things just go on. We like to keep it in the closet.' That's the attitude I'm battling against. I'm sorry folks, this is news."

Up ahead, a sign on Colorado 17 reads . . .

#### MOFFAT

Saguache County once was blanketed by boomtowns, where discoveries of gold, silver and lead lured fortune seekers, bankers and saloon keepers. Today, most of those villages are gone, long since overgrown with vegetation. But a few towns, like Moffat, cling to the map.

It's a tiny dust ball of a burg and one of the poorest towns in a largely impoverished area. At last count, it boasted 99 people, an acupuncture, a grocery store and some of O'Brien's best stargazers. His informal network of observers stretches across the valley, from the Sangre de Cristos on the east to the San Juans on the west, 60 miles away.

"I arrange times for my sky-watchers" so they are scanning the stars in shifts, O'Brien says. "As soon as I get a call, I'll immediately call people out in the valley and say, 'Look in the sky in this direction. Here is what they saw.'"

They've seen a lot. With O'Brien acting as the local clearinghouse for UFO tips, the network has logged more than 20 reports of strange lights in the sky, seven sightings of unidentified he-

licopters combing the terrain, four animal mutilations, three unsolved explosions and one mystery fire.

And that's just since November. The valley is considered "one of the hotter spots in the country right now" for UFO activity, according to Jim Nelson, Colorado director of MUFON (The Mutual UFO Network). "Something highly unusual is going on."

Just ahead on Colorado 17, the site for one of those unusual episodes is approaching now. The black sedan, five minutes beyond Moffat, zooms toward an unmarked spot in the two-lane road.

Right here, on Jan. 7, a local resident saw 12 to 15 lights that moved like a swarm of bees, O'Brien says. It was just after dark and the cluster moved west at about 1,000 feet.

"He called me to report this as soon as he got to a phone in Hooper," O'Brien says. "And he was one of my skeptics."

Getting folks in the valley to open up about sightings has been the hardest task for O'Brien, himself an urban refugee from the East Coast.

For his field investigations with ranchers and farmers, O'Brien will dress down in jeans and boots and chat about the weather, the crops, the herd — anything but UFOs — for an hour.

"I think the majority of people here have seen things," says O'Brien, his voice roughened by his other occupation — singer for a local rock 'n' roll band, Laffing Booda.

"This is such a remote area. Everybody knows each other. There's a certain kind of protocol in terms of how you relate what you saw. Until recently, there was no one looking into this, so who did you tell?"

Lately, his phone has been ring-

ing a lot, as often as five times a day, he says.

O'Brien has painstakingly recorded this activity. He videotaped interviews with local sheriff's deputies and everyday people. And he compiled a small library of handwritten notes and sketches — accounts from neighbors and strangers.

"A lot of people are pulling for me and think this is a good thing I'm doing. A lot of people think I'm absolutely off my rocker, that I'm creating this wave of phantom sightings."

"Some of that is fear-based. A lot of people pooh-poo this type of research because it wells up something fear-related in their psyche," O'Brien says.

A portion of O'Brien's observations have appeared in articles in the valley newspapers. But most of his data stockpile is being funneled into a book and documentary project (both titled "The Mysterious Valley").

O'Brien's "Mysterious Valley Tour" is a two or three-day package that includes townhouse lodging in Crestone, one gourmet dinner and a rolling seminar on "America's Most Anomalous Region," according to his fliers. The cost: \$150 a day.

Is O'Brien simply cashing in on a handful of stray meteors and illegally butchered cows?

"I've spent a lot of time on this project and not been paid one penny. I'm broke. If I want to continue doing this, I had to come up with a way for it to help pay the bills . . ."

The black sedan nears the tiny town of Hooper, where two similar UFO sightings have been reported in the last 90 days.

On Dec. 13, a witness saw what was later described to O'Brien as a "moon-sized glowing orb" that dropped "straight down" from the sky for three seconds. It then seemed to "disappear underground" near Colorado 17 just north of town. It occurred at 9:35 p.m.

Four weeks later, a family of three driving south on Colorado 17 at 6:45 p.m. reportedly saw an "orange ball" fall for three seconds out of the night sky and descend "straight down" over Hooper.

At midafternoon, the black sedan rolls into Hooper. Due east of town, road signs point the way to . . .

#### THE GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL MONUMENT

They've been roamed. They've been drilled. They've been skied.

The dunes — giant mounds of fine-grained sand that cover 39 square miles — lean against the Sangre de Cristos and appear oddly out of place in this otherwise jagged setting.

They are an estimated 10,000 to 12,000 years old and formed at the end of the last glacial period, scientists believe. The 700-foot-high sandbox is one of Colorado's most peculiar places. But the dunes are just one of several geophysical phenomena in the valley. Far beneath the ranchland are heat and gravitational anomalies.

Simply put, parts of the valley floor are hotter than they should be, and people and objects are lighter than they would be elsewhere.

When you're grasping for clues to explain the rash of weirdness here, every factor must be weighed, O'Brien says.

Here's how it's laid out in geology books: Running through the valley is something called the Rio Grande Rift. Land east of the rift is being stretched apart from land on the west.

In this rift, the continental crust is thin. There's less insulation between the surface and magma rising from deep underground, said Mark Gonzalez, assistant professor of geology at the University of Denver. As a result, the ground is slightly warmer, though people can't tell.

What's more, sediments in the rift are less dense than the surrounding rocks, causing a gravity low, said Lindriith Cordell, a research geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

"You weigh a little bit less over a gravity low, one part in a million," Cordell said. "Humans would not detect it. But I guess every little bit helps."

Added Gonzalez: "It's all very subtle. It would no way affect the ability to track" UFOs nor produce natural phenomena that appear as UFOs.

O'Brien's not so sure. Many of the sightings have been reported near these subsurface anomalies. He suspects some connection.

But it's the valley's buried Indian lore that most intrigues O'Brien. This is where he believes the answers can be unearthed.

"This stuff goes back thousands of years," O'Brien says as the black sedan cruises west on Colorado 112, toward the San Juan peaks. "You're looking at a very holy spot."

Some American Indian tribes refer to Blanca Peak on the valley's south end as the "sacred mountain of the east," O'Brien says. Several southwestern tribes mention the "Sipapu," or "place of emergence into the fourth world," as being located near the San Luis Lakes.

And other Indian legends refer to a "door or gateway" on Blanca Peak through which the "sky people" arrive on "flying baskets."

"I think that's where the real keys are — the Native Americans," says O'Brien. "They know something."

The Indian "sky people" stories date back many centuries, O'Brien says. Yet UFOs were being reported in the valley as long ago as the 1800s.

In the late 1950s came scattered reports of UFO sightings and alien abductions. And in 1967, the famous case of "Snippy the Horse" hit the area. It's considered the world's first documented animal mutilation.

The horse was found on a ranch near Blanca Peak completely stripped of tissue from neck to nose. Her hindquarters had been surgically removed. It drew reporters from around the world.

"So these latest sightings are nothing new," O'Brien says. "Big-time ufologists have investigated the valley since the 1950s."

Sheriff's departments in three valley counties have investigated dozens of mutilations since then. Many of those incidents were accompanied by unexplained lights in the sky.

But a recent telephone call to the Rio Grande sheriff's office was easily the hottest UFO event in the valley since "Snippy." It prompted inquiries from a Chicago radio station and a network TV producer.

The black sedan eases southwest on Colorado 112. A sign ahead welcomed us to . . .

#### DEL NORTE

Some of the 1,674 people living in the Rio Grande County seat are millworkers. Many toil in town at restaurants and retail stores. Others work as miners in nearby Summitville.

But everyone here was talking UFOs back in January.

At 3:41 p.m. on Jan. 12, the phone at the Rio Grande sheriff's office rang with urgent news from NORAD. An orbiting satellite designed to detect enemy missiles had picked up "a significant explosion" in the Rock Creek area, just outside the nearby town of Monte Vista.

The North American Air Defense Command, housed in Cheyenne Mountain near Colorado Springs, had alerted local authorities, thinking perhaps a plane had crashed. For the satellite to see the hot spot, it had to have been at least 3 acres wide, NORAD officials said.

A check with the FAA found no missing aircraft. Deputies were dispatched in 4-wheel drives to check the explosion. They found nothing. The next day, a single-engine plane scoured Rock Creek and came up empty.

"A guy from NORAD told us to expend all efforts to find out what it was," says Rio Grande Under-

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sheriff Brian Norton. "Later, we told them we couldn't find anything and we needed better coordinates. They said, 'Well, it's not that big then.'"

It didn't end there.

On Jan. 13, a woman driving out of Monte Vista told police she saw a "soft green light" "falling out of the sky" in the same Rock Creek area. Another witness confirmed the sighting and said the ball appeared to crash in the Rock Creek area.

Over the next six days, Rio Grande authorities got additional reports of B-52 bombers and unmarked helicopters flying low through Rock Creek; a blue flare in the sky over Rock Creek; and two explosions in the area. Ground searches again found nothing.

Says Norton, "When we called (NORAD) and asked, 'What's all these helicopters we're seeing up here?' We were told, 'That's confidential information.'"

The investigation remains open. Norton's deputies have been instructed to keep their eyes on the stars. They plan a broader search when the snow melts this spring.

"At first we were just thinking it was a downed plane or something," Norton says. "Then the longer it went, the story kept changing. We tried to come up with our own conclusions in this matter. But we didn't have any."

"We just kind of stood around, scratched our heads and looked at the sky."

The leading theory is that a wayward cruise missile, perhaps fired from the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, crashed into the mountains near Monte Vista. Subsequent lights in the area may have been tracers fired to track the missing missile, Norton says.

"People suggested we call White Sands, like they're going to say, 'Oh yeah, we were just trying to take out the Bank of Monte Vista.' Even if they did know something, they're not going to tell us" if they screwed up, Norton says.

White Sands spokesman Jim Eckles said the facility "hasn't lost any missiles recently." And test rockets are equipped with detonation devices that bring them out of the sky if they leave base properly.

"We know nothing about the source of this phenomenon up in Colorado," Eckles said.

Still, military air maneuvers might lend a logical explanation to the valley's unexplained light show, some residents believe.

The Colorado Air National Guard uses a portion of the valley for training — an area north of Alamosa, close to the Sangre de Cristos. The training area does not extend west to Monte Vista and Del Norte.

"It's like a little war zone here when the National Guard is getting with it," Norton says. "But they publicize that beforehand so people (don't think it's an invasion)."

The training areas only address military fighter jets, not low-flying helicopters. But Guard choppers haven't been in the valley since August when they helped local police in an anti-drug operation, said Maj. Tom Shultz, spokesman for the Colorado Air National Guard.

"It's also not uncommon for military aircraft flying cross country to stop at a civilian airfield," Shultz said. "That would account for maybe one or two nights worth of sightings. But if this has been ongoing since then, I don't know what we can do to that."

It has continued, O'Brien says. And the mystery has subtly split the rural valley into believers and nonbelievers.

It's the military. It's someone's imagination. It's space aliens.

"Some people are very cautious about everything — the show-me type," said Larry Shriver, a farmer who owns a cabin in Rock Creek. "Others are very intrigued by it and wonder what happens next."

"What makes it interesting is with NORAD being involved. It sheds a different light on it entire-



## Saucer legend spawned museums

By Steven Rosen

Denver Post Arts Writer

**R**OSWELL, N.M. — Although Guinness doesn't keep a record on such a thing, this south-central New Mexico city of 44,260 probably leads the nation in the number of flying-saucer museums per capita.

It has two.

One, right in the heart of a moderately bustling downtown, is the International UFO Museum and Research Center. It is the town's "mainstream" flying-saucer museum, with a well-stocked gift shop, plenty of wall-mounted clippings about UFO sightings, crop circles, alien abductions, and so on. There also is an impressive flying-saucer mural and a cute, wood-carved 4-foot alien with which you can have your picture taken.

The second museum, on the outskirts of town, is the "alternative" flying-saucer museum. Called the Outa Limits UFO Enigma Museum, it shares space — or did until recently — with a video store. As its primary attraction, it has a true piece of folk art — a tacky but effectively eerie installation called "The

ly," Shriver said. "If nothing else, it's sure good for coffee-shop talk in the winter time."

As the sun starts its loop behind the San Juans, O'Brien leaves a Del Norte coffee shop and returns to the black sedan. The car heads back east.

Its final destination is 60 miles to the northeast . . .

### CRESTONE

Once a booming burg before the Independence Gold Mine went bust, Crestone now could make a bid for America's quietest town.

It rests against the Sangre de Cristos on the dead end of a two-lane road. It's home to five religious groups, including Buddhists and a hermetic community of Carmelites who live in solar bunkers. An Indian legend says people will gather here in "the time of purification."

O'Brien landed here five years ago when he visited for a fossil-hunting trip. The former New York City film-school student fell in love with the spectacular 14,000-foot peaks.

He's been vaguely interested in the paranormal for decades. But he didn't launch his UFO investigation until he heard friends in the valley tell eerily similar stories of lighted objects in the night sky.

Sitting in his one-room office,



The Denver Post / Bill Briggs

**HIGHER LOVE:** Chris O'Brien believes in close encounters.

Blue Room."

Behind a barrier — a sign says "Caution, Restricted Area" — is a crashed, "life-size" flying saucer, constructed from welded-together satellite-broadcast dishes. It has a tinfoil-embellished hole in it, from which a doll-like alien protrudes. Its big eyes stare from its pillow-soft head.

On the carpeted floor around it

are more doll-like dead aliens, plus a rattlesnake with eggs, a rabbit, a spider, some rocks and sticks, and a Marine-uniformed mannequin. The walls have been painted to look like a New Mexico mountain range, with specks of tinfoil attached.

Is there room for two museums? Well, as a matter of fact, probably not. "Not right now,

1947 — it was home of the 509th Bomb Group, armed with atomic weapons.

But Roswell's "close encounter" tale has one exceptional element. Walter Haut, the public information officer for the base, distributed a statement that began: "The many rumors regarding the flying disc became a reality yesterday when the (bomb group) was fortunate enough to gain possession of a disc . . ." The release came from Col. William H. Blanchard, commander of the base.

High military officials quickly contradicted the statement — they said remnants of a weather balloon had been found. But for UFO believers, Haut's press release has become as famous a document as the Declaration of Independence. To them it is proof that the U.S. government at one time acknowledged that flying saucers are real. In recent years, UFOers have published numerous books on the subject; a Showtime movie premieres this year.

Haut now is president of the nonprofit International UFO Museum. And he often is there to chat with the guests who crowd the place. He's a bit bemused by his renown. At the time, the incident was almost immediately forgotten after top military officials said it was a weather balloon.

no," confides John A. Price, curator of UFO Enigma Museum. It opened April 4, 1992; the rival International UFO Museum opened in its prime location in October of that year. "I'd like to see one survive and someday have one big, nice museum in Roswell."

But that begs the more pertinent question. Why are there any UFO museums in Roswell? It all originated with a piece of Cold War folklore — the supposed 1947 crash of a saucer on a remote farm near Corona, N.M., about 75 miles northwest of Roswell.

As the story goes, members of the U.S. Army Air Forces base at Roswell recovered the spacecraft's pieces, along with the bodies of aliens. The latter were shipped off to Dayton's Wright-Patterson air force base in Ohio, where they were stored — and well may remain today — amid super-secrecy.

There are millions of wacky UFO stories in this big country of ours, especially in Western states full of mysterious, top-secret military installations. Roswell Army Air Field was one such place in

For 40 years after Haut's famous press release, life went on in Roswell without any acknowledgment of the crashed flying saucer. Price, now curator of the for-profit Outa Limits UFO Enigma Museum (admission is \$1), has a theory for this. "They were ashamed of this incident."

In 1988, he and his partners opened the Outa Limits video store at this site — because it was outside city limits. It had a flying saucer logo, because it was near the old Roswell Army Air Forces base and "Outer Limits" was a popular sci-fi TV show in the 1960s.

Price noticed a few people stopped in because of his business' name. This was when Roswell-related books were appearing, and a Japanese film crew had come to town to investigate the story. So he decided the time had come to promote the event.

At the 1991 Eastern New Mexico State Fair Parade, he entered his flying-saucer-with-dead-alien — now the centerpiece of his museum's Blue Room — as a float. "We didn't know if people would throw eggs at us or clap," he says. "They loved it."

Meanwhile, Haut, too, was becoming interested in the past, es-

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pecially after he had been interviewed for a book. He and another man started the International UFO Museum and Research Center in 1991.

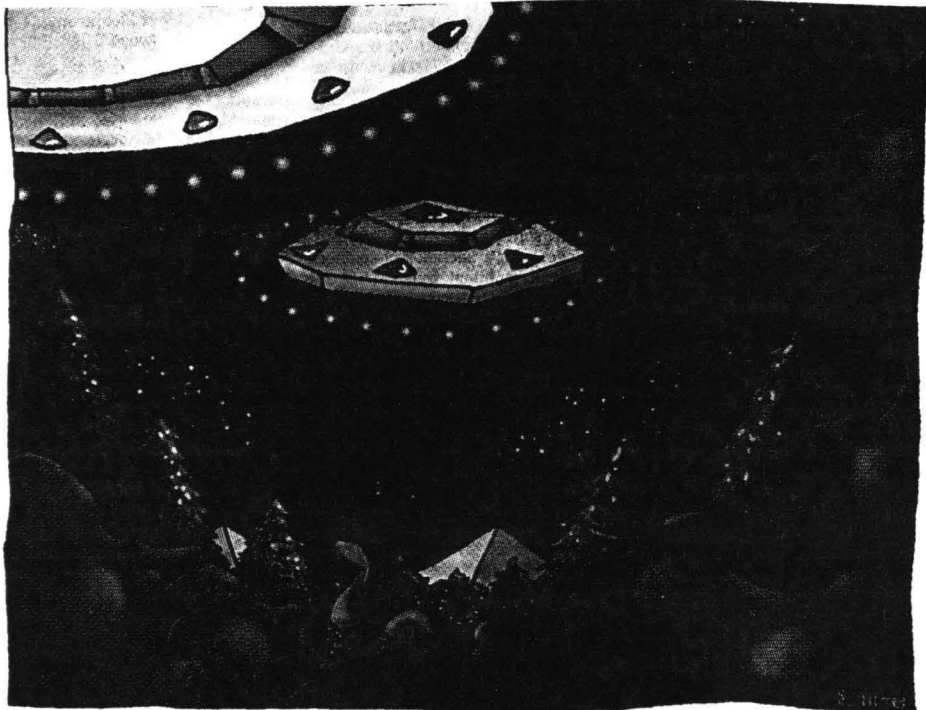
In early 1992, they found a location on the seventh floor of a bank building. Then, in October, the International UFO Museum & Research Center found its current space, which it leases from the city for \$1 a year.

More than 30 volunteers, most elderly Roswell residents, help out. In fact, there is a waiting list for volunteers. This museum is a source of community pride.

By the end of 1993, it had 19,000 visitors. Admission is free, though donations are accepted. And there is a thriving gift area well-stocked with mugs, caps, shirts, bumper stickers, Frisbees and other memorabilia.

"It's just one of those things where we were in the right place at the right time," Littell says.

**CURATOR:** Walter Hauck, below, of the International UFO Museum, with mural depicting 1947 crash; Greta MacDonald, bottom, examines 'saucer' at the Outa Limits UFO Enigma Museum.



## UFO watchers trek to Gulf Breeze

By SHERRY SAPP  
Daily News Staff Writer

**GULF BREEZE** — Connie Acevedo sells home-made flying saucer-shaped cookies at her restaurant on the main drag in honor of her regulars who frequent the restaurant for a bite en route to their UFO vigils.

Barry Karr, editor of The Skeptical Inquirer magazine headquartered in Buffalo, N.Y., can pinpoint the pretty, little waterfront city of Gulf Breeze on a map without thinking twice. The magazine is devoted to getting at the truth of all sorts of other-worldly phenomena.

The interest in Gulf Breeze UFOs heated up some five years ago when photographs purported to be of hovering spacecraft were published by the hometown paper. Since then, tabloid-style news programs and programs such as "Unsolved Mysteries" have focused attention on the UFOs of Gulf Breeze.

"We're still getting people from as far away as Japan," says Jamie Williams, owner of a boutique at Harbortown Shopping Center in Gulf Breeze. "There's still a lot of controversy surrounding those pictures."

Real or not, however, enough other area people claim to have seen the same sort of things that the belief in extraterrestrial visitations persists.

"They used to go and watch every night," Acevedo says. "They don't go that often anymore, but they still go pretty regularly."

Acevedo has attended a few sky-watches herself, and she's more or less convinced.

"I've seen a UFO myself," says Acevedo. "I'm not saying I've seen a disc or little green men, but I've seen something up there that couldn't be explained. They're just regular folks. They're professionals. They're well-educated. Many of them are scientists. They aren't lunatics. They have lives."

Most believe the "visitors" are from another planet, another dimension or a future and are trying to convince Earthlings to take better care of the planet or improve their behavior in some way.

"Most people believe they're good, that they want to help," Acevedo says.

It may all be the result of one part wishful thinking, one part heightened interest, one part power of suggestion and one part inexplicable light in the night sky.

It was the conviction of a longtime, well-respected friend of hers that convinced Acevedo the phenomenon was worth looking into.

"She'd been on the City Council; she'd been in the Junior League. Most of these are people who stand to lose a lot more by speaking up (about having seen a UFO) than by keeping quiet," Acevedo says.

"All I know is these people started coming to my restaurant and it's not like this is Pensacola or Pensacola Beach; this is a pretty conservative community. I started listening to what they were saying."

Patti Weatherford, a spokesperson for the local branch of Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network, says local members of MUFON started nightly sky-watches after publication of the photos.

MUFON is an international organization that has existed about 20 years.

Weatherford says that from 1990-91 when she stood vigil regularly, she experienced some "75-80 sightings of something I could not explain. On one occasion, I saw the actual structure."

Practically everyone in Gulf Breeze either has seen something or has a relative or a friend who claims to have seen a UFO, says Weatherford, who is employed by the state as a field auditor.

"I also like tennis and aerobics," she emphasizes to point out she's no different than anyone else.

It may all be the result of one part wishful thinking, one part heightened interest, one part power of suggestion and one part inexplicable light in the night sky.

Tony Russo, who teaches astronomy at Okaloosa-Walton Community College takes students out to view celestial skies from time to time, has never seen anything that couldn't be explained.

EXAMINER, San Francisco, CA - April 15, 1994

## UFO fans retaliate for being ignored

**SKEPTICS CORNER:** Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., has gotten national attention for her claim that she is flooded with an unusual amount of constituent mail. But there's one group that isn't happy with Boxer's handling of mail: UFO buffs. They complain that she doesn't respond to letters on UFOs.

They're so unhappy, in fact, that a UFO group calling itself Operation Right to Know or ORTK plans to picket Boxer's El Segundo office at 1 p.m. on May 1. The Right-to-Knowers also demand that the federal government release "secret" information about UFOs. (The government maintains that there are no such secrets).

But the planned demonstration has split the UFO community. "It's a pretty lousy idea,"



charges Fred Whiting, a UFO buff and Washington PR guy who once served as press secretary for two members of Congress. Whiting — who also writes for the Seguin, Texas-based Mutual UFO Network Journal — fears the demonstration will backfire because the public tends to dislike demonstrators of any kind: "People yelling 'yo, yo, people have a right to know' sounds like blithering idiocy."

ORTK has 200 paid members, said Dan Pinchas of Darnestown, Md., who edits the group's newsletter. He said Boxer "was only selected as a target because she had not been too responsive to letters to her asking that she obtain (secret government) information on the Roswell crash" — an alleged saucer crash in Roswell, N.M., in 1947. But Linda Marson of the senator's Washington office said, "We have not received any letters about UFOs."

ORTK also plans to picket the Pentagon on May 23, and has accused Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., of insensitivity to UFO issues. At this point in the column I would usually tell a joke, but the sheer silliness of these people speaks for itself.

HERALD JOURNAL, Syracuse, NY - April 15, 1994

## Volunteers search cornfield after reports of fallen UFO

► Witnesses saw glowing lights. Chopper helps out. Search finds nothing.

The Associated Press

**OSWEGATCHIE** — Dozens of volunteers combed a cornfield in Northern New York Thursday, resuming the search for something witnesses said they saw fall out of the sky the evening before.

At least four people reported the object as having two rows of bright red lights.

According to witnesses, the object flew over a cornfield in Oswegatchie, about 90 miles northeast of Syracuse, at 8:15 p.m. and dropped straight down into the field.

But rescue and police agencies couldn't find a thing Wednesday night, even with the help of an Army helicopter from nearby Fort Drum. The chopper was equipped

with infrared night vision devices.

One of the witnesses, Steve Ponko, said he was leaving his house to go the store when he glanced across the cornfield and saw red lights heading toward him.

"There were one or two rows of red lights ... sort of shaped like a plane. It was coming toward me. Then all of sudden, it dropped into the field," Ponko told The Ogdensburg Journal.

A woman driving along a nearby highway, a U.S. Border Patrol agent and another woman each called police to report seeing the bright red lights.

"We don't know what it is. From what we were told, it did not resemble any type of conventional aircraft," said Kit Smith, district deputy fire coordinator.

Smith said Ogdensburg International Airport and the airport in Burlington, Vt., had no radio transmission from any incoming aircraft.

"I don't know, I guess whenever people have an interest in looking at the sky and there is some sort of astronomical event, all of a sudden everybody's looking at the sky, who wouldn't ordinarily be," Russo says. "It doesn't always have to do with UFO's, it could be any major event such as a space shuttle launch or the appearance of Halley's Comet."

"I try to keep an open mind about it. But I do believe that practically all UFO sightings are accountable."

"It's true there have been a few that haven't been explained. But then the Air Force had Project Blue Book in the '50s, '60s and '70s in which they investigated this exhaustively and were never able to find anything (conclusive)."

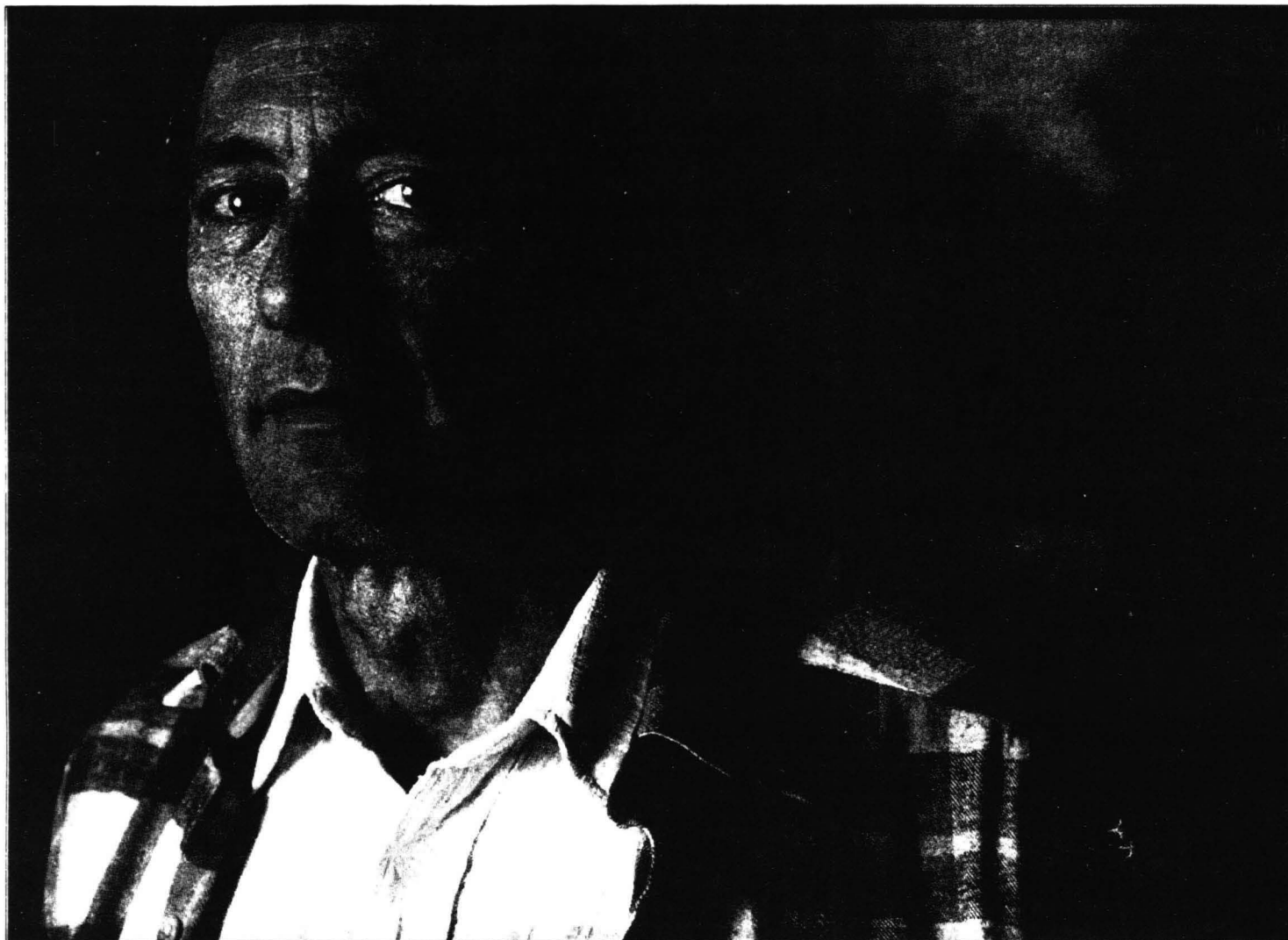
"I can't deny that UFO sightings do occur, but whether or not there's any real basis for believing they are extraterrestrials, I just don't know," Russo says.

DAILY NEWS, Ft. Walton Beach, FL - Feb. 6, 1994  
CR: B. Reid



# E.T., phone Harvard

Dr. John Mack could use the help as critics rip his research on alien abductions



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO / MICHELE McDONALD

"It's conceivable somebody could dupe me, of course," says Harvard psychiatrist John Mack of the research subject who claims she invented stories of alien abduction.

By Joseph P. Kahn  
GLOBE STAFF

**C**AMBRIDGE - The big Mack attack has just begun. And no one has heard from the little people yet.

The aliens, that is.

"Abduction," the much-publicized book by Harvard psychiatrist John Mack about extraterrestrial visitations, had barely touched down in bookstores this week before it came under heavy ground-

fire from critics of both Mack's methodology and his UFO-friendly mindset.

Time magazine fired the loudest shot in a report that one "experimenter" on whom Mack practiced hypnotic regression therapy, Donna Bassett, says she faked tales of her encounters with space aliens - and that Mack not only believed the stories but also failed to obtain consent forms from his research subjects. Mack has seen or treated more than 100 abductees since 1991, most of whom say they are victims of sexual or genetic experimentation by their captors. "Ab-

duction" contains detailed case studies on 13 of those patients.

Bassett also charges Mack with billing insurance companies improperly for therapy sessions that were actually research. Furthermore, the Time story, written by veteran investigative reporter James Willwerth, suggests that Mack's work is riddled with scientific improprieties, including supplying patients with accounts of other abduction experiences before hypnotizing them.

For Mack, a tenured Harvard professor and Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer, these attacks on his credibility have hit a raw nerve. Mack is in the launch phase of an all-out publicity blitzkrieg ("Oprah" 48 Hours, People, Larry King) that includes network TV interviews with several of his research subjects. These people are clearly emotionally and psychologically vulnerable, whatever the underlying cause might be. And so, to a degree, is Mack, whose credentials far outweigh those of any previous investigator publicly aligned with the abduction-recovery movement.

Yes, Mack says, he anticipated the mainstream media would have difficulty swallowing his conclusion that these abduction reports are reality-based. Skeptical criticism of his work is to be expected, he says, even welcomed.

Moreover, Mack harbors few illusions that anyone hung up on Western scientific rationalism will cede much ground to him in this debate. Mack himself calls abductions a "great mystery" that defy proof, one

way or another. Or logic. Only reluctantly did he come to believe in them himself, Mack says.

But this latest flurry hits below the professional belt, the clinician contends.

"Why do they pick the most destructive part of the story and focus on that?" Mack asks. "One or two disaffected persons come forward. Why don't they look into her background? It surprises me they [Time] would go so far to discredit me when they claim to be seriously interested in the phenomenon."

Mack insists he is bound by doctor-patient confidentiality not to discuss in any detail his work with Bassett, a researcher now living in North Carolina. He will say, however, that he dealt with Bassett "in good faith" and that if he gave her any UFO-related articles to read, it was only to satisfy her own curiosity about the abduction experience.

"People can be angry for all sorts of reasons," he maintains. "I doubt the writer checked out her background."

Mack also says that while he did

bill third-party insurers for some therapy sessions, he kept none of the money for himself. The total amount, he says, which he estimates to be between \$2,000 and \$3,000, went to a now-defunct support group known as Group for Research and Aid to Abductees (GRAA).

## Missing consent forms

Last year, Mack founded The Program for Extraordinary Experience Research (PEER) to oversee his abduction research. PEER in turn is overseen by, and funded through, the Center for Psychology and Social Change, a nonprofit organization co-founded by Mack in 1983 to facilitate scholarly research into topics such as human psychology and the nuclear arms race.

According to Karen Wesolowski of PEER, billing and consent procedures changed once Mack stopped treating incoming abductees as private psychiatric patients. At that point, she says, PEER mailed out consent forms to all of Mack's abductee patients, current and former.

Most, though not all, signed the forms, she maintains. Meanwhile, Mack stopped billing insurers in order to be "absolutely scrupulous" about the clinical division between research and therapy.

As for his methodology, Mack calls it "very legitimate" to raise questions about how he has gone about recovering memories of alien encounters. In "Helping Abductees," a 1992 article in the International UFO Reporter, Mack noted that he "had little training in hypnosis as a psychiatric resident and had virtually to teach myself." He credits pioneering investigator Budd Hopkins with helping him refine his techniques. Hopkins, a visual artist, has written two popular books on the abduction phenomenon, "Missing Time" and "Intruders."

On numerous occasions, Mack continues, sitting in his cramped office located behind Cambridge Hospital, other therapists and researchers have been present to observe - and validate - the relived trauma that subjects experience under hypnosis. Tapes of these sessions leave

little doubt that their emotional suffering is real, not invented.

## Duped or double-crossed?

"It's conceivable somebody could dupe me, of course," Mack says, referring to Bassett, "but I've had a lot of clinical experience. And this [Time] article says I'm damaging people. Where is the evidence for that?"

Furthermore, he asks, "How could I possibly keep everybody happy? There are bound to be one or two disaffected people. That's what I object to, the focus on them. It ignores the dozens and dozens of people I've helped."

Mary (who asks that her last name not be used) is one of those people. A data management specialist in Rhode Island - and an experimenter who claims her first abduction took place when she was 7, and her last encounter just 10 days ago - she met Mack in 1992 after reading about his abductee work in the Bos-

(continued on page 6) 5

for Mack. She says she is "furious" and "saddened" at the way Time and Bassett have gone after Mack.

"The piece tries to slant opinion that John is leading people on in hypnotic regression," Mary says. "That's a sad misrepresentation of his research. I've had quite a few conscious experiences that I've had no trouble remembering."

To attack Mack, she says, is to make it more difficult and more painful for other abductees to come forward. No one has been coerced into doing so, she says. And no one she knows was predisposed to believe in the alien explanation.

Has Mack lived up to his therapeutic duties? "Definitely," Mary says. "But it's unfair to think Dr. Mack can be all things to all people. In my opinion it is [Bassett's] ethics that should be questioned, not his."

Time reporter Willwerth is more skeptical. He dismisses Mack's complaints about lack of background checking as nonsense. A specialist in health-research abuse, Willwerth says he thoroughly reviewed both Bassett's charges and the supporting evidence, while Time's lawyers in turn thoroughly vetted his piece. "The bottom line is, there was no informed consent going on," says the writer. "We checked this out 13 ways from Sunday."

### UFOs and politics

Bassett first met Mack in September 1992 and underwent three "regression" sessions with him over the next four months. She says reading other articles by Mack about abductions "told me exactly what he was looking for" when she pretended

to be hypnotized. She also maintains that real harm may have been done to at least some of his research subjects, who have been stripped of other psychological support systems.

"This isn't about UFOs," Bassett insists, speaking by phone from her home in North Carolina. "This is a way to hide human experimentation that's been undertaken for a personal political agenda."

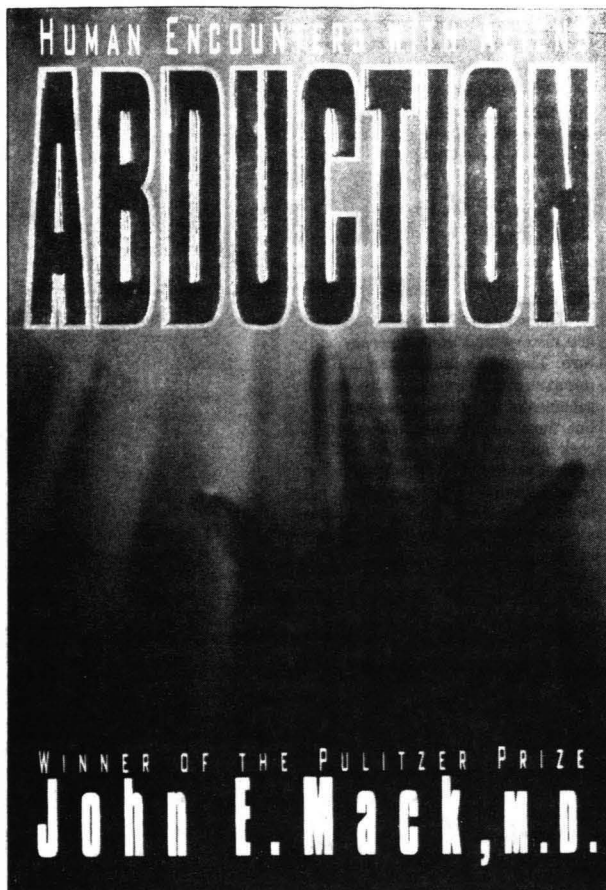
That agenda, contends Bassett, is reflected in the message Mack claims to have distilled from patients' encounters with aliens: that the planet is threatened by ecological destruction, that earthlings must wake up before the destruction goes too far and that human-alien crossbreeding may be the only way to save a doomed race. Mack would hardly quibble with that assessment of the message, only with how the messenger - himself - is being treated by opponents like Bassett.

"Contrary to what some critics say," says Mack, "I was surprised by the message of earth's destruction."

Mack does admit, though, that colleagues warned him long ago that he would open himself up to professional criticism - if not outright ridicule - by pursuing abduction research. Still, he insists, he has no regrets.

"I have this innocent confidence that if you do your work in a comprehensive and objective way," he says, "it stands on its own."

"I'm not worried the attacks will silence me. What I worry about is giving support to the wonderful abductees and others who are helping this process. I don't want to disappoint them."



In "Abduction," psychiatrist John Mack studies 13 patients who claim to have been kidnapped and studied by aliens.

MORNING NEWS, Springdale, AR - April 6, 1994 CR: V. White

## Expert: Feds Should Come Clean on UFOs

Kay B. Hall  
The Morning News

Linda Moulton Howe, nationally known television broadcast journalist, documentary producer and investigative reporter of animal mutilations and UFO phenomena, updated UFO devotees at the sixth annual Ozark UFO Conference last weekend in Eureka Springs.

Howe began by saying it may have been of national security and top-secret priority in 1947 to close files on the alleged spacecraft crash at Roswell, N.M., but with half a century gone by, it's time the government opened its files and told the truth.

If, she said, the crash witnessed by many Air Force personnel, was simply a "weather balloon" as the government claims, why all the secrecy? Why are weather balloons classified national top secret? If, as reported by Air Force personnel and other eyewitnesses, there was a spacecraft crash and alien bodies found, and if there was an order, as alleged, for several "child-sized caskets," we need answers.

Surprisingly, she said, the Russians may be forthcoming with information before the United States.

"Stalin checked out the Roswell incident, and four similar crashes took place in Russia in the same time period. We may have more luck with their paper chase than with ours," she said.

Why, she asked, if the Roswell incident was only a weather balloon, were Air Force and civilian witnesses transferred to other jobs or bases after the crash? Why were locals cautioned not to talk to anyone about the incident? Why were small coffins ordered? Who or what was buried - and where?

Few of the public, she said, would panic at proof of alien worlds or of higher technology. "We are in a revolution of discovering that we are not alone."

In her update on animal mutilations, she said cattle, sheep, goats and horses are primary victims of systematic, surgical removal of body organs and blood. Test results show a

quick method of heat-surgery is used. This is sometimes done, she said, before the animals die. Evidence of shock is found in some, and all blood is drained from bodies.

Satanic cults are not the answer any more than attacks by other animals, she said. The surgical and systematic removal of sex organs, one eye, one ear, the tongue and part of the jaw leaves the rest of the animal intact. And there is no ripping or tearing as if by prey. It's as if, she said, parts are surgically removed and carcasses left behind to be found.

Organ removal leaves evidence of heat-instruments or laser-like tools being used. Some of the surgical edges are serrated in very even notches, like those made from pinking shears, she said.

She showed film and slides of these various animal mutilations from all over the country where she and her crew worked with official investigators.

Margaret Polk, she said, an Alabama cattle owner, described the cuts on her cattle as "cookie-cutter" cuts with no blood remaining anywhere.

And some animals are found only 30 feet from the house. Domestic animals have been victimized but not to any great extent, she said. Cats in Vancouver, British Columbia, Plano, Texas, and Gulf Breeze, Fla., have been discovered.

"When a cat has been found, it has been cut cleanly in half with the entire back half missing. There is no blood left."

Sightings of strange, unidentified flying objects are often reported prior to animal mutilations, she said, and several instances have been reported of reports of animals seen being lifted to an airborne vehicle in a beam of light.

She hypothesizes on the possibility of a hybrid program in effect where blood, protein and organs might provide some kind of biochemical substance, "photon energy" for a hybrid.

Mutilations have occurred as recently as January and again in March in Alabama where similar animal mutilations have been found.

Her talk touched on "crop circle"

incidents, some of which have proven unexplainable, although some have been hoaxes. In these cases, strange symbols, circles and diagrams, easily seen from the air, cause crops or grasses to be killed by some kind of intense heat or radiation. Some ground has been found to be as hard as ceramic tile after a "crop circle." The soil remains unillable for as long as two years. Signs have appeared on pasture land, on crops of rye, rice, oats, barley and grass fields around the globe.

When planting and growing returns, it is accelerated, she said.

"There are biochemical and physical changes in the crops, as much as 45 percent (yield increase)," she said.

And while she believes the government monitors all crop circle incidents as well as animal mutilations, it releases little or no information to the public.

She added that government information released is censored or "blacked out" and proves of no help. It's time to lift another iron curtain, she said, the curtain of secrecy surrounding information on animal mutilations, crop circles and UFO sightings and meetings as reported by some of the government's own personnel.

Howe gave a summary of "alien types" from information she had researched and from descriptions given by alleged UFO abductees. Many abductees alleging they were taken by alien beings claim to be physically examined and electronically "tracked." Most willingly undergo polygraph tests, hypnosis

and other measures to get at the truth. Howe describes alien types:

- "Greys" are the android workers. Small in stature with large eyes, eyes that may be like wrap-around windows covering electronic equipment. They may emit electronic sounds or humming.

- Humanoids come in different sizes, shapes and also have catlike eyes with vertical pupils.

- Some are reported to be a cardboard color.

- Aliens with mushroom-shaped heads appear to be scientists and usually wear a patch on clothing of overlapping triangles, a symbol of energy of two worlds.

Howe said some aliens may prove to be part human, part android. The universe, she said, is one of spectral dimension with a world built on sound patterns and different frequencies, all interdependent and subject to environmental catastrophe.

This may be why the increased activity, to prevent environmental catastrophe in the universe, she said.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach,

FL - April 13, 1994

## Familiar Visitor Comes Back Home

By Patti Weatherford

Sightings of the familiar and routine "red light" UFO have picked up lately. On 3/29/94, several witnesses at Shoreline Park saw a white light to the south at about 30 degrees, drifting eastward and winking out. Almost 25 minutes later, at about 7:50 p.m., a steady red "Bubba" light came into view, moving to the west before disappearing. On 4/5/94, at about 8:15 p.m., two witnesses were driving across the bay toward Gulf Breeze and has just cleared the large hump of the bridge when they saw what they described as a huge white light pop in to the east of the water tower. It winked out and then came back in white and then appeared farther west a third time as a familiar red "Bubba" type. Again on Thursday, 4-7/94, witnesses at Shoreline Park saw an amber light with a red top, moving east to west out over the Gulf. It appeared that the object was pursued by a helicopter and the light disappeared.

Here is a list of programs that Professor John E. Mack from Harvard Medical School will be featured on this month. In case you did not know, he is the author of the recently published book, "Human Encounters with Alien Abductions". He will be a guest on Oprah on 4/18; 48 Hours on 4/20; and Dateline 4/26. Be sure to tune in.

Report your UFO sighting to the UFO Hotline 438-3261.

JOURNAL, Monte Vista, CO  
Jan. 19, 1994

## Satellite detects explosion

By Chris Donlon

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's an error on the part of the NORAD.

On Wednesday, the federal military agency, North American Air Defense Command, called the Rio Grande County Sheriff's office to report a possible fire or explosion between Rock Creek and Fuchs Reservoir in the Rio Grande National Forest, said Brian Norton, the Rio Grande County Undersheriff.

Apparently a U.S. satellite detected a large fire or explosion in the area and transmitted the information to NORAD, whose officials called to ask the sheriff to search the area.

A deputy went up in a plane that evening but was unable to locate anything suspicious. The next day, another search of the area was performed and no signs of an explosion, fire or downed plane were visible, according to Norton.

"It's just one of those things," said the undersheriff. "We checked and there were no reports of downed planes or overdue planes in this area."

CR: T. Adams



## PEOPLE



STEVE MALONE/NEWS-PRESS

Futurist Michael Lindemann is gaining a national reputation as a knowledgeable UFO researcher.

## UFOs come in out of twilight zone

By BEN HELLWARTH  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

The remaining seats at Victoria Hall in downtown Santa Barbara are filling up fast. Two dozen people are still lined up outside, waiting to pay \$8 each to get in.

As newcomers join the line, they often check to make sure they have come to the right place. People phrase the question differently, but always in the same sheepish tones, the kind you use to minimize potential embarrassment among strangers.

"Is this the line for the thing on, um, UFOs?" Some put it even more discreetly: "Are you waiting to see Michael Lindemann?"

There is no simple way to describe the audience gathered this Wednesday night in December to hear Lindemann, the futurist and founder of the Santa Barbara-based 2020 Group who's building a national reputation as a knowledgeable, down-to-earth UFO researcher.

Generation X-ers are there, some in grungewear, others in more traditional garb. Senior citizens fill a good number of seats. Baby Boom-era professionals are clearly in attendance — men and women who look like they do their shopping at Nordstrom and do lunch at the Wine Cask.

And scattered throughout the room are colorful characters like the tallish man with a graying ponytail who, judging from his black-and-white Sturgis T-shirt, probably rode a Harley to the evening lecture.

The only other place you might expect to find a similar spectrum of humanity is at a Rolling Stones concert.

As for Lindemann, he stands at the lectern in a blue suit and Ivy League tie looking the part of a CEO. Affable. Articulate. Confident, but not cocky. Serious, but hardly bombastic.

His message: Unidentified flying objects, whatever they are and wherever they may come from, are one form of strong evidence that "non-human advanced intelligence" is operating on and around the Earth. But more important, Lindemann says, is that the facts about UFOs have become one of history's best-kept official secrets.

A select few within the U.S. government and other major governments know the whole truth about alien

visitation, he says. Officials may once have had good reason for keeping quiet, but it's time for the truth, he argues. Otherwise, earthlings will remain in the dark about a phenomenon that could turn human culture upside down as completely as when Copernicus proclaimed that the Earth is not the center of the universe.

Lindemann exudes a missionary zeal as he speaks, but offers all the secular arguments you would expect of a political science professor. He defines terms. He poses open-ended questions. He cracks occasional jokes. He urges his listeners to do their own homework, draw their own conclusions. Some in the audience of 300 take notes.

For all his experience, Lindemann might as well be a professor of some sort.

Before moving to Santa Barbara eight years ago to lend his younger brother a hand with his business, Lindemann had spent three years at Stanford University. He arrived there in 1967, during the Summer of Love, to find a different world from his native Milwaukee, Lindemann explains some weeks after the lecture.

The son of a corporate middle-manager, Lindemann became an "archetypical '60s guy" and finished up his bachelor's degree in psychology at Antioch University in San Francisco and did further study in psychological counseling through the Psychosynthesis Institute, also in San Francisco.

By the mid-1970s, Lindemann "decided enlightenment was the only game in town" and he became a student of Indian guru and author Sri Chinmoy. A couple of years later, he also became a student at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, where he intended to get a master's degree, and possibly a doctorate, in comparative religion.

(His master's thesis title: "The Forms of Discipleship.")

But after two years, his guru effectively gave him an ultimatum: school or me. Lindemann says it was the toughest choice of his life. He stayed with the guru, started a music store in San Francisco and eventually burned out on his spiritual training and came to Santa Barbara.

Nearly three hours after his Victoria Hall presentation began, only a few listeners have slipped out early as Lindemann wraps up his talk on "UFOs and the Global Situation."

After the applause subsides, a crowd converges on the table in the back of the room to look over Lindemann's self-published books and videotapes. Copies of Lindemann's free, two-page list of recommended readings on UFOs quickly disappear. A group also gathers at the stage to chat with Lindemann, a boyish-looking 44-year-old.

At 10:25 p.m., 50 or so people stick around for a question-and-answer session.

Turn back the clock four years and Lindemann would have laughed in your face if you had told him that he would someday talk about unidentified flying objects and space aliens as if they were the harbingers of the next Copernican revolution.

For the record: Lindemann doesn't claim ever to have seen a UFO or met a space alien. He does claim to put his full energy into researching seemingly far-out issues that many assume to be the stuff of tabloids and fairy tales.

Lindemann assumed the same, he says, until a late night rendezvous at Frimble's on State Street in August 1989.

At that time, Lindemann had re-

cently resigned after two and a half years as executive director of Santa Barbara's Peace Resource Center to start The 2020 Group, which he envisioned as a kind of think tank for studying "forces shaping the future," which is what futurists like Lindemann study.

Among other things, he was trying to understand the motivation for U.S. weapons programs that seemed inconsistent with the end of the Cold War and efforts to cut the budget deficit.

"This is a futurist kind of question," Lindemann explains during a recent interview at his one-bedroom apartment, an austere place that doubles as his office.

"Here something happened. What does this have to do with where we're headed? What is the rationale and what is the outcome? I was asking questions about these weapons," he says. Why, he wondered, did the United States continue to develop new generations of nuclear weapons, including an earth-penetrating warhead, "which to me was extraordinary. Why are we developing a whole new generation of delivery systems? Who's the target? I posed that question to lots of people."

One of those people was someone Lindemann prefers to describe only as "a trusted colleague." The person's identity is not important, Lindemann says — although he will say the colleague is "a guy like me who never cared for the conventional wisdom."

Their schedules were full, so the two finally got together at Frimble's "at like one in the morning," Lindemann says. "He says, 'You want to know about the weapons?' I said, 'Yeah. Tell me something I don't already know.'"

The answer came as a shock: UFOs.

Crackpots worry about UFOs,

Lindemann thought. Serious researchers worry about global warming, deforestation, overpopulation and nuclear accidents.

Lindemann hoped his colleague was just kidding. But he wasn't.

"I was incredulous. I was unprepared for that. If it hadn't been him, I would have been out the door," Lindemann says. His colleague handed over some audio tapes recorded from a program on Los Angeles radio station KPFK and asked that Lindemann give them a listen.

What Lindemann heard on the tapes was a three-hour presentation by John Lear and Bill Cooper at a July 1989 UFO research symposium in Las Vegas. As he often does, Lindemann fills in his story with details and footnotes: Lear was a commercial pilot for 30 years who also claimed to have flown missions for different government agencies. Lear had said he was skeptical of UFO stories until his own research convinced him otherwise.

Cooper, Lindemann says, served in the U.S. Navy on an intelligence briefing team for the Pacific Fleet in the 1970s, which Cooper claimed gave him access to top-secret documents pertaining to UFOs.

The two speakers' credentials were "good enough," but Lindemann was struck by something else.

"I thought I was hearing sincerity. I thought I was hearing people who were going way out on a limb. They touched me where I live in a certain sense. They were outrageous ideas, but they were not stupid. They were not simplistic," Lindemann says.

"These men both had command of the English language, they both understood the rules of logic and presented themselves soberly and powerfully. And I said, 'If even a

tenth of this is true, I've really missed the boat.'"

Sincerity. Command of English. The rules of logic. Sober. Many people say the same kinds of things about Lindemann, whether or not they happen to agree with him.

"Michael's very competent, very dedicated and a very pleasant guy with a nice sense of humor. We must have lunch soon!" said Bob Fitzgerald of Montecito, a retired lawyer who was president of the Community Environmental Council board in the '80s and is still on the board.

"I don't know whether what he says is true or not, but he's a man of great integrity. If he says he believes something, I'm sure he believes it."

"He presents his material so well, so clearly, almost effortlessly. I think he just really knows it," said Ellen Downing, a program coordinator at Santa Barbara City College's Continuing Education Division. Lindemann will teach a class for the first time through adult education beginning the first week of March on "The UFO Phenomenon: Personal Impacts/Future Implications."

"I've checked around and everybody gives rave reports about him as a person and about his information," Downing said.

Michael Shermer, director of the Altadena-based Skeptics Society and a professor of the history of science at Occidental College in Los Angeles, met Lindemann last fall for a well-attended UFO-related debate in Santa Barbara.

"He struck me as a very intelligent, polite, well-intentioned individual," said Shermer, who is nonetheless unconvinced by Linde-

(continued on page 8) 7

(continued from page 7 - NEWS-PRESS,

Santa Barbara, CA - Feb. 6, 1994)

many others who believe there is merit to claims of alien encounters and government cover-ups.

"The evidence is so weak it seems like kind of a waste of time if you've got other things you're interested in," Shermer said. "This guy is obviously bright and has other interests."

After Lindemann heard the tapes of Lear and Cooper, he was intrigued, but disbelieving. "It was like I was hearing an alternate reality." He figured it shouldn't take long to lay claims of a cosmic Watergate to rest.

"I fully expected that I could, with some effort, blow this apart," Lindemann says, his voice crescendoing. "I wanted to check it out. I wanted to tear it apart. I wanted to rip it to shreds and kill it, OK? But I couldn't ignore it. And that was a fateful decision. I mean, I could have ignored it, of course. I could have said 'Pff! Give me a break.' But I checked it out."

He is still checking it out. In the process, he has met others like Lear and Cooper who, in Lindemann's view, have risked ridicule and solid professional reputations by writing books and talking publicly about bizarre phenomena like UFO sightings, alien abductions, cattle mutilations and crop circles.

Lindemann says he has also met his share of kooks and found plenty of "fuzzy thinking" and "wishful thinking."

His 1991 book, "UFOs and the Alien Presence: Six Viewpoints," a collection of interviews and background information, is like an introduction to the UFO writers and researchers who impressed Lindemann the most, "people who don't need aliens to be complete humans." Like nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman, award-winning documentary filmmaker Linda Moulton Howe, and artist Budd Hopkins. Smart people. Sane people.

Four years ago he had never heard of any of them. Now Lindemann considers such people friends and colleagues.

Lindemann's compact apartment, in the shadow of Calle Real near Highway 154, is evidence of a

life he describes as "very hard to mouth." Futurists don't get rich quick. Mostly, Lindemann says he makes a living from the sale of his published works and from giving lectures, like the one at Victoria Hall, to audiences around the country. Over the next month, he has scheduled appearances in Tampa and Orlando, Fla., in Atlanta, and back in California at Fresno State University.

Sometimes timing — and "blind luck" — can be a budding futurist's best friend, as was the case last month just before Lindemann left for planned speaking engagements in Phoenix and Albuquerque.

Days before Lindemann's departure, U.S. Rep. Steve Schiff, a New Mexico Republican, asked the General Accounting Office — the investigative arm of Congress — to look into the possibility that a government cover-up followed the July 2, 1947, crash of a mysterious object near the ranching community of Corona, about 75 miles northwest of Roswell, N.M.

"Even if this all proves to be routine and explainable, this is just an example of how government raises suspicions and rumors among the public about how they themselves handled it," Schiff told NBC News in mid-January.

The "Roswell Incident," as it is known, made headlines in 1947, including a prominent front-page story in the Santa Barbara News-Press. A number of books have been written about the incident over the years. Lindemann counts himself among those who consider it one of the best documented cases that something fishy is going on.

Soon after Schiff's announcement, Lindemann's phone started ringing. The Albuquerque Journal called for an interview. Lindemann was also quoted in an Associated Press story about Schiff and the GAO investigation.

This is welcome recognition for a man on a mission.

But what if Lindemann is wrong? What if he someday learns that there is no non-human advanced intelligence, there is nothing to Roswell or any other alleged government knowledge of aliens?

"I could be absolutely dead wrong," Lindemann says. "But all my instincts and all my intelligence tell me this is for real. I haven't got a doubt in my mind. And I still allow that I could be completely wrong."

BULLETIN, Manteca, CA - March 14, 1994



## Dennis Fleming

Manteca Bulletin columnist

### Strange sighting in Manteca sky

Granted, this isn't something a lot of people would write in the newspaper. Most people would just keep quiet about it and let it gnaw at their gut for a while. Year's later they end up on the sidewalk telling anyone who will listen until a police officer comes and moves them along.

Not me. I'm not real bashful, and hardly anyone takes me seriously anyway. I'm used to it.

I wasn't drunk and I wasn't tired. As to whether or not I'm crazy, well I guess the jury's still out on that.

But the other night I was out running and I saw something really strange. It was up in the air, hardly anybody saw it and no one can explain it.

I WAS RUNNING DOWN UNION just over the railroad tracks about 7 p.m. when I saw what looked like a small glowing cloud over the golf course (or in that direction). I was going to turn on Crom anyway, so I figured I'd wait to check it out.

As I got closer I found two people, a man and a woman, from a couple of nearby apartments. They had been walking in separate directions when they noticed it, too, and had stopped to watch. The three of us looked at it for a minute and then looked at each other. We laughed half-heartedly and openly wondered what to do.

The woman agreed to go in and call 911, but only if we promised to stay where we were and not leave her alone to explain. (Actually, I think we had to swear on our mother's graves and each give her a major credit card.)

She came back, and complained she had been referred to several different agencies and wasn't getting anywhere. Meanwhile, the glow in the sky was slowly dissipating and I had to go to the bathroom. (UFO's aren't real sensitive to our own bodily functions.)

KEEP IN MIND THAT A UFO by definition is simply an unidentified flying object. It does not mean there are men from outer space.

Most reported UFOs are dismissed by experts

as light flares, weather balloons and even experimental aircraft. (Quite possible, considering the aerospace industry in our state.)

Indeed, there are dozens of exotic homemade aircraft (and various hot air balloons) which fly out of the Tracy airport.

As to the cloud? Well, coming from the directions of farms and fertilizer plants, there are any number of explanations. (We noticed there was no odor.) It was also very contained, and appeared to leave no trail nor point of origin.

I had a more diabolical hunch: What if some kid just got carried away with a chemistry set he got for Christmas? His dad wouldn't let him use it in the house (ever since the cat turned colors) so he was using it out on the 14th fairway.

It went boom boom, and that kid's probably still running.

Or, what if someone was just tuning up an old car? Heck, the last time I started up my old station wagon lots of people called up to report it.

ON THE OTHER HAND, LET'S not rule out the little green men from outer space thing. I was watching something on The Learning Channel not long ago about the possibility of life outside our solar system.

The documentary pointed out there are about 100 billion stars in the Milky Way galaxy alone. So let's say that out of these solar systems, only 1 percent have the potential for any life forms at all. That leaves 10 million. Let's say that out of those solar systems with any life forms, only 1 percent have intelligent life. (Yes, our planet counts — "Beavis and Butthead" is a freak of nature.) That leaves 100,000 solar systems with intelligent life.

Now let's say that only 1 percent of those have life so intelligent they've developed space travel, and that leaves 1,000 planets (again, including ours).

Granted, ours is still primitive, so let's say 1 percent of those are so advanced they can travel thousands of times the speed of light (186,282 miles per second) to make traveling through the galaxy practical. This leaves at least 10 solar systems in our galaxy (some experts put the number in the thousands, but I'm being conservative) holding civilizations that have the power to bounce around at will.

It could happen.

DO I BELIEVE ALL THIS? Well, sort of. On any clear night when three people watch a mysterious, unexplained glowing glow over an empty golf course we will develop romantic notions of exactly that it was.

Myself, I'm still going with the kid with the chemistry set running his tail off for momma's skirts.

Dennis Fleming's column appears Mondays in the Manteca Bulletin.

NEWS & RECORD, Greensboro, NC - May 1, 1994 CR: G. Fawcett

## UFO Network: Group landing here

● Greensboro couple hosting meeting of Mutual UFO Network.

By MILLICENT ROTHROCK

Staff Writer

With his bushy, slightly pointed eyebrows and short, straight hair, he looks a little like a small version of Spock. He's fascinated with outer space and he's seen a UFO.

But Nick Summers is not one of those. You know the ones — people who claim to have had encounters of the third kind and come up with all kinds of tales about what goes on inside those silver crafts.

He believes a little of this and a little of that concerning UFO sightings and contacts. Half is real, the other half is invented in the

mind of individuals, Summers says. Determining what is true and what isn't is the challenge of being a UFO buff, albeit a conservative one.

"Something is happening that is affecting people worldwide and that is clear. There can be no argument about that," he says. "Ultimately, it becomes a question of what you want to believe and how much of the story you want to believe. Something happened to these people. Some of it is a product of the human mind. But not all of it." Summer's experience with the unknown took place in 1959 rural Kansas. He, his parents and two local chiropractors had heard stories about a truck driver who claimed to have seen two small extraterres-

Then, something else strange happened.

About 10 minutes after the light shot out of sight, right as Summers was catching his breath, a military jet appeared out of nowhere and made a circle around the vapor trail.

"I've never forgotten it," Summers says. But he hasn't always told people about it. People used to laugh at him, but these days people are more accepting, he says.

Plus, Summers knows he is not alone.

He is one of 4,500 people worldwide who belong to the Mutual UFO Network. The North Carolina chapter is meeting today from 1 to 6 p.m. in the Faculty Center at

UNCG. Admission is \$2. Summers is hosting the event, along with his wife, Ellen. He will speak on "Where We Are Going in the UFO Field in 1994."

Summers also belongs to a local organization, The Full Story Group, which is made up of about 19 area citizens who have either had contact with a UFO or who are interested in the subject.

So, what kind of experiences go on around here, anyway?

While driving down a rural road in the fall of 1989, a lady in Ashboro and her cousin had a close encounter with a circular craft with glowing lights floating about 150 feet in the air. Other motorists also saw it.



Nick Summers

"This was a close-in observation. Everyone was in awe looking at it," Summers says.

If you want to have an encounter, you're in the right spot. In the United States, North Carolina ranks around fifth in sightings and interactions per capita, Summers says. Most sightings occur in rural areas around earthquake faults and military installations.

Military installations? Aren't you likely to see just about anything floating above a military installation? And don't various gas bubbles sometimes come out of the earth's crust? A fault line would be the perfect means for escape.

True, says Summers. But not all sightings can be so easily explained.

Of the sightings MUFON investigators, says, but about 10 to 25 percent can't.

According to Summers, there are two types of UFO experiences — abductions, which occur mostly in the United States, and the traditional contact stories of someone coming upon a craft and/or seeing small beings who are acquainted with our language.

"The message people are telling is the same," Summers says. "They say the extraterrestrials are watching us and have been watching for some time. They are concerned about our militancy and nuclear weapons. They are telling us we are destroying our environment and we are going to destroy ourselves if we don't clean up our act."

"With the typical sighting, the person sees something strange, but convincing others is a hard thing to do. Until you see one, you remain skeptical," Summers says. "Ninety percent of people who see something don't report it to anyone other than their friends."

"People see something and the mind wants to explain it away as something conventional. But they get to thinking about it and they can't explain it. Skeptics depend on the lingering doubts of not being able to explain for sure what it is — they use it to explain the whole thing away."

Because people need to talk about their sightings, MUFON has started support services for people who believe they have had an experience with a UFO or extraterrestrial. Through the state organization, individuals can be referred to nearby therapists.

"People are experiencing something and they need to talk to other experiencers and they need to talk to clinical persons," Summers says.

For information on MUFON or for information on the group's support services, call Summers at 273-7618.



# For psychiatrist John Mack, 'Abduction' is an alien matter

BY TERRY McDERMOTT  
Seattle Times staff reporter

In a way, John Mack is lucky he didn't live 400 years ago.

Then, he would have been burned at the stake. Now, he is merely regarded as misguided.

Mack for the past four years has devoted most of his clinical psychiatric practice in Cambridge, Mass., to patients who are normal in every way but one. They all think they have been abducted by aliens.

He has about 90 such patients. Some have been sexually manipulated; others experimented upon; inculcated with ideas; physically and emotionally scarred or otherwise traumatized; but they have all been abducted.

Mack's heresy is not in treating them. It is in believing them.

"I went on for a long time trying to find other explanations, looking at other hypotheses, at displacement from sexual abuse, picking up some things from the media, but none of them fit," Mack said

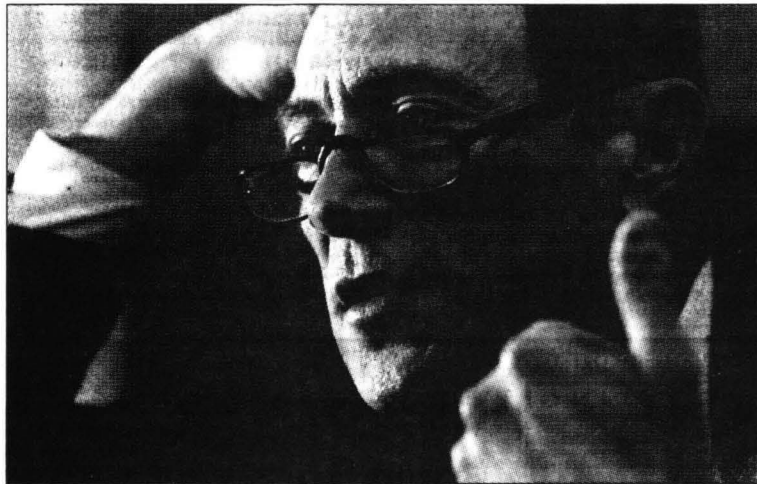
yesterday.

"None of these possible explanations came close to accounting for this and so I was left with a dilemma. What do I do?"

What Mack has done is write a book, "Abduction," and set off around the country promoting it, trying in the process to persuade people not that these 90 people have been snatched by aliens, but that they might have been and there is for the moment no better explanation of what they have to say.

"In short," he writes, "it is what it is, although the ultimate source of these experiences remains a mystery."

Mack is a professor of psychiatry at Cambridge Hospital, a part of the Harvard Medical School. He is 63 years old and has been a psychiatrist for almost 40 years. He founded the psychiatry department at Cambridge and, when it merged with Harvard, became its chairman. He wears professorially frumpy clothes and peers over the top of professorially



MIKE SIEGEL / SEATTLE TIMES

John Mack's new book, "Abduction," tells stories of people who believe they've had close encounters with visitors from outer space.

perched half-glasses. He is the author of a Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of T.E. Lawrence and of a classic text on dreams.

He was regarded as a mainstream psychiatrist whose only mild deviation from the middle of the road was a flirtation with Werner Erhard's est, a consciousness-raising regime.

## Hanging out with aliens

All of this went by the boards when he began hanging out with people who say they have been hanging out with aliens, people like Dave Jones. Jones is a 43-year-old marketing executive with a health-maintenance organization in Indiana. He is traveling with Mack as a sort of live Exhibit A for the defense.

He's good-looking and wears navy blazers. He doesn't drool or rant and rave. He doesn't have to. Every word out of his mouth seems guaranteed to send someone like Mack scurrying for Freudian cover.

"That happened at Christmas time, this incident when my daughter and I had the encounter," Jones says. "The encounter that I had was at a time when my daughter was dying and these little aliens came back and I had an encounter right in the hospital at 4 a.m. in the morning. They were showing me that this energy that I had received through them could help my daughter. And actually it all started through prayer. When I thought I was connecting with a higher being, it turned out to be I had connected with these aliens. And they showed me that by connecting with my own daughter's energy, and her energy was a part of my energy, I was able to communicate with her to get well."

Jones says this as if he were giving yesterday's weather report. He talks in a flat, matter-of-fact tone about previous lives he has lived (and in one case lost to musket fire), about being abducted as a 6-year-old farm boy, about seeing alien silhouettes on walls for decades thereafter, about sexual experimentation done to him aboard a spacecraft and finally about being diagnosed by his church as possessed by demons.

He believed the church. "It was a dark side of my life that I accepted as evil," he said.

Then he began seeing a therapist who in 1992 referred him to Mack. By then Mack had begun writing about abductions and had become active in the UFO intellectual underground. People like Jones were being referred to him.

## Abduction stories vary

There are great differences among them. They are from all sections of the country, of all ages and ethnicities. None knew the others before they started seeing Mack.

Their stories vary in many instances — some describe gray aliens, others white; some of the aliens are said to be hairless, others hirsute;

some are male, some female — but Mack says it is the similarities among the stories that makes them more compelling.

Those similarities include being floated through walls in a semi-conscious state, being taken onto alien spacecraft and examined with prods and probes, being relieved of sperm and embryos, and most of all being unable to consciously remember any of it. These corroborations, as Mack refers to them, helped lead the psychiatrist to the dangerous conclusion that these people were telling the truth.

Jones and most of Mack's other patients undergo regression therapy, a method that employs hypnosis to recover repressed memories. This sort of therapy has been highly controversial of late for its use to support accusations of sexual abuse.

Elizabeth Loftus, a University of Washington psychiatrist who has been critical of regression therapy, said Mack has ignored or dismissed the most obvious explanation of his patients' recovered memories. They never occurred.

"Confabulation and false belief construction is an explanation in and of itself," she said.

She said Mack wouldn't be "the first glib psychiatrist with good credentials." The credentials do not make the case, she said, but added, "If there's some non-zero possibility that this occurred, then I guess you could say somebody has to be first."

Even this small measure of professional charity is not widely in evidence among Mack's critics. Mack said he has been shocked at "the vehemence with which the faith" of mainstream scientific belief is being guarded. He is working in a realm with few guideposts and his profession demands he provide a roadmap.

He says his critics want what he cannot conceivably provide. He writes about the power of the persuasive power of the emotional distress his patients feel and says his critics respond by saying, "I'm not satisfied. I want a dinner plate off of a UFO to see what they feed on."

"I talked to my colleagues about this. I think I've got something here I can't explain. What do I do? Do I say, I don't want to talk about this. They said, 'Don't admit you take this seriously because people will ridicule you.'"

What is really at issue here are not dinner plates, but methods of knowing. Western science demands physical proof. Mack offers mainly subjective belief. To one side the truth in all of this is unknowable without proof. To the other it is unprovable without knowing.

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - March 28, 1994

# UFO experts say military used decoy story to cover up crash

Nate McMahon

Record Staff Writer

Two UFO researchers say their work not only proves a spaceship piloted by aliens crashed in Roswell in 1947; it proves no other explanation fits the facts.

Donald R. Schmitt and Kevin D. Randle of the Center for UFO Studies gave a presentation outlining their theory Sunday at Pearson Auditorium.

The presentation, attended by about 200 people, was a synopsis of their new book, "The Truth about UFO Crash at Roswell." It follows on the heels of their 1991 book, "UFO Crash at Roswell," and is the culmination of five years of research and interviews with

more than 500 people.

"We believe we've put together the chronological order of events for the first time," Schmitt said. "We both came into this case as skeptics, but it's made believers out of us."

"Now, if we can just get the rest of the world to pay attention."

Here is their account:

It's early June 1947, and people around the United States are seeing strange objects in the sky. Newspapers document sightings, as well as military efforts to find the craft.

Army airbases along the West Coast are looking for the strange aircraft July 4, 1947. Jim Ragsdale and his girlfriend aren't.

They're just camping out in

the desert, drinking, having a good time. At about 11:20 p.m., the sky lights up. An object whizzes overhead and crashes a mile away.

Ragsdale and his friend tentatively investigate, and see a shoe heel-shaped craft stuck into a hillside. Nervous in the darkness, they wait until morning to venture further and then find what look to be dummies in strange clothing laying about.

The military shows up July 5 and cordons the site off.

It is 35 miles north of Roswell.

After the military takes charge soldiers place five bodies with humanoid but obviously non-human features in lead-lined body bags

and meticulously clean up every scrap of wreckage.

About 36 hours later the bodies are flown to Washington, D.C., for inspection and then to what is now Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

High-ranking officials pat themselves on the back for burying the incident, but something new arises. It seems Mac Brazel, a rancher 75 miles northwest of Roswell, also found strange debris July 5. Too many people know about it to cover it up easily.

The debris reportedly covers a large area and includes metal thin as tinfoil which resists any attempt to dent it, metal which flows between the fingers like quicksilver, and what could later be described as fiber-optic cable.

Two months later, well-known scientist Lincoln LaPaz would find a spot five miles from the debris field at Brazel's ranch were sand had been fused into glass.

He would come to the conclusion that an extraterrestrial craft had crashed on the ranch and launched again. Such a craft might have been airborne only a few miles before crashing again, with more deadly results.

On July 6, though, officials need a way to muddy the waters after Brazel's account. An idea blossoms, and damage control begins.

A carefully sculpted press release goes out to the media saying a flying disc was found on Mac Brazel's ranch. Nothing is said of the other site.

Newspapers across the land run the story about the flying disc. Then another statement is released. The famous 509th becomes the butt of jokes when the military says a mistake was made.

The object which crashed on Brazel's ranch was only a weather balloon.

The decoy story is concocted, accepted and the Roswell Incident is largely forgotten. No follow-up investigations are asked for, and the public never knows about the real site.

Schmitt and Randle say this is what really happened the week of July 4, 1947. They also ask questions.

If a weather balloon really hit, they ask, why so much wreckage? Why did top military investigators take days to realize the debris was the foil, cloth and balsa wood found in a weather balloon?

Why does the official Air Force "Blue Book" UFO investigation list other UFO sightings in July 1947, but not the Roswell Incident?

Why did Brazel allegedly tell Frank Joyce of radio station KGFL the wreckage he found was of a weather balloon, but add, "You know those stories about little green men? Well, they aren't green."

Why did Edwin D. Easley, an investigator at the site, allegedly say he promised the president he wouldn't tell about the crash? Why did he allegedly tell Schmitt and Randle he was sworn to secrecy? Why, after being shown a sketch of aliens supposedly found at the site, did he reportedly say, "Oh — the creatures?"

Of course, many logical explanations covering the Roswell Incident can be found. For the people at Sunday's presentation, though, the theory presented by Schmitt and Randle seemed to be much more interesting.

# Nevada town's reputation for UFO activity brings in believers

By TIMOTHY R. GAFFNEY  
of Cox News Service

RACHEL, Nev. — This tiny sprawl of trailer homes on the vast Nevada desert is an oasis of sorts to the weary traveler. It offers the only gas, food and lodging on the two-lane state highway that runs past it.

The main business here is a roadside bar and grill that offers a pool table, jukebox and a few motel rooms in trailers on the dusty back lot.

Oh, and aliens, too.

Claims that the Air Force is secretly testing flying saucers just across the jagged Groom Mountains from Rachel has brought a growing stream of UFO investigators, curiosity seekers and media to this town.

UFO tourism has become so important to business that proprietors Joe and Pat Travis have named their place the Little A'Le'Inn. "Earthlings always welcome," proclaims a large sign along the highway.

"When we took it over, it was the Rachel Bar and Grill," Pat Travis explained after serving a Saucer Burger Platter (cheeseburger with the works, fries and coleslaw).

In 1990, they decided to give their establishment a catchier name.

"We needed a name that would cover everything we had," Pat Travis said. "The UFO activity had started and was escalating. So, why not?"

Pictures of aliens, saucers and well-

known UFO investigators cover the walls. There's a strange matter-of-factness about it, the saucer photos getting equal play with photos of the F-117 Stealth attack jet and the Air Force Thunderbirds air show team.

The Little A'Le'Inn offers an assortment of mementos — T-shirts that show an alien sipping a cold one, alien coffee cups, alien kitchen magnets. A small bookshelf offers videotapes and books on various extraterrestrial themes.

You don't have to swear to a belief in extraterrestrials to get service there. "We have to stay totally neutral," Pat Travis said. "Our beliefs are our own."

But, she added, "We do believe there are UFOs. And after that beam of light

came through our door, we believe there is something here. We told it to make itself at home."

That was one night in the winter of 1989, when the outside temperature was 20 below. Without warning, she recounted, a bright light streamed around the edges of the metal door. "It illuminated the whole bar," she said.

The aliens are friendly, she said. "I have one [alien] I've named. His name is Archibald and he travels with us."

She credits Archibald with sending her a telepathic warning to slow down her car one night on the highway. The highway crosses an open cattle range, and Pat Travis said she slowed her car just before the massive shape of a Black Angus bull loomed in the headlights.

The Traveses don't attempt to draw a line between truth and fantasy. "We've heard all kinds of weird stories," Pat Travis said. "A lady here in town was followed by a craft all the way across the Tikaboo Valley from Alamo." A husband and wife say they were abducted in the valley, she said.

Extraterrestrials notwithstanding, local military training flights ensure exciting aerial displays.

"The airplanes are fantastic out here. ... Sometimes they try to tear the building down," Pat Travis said. "But that's OK. Those are my boys up there, learning how to fly — and girls, too."

## California Research Adds New Information To Gulf Breeze UFO Analysis

by Kenneth Lloyd Larson

Between the years 1987 to 1994, the Gulf Breeze UFOs seem to have measured two parallel lines of 900 miles each and on the surface of the land of America. The starting point of the first measured line represents the seven brilliant and egg-shaped objects that landed on the fields and highways around Levelland, Texas, November 2 and 3, 1957, (see the *Los Angeles Times*, November 3, 1957).

This straight line extends for 900 miles and ends at Gulf Breeze, Florida. Over the years starting in November, 1987, and extending up to 1994, various witnesses reported seeing red and white and ruby colored UFOs over Gulf Breeze (see the book by Ed and Frances Walters, *The Gulf Breeze Sightings*). This measured line can be divided into 30 equal units of 30 miles each or a total of 900 miles.

sure line is parallel to the Salt Lake City to Independence line and the Salt Lake City to Levelland line is parallel to the Gulf Breeze to Independence line. Salt Lake City was first founded on July 24, 1847, when the Mormons under Brigham Young arrived at Great Salt Lake. The first leader of the Mormons was Joseph Smith, and he dedicated the lot or site at Independence on August 3, 1831, and for a future Temple Complex. This Temple site (the temple was never built but is to be built in the future) was also cited during the year 1830. On July 2, 1952, U. S. Navy warrant officer Delbert Newhouse filmed a group of circling UFOs near Tremonton, Utah. In the same month and on July 20, 1952, various UFOs appeared over Washington, D. C. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, the crew of the U. S. S. Sebago saw a brilliant object speeding from south

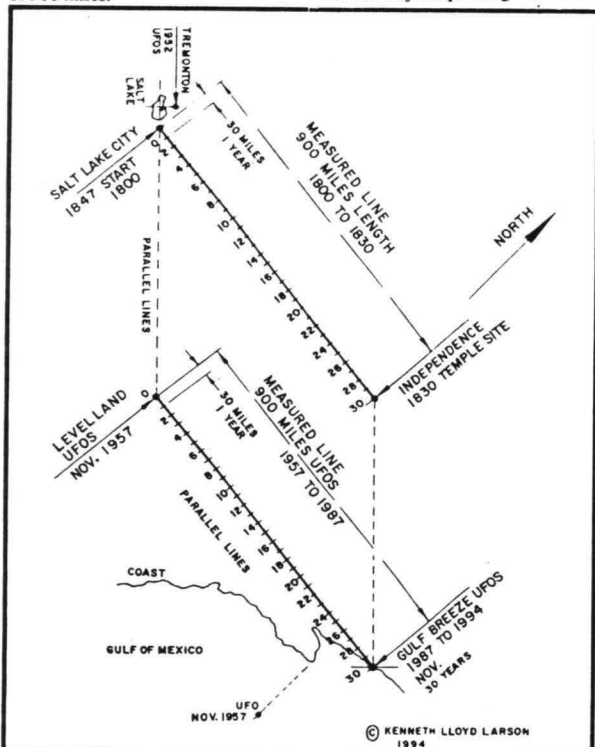
the time interval of thirty years. In turn, the Independence temple site referred to in 1830 would seem to extend back in time 30 years or to A.D. 1800. This would represent the Salt Lake site and Salt Lake City. But Salt Lake City was not founded until 47 years later in 1847. Of unusual interest is that 900 miles X two equals 1,800 miles—and this can be compared to the date of A.D. 1800.

### UFO Fits Pattern

Clearly, the Gulf Breeze UFOs between 1987, and 1994, seem to refer back 30 years and 900 miles to the 1957 Levelland UFOs. At the same time, 1987, plus seven equals 1994, and 1994, plus seven equals A.D. 2001. The Gulf Breeze UFOs seem to refer back to Levelland 1957 and forward to the Independence Temple site and to A.D. 2001. Of unusual interest is the historical fact that in 1897, the United States experienced a "wave" of the UFOs. Indeed, the celebrated Mount Rainier, Washington, nine saucers (or UFOs) appeared on June 24, 1947. Hence, 1947, seems to represent the modern day start of the phenomenon of the UFOs. As the reader can see, 1897, plus 100 years equals 1997, and Mount Rainier 1947, plus 50 years equals 1997. Perhaps the year 1997, represents some striking or significant event related to the coming of the Gulf Breeze and the Mount Rainier and the Salt Lake and the Levelland UFOs. In a 1994, published book called *Gulf Breeze UFOs: Topographical Center of North America and South America*, this writer showed how Gulf Breeze is located on latitude 30 degrees North or the same latitude as the ancient Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt (circa 2600 B.C.), the site of Gulf Breeze and the Great Pyramid exhibit a mathematical juxtaposition or relationship to the sites of the North Pole, South Pole, Earth's center, and equator line.

### Advanced Knowledge

On this basis, the Gulf Breeze UFOs may have an advanced type of scientific/mathematical design knowledge related to the original forming or fashioning of the round planet Earth and its subsequent history and perhaps some future events. As the writer shows in his 1994 book, the Gulf Breeze and other American UFOs may be related to the future coming from space of the huge space-city (1,500 miles long, 1,500 miles wide, and 1,500 miles high) called in the Bible the New Jerusalem. The book is available for \$18.00 from the author: Kenneth Lloyd Larson, 200 North Commonwealth Avenue, Los Angeles California 90004. Perhaps the UFOs represent some kind of protection in case of some international crisis or tribulation. According to the Bible, our present Earth is to be renewed or glorified. The space-city New Jerusalem would be an advanced celestial world illuminated by the glory of God and to come down from God out of heaven.



In addition to this measured line between the 1957 Levelland UFOs and the start of the 1987 Gulf Breeze UFOs, a second measured line can be established between Salt Lake City, Utah, and Independence, Missouri. This measured line also consists of 30 equal units of 30 miles each or a total of 900 miles. Furthermore, these two equal and measured lines are parallel to each other and form a mathematical pattern known as a parallelogram (a four-sided geometrical figure with opposite sides equal and parallel to each other). In this case, the Levelland to Gulf Breeze mea-

to north and about 200 miles south of the Mississippi River mouth (November 5, 1957).

### Line Points To Date

If the Salt Lake City and Independence measured line equals 900 miles and the Levelland to Gulf Breeze line measured 900 miles, what would be the purpose or significance of the two equal and parallel lines? The Levelland UFOs of November 2 and 3, 1957, seemed to point forward in time to the Gulf Breeze UFOs starting on November 11, 1987, and

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT, Boone, NC - Feb. 16, 1994

## One cereal-bowl shaped UFO was videotaped in Lincolnton

Eighteen North Carolinians said they spotted Unidentified Flying Objects last year.

The Mutual UFO Network Inc. (MUFON) annual UFO report for the state describes 18 different eyewitness accounts from 14 North Carolina cities.

"The number of reported sightings for the state is about the same as last year," said George Fawcett, MUFON's public relations director.

MUFON is a scientific worldwide UFO organization with state branches, established in 1969 as a non-profit organization to solve the mystery of UFOs through investigative research. Membership is \$5 a year.

Local MUFON meetings are held every second Sunday at the Harrill Senior Center on East King Street.

"Our local meetings tend to stray from UFO discussions and veer off on metaphysical tangents," said meeting organizer Chuck Donoghue.

"MUFON takes a strictly scientific, objective approach to UFOs, but actually seeing one is a very subjective experience," he said.

Donoghue is one of the state's section directors for MUFON. In charge of the area covering Ashe, Avery, Mitchell and Watauga counties, Donoghue's job is to send out field investigators to research UFO sightings.

Local MUFON meetings have been gathering for about a year.

"MUFON has about 165 members from 65 different cities. At our annual conventions, people come from as far as Spain and Japan," Fawcett said.

"In the United States, California is number one in reported sightings. Ohio and Pennsylvania are tied for second, New Mexico is third, North Carolina is fourth and Florida is fifth. We've consistently been in the top five for quite a few years."

MUFON's annual report noted several different instances of UFO sightings in North Carolina where the UFOs seem to stay in view for a few moments and then fly off with "meteoric" speed, as if they were just in the neighborhood and wanted to check in on us.

In Pumpkin Center, at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 24, four men watched a large, cigar-shaped "object" with eight to 12 white lights (that turned red) maneuver about 300 feet above the ground for a few moments before it left.

Diane Wilkins, a vice president of a manufacturing plant in Lincolnton, was intrigued by a family of bunnies in her backyard and went to get video recorder to film them.

When she returned, the rabbits were gone, and Ms. Wilkins said she noticed a large cereal bowl-shaped UFO hovering overhead. She was able to get a clear recording of the dome-shaped saucer as it hung suspended in the blue morning sky for 11 seconds.

"People have so many different reactions to UFOs when they see them," Fawcett said. "We hope that more will stop trying to explain it away and report it to MUFON so that we can log it into our computers and get out to investigate it."

CR: G. Fawcett





SUNDAY MERCURY, Birmingham, England - Jan. 30, 1994 CR: T. Good

# Stunned top cop filmed UFO craft

"IT'S the strangest thing I've seen in 30 years as a policeman." Les Leek, now a chief inspector at Walsall Police, is not the sort of man to dream up little green men.

But what Les saw and photographed one August night in 1971 remains the best 'unsolved' UFO case ever in the West Midlands.

Les and three disbelieving colleagues were called to an Aldridge petrol station at 2.20am. They found a stunned crowd staring skywards.

There in the inky darkness hovered an oval craft, shining silently thousands of feet above.



Les dashed for the 35mm camera stowed in his patrol car, and fired off a reel of pictures.

The ship stayed perfectly still for an hour, then moved off slowly towards West Bromwich.

"It was like a very bright egg," Les remembers.

"I don't think I believe in aliens, but I'm certain it was not man-made."

Four photos came out, and were immediately passed on to the Ministry of Defence.

"Only one was ever released," says Les. "Which is strange, because the others showed the craft much more clearly."

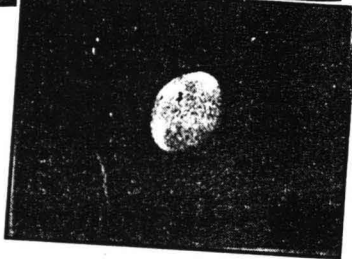
Les will probably never know what he saw. Was it something the Government could not explain — or some-



ABOVE: Chief Insp Les Leek. RIGHT: That light in the sky

thing they chose to suppress? "Experts told us it must have been Venus, but since when does Venus show up on Birmingham Air Traffic Control?" says Les.

"If that was Venus, I'll eat my hat."



DAVENTRY EXPRESS, Northants, England

March 17, 1994 CR: T. Good

## Spooky goes on in Church Stowe



A SPOOKY tale or science fact, Penetrating the Web, held here by Elsie Oakensen, may have some of the answers. (94 Mar 42D)

A CHURCH Stowe woman who spotted a UFO has had her experience immortalised on video.

Elsie Oakensen's trip home from Daventry to the village one May day in 1978 has left her a minor celebrity in UFO circles.

Her appearance in the video, Penetrating the Web, is the latest in a long line of screen spots, radio shows and mentions in at least ten books on the subject.

"It's very flattering to still

be invited to go on these programmes," said Elsie, who never gets tired of telling her story.

Her journey home to Church Stowe went wrong as she turned right at Weedon crossroads, where she first noticed a grey dumbbell object with red and green lights.

As she entered the village her car came to a halt.

"By the schoolrooms I was in complete darkness except for a series of white lights

with no beam," she explained. After the lights had circled around for a time, they left, and Elsie found herself driving along the road as before, only her journey had taken twice as long as it should have.

A few months later Elsie heard of a group of four Byfield women travelling through Preston Capes a few hours later, who had seen similar lights, which experts believe backs up her extraordinary story.

NORTHANTS EVENING TELEGRAPH, Kettering,

England - Jan. 28, 1994 CR: T. Good

## UFO spotted over town

A KETTERING couple who believe they saw a UFO are appealing for other people to who may have spotted the object to come forward.

Nicola and Peter Minney saw a triangular object with a brilliant white light hanging in the sky just after 5 this morning.

They say the object looked as

though it was above the Kettering rugby ground and then moved out of view above their Piper's Hill Road home.

A spokesman for the Met Office said sometimes there were thunderstorms in the distance and the clouds became brightly illuminated which could be mistaken for UFOs.

ASHBOURNE NEWS TELEGRAPH, Derbyshire, England - March 3, 1994 CR: T. Good

## UFO 'explosion' captured on video

The latest UFO sighting in the Ashbourne area has been reported — and this time there is video evidence to back up the claim.

The four witnesses, who do not want to be named for fear of ridicule, spotted the mystery object while walking in the town's recreation ground on a recent Sunday afternoon.

They had a camcorder with them and managed to shoot several minutes of footage of the bright light in the sky towards Derby.

At one point the sinister single light, which remained stationary for most of the time, explodes like a firework but then returns to its original shape.

Footage of a recent UFO filmed by three fishermen was dismissed by experts as the iris of the camera.

But the exploding effect of this recent Ashbourne sighting was also witnessed by the three people not looking through the camera's view finder.

The UFO spotters, who were badly shaken

by their experience, are currently having their camera checked.

During the five minutes of film a plane comes into view and the light clearly follows it but then shoots off quickly out of sight.

UFO experts at the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall say that 95 per cent of sightings can be explained in terms of known objects or phenomena — but the remaining five per cent do defy explanation.

Last year 147 sightings of mysterious objects were reported to the MoD.

CHESTER &amp; DISTRICT STANDARD, England - March 3, 1994

## Another UFO

ANOTHER UFO sighting! On Monday, 28th February between 2.30 and 3pm, a curious object in the sky caught the attention of about half a dozen 10-year-olds in a classroom at Mill View School. It was blue and cigar-shaped, but with an upward-turning fin at either end, and an orange flashing light on top of a central dome. It hovered low down in the sky, darting about and coming to sudden stops. In the end it shot upwards and was seen no more. The children couldn't estimate the size of the object, and their teacher did not see it.

I'm not suggesting there is anything extra-terrestrial about this, but it is odd. My daughter was one of the children and doesn't read the newspaper, so isn't jumping on any local bandwagon. Will the dab-hand at radio controlled models please own up?

(Upton Mother)

CR: T. Good

NORTHERN ECHO, Darlington, England - Jan. 29, 1994 CR: T. Good

## Close encounters of the North kind

THE North-East is at the centre of a wave of UFO sightings, according to excited investigators of the paranormal.

Researchers have been kept busy after a spate of sightings across North Yorkshire and County Durham.

They believe the North could be the subject of intense scrutiny from extra-terrestrial intelligence.

The latest sightings were reported by farmer's wife Jill Swinbank who saw a series of bright orange objects as they hovered near Darlington.

Mrs Swinbank, who lives near Brafferton, says the mystery objects were visible for nearly half an hour before they streaked away.

She said: "They looked just like massive

*'They looked just like massive orange lights in a vertical arrangement. As I watched they formed into a circle then went back into the vertical configuration'*

Jill Swinbank, farmer's wife

orange lights in a vertical arrangement. As I watched they formed into a circle then went back into the vertical configuration."

The mysterious UFOs were also seen by Mrs Swinbank's husband and next door neighbours.

"We see airplanes coming into land at Teesside Airport quite regularly," explained Mrs Swinbank.

"These lights weren't like anything I have ever seen before. They were too big to belong

to a plane." Mrs Swinbank spotted the UFOs nine days ago but kept quiet in case nobody believed her.

She was moved to speak out after reading about other UFO sightings in North Yorkshire.

The day before three colleagues at a Scarborough garage spotted a weird white light moving over the town.

Further witnesses have come forward to say it wasn't one UFO buzzing Scarborough

but three. Now experts at the British UFO Research Association have been called in to investigate the sightings.

Spokeswoman Gloria Dixon said: "The latest Darlington sighting has real potential. It certainly doesn't sound like an aircraft or natural phenomenon."

A spokesman at Teesside Airport air traffic control said he had no idea what was in the area at the time.

"We close down at 10 o'clock so I haven't the faintest what this may or may not have been. It certainly wasn't one of ours."

RAF Leeming could throw no light on the mystery. A spokesman said military flights may have been in the area but they would not have been hovering for half an hour.

IS IT A HUB-CAP? IS IT A HOAX? OR IS IT A...

# UFO

( UNIDENTIFIED  
FIFE OBJECT )

DAILY RECORD, Glasgow, Scotland - Feb. 28, 1994 CR: T. Good



Ian's amazing photo ... he watched the object hovering for about 15 minutes

## I SNAPPED AN ALIEN SAYS IAN

By TOM HAMILTON

**A FUNNY thing happened to Ian Macpherson on the way to the reservoir...**

He was buzzed by what he's convinced was a UFO from the Twilight Zone!

UFO ... that's Unidentified Flying Object - and not a free-falling hubcap, clay pigeon or a grey frisbee, either.

And the Twilight Zone is Outer Space, not the spot in deepest Fife where he saw the visitor.

### EXCITING

Retired civil servant Ian's sure it was an alien craft. And experts are taking him very seriously.

They believe the photos he took at Craigluse Reservoir, near Dunfermline, could help prove the existence of UFOs.

Last night UFO expert Malcolm Robinson said: "It is the most exciting photograph I have ever seen in this country."

Baffled defence chiefs are also studying the film.

An RAF spokesman said: "We are examining this very closely."

Ian, 44, from Rosyth,

took the pictures as he walked along the banks of the reservoir. He said: "I took photographs as I walked along the bank and I became aware of a kind of humming noise. Then I saw it."

"I was holding my camera but felt unable to use it. I have never experienced such a feeling before."

Ian reckons he was looking at the craft for around 15 minutes. He said: "It was definitely metallic and had several points of diffused light on its underside inside a darker, coloured rim."

"As the craft began to move away, I raised my camera and took two photos."

"The craft's acceleration was phenomenal. By the time I wound the film on it was a dot in the sky."

When he returned home he contacted the Daily Record and we developed his film.

Ian then got out his sketch pad and produced drawings of what he had seen - before we showed him the photos. The drawings show the UFO.

The RAF say there were no aircraft movements in

the area at the time when Ian took the pictures.

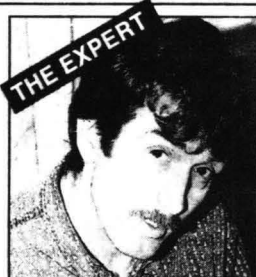
We showed Ian's pictures to Malcolm Robinson, of Strange Phenomena Investigations.

He said: "These pictures are really remarkable. I have never seen anything like them in this country before."

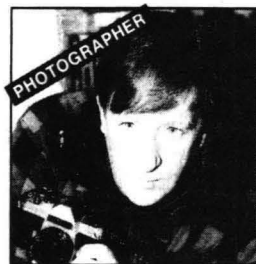
The Ministry of Defence have also been given a set of Ian's photographs.

RAF spokesman Nick Pope said: "Our initial examination shows no obvious explanation."

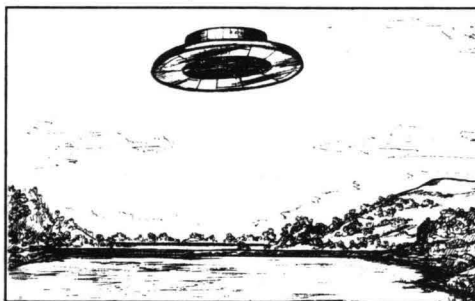
They'll be using specialist staff and equipment to probe them more closely.



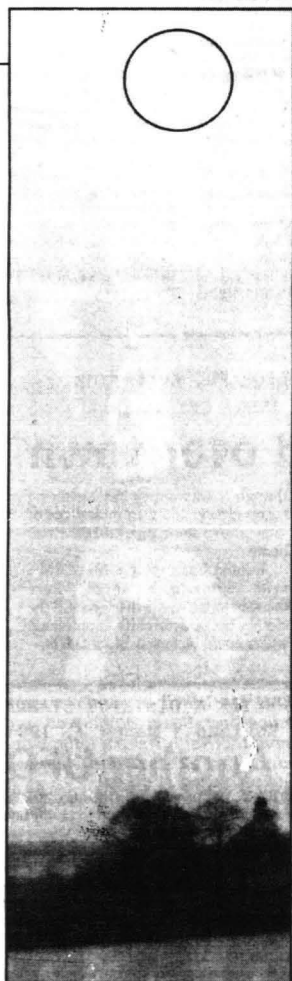
MALCOLM ROBINSON  
"It's really remarkable"



IAN MACPHERSON  
Heard humming noise



The sketch Ian drew before he saw his photographs



The Thing, circled, has almost vanished in just a split second

## Flashing lights reported as UFO

THE Telegraph & Argus has been inundated with calls from readers about UFOs following recent sightings in Thackley and Wilsden.

The latest close encounter was reported by Bradford Councilor Rangzeb. He spotted three flashing green and blue lights above Wibsey from his home in Jesmond Avenue, Heaton.



Coun Rangzeb

He said they hovered above the area for about 15 minutes and then vanished.

Coun Rangzeb, Labour member for Toller, said: "They were like nothing I have ever seen before. It didn't look like a plane or a helicopter."

He said his son Fiaz, 12, had spotted it. Coun Rangzeb, pictured, said: "He came in all excited and told me."

"I have always believed that there was something out there. I tried to communicate with them telepathically, welcoming them to Bradford - and I asked them for help with our fight to keep assisted area status!"

"I was a bit disappointed when I didn't get any response."

BRADFORD TELEGRAPH & ARGUS, West Yorkshire, England - Jan. 21, 1994 CR: T. Good

## THE SCOTSMAN, Edinburgh, Scotland - Feb. 12, 1994 First official recognition of UFO 'incident'

Sir, - Stuart Campbell (Letters, 3 February) has a point above the wording of the Dechmont, West Lothian, UFO plaque. I think what he is suggesting is that all UFO encounters must be taken as "alleged", rather than proved in fact.

However, the erection of a cairn was still the first official recognition of a UFO "incident", whether or not you accept the reality of the event.

As Mr Campbell knows, the wording put on the plaque was not acceptable to UFO groups in Scotland implying, as it did, that the important aspect of the event was Arthur C Clarke's coverage in his TV series of the incident rather than Bob Taylor's experience (the unnamed forestry worker described on the plaque).

Now, Arthur C Clarke's A-Z of World Mysteries (oddly enough, not written by the great man) has gone one stage further and claimed sole responsibility for having the plaque erected by Livingston Development Corporation!

In fact, there was a campaign by various Scottish-based groups and individuals to encourage the corporation to carry out this project. I am not aware of the involvement of Arthur C Clarke, or any of his co-writers, in this campaign.

Ron Halliday

35 FOUNTAIN ROAD  
BRIDGE OF ALLAN, STIRLINGSHIRE

CR: T. Good

5 FEBRUARY

THE SCOTSMAN, Edinburgh, Scotland  
Dec. 8, 1993 CR: T. Good

### CHINA

## Watch this space, scientists urged

SHIPS and conventional aircraft are forbidden from travelling directly between China and Taiwan, but experts agree that 6,000 Unidentified Flying Objects have made the trip, China's official Xinhua news agency said yesterday.

It said the first China-Taiwan UFO symposium had finished in Beijing with researchers from both sides concluding that thousands of UFO sightings deserved more scientific study. - Reuter

## SUNDAY INDEPENDENT, Plymouth, England March 20, 1994 CR: T. Good

## UFO spotters are dazzled

UFO spotters watched through binoculars as a 'transparent craft' hovered for an hour over a hilltop landmark.

Viewers at Crowcombe, near Taunton, said the object was ultra-bright with silver, white, gold, red and blue colours.

Other witnesses at Wiveliscombe - six miles

away - described an object which shot high into the air and then came lower before moving away.

Sue Hembury-Kellow, director of the Somerset UFO research and investigation unit, said: "Until we know what it is, any information would be useful."



# Are 'Macro-Beings' Arriving via UFOs?

By CATHRYN DOMROSE

ALIENS or angels? Gods or devils? Ghosts or pure energy forms? Saviors of the planet or sinister scientists? How should we refer to beings from another world, anyway?

Carlos Vilchez, one of Costa Rica's leading UFO investigators, has come up with a new name for visitors from the beyond.

He calls them macrobes. As in the opposite of microbes, the tiny squiggles under a microscope that puzzled 18th-century scientists for so long.

THEY are "macro-beings," not in terms of their sizes, elaborates the intense, energetic man, who looks a little like the "Data" character on "Star Trek." But in the development of their brain power, which is far superior to our own, he contends.

"I'm not talking in terms of good beings or bad beings, but of a state of consciousness that is much more developed, that lets them dominate space-time," he says.

Vilchez has no doubts that these super-developed beings have been visiting Earth on a regular basis for years. In the past, people interpreted these visits as angels, holy messages and signs, ghosts and demons.

NOW, he adds, our reasoning powers

have advanced to a stage where we can begin to understand. We can see through the crack of a door that has just opened.

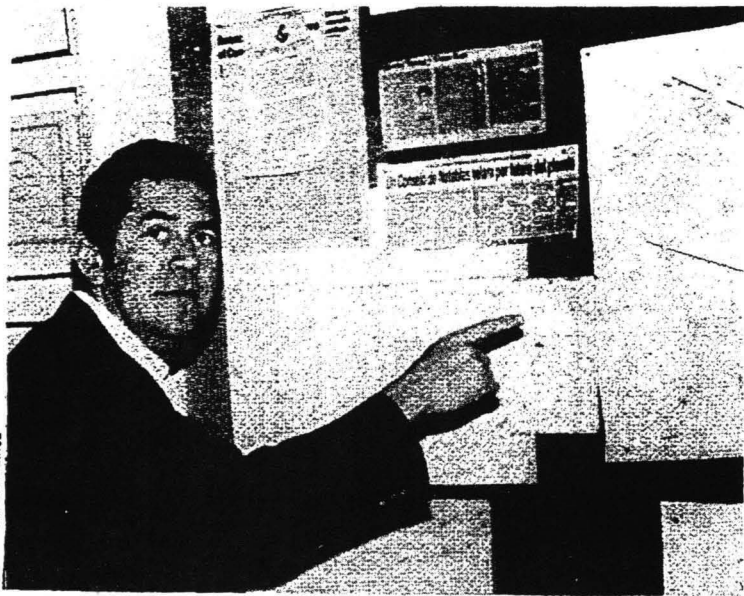
"What I see is that we need to change the terminology in the study of the phenomenon," he said. He wants a more objective way to describe it.

He bases much of his theory on reports from people under hypnosis therapy, who say they have been kidnapped by aliens. In many of their accounts, they describe bulbous-headed beings with large, sometimes slanted eyes, who communicate telepathically and seem to perform experiments on them.

RECENTLY these accounts have been discredited by researchers who say that the supposed "kidnap" victims are dredging up accounts they've read or heard about from others. But Vilchez counters that people who haven't been hypnotized have also related abduction stories, remembering every detail without prompting.

He believes the beings are merely "doing what their nature tells them to do," he says. "Our consciousness says that we raise a cow, fatten it, care for it, then kill it. We believe that's our right. Other beings believe they have rights over us."

As our own consciousness expands, we will understand more and more, he adds. Currently our understanding is linear, from past to present, he explains. But, he asserts,



RESEARCHER Vilchez: we're beginning to understand.

they have a multidirectional awareness that allows them to speak without words, transport themselves through space and matter and build ships that can travel to other worlds.

IF the idea of being a cow in the barn of a super-being — even a highly intelligent super-being — is a little unsettling, Vilchez has some good news. We are capable of the

same things they can do, he insists.

Humans now use a maximum 7 percent of their brains, he says. "Imagine what we can do using 20 percent?"

## Spotters of UFOs to club together

WILTSHIRE GAZETTE, Devizes, England - Feb. 17, 1994 CR: T. Good

MUSICIAN Stephen Sheering says he does not believe in flying saucers — but he claims to have had a close encounter with a triangle of mystery lights.

Mr Sheering, 36, says he was inexplicably drawn to Silbury Hill near Avebury. He says he was one of a group of about 30 people from all over the world who congregated at the top of the hill.

"None of us knew what we went there for, it was just a feeling that we had to go," said Mr Sheering of Penhill, Swindon.

"It's not easy to explain what we saw but a triangle of lights about 40 feet across glided silently past. It was truly unbelievable and I just don't know what it was except that it was an unidentified flying object."

He says the strange experience happened two years ago and the lights were also seen by people on the hill who came from France, Germany and even China.

Mr Sheering, who is married with a daughter, has been a keen UFO spotter for several years. After the Silbury sighting he contacted other UFO clubs throughout the country to see if there was an explanation for the lights.

"No one seems to know what it was," he said. "I am not saying it came from another planet or anything like that. It could have been a stealth bomber but we want to know what it was."

Now Mr Sheering and some of his UFO spotter friends who go out searching the skies twice a week are forming a new UFO Wiltshire club and want to hear from anyone else who would like to join them.

They plan to have monthly meetings with guest speakers and night sky outings.

"Mysterious light triangles are being spotted all over Europe at the moment and some people are claiming to have seen occupants," he said.

"It could be one of many things and our new club aims to carry out a very serious effort to solve the mystery."

Anyone interested in the new UFO club should ring Stephen on (0793) 729697.

# UFOs OVER CITY SKIES

We're being spied on... 1

Experts probe mysterious night sightings

UFO experts are investigating a string of eye witness accounts of a mystery craft spotted hovering over Chester.

They say there is a chance the cigar-shaped object could prove to be from another world.

Ministry of Defence officials based at national headquarters in West Drayton say the craft, initially spotted over Boughton Heath, did not show up on their screens.

Christleton High School pupil Adam Clayton, of Littleton, was among the people who saw the mystery object looming in the sky over Chester.

"I was going to my friend's house in Huntingdon when I saw it coming over from the Saigh-ton area," he said.

"It was oval-shaped like a rugby ball with pads of some sort, was bigger than a car and came quite close to the ground. It must have been about 200 feet up."

"It came towards me very slowly and was there for about 60 seconds before going off towards Boughton Heath in the direction of Sainsbury's," said Adam.

"I would say it was something out of the ordinary as there was no noise coming from it, which indicated to me that it was not an aircraft."

Police later notified the West Drayton authorities of a large object with seven different coloured bars across it.

## Research Association

Inspector Andrew Horne, of Chester police, said a report had come in of the object being in a stationary position for about 10 minutes over Boughton Heath.

British UFO Research Association spokesman Philip Mantle said a dozen separate sightings had come in of an unknown craft hovering over the Chester areas since it was first spotted on Sunday night last week.

"There is a 95 per cent chance the sightings will be explained but there is also a five per cent chance they will not," he said.

"It was speculated at first that it was a weather balloon or hot air balloon but it was too thin in shape for that. It was also seen at night, at a time when balloons are not supposed to be flying," he said.

HOLME VALLEY EXPRESS, Yorkshire, England - Feb. 18, 1994 CR: T. Good

## Lights in sky

BEAM me up, Scottie, or just an earth-moving experience? Episode two of the mysterious UFO-type light sightings around the valley...

J C Kilner, of Choppards, Holmfirth, says he is not the sort of person to have hallucinations and he has never seen strange lights in the sky before, here or anywhere else.

But at 5.05am last Tuesday morning he was going to the bathroom, the window of which faces on to his long lawn.

"About 100 yards from the house I saw a circular patch of quite bright lights."

"They were well-defined, about 20 yards in diameter and stationary for about four or five seconds. It was dark and their effect was like a beam of light, a lot brighter than a torch, down onto the stretch of ground. I couldn't have been dreaming."

"I didn't hear a helicopter, as I would have done if it was that close and it wasn't a plane because the lights weren't moving."

Mr Kilner put it down to being one of life's odd experiences until he saw last week's report in The Express concerning UFO-type lights in the Holmfirth area.

Holmfirth police's Insp Terry Jepson verified that various reports on bright lights over the moors had been made over the years. But he could only speculate on the mystery.

According to him, in the past bright lights spotted over the moor were mostly found to be the landing lights of planes going into or out of Manchester airport.

He said it had also been known for laser beams used in shows to bounce off heavy cloud layers and be visible in areas other than the locality of the event — but this generally happened over the Christmas period.

Inspector Jepson said: "We have been looking for years for these mysterious UFOs which have allegedly appeared in the Holme Valley. But we still haven't found anything."

HERALD & POST, Chester, England - Jan. 27, 1994 CR: T. Good

## COMMENT

## Visitors from outer space, take heart

All down the ages people have seen strange things in the sky. And in this age of communication, says BILL BECKETT, the good reporter duly writes it all down . . . even if it means choking on your mirth, because some of it just might be true

# Phew, what a saucer

**O**CCASIONALLY it is the lot of the reporter to pick up the phone and be told that the caller has seen a strange object in the sky.

Most treat this with worldly-wise cynicism, but write about it because it is good for a laugh and, no matter how deep-rooted that cynicism, unidentified flying objects are fascinating simply because that is precisely what they are.

Therefore we should take seriously the efforts of Stephen Sheering of Penhill, Swindon, to form a group of UFO spotters in the town after being drawn, along with a number of other similarly attracted people from all parts of the globe, to Silbury Hill near Avebury to witness something odd in the sky.

Generally it was my attitude to deal with UFO callers by telling them two words, the first beginning with 'O' and the second with 'F' and inviting him or her to form them into a well-known phrase or saying.

Not any more.

A few years ago when I lived in North Devon I was on my way, I repeat, ON MY WAY, to the pub when I was conscious of something in the sky, totally silent but giving off a red glow.

When I stopped, the thing stopped. I walked on and the thing followed, disappearing only as I approached the village.

I phoned the police and the Ministry of Defence, but neither could explain what I

had seen - though both asked: "Have you been drinking, sir?"

For days afterwards I scanned the night sky, but never saw the thing again.

Obviously there had to be rational explanation, but no one has yet given me one.

Wiltshire, of course, is a UFO spotters paradise.

Back in the 1960s thousands flocked to the hills around Warminster to gawp at the strange sky sightings of objects allegedly from outer space.

Witnesses reported UFOs like red hot

**I was conscious of something in the sky, totally silent but giving off a red glow**

pokers or huge cat's eyes that crackled and buzzed.

One woman said: "I went to the bedroom window and saw this brilliant object quite low in the sky. It was travelling very slowly. It went for half an hour."

She said the noise was like a refrigerator; she was shaking like a leaf and couldn't take her eyes off it.

Dr Cleary Baker, evaluation officer of the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association, said at the time that what the woman saw was a manifestation

of an advanced technology from somewhere and the craft, if that is what they were, were piloted by alien beings.

So put that in your pipe and smoke it.

Throughout the Sixties strange things were spotted in the skies of Wiltshire, and all over the place people reported sightings.

The phenomena moved journalist Arthur Shuttlewood, then editor of The Warminster Times, to write a book about it. Make what you will of what follows, but he met a bloke called Karne who he said was a passenger in a flying saucer.

The scribe also recorded the details of a man who was reduced in size so that he could get into a soup-dish-sized spaceship.

Some may think that Mr Shuttleworth, ex-Guardsman and pillar of society, was just a cynical old hack who saw an opportunity to make a couple of bob out of an intriguing tale (I know of others, like a mate of mine who, whenever in need of extra beer money, suddenly discovers the Beast of Exmoor walking down Minehead High Street).

Perhaps Arthur was as I have suggested; if so, he disguised it well.

After all, there were loads of people with letters after their names who were as convinced as he that visitations from other parts of the universe were a fairly common occurrence.

So it has gone on, and I would lay money on people ringing this newspaper in the next few days with reported sightings, and everyone will start believing that the skies are awash with little green men spying on planet Earth.

There will be millions of others who think they are nuts.

In spite of my own rather unnerving experience, I tend to side with the doubters.

I find it hard to accept that people have been abducted and spirited off to Outer Space by the aliens, though some alleged

**Naturally most of the alleged abductions take place in the United States**

victims produce pretty convincing tales of their experience.

Naturally most of the alleged abductions take place in the United States, perhaps the most easily-taken-in society ever to populate the Earth.

I recall talking last summer to two citizens of Los Angeles (where else?) who had popped over to Wiltshire to try to solve the mystery of the corn circles.

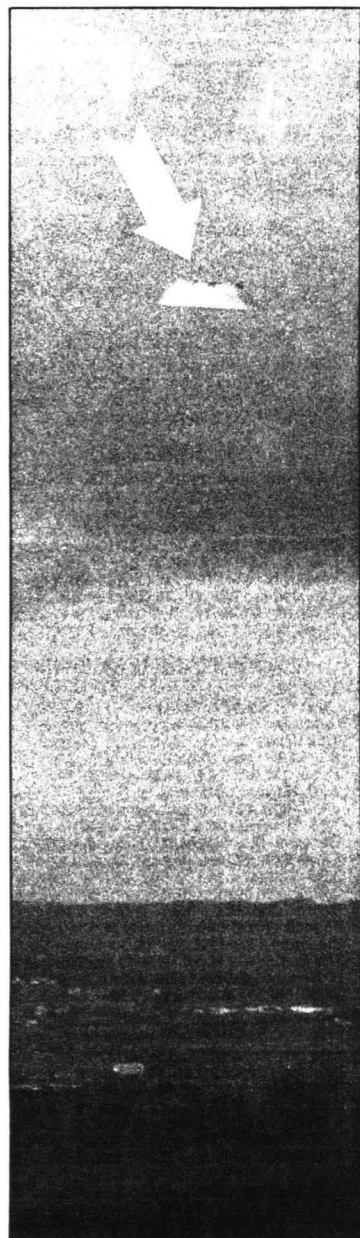
They cut symbols in long grass depicting a man, a house and love at Hackpen Hill.

Two days later they found a corn circle at West Kennet that looked like a "disabled toilet" sign, and claimed that was the response from outer space that they had been waiting for.

They phoned to tell me, and I had great difficulty in keeping a straight face.

But I wrote the story, thus adding to the ever-increasing catalogue of information about visitors from other parts of the universe.

UFO-spotting is a relatively harmless pastime, but until aliens are captured or a flying saucer put on exhibition in Trafalgar Square, most will regard it with due scepticism.



■ Pie in the sky . . . this odd object was snapped near Axminster by schoolboy Ryan Hodges of Devizes in February 1980. Ryan, then 13, was watching a motorcycle scramble when he noticed a white object with red bars at the top, travelling very fast. An Evening Advertiser photographer later pronounced the negative genuine

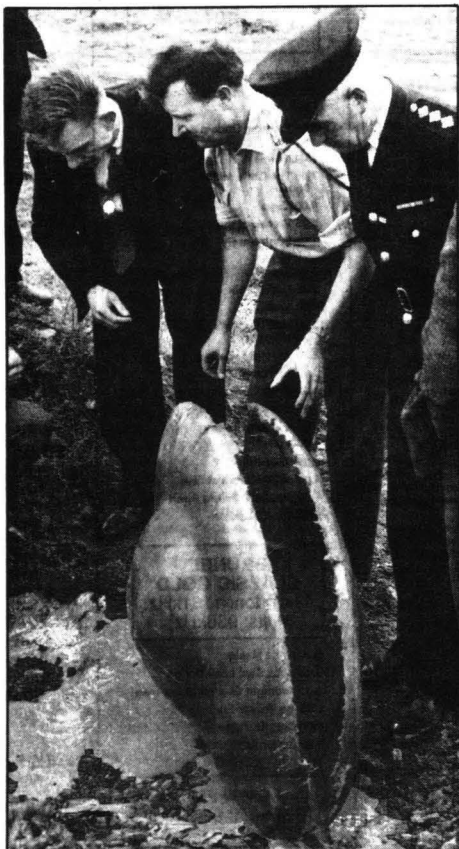
## 'Ello 'ello, what's this?



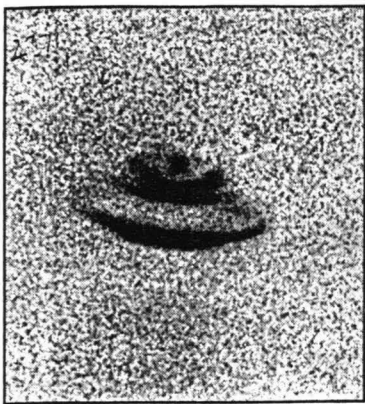
IT was a mystery and no mistake. The long arm of the law (above) in the shape of Chief Insp F Dummett and Sgt A Richens, joined FO David Pepper from Colerne to examine a weird object found making bleeping noises on farmland at Queens Bridge, Chippenham in September 1967.

It turned out to be a stinker of a hoax. When eventually a bomb disposal squad blew it open, the "thing" (right) emitted a mixture like pigshit, but smelling much worse.

In one dome of the object was a battery connected to a bleeper and loudspeaker.







Identified: The heaven-sent hoax

## Why they never cottoned on to the Thing

IT was the photograph that launched a thousand spaceships.

The blurred image of a flying saucer turned the Wiltshire town of Warminster into a mecca for UFO spotters, and claims of other sightings came thick and fast.

But yesterday, almost 30 years later, the picture was exposed as a hoax — by one of the two men who hatched the plot in their local pub.

The Thing, as it was christened, was nothing more than a milk bottle top, a cotton reel and a button.

Retired print worker Roger Hooton, who now lives in Adelaide, owned up after reading in UK Mail, the Daily Mail's international edition, that another famous photo — supposedly of the Loch Ness Monster — was of a model mounted on a toy submarine.

### Alien

'I decided it was time to come clean, although I don't know why no one ever spotted it in the first place,' said Mr Hooton. 'It always seemed obvious to me because it looked so stupid.'

'But it fooled everyone at the time and carried on fooling them. The flying saucer was even accepted as genuine by the British UFO Research Association and is listed in the UFO Encyclopedia.'

Mr Hooton, 52, and his friend Gordon Faulkner, a factory worker, hit on the plan in 1965 after reading about alleged UFO sightings in their local paper.

'We went out to a field and made a flying saucer out of the cotton reel and milk bottle cap with the button on top,' said Mr Hooton.

'I was dropping it on to the ground and Gordon was photographing it as it fell. There was nothing to indicate speed or size and the background was

By BILL MOULAND  
and DESMOND ZWAR

blank. When we got the film back from Boots, there it was — a flying saucer.'

After the photo appeared in the Warminster Journal, the Thing took on a life of its own. A national newspaper took up the story and Warminster throbbed with hundreds of people hoping to see an alien. The town even spawned its own UFO Newsletter.

'The joke had got out of hand,' said Mr Hooton. 'It had sparked a whole new industry in Warminster and it seemed a shame to stop it.'

He has now confessed the hoax to John Spencer, vice-chairman of the British UFO Research Association, who included the Thing in two of his books.

Mr Spencer said: 'It was the picture that first got me involved in the subject. I was 11 at the time and it got me terribly interested. It had always been regarded as one of those photographs that could be or could not be.'

'Mr Hooton felt terribly guilty about it. He wanted to put the record straight.'

Despite knowing the truth, Mr Spencer's faith is unshaken. He said: 'I don't believe in flying saucers or aliens, but I do believe in UFOs. There are things we don't understand in our skies.'

Warminster Journal editor Diana Watkins, whose grandfather published the original photo, said: 'I always used to say that when I saw one I would believe it. I still haven't seen one.'

# MoD HAS PROOF OF ALIENS' VISIT SAYS UFO EXPERT

## 'They collected 100 rolls of film after 1,400 men saw flying bright object'

UFO expert Bob Boyd says he's got proof the Ministry of Defence know all about alien visits to earth.

Bob, from the Plymouth UFO Research Group, says he's been handed three photographs taken by the soldiers in Cyprus in 1971.

He claims the photos — of a mysterious hovering light — prove the MoD have evidence of UFO activity.

And he wants the Ministry to release it's flying saucer films and photos so UFO spotters can study them.

'Last year I did a radio broadcast and afterwards got a call from an ex-regimental sergeant major in the Royal Marines,' explained Bob, who claims to have seen UFOs over the South West several times.

'I met him and he showed me three pictures and told me the most amazing UFO story I've ever heard.'

### Unexplainable

'He said 1,400 men saw an unexplainable bright light fly above them while on night manoeuvres in Cyprus more than 20 years ago.'

'The MoD collected more than 100 rolls of film after the sighting and the RSM personally sent a film taken by a naval photographer to Whitehall.'

'But before he sent it he got prints made — they lay in a drawer for 20 years until he gave them to me.'

'I think the Cyprus pictures are indisputably authentic — I've interviewed hundreds of people and believe the man was telling the truth.'

'The MoD must have lots of photos and film of UFOs dating right back to the 50s,' he said.

'Lots of times a sighting was followed by jets going up to investigate — they must have shot film.'

'I think the MoD have more proof but for their own reasons won't release it — maybe because the British Government is not the most open of governments.'

'But I would like them to show us the films and evidence they've got — we still won't know what the objects are but it would be amazing to study them.'

### Interested

'I don't think the MoD knows what these objects are either but they've treated them in the right way by nullifying reports,' he added.

'And the MoD have changed their attitude towards UFO groups during the past two years.'

'They used to say they were only interested in things which affected national security — and UFOs don't. But now they've set up a UFO desk and say they accept them as unexplainable objects.'

'While UFOs are the most mysterious of objects we are only interested in hard facts,' he stressed. 'We don't call them aliens they are photographic phenomenon — nothing more.'

MoD spokesman Squadron Leader Tony Cowan said: 'I'm unaware of any evidence which proves extra terrestrials have visited the earth.'

'Of course we are interested in this subject and will listen to what the UFO groups have to say.'

'I look forward to the day when one of these people comes to my office and has a chat.'



MoD SHOULD REVEAL 'EVIDENCE': Bob shows pictures of the Cyprus UFO given to him by a former Royal Marine who witnessed the event along with 1,400 colleagues based there in 1971.

## UFO scare grips Philippine town

By Elmer Cato  
Gazette Correspondent

MANILA, April 7  
RESIDENTS of several towns in Laguna province outside Manila remain perplexed over the dazzling display of lights they saw on Sunday and Monday and which many of them said could have come from no less than an unidentified flying object (UFO).

The strange lights, according to a newspaper report, appeared over the sky at Los Banos and Laguna de Bay and several other towns in the province and were seen by thousands of towns residents.

'The lights are coming from the sky and bouncing off the trees in our yard so it could not have come from the ground,' Los Banos resident Silvano Maningas said in describing what he insists was a UFO.

'The UFO was so huge that the light of a passing aeroplane heading for Manila was a dot in comparison,' he said. The 'object' was described as a big white circle that had smaller circles that also emitted bright lights.

Others said the lights were visible for at least 40 minutes. Residents said they heard no sound and that the light often shifts from one direction to the other.

Aviation officials who urged residents to report new sightings said the lights could be from earthly objects that may pose danger to aircraft.

'Unless we get reports from trained people, we might mistake weather phenomena or celestial interference as UFOs,' Director Panfilo Villaruel of the air Transportation Office said.

'Sometimes circular cloud formation can be mistaken for aeroplanes,' he explained.

had also seen the mysterious lights on the night of Monday February 21.

He said: 'A lot of nightclubs use powerful laser light shows which can be seen from miles away. You can't see the beam and very often it is difficult to see what they are. Susan's case is something different because of the number of objects that she saw.'

If you think you have seen an unidentified flying object phone Roy's UFO hotline on 594 4797.

## Childminder stunned as she sees UFOs at bus stop

STUNNED Susan Guy wondered if she was being taken for a ride when she saw four objects hovering above her as she waited for a bus in Thames View, Barking.

Susan, 38, of Charlton Crescent, watched for 40 minutes as the four bright white spheres circled at 60 feet.

Childminder Susan said: 'My bus was late when I looked up and saw these four bright white objects moving in a circle.'

'Three were circling round each other and the fourth one would zip behind.'

Susan couldn't believe her eyes. She said: 'I even went to the sports centre to see whether it was being caused by floodlights but it definitely wasn't coming from the ground.'

'Later, I told my friends. They laughed at me, but I know what I saw it was something we know nothing about.'

Susan reported the sighting to UFO expert Roy Lake, of Tudor Road, Barking. Roy said he had been inundated with calls from Thames View residents who

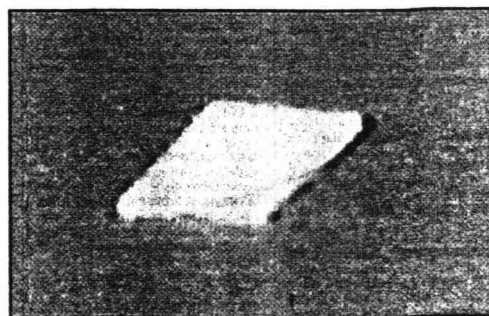
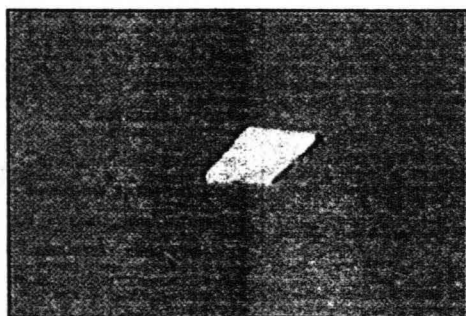
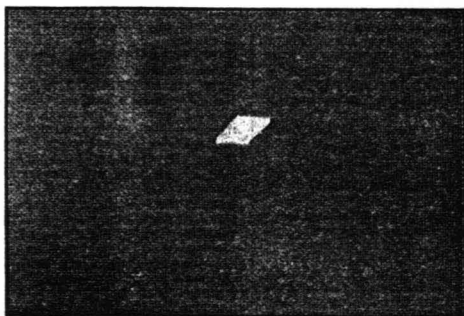
## Probe on UFO film

AN amateur video enthusiast has filmed a UFO, it was claimed yesterday.

The two-minute film was taken by an unnamed businessman who says he and his family saw a large white light travelling slowly over the town of Bonnybridge, Stirlingshire.

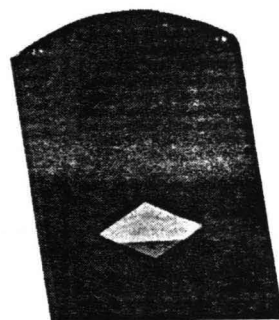
And now the film is being examined by BBC experts in Glasgow.

# VIDEO MYSTERY OF THE UFO THAT'S BAFFLING THE MEN FROM THE MINISTRY



**CATCH OF THE DAY:** The fisherman's video of the dazzling, silent object — but is it a UFO or an image of the camcorder's iris? The MoD is still investigating

# It came from outer space... or did it?



**GUILTY?** The iris of the MC6 Panasonic camcorder

By NICK FIELDING and RICHARD HELLER

'HELLO, get me the Defence Secretary! I've just seen a flying saucer full of Martians firing gamma-ray guns over the Norfolk Broads.'

'Thank you, sir. Could you please put the details on this official form?' It sounds like a script for *The Men From The Ministry*. But no. It happened to three responsible citizens who genuinely believed they had sighted an Unidentified Flying Object.

On October 23 last year, Mark Wilkins, Bill Deuters and Stephen Farrow, from Dagenham, Essex, went fishing on Rollesby Broad in Norfolk. And, as usual, they took Mark's Panasonic MC6 camcorder to film their catches.

That day, though, the wind made them abandon the trip at 3 pm. But as they unloaded their gear, Steve suddenly shouted and pointed at 'this bright light a long way away', he recalls. Bill pointed the camcorder at it — and could not believe what he saw. 'Through the lens it looked like an intensely glowing object. At first it was near the horizon. It was coming straight at us over our heads. As I zoomed in it turned into an intense diamond.' Bill stopped filming after about six seconds — and then all three saw a very bright light move over them, south to north. They thought it might be a military aircraft, but it made no noise. The trio thought no more about it until they played the tape back. It had captured a bright



**EYES IN THE SKY:** From the left, Bill Deuters, Stephen Farrow and Mark Wilkins Picture: HUGH PINNEY

object which turned into a distinct diamond shape. The images looked so authentic that they decided to send them to the MoD.

Was it friend or foe? Should the nation's guns be pointed skywards? Their film went to the official at the nerve centre of our defence against extra-terrestrials — Mr N. G. Pope, of the Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a.

## Horizon

Mr Pope responded to 258 reports of UFO sightings last year. Most were quickly explained as satellites, aircraft, weather balloons, lightning, meteorites — or hoaxes. But not this one. His brief is very precise. 'The Ministry of Defence's only concern with UFOs is to establish whether or not there is

any threat to the security of the United Kingdom. To date, we are not aware of any evidence that would indicate the existence of such a threat,' he told the three men soberly.

Yet, later in the same letter of January 7, Mr Pope could not restrain his enthusiasm: 'Your video is intriguing and certainly one of the most interesting I have seen. I have to say that no explanation springs to mind.' But before he could scramble over fighter defences, Mr Pope had to follow Ministry procedures. 'It would help,' he continued, 'to have further details, so I have attached a copy of the form we use to record details of sightings.' Allowing another month or two to set up a Ministerial committee to study it, the little green chaps would now be in Downing Street. Fortunately, the three men also sent their video to *The Mail* on

Sunday. And we rushed it to experts for analysis. At the sophisticated laboratories of Network Security Management in Mayfair, Jon Walkin, of the company's forensic video section, was mystified.

'As far as I can determine, it depicts a genuine object,' he said.

## Briefing

The Meteorological Office and London Weather Centre said it was not a weather balloon. The RAF and civil aviation authorities eliminated military aircraft and North Sea helicopters. Then Great Yarmouth coastguard told us that the night after the sighting they had a call ten miles from Rollesby Broad reporting a bright flare. Should we fight or flee? Why stay calm when it costs so little to panic? We consulted more experts.

Nerves were steadied by Bernie Forward, a senior inspector at the Aircraft Accident Investigation Branch at Farnborough, which examined the Pan Am jet after the Lockerbie disaster. He pronounced the image to be an aircraft. Colleagues speculated that it could be a prism effect caused by the camcorder lens. And that was echoed by Dr Peter Andrews, of the Royal Observatory, Cambridge.

Even Philip Mantle, director of investigations for the British UFO Research Association, thought the image was either an aircraft or an optical effect. Finally, we sent the video to Martin Hanson, of Panasonic.

'Looks like a camera iris image to me,' he said. A colleague found an iris of the type fitted to model MC6. When open, the iris — which regulates the light going into the camcorder — created a diamond shape.

The *Mail* on Sunday believes this explains the startling image. Somehow, the iris was reflected on to the back of the lens and filmed. But that still leaves a mystery of the dazzling light the men saw. And Mr Pope is still pursuing the matter.

As far as the Ministry is concerned, there still might be something out there. A colleague said last week: 'We cannot explain it. If there is a possibility we can identify it and what aircraft are involved, we will.'

He has promised us 'a full briefing' this week. Until that happens, observers of mysterious objects are requested not to phone the authorities — or *The Mail* on Sunday.

Official advice is to go to bed — and on no account watch any video by Steven Spielberg.

HUCKNALL DISPATCH, Notts., England

March 11, 1994 CR: T. Good

## UFO SIGHTING CONVINCES HUCKNALL MAN

A HUCKNALL man did not believe in UFOs — but he is now totally convinced about them after his 20-second sighting of a mystery triangle in Bestwood Village.

The man has chosen not to be named because he feels his experience would only attract ridicule from sceptics. But he says he spotted the object 'hanging in the sky' when he and his wife were on their way to visit a relative.

The week before, the man had seen a similar array of lights hovering in Papplewick and ignored them because he assumed they belonged to a helicopter.

The man claimed that this time they could see it was not a helicopter at all but something else — just hovering over the Mines Service Centre.

The couple parked their car and got out as fast as they could to get a closer look at the object.

The man said: 'It had three lights in a triangular formation and seemed to be only 200 ft from the ground.'

'It was big — about the size of a 747 airliner — and it had white, green and red lights that were steady and very bright.'

'It was impossible to pick out its exact location or its front end until it began to turn, lifting up its forward end slightly as it did so.'

The woman was so engrossed in watching the strange craft that she fell sprawling but was luckily unhurt.

Her husband noticed that the object had a grey underside that seemed to be in a cross-ribbed pattern.

The green light seemed to indicate its front end, despite being so huge, it did not make a sound — even when it moved away at a slow pace towards Hucknall.

It then accelerated at high speed and made a sharp change of direction, flying south along the horizon and out of sight. It never varied its altitude.

The woman said: 'We felt almost as if it was saying "Look at me" and

was showing off. "It may even have been waiting for us to see it."

She added: 'We felt no fear. Maybe a touch of apprehension, but otherwise we were calm, excited and, above all, fascinated.'

The sighting was one of a number reported at a meeting of the East Midlands UFO Association.

A room at Bulwell public library was packed for the meeting, reflecting a big upsurge of interest in the subject.

But a Ministry of Defence employee who went to the meeting was unconvinced.

He claimed that sightings could usually be explained by the light patterns of various aircraft.

He did, however, admit once seeing some unexplained red lights at an air base in Goose Bay, Canada.

He denied there was a cover-up by the authorities about UFOs to avert public panic.

HUCKNALL DISPATCH, Notts., England - Dec. 10, 1993

## MAGNIFICENT UFO I SAW IN HUCKNALL

● HAVING read of the sightings of UFOs in the grounds of Newstead Abbey in last week's Dispatch, I felt I had to write and tell you of an experience I had myself very recently.

The date was Sunday November 14 and the time was 9.50 pm. The sky was very clear and was full of stars.

At the time, I was thinking of getting ready for bed, so I decided to go and close all the curtains in my upstairs bedrooms.

On my entering the first

room to do so, I was amazed and mesmerised by what I saw from the window.

This being what I considered to look like the shape of the Kohinoor Diamond — triangular and ablaze with light.

I know for a fact that this was no star because it was too low in its height.

This object was hovering just above the roof tops of houses on Nabbs Lane and did so for approximately 30 seconds when, all of a sudden, the lights in the object went out, except for

one oval red one, like the colour that one would see from an aircraft exhaust chamber.

As I watched, the red light got smaller and smaller until it disappeared completely.

In all of my lifetime I have never seen such a magnificent sight and it's possible that I never will do so again.

STAGGERED,

Hucknall. (Name and address supplied).

CR: T. Good

## Mystery sighting near base

A BRIGHT white light hovering in the sky in the early hours today has left one Norfolk man puzzling about the existence of UFOs.

Terence Pressley, of Tunstead, says he saw the strange light as he looked out of his window towards Norwich.

'It was a ball of light, moving erratically,' he said.

'We live near RAF Coltishall so we are used to seeing aeroplanes and helicopters with search lights, but this was nothing like that and there was no noise. I think it may have been a UFO.'

RAF Coltishall spokesman Sqn Ldr Jack Love said he was not aware of any activity from the base.

CR: T. Good





### Magnetic Miracle

*Inventor's design consumes no fuel, emits no fumes*

By Bud Kenny

Devices that have truly improved the human condition — such as electricity, the telephone and the airplane — were created by people who passionately believed their inventions would make the world a better place to live. Troy Reed of Tulsa, Oklahoma is such a person.

Reed has invented and patented a motor that consumes no fuel and emits no fumes. It is powerful enough to turn a 7,000-watt generator, which is enough electricity to run an average small American home. Production of the Reed Magnetic Motor for use by the general public may begin by year's end.

Reed, 57, has also invented an automobile called "Surge®" that employs his new technology. Unlike a battery-powered car, Reed's Surge® does not have to be plugged in to be recharged. The car recharges itself as it rolls down the highway at speeds of up to 85 miles an hour. Reed and actor Dennis Weaver, a cousin and investor in the project, plan to make the first highway test-run of the car this summer.

Reed said he has been contacted about coverage of the test run by, among others, 20/20, 60 Minutes, Larry King Live, Primetime Live and CNN. A representative of CNN, Reed said, has already seen the car and might broadcast daily updates during the journey.

The idea for this technology came to Reed in a number of dreams and visions over the past 35 years. He said he got the first in 1959 while

employed as a machinist making 70 cents an hour. Thirty years later, in 1989, he put those dreams to the test, turning a hand crank that put the first Reed Magnetic Motor in motion. That prototype was seven feet tall, weighed more than 500 pounds, had four moving parts and powered a 500-watt generator. His latest motor takes two car batteries to start (they are re-charged by the generator), is 20 inches high, weighs less than 200 pounds, has one moving part and runs a 7,000-watt generator.

If Reed's motor works as well as he says it does, it would be a rather amazing technological breakthrough. After all, it would mean a person could live anywhere one wanted with all the modern comforts and never have to pay an electric bill. One would also be able to drive to work, or anywhere else, without consuming fuel. And best of all, one could do these things without polluting the environment.

Although most people have never heard of the Reed Magnetic Motor, it is well known in the science world. Since 1989 Reed and his motor have been featured at numerous international scientific conferences — the most recent one in Denver in March. Reed also has been written up in scientific journals and is included in the latest edition of *Monument of Mars*, a book of inventors written by former NASA science writer Richard Hoagland.

If Reed has his way, his motor soon will no longer be a scientific curiosity. Currently he is in the final stages of granting a license to produce the motor to an American company and a company in India. Reed would not give the names of the companies because he said he is still "negotiating."

"I've been approached by lots of companies from all over the world," Reed said. "I wanted the company that built this motor to be doing it for the same reason I developed it — to help mother earth."

Reed did say that the companies granted licenses would start producing the motors for the consumer almost immediately. "The tech-

nology is already there, it is just a matter of putting it all together the right way to make it work," Reed said.

The 1989 prototype uses a horizontal shaft with several magnets on it. Above the shaft are four vertical spring-loaded pistons with a magnet on the end closest to the shaft. Turning the hand crank spins the horizontal shaft and the magnetic spring-loaded pistons move up and down to trigger the motion of the shaft and the magnetic force field. Once the shaft is put into motion, it continues to spin until a brake is applied.

Instead of moveable pistons, the latest model of the motor uses an electronic system and stationary magnets to start and control the motion of the shaft. Consequently, the only moving part in the motor is the horizontal shaft. In the current model, the shaft turns in bearings, but Reed said the mass-produced model will not have the bearings. Instead, the shaft will be magnetically suspended inside the motor casing. Suspending the shaft means there will be nothing to wear out, or make noise, Reed said.

Reed is aware inventions such as his often end up being shelved away from the consumer by a large oil company. So Reed said he has proceeded with caution. "Just like the companies that are going to produce these motors, I made sure that my investors were motivated for the right reasons," Reed said. "If they are only in it for the money, then I turned them away. On the other hand, if they shared my desire to see this technology in the marketplace to help save the environment, then we made a deal."

Reed said he also has been careful in how he financed the development of his motor. He said he talked with other would-be world-saving inventors who were put out of business by the government for violating interstate security exchange laws. "They needed capital to develop their ideas, so they sold their investors stock," Reed said. "It always takes longer to develop something like this than you think it will. So when it came time to make good on that stock, they couldn't do it."

When Reed needed capital, instead of issuing stock he gave his investors promissory notes that were contingent on his invention eventually making it to market. Once the motors are available to the public, Reed said he will offer his investors the option of "holding the promissory notes or exchanging them for stock."

However, the federal government is aware of what is going on at Reed Technologies. In fact, Reed said NASA has volunteered to test the motor.

Reed estimated it will cost about \$3,500 per motor to mass produce his invention.

Bud Kenny of Hot Springs is scheduled to begin a 15-year world-walking tour on June 5 (see related story page 23). Kenny will live in a small house on wheels, which will be pulled by two mules. Electricity for the house will be provided by alternative electrical generating systems such as solar panels and a pedal generator that will store power from the rotation of Dylan's wheels. Kenny's first stop on his world tour will be around the first of August in Tulsa, where Reed will help Kenny develop the electrical system for the home.



Tulsa inventor Troy Reed with the prototype Reed Magnetic Motor.

Bud Kenny

### Not Yeti...



Despite a muddy trek (note the shoes!) to the old tennis courts by the graveyard at Holmbridge, Express reporter Alex Jamieson and photographer John Porter were too late to see the unusual prints because the snow had all but melted.

LAST Thursday's sudden snowfall brought with it an unusual mystery!

On Friday morning, Holmbridge High School pupil Daniel Wilkinson, 15, was walking through the old tennis courts behind Holmbridge graveyard at about 8.15am on the way to catch his bus, when he spotted some rather unusual footprints.

The prints were about a foot long, he said, had a human-like heel, and five toes with an extra toe on one side of the foot.

The prints led over a bank of thistles and then disappeared.

An amazed Daniel — determined to prove he wasn't going crazy — rushed off to get his brother James, 13, and friend Jamie Evans to have a look. However, no one could work out what the prints were, he said.

Although Daniel is interested in legendary creatures, especially the infamous Abominable Snowman, he stressed his sighting was legitimate and he was especially interested in finding out what the prints were because they were so large.

Express reporter Alex Jamieson and photographer John Porter made an impromptu visit to the tennis courts to see if they could catch a glimpse of the unusual prints but, unfortunately, by the time they got to the spot behind Holmbridge churchyard — after a rather muddy trek down a nearby lane — the snow had well and truly melted and the prints disappeared.

However, at Holmbridge Church they spoke to two local residents who said although they hadn't heard of any sightings of a strange Yeti-like creature, several villagers had spotted unusual UFO-type lights in the sky before Christmas.

The Express carried a report at the time which suggested the lights could be a pre-Christmas pyrotechnic display in Stalybridge, but Holmbridge folk remain unconvinced...

Anyone who has seen any unusual skyward lights, sightings or prints in and around Holmbridge or who can hazard a guess as to what the strange tracks might be is asked to contact the Express on 684011.

TIMES, Washington, DC - May 4, 1994 CR: P. Reynolds

## World is getting curiouiser and curiouiser, magazine says

By Caroline Brothers  
REUTERS NEWS AGENCY

LONDON — The world is definitely getting weirder.

Miracles, strange deaths, apparitions, extreme weather conditions and the revival of ancient rites increased during the past 12 months, according to a journal of strange phenomena.

Bizarre deaths, spontaneous combustion, hoaxes and apparitions are also on the rise and show no signs of abating.

Britain's Fortean Times is turning 21 this year and has just published the first findings of its 1993 Strangeness Index, recording disturbing occurrences reported around the world over the past year.

Some phenomena are growing ever more prevalent but others, such as crop circles, spontaneously combusting people and close encounters with paranormal entities, are easing off. Mass deaths, paranormal experiences and psychical phenomena are about steady, the Fortean Times index shows.

But, taken collectively, rises and falls tabled across 34 categories of weirdness show oddness is clearly

on the rise.

"The total baseline value for 1992 is 3,400, and our assessed value for 1993 is 3,520, making an increase in strangeness of some 3.5 percent," the editors of the Fortean Times say.

"In terms of first-class mysteries or enigmas, we have about 10 a month — probably about 200 a year," editor Paul Sieveking said. He said the magazine's offices receive about 15 letters a day from the front line of the paranormal.

Many letters come in from the Philippines, which he said ranks as one of the strangest countries on the planet. "It's always good for a story — mass panics, ghosts, possessions, weird natural disasters, religious manias. . . ."

"What we like is to get firsthand reports of things, but we have developed a nose for bogus stories," Mr. Sieveking said. Accounts that pan out too neatly immediately raise the editors' suspicions. "True stories are often inconclusive," he added.

Mr. Sieveking and fellow editor Bob Rickard trawl through magazines ranging from the British science journal *Nature* to the *Funerary Directors' Monthly*, seeking accounts of weird atmospheric

phenomena and incorruptible bodies that refuse to decompose.

The latest issue of the Fortean Times, which is published every two months, recounts the best of the year's abnormal happenings.

One involves the leader of a Hindu sect whose flyblown body was kept on ice by followers for 56 days in the belief he would rise from the dead. About 1,200 police battled 4,000 devotees to enforce the guru's cremation.

In another incident, 1,300 Egyptian schoolgirls were struck by nausea and fainting fits, which closed 32 schools in an incidence of mass hysteria.

Publisher Mike Dash says that every year they receive about a dozen reports of spontaneous human combustion, in which a person suddenly catches fire and is vaporized, leaving the arms and legs intact but the body a heap of ashes.

"Psychic matter, ghosts, apparitions — there always have been strange phenomena, and far from most are reported," Mr. Sieveking said, adding the Fortean Times aimed to encourage people to trust their own experiences.

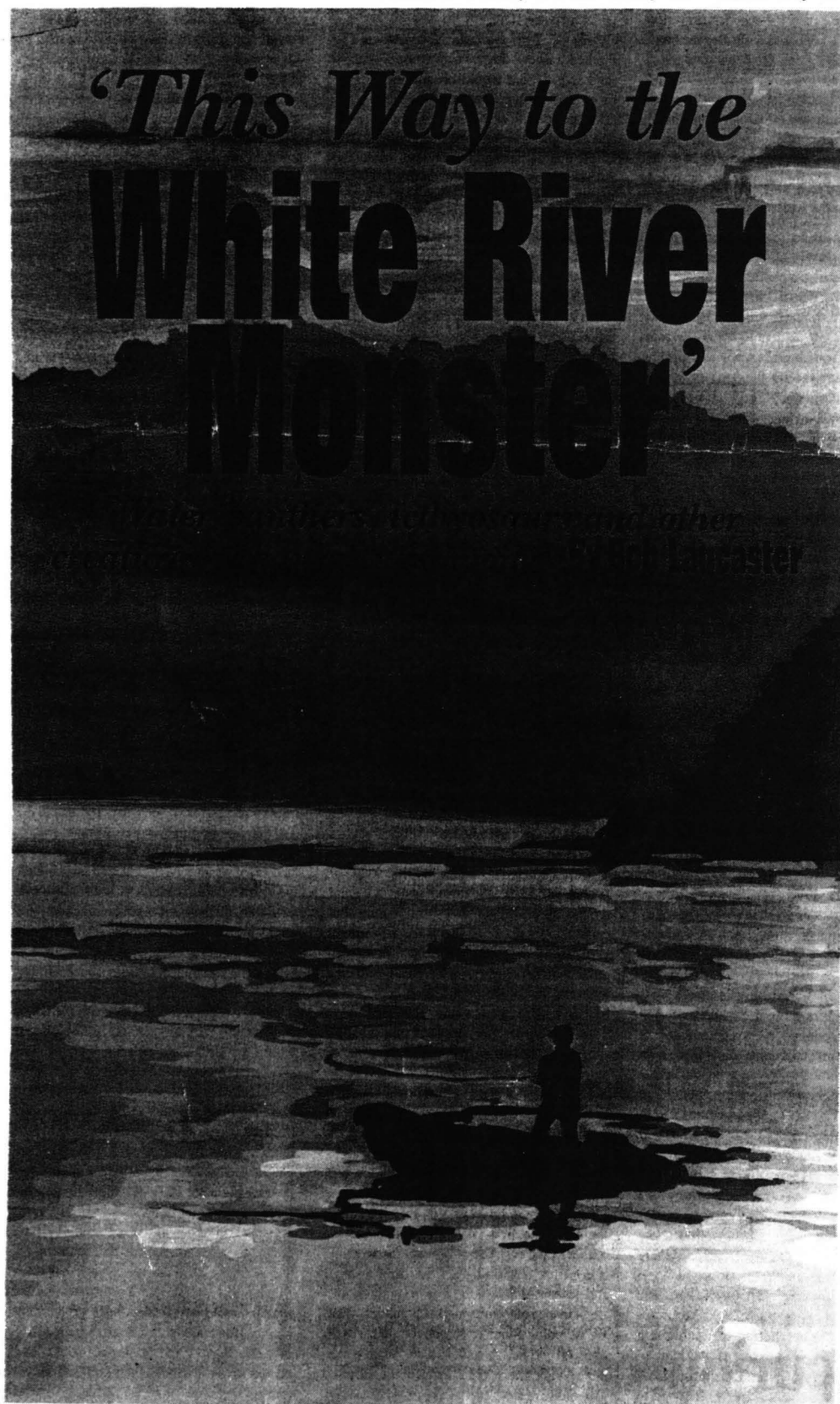


ILLUSTRATION BY MANTLE

chronicled the havoc that a "water panther" has caused in the Heber Springs area for more than a century. In years past it stalked outdoorsmen (and occasionally ate one of them) in the deep woods along the Little Red, and when those woods were flooded in the 1950s to form Greers Ferry Lake, the river panther, as other retirees, assumed residence along the lakeshore.

"In the early 1970s," Jameson wrote, "a scuba diver reported encountering the water panther near an underwater opening to a cavern. The creature, a horrid, man-like form covered with fur, rushed at the diver and ripped off his mask. Frightened for his life, the diver kicked and flailed and succeeded in fending off the beast until he could reach the surface and safety."

This same being, or a relative or colleague, terrorized workmen converting a natural cave into a boathouse for Sen. John L. McClellan's big lakeside home on Greers Ferry during the same period. They were "subjected to the hellish screams and agonizing moans of some hideous creature living in the hole," Jameson wrote. It didn't eat any of them, however.

As night settles over the river, the wind dies

and the water smooths out agreeably and goes quiet, distantly sibilant. There's that river languor that Joseph Conrad describes so well. If I weren't on watch, if this boat were easier on the human back, I might doze. Frogs are out already, and there are hoarse owly birdcalls from back along the Departee. Already a few mosquitoes. A semi groans along a highway in the general direction of Possum Grape. A pair of eyes at water's edge a hundred yards ahead (downriver, that is) catches the light beam and reflects it back at us red and gold. I'd like to think it's something more exotic but Les says it's probably a skunk. We pick up the smell directly.

Les doesn't remember the first big round of Whitey reports 56 years ago, but he doubts they were really the first. His crusty, taciturn manner can fool you: he really has a more romantic view of this than I do, supposing (as best I can puzzle it out) that the monster's initial appearance in this region coincided with the cataclysmic disruptions of the Great Chain of Being caused by the mighty New Madrid Earthquake of 1811-12. The quake brought bizarre things spouting up from vast watery depths, and nature just hasn't had time yet to

resettle properly. This seems a common notion among the river people hereabout, as if rooted in racial memory. Or something their pappies got from the same Indians who discoursed of, if not with, water panthers.

"The Arkansas newspapers gave a great play to the 'behemoth' which appeared in [the] White River early in June, 1937," Vance Randolph tells us in one of his books. "A farmer named Bramlett Bateman rushed into the town of Newport...crying that there was a whale in the river 'as big as a boxcar, like a slimy elephant without any legs.' A lot of people hurried out to look, and several reputable citizens declared that they saw the creature. Newspaper reporters described the beast at great length, but the press photographers drew a blank. I drove down there myself and stared into the river for hours, but saw nothing but a lot of muddy water. The Newport Chamber of Commerce combined with Bateman to fence in the place, and then charged 25 cents admission. Signs were put up along the roads for miles around, *This Way to the White River Monster*."

Vigilantes patrolled the river banks night and day and proposed to truck in enough

**A** March evening on the White River near the tri-county convergence (Jackson, Woodruff and White) and Les Thorwarth has taken me out in his primitive boat to look for the White River Monster, in which I do not believe.

**THE RIVER IS CHOPPY FROM A COLD** north wind, and we'll avoid the deep, swift part, hugging the east bank downstream a mile or more to where an unhappy slough yields itself up to the river. Les has a trotline there and will use this opportunity to "run" it and rebait it.

The trees along the bank are muddy and black, with no sign of spring green yet. A planet gleams in the muzzy dusk, the stars muscling toward visibility, rosy vapor trails and a scattering of bats in the indigo twilight. Les paddles; he's put me in front of the boat, in charge of the light, which casts a bold beam across the waves: I'm to look out for snags, floating logs, bobbing debris. And of course for Whitey. We'll use the baby Evinrude to get back, but going down we'll drift. The river slumping at the bottom of the boat is chocolate brown.

Whitey would be the monster's name—if there were a monster. Whitey for the river as Nessie for Loch Ness. They are said to be similar creatures, and not just in the sense that they're both mythical. Since the first Whitey headlines in 1937, much of the speculation has been that it's what Nessie is often speculated to be: a dinosaur whose ancestors survived the great extinctions, the most recent of which was 65 million years ago, at the close of the Cretaceous. An ichthyosaur perhaps, or one of the other sea lizards of a size that it could snack on crocodiles.

Right here in Arkansas's grandest old river? Not for a minute, thinks the old mammalian skeptic feeling a little foolish out here in the night air.

Well, who knows what people see and report as monsters? We know that there are catfish in Arkansas's waters that weigh more than Jim Guy Tucker. The White used to abound in alligator gars, the largest on record in Arkansas being 8 feet, 3 inches long and weighing 350 pounds. We have lake sturgeon measuring six-and-a-half feet and running to 130 pounds. When Father Marquette ventured here through the evergreen mists in 1673, he wrote in his diary: "We met from time to time monstrous fish, which struck so violently against our canoes that we took them to be large trees." It's a hell of a fish that you mistake for a large tree.

## There are catfish in Arkansas's waters that weigh more than Jim Guy Tucker.

And no reason to confine the suppositions to fish. Arkansas has a whole menagerie of aquatic animals that in a certain slant of light might take on a saurian cast. These include 10-foot alligators, beavers you couldn't get in the deepfreeze, otters, nutrias—and dry-land dwellers that somebody espied aswim: deer, bears, elks, and, once, during a pretty dismal water show at Hot Springs, a water-skiing cow.

And legendary beasts as well. In a recent column in the *Conway Log Cabin Democrat*, folklorist W.C. Jameson

dynamite to blow up a ponderable segment of the river, purging it of any pre-Cenozoic refugee fauna; but they had to settle for the Chamber of Commerce hiring a professional diver to scour the river bottom while spectators topside were entertained by a kind of ad hoc monster jambo-ree, with colorful picking bands and a full range of concessions reasonably priced. Sophistication wasn't much expected of the larger public entertainments during the Depression.

The White was browner then than now, with all the mussel-grubbing it supported, so frogman visibility on its floor ran a gamut from six inches to two feet, in consequence of which the hired diver reported back in the negative, proving zilch, but a discreeter,

(continued on page 19)



earnest investigation by the state Game and Fish concluded that the Whitey sightings were almost certainly a scam. The "monster" was likely "an overturned scow" that an enterprising commercial fisherman or sheldigger rigged to bob into view just often enough to frighten off potential rivals from some particularly productive fishing beds. The authorities suspected that aforementioned "farmer," but didn't finger him. If there was Chamber collusion or intercession, they just let it go.

Monster sightings occur in bunches and in cycles—an eruption every 30 years or so seems to be the Arkansas schedule—and there's an interesting literature regarding the collective psychological pressures that are thought to trigger them. Interesting if sometimes a little fanciful. Theology is involved. And eschatology. It gets deep. Another round of Whitey reports occurred in the early 1970s, and the unindicted co-promoter that time wasn't the local Chamber but a local newsmen looking for a sensational topic that would allow him to expand his reputation. This was a young fellow with high ambition. He'd got some attention for a feature on a man who lived in a hollow log, and had horns wiggled the *Arkansas Gazette* into purchasing and publishing under a pseudonymous byline a flattering profile he'd written about himself; but those pieces didn't have the universal theme or scope to permit him fully to show his exceptional stuff. But a monster...

Monster sagas were a hot item just then. The Fouke Monster, soon to star in a motion picture (and sequel) that would become a Joe Bob drive-in classic, had become the hirsute national poster boy of the inquiring-minds tabs, and a couple of spinoff monsters (one at Pine Bluff, one at Springdale) had animated the Arkansas press. These were all dry-land ape-like monsters of the ordinary Bigfoot or Sasquatch variety. Hairy, stinky, screamy, eyes that glowed in the dark, never less than a head taller than Kareem Abdul Jabbar.

I never put stock in these critters, either, although just the other day (March, 1994, I mean now) the Little Rock daily ran a lengthy report about a distinguished Michigan scientist who's about to launch a big search in the

Amazon for a giant sloth whose existence is yet unconfirmed by biologists but that's thought to inhabit the wilder wilds of the rain forest. Likes to pull the heads off explorers, according to the tale-bearers. Sounds awfully like the eyewitness descriptions of the Fouke monster and others of our Natural State barefoot sylvan howlers, including the water panther. Right down to the stench, which this elusive evil-tempered South American sloth is said to emit, like a clown's squirting boutonniere, from a gland somewhere on or about its abdomen.

It might be farfetched to think of such a thing skulking about the forests of Arkansas if it weren't for the incontestable fact of *Megalonyx*. That's the formal name of a giant ground sloth, bigger than you or me, that certainly *did* walk the Arkansas forests not very many thousands of years ago. Along with other such certified, archeologically verified monsters as a 600-pound wolf-bear and a beaver the size of a Porsche. True facts.

I was something of a monster investigation specialist (third class) in days past, like one of the ditzes in Roman Polanski's "Fearless Vampire Killers." All-night monster stakeouts near Pine Bluff and Springdale and beside the road leading to that famous mangled house trailer at Boggy Creek; briefer but no less diligent vigils looking for the ghost lights of Gurdon and Hamburg, the Little River County UFOs, the alien cattle-mutilators of Van Buren County, the ETs who first visited Whitley Strieber, author of the bestseller *Communion*, when he was just a boy riding a slow train through Arkansas. And looking for something one

## 3 autopsies fail to solve mystery

### No explanation for 'fumes' from dying emergency room patient

BY CHRISTINE SPOLAR  
The Washington Post

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — After two months of investigation and three autopsies, local officials in this desert-edged suburb conceded Friday they still have not solved the mystery of what caused the bizarre collapse of a half-dozen hospital workers in an emergency room while attempting to save a dying woman.

The officials announced their conclusion that Gloria Ramirez, 31, died of heart and kidney failure caused by her cervical cancer that night in February and they declared the case closed. But neither the Riverside County coroner's office nor the hospital could explain the workers' claim that the dead woman's blood had emitted toxic, ammonia-like fumes that sickened them.

Ramirez's family responded with an independent pathologist's finding that she had not died of cancer and angrily accused officials of bungling the investigation and concealing unsafe conditions at Riverside General Hospital, where the incident occurred.

"It takes them 10 weeks to say she died of natural causes?" asked Maggie Ramirez-Garcia, the dead woman's sister. "I don't believe anything the county officials or the coroner says."

County officials said their investigation exonerated conditions at the public hospital west of Los Angeles, the county's largest health and trauma center. Riverside General has a history of problems with ventilation in patient treatment areas, including the emergency room, according to state workplace safety records.

In April 1993, the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration notified Riverside General that the first-floor emergency room was permeated "with sewer gas" from a drain. The hospital also was cited in 1991 when two employees sought medical treatment after a possible leak of a hazardous gas from a sterilizer, and in 1992 when an inspection found algae

growing in a water reservoir.

Thomas DeSantis, a county spokesman, acknowledged some previous ventilation problems but said the emergency room's vents had been checked by hospital workers as a result of the Feb. 19 incident and no problems were found. The Ramirez family contends the hospital has portrayed Gloria Ramirez as a "toxic monster" to conceal its own culpability in her death. "I honestly believe my sister may have lived if she hadn't gone into that emergency room that night," said Ramirez-Garcia. "I don't know what (the county) is afraid of, but we want answers."

A noted forensic pathologist called the hospital's original version of events "very interesting and very misguided."

"There's no way fumes can come out of a body and hurt people. That idea went out with the Dark Ages," said Michael Baden, former chief medical examiner for New York City, in a telephone interview.

"This kind of thing gives death a bad name. Dead bodies don't make people sick."

The investigation into Ramirez's death was troubled from the beginning. A top-level investigator in the county coroner's office who was in charge of the Ramirez case committed suicide a month into the investigation. The official, Stephanie Albright, "may have been under pressure" from the case, deputy coroner Dan Cupido said. Last week the county announced that a key piece of evidence — the syringe used to draw Ramirez's blood in the emergency room — had been inadvertently discarded.

An unemployed mother of two children, Gloria Ramirez had been undergoing treatment for cervical cancer for six weeks when she complained of nausea and began vomiting Feb. 19.

Maggie Ramirez-Garcia said she believed her sister had begun chemotherapy or radiation treatment the week she died. The cancer was advanced, Ramirez-Garcia said, but was not supposed to be fatal.

Ramirez's boyfriend, Johnnie Estrada, said they called for an ambulance about 8 p.m. because she was having trouble breathing.

At the hospital a few minutes later, the bizarre sequence of events began. A nurse who began drawing blood noticed an ammonia smell and fainted. A doctor, a third-year resident, who took over for the nurse drew the syringe with Ramirez's blood close to her nose, breathed in and fainted too. Some other members of the medical team also grew faint, although others did not. The doctor and nurses who became ill later said they saw crystals in Ramirez's blood, but others neither saw the crystals nor smelled the odor.

A doctor ordered the emergency room evacuated. Ramirez, who the hospital maintains remained under constant care, died at 8:50 p.m. Her body was placed in a separate room and later sealed in double-plastic bags and an airtight steel container.

The first autopsy, which took place six days after Ramirez's death, was conducted in an airtight cubicle with pathologists wearing protective suits provided by the county's Hazardous Material squad.

The second examination came a month later. The third, demanded and paid for by the family, came only after the county released the body under court order. The county finally relinquished the remains for burial last week after it said in court that its searches of Ramirez's remains produced nothing that could be called a public health hazard.

More than eight weeks after her death, Gloria Ramirez was placed in a white, enameled coffin and mourners came to a memorial service and prayed. Her 12-year-old daughter read a poem about the woman she called her "hero." A priest, the Rev. Brian Taylor, spoke of a kind woman whose "death was unjust and the treatment of her body was unjust."

night in the rocky hills just back this way from the Winding Stairs. (No, maybe that was an escaped convict.) Usually alone, because sensible people tend to consider all of this silly and not quite respectable activity. And always ruthlessly sober, to insure keeping credibility with myself, if with no one else. And so of course I dutifully made my way to the White River to investigate those Whitey "sightings" of the '70s, and, as Vance Randolph had done earlier, found myself mainly doing a lot of staring at a lot of muddy water. But I was still open-minded then—or enough so to concede that there are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, etc. etc. Not the old scoffer, in other words, who now ponders the dinky Pleiades while Les pulls us along by that trotline, which hasn't snared so much as a mud turtle.

Wouldn't it be a hoot, I ask Les, if one of these hooks did nab Whitey and tomorrow morn there he'd lie, wore out from the tussle, a floating dragon stretching 75 feet down the river here.

"A hoot?" Les says. Then he says it again, more reflectively: "A hoot?"

No, there'd be no Whitey this time, either. There'd only been rumors of sightings this time anyhow, and I'm assuming that they're related to this other murky White River fantasy, a kind of gently mocking Whitewater metaphor. They're making yet another Fouke monster movie, this one at Eureka Springs, which is either the home or source of origin of a disproportionate amount of Arkansas phantasmagoria, and this time the sasquatch are

generic and they'll be played sympathetically, with "understanding," as it has become fashionable to portray, say, the Sioux. A Whitey movie would no doubt command the same latter-day enlightened approach, evidence of how much our sensibilities have advanced since all our ignorant hating and fearing of Gill-Man in "Creature from the Black Lagoon."

As our little mock-dinghy struggles back up the river that's luminous now in the starlight, I recall a scene from "The Bear" (which, in the T.B. Thorpe original, was an Arkansas bear). It's when the boy hunter realizes that he won't be able to encounter the monster that embodies the spirit of the wilderness until he divests himself of all the symbols of civilization—the compass, the watch, the gun. And that even then the meeting will be different from anything he had imagined. Different but not frightening, at least not unbearably so.

I think about sending Les on to the house and coming back here alone, casting off and letting her drift—maybe then it could transpire... But it couldn't. Maybe years ago when monsters were scary, just the thought of them was, and I had a tinnier sense of the essential mysteriousness of things, saying and maybe halfway stupidly believing that monsters are where you look for them, when in fact they positively are not. No indulging it this time, no search and no vigil, no rousting out alleged witnesses in hopes of teasing up the colorful quote. Pay Les the agreed-on round-trip fee and get in the car and drive on back to the city.

And this postscript: As the half-hearted search for Whitey fizzled, back in my home county, down along the eastern Saline, a mess of fresh Bigfoot footprints, 16 inches long, turned up, so I'm off again and will let you know.

## THE INSIDER

### FEETS DID THEIR STUFF

Here's the skinny from our confidential correspondent on those "Bigfoot" footprints reported on a country road near Grapevine in Grant County early this week (and given major news treatment, location filming and all, in a lengthy piece by KATV, Channel 7):

"Well, the inside story here is, the 'feet' was made out of scrap metal by some ol' boys that works at the railroad shops in Pine Bluff. They went to a right smart of trouble getting the tracks planted where they'd be sure and be seen and cause a commotion. Getting Channel 7 to fall for it was beyond their fondest expectations."

# Mount Rainier-area youth has close encounter in the foothills

The engine died and the dashboard lights fell dark. Although he hadn't applied his brakes, the pickup truck he was driving stopped suddenly, abruptly, square in the middle of the road there between the edge of the forest and a scrubby clearcut field.

His headlights cut a hole through the night. He sat wondering what was wrong.

Then he saw the feet, descending. Bird feet. Claw feet. Then the legs, the torso, the chest. And the wings, folded, attached to the back of broad shoulders. Then the head. That face.

The creature, nine feet tall. Thirty feet away. Blue-tinted fur, yellowish eyes, tufted ears and sharp straight teeth.

With a dust-raising thud, it landed.

Brian Canfield, 18, held tight the steering wheel. He was alone and on his way home - from Buck-

ley to the isolated settlement of Camp One, located in the Mount Rainier foothills above Lake Kapowsin - at 9:30 a week ago Saturday night. He doesn't drink. He doesn't take drugs. He's a high school senior known locally as an average, normal kid.

"It was standing there staring at me, like it was resting, like it didn't know what to think," Canfield says. "I was scared. It raised the hair on me. I didn't feel threatened. I just felt out of place."

We're sitting in a camper outside the Canfield home a few days after the encounter. I'd heard Brian's story from a neighbor and I'd asked for an interview. He is no fan of heavy metal music and he's never played Dungeons and Dragons. He's never seen a UFO. He remains baffled by what he saw.

"Its eyes were yellow and shaped like a piece of pie with pupils like a half-moon. The mouth was pretty big. White teeth. No fangs. The face was like a wolf," he says.

Can he smell anything? Hear anything? I ask him to close his eyes and remember.

He can hear the wind. He smells gasoline - he'd been having trouble with his carburetor. "It's look-

ing right at me like in a deep stare, like right through me. It's standing perfectly still."

It stood for - how long? - a few minutes. Several minutes. Then its fingers twitched and its wings began to unfold. Those wings were as wide as the road.

"It turned its head and looked back at me and started flapping its wings," Canfield says. Then slowly it rose and so great was the turbulence the truck began to rock and sway.

Slowly the creature flew off in the direction of Mount Rainier.

"A few minutes later the truck just started," Canfield says. "I took off as fast as I could."

He drove home. "I just flew in the house. I woke my mom and dad up. I told my dad to grab the gun and a camera and come with me. While he was getting dressed I told them what happened. I almost couldn't breathe."

"I could tell something was wrong, the way he ran in," says his mother, Sandra. "He said, 'Really. I gotta talk to you. We just gotta talk.' They went into



C.R. Roberts

The News Tribune columnist

the living room.

He was shaking. "His mouth was dry, he was pale, his hair was still standing on end," Sandra says. She handed him a tablet and he began to draw what he'd seen. A few minutes later they visited a neighbor - a man who knows the woods - and they soon drove back to that spot on the road.

Within the silence and the night, they found no trace of the creature.

The neighbor says, "I know he saw something, but I don't know what it was."

Canfield told his story at school early last week. Some friends believe him and some have begun to tease him. One friend helped him

with the sketch and others have come up with a name for the creature.

Batsquatch.

"I'm really not into this stuff," Canfield says. "It boggles my mind really hard core. I really can't explain it. It's weird, definitely weird. I don't like it. Usually stuff like this happens to someone else."

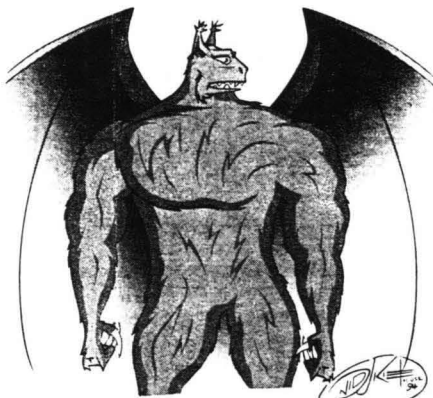
This past week I've spoken both with neighbors and with Canfield's family. I believe his story. I believe he saw something that night a week ago. I have no idea what he saw. I've spoken with experts on legends and creatures and none knows of a being such as this.

But I believe Brian Canfield. And I believe that we daily face so many real things fearful - drugs, gangs, AIDS, violence, divorce, poverty, Rwanda, Bosnia, tuberculosis, North Korea and so on down the list - that it's almost pleasant to consider a monster no one can explain.

It's pleasant for the rest of us, perhaps. But not for Brian Canfield.

"It did happen, I'm willing to put my life on it," he says. "I just have this picture in front of my head, the picture of it standing there. I can't get rid of it. It's just there. I kinda wish it didn't happen."

C.R. Roberts' column appears Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. He can be reached at 597-8535.



News Tribune illustration from a sketch by Dave Kiele

The 'Batsquatch': Brian Canfield describes a winged creature about 9 feet tall with claws, blue-tinted fur, yellowish eyes, sharp teeth and tufted ears.

TIMES, Seattle, WA - April 21, 1994

DON HANNULA / Times editorial columnist

## Where are all those sasquatch hiding out?



IT seems like only yesterday that spotting a 10-foot-tall, 900-pound sasquatch romping through our foothills was as common as an Elvis sighting in a Detroit supermarket.

How's that for a tabloid lead?

Somehow, for unexplained reasons, the fabled half-man, half-ape has gone into hiding. Reported sightings have dropped like the stock market.

The pages of The Times haven't had a sasquatch-footprint report for 18 months. And that one turned out to be phonier than a three-dollar bill.

No, I don't believe in sasquatches. But the sasquatch, aka Bigfoot, has become an institutionalized part of Northwest lore.

There is the Bigfoot Car Wash, the Bigfoot Inn and the 21-slice Bigfoot Pizza.

There is Sasquatch Publishing, the Spokane Community College Sasquatch and a dog act called the Sasquatch Agility Club.

And every time the Sonics play at home, more than 14,000 see a sasquatch.

It was only fitting for the Sonics to jump on the sasquatch bandwagon, with apish-costumed "Squatch" replacing T. Wheelie, the most meaningless mascot ever known to mankind. And womankind.

Outside of the Coliseum, people have been saying they've seen real sasquatches for more than 200 years.

The 1970s were the salad days of sasquatchery. A 10-footer and an 11-footer were reported near Darrington. A 9-footer supposedly roamed the beach near Copalis.



A road near Humptulips was crawling with them. There was an albino sasquatch near Naches. They were in Walla Walla and White Salmon. Everywhere.

The rash of sightings through the '70s and into the '80s popped up after release of a piece of 16-millimeter film shot in 1967 in northern California by the late Roger Patterson of Yakima. It showed an ambling ape-like creature that some experts believed was a tall man in a monkey suit.

True believers still swear it's the real thing. It wasn't me. I'm not that tall.

The last Bigfoot story in The Times was in October of 1992. That one was a clunker - an investigation of footprints near Marysville. They were only 12 inches long and were traced to a barefoot man in a camper.

Those footprints were too small for a self-respecting sasquatch. They have at least 18-inch tootsies, according to those

who dabble in this strange research.

For some, the sasquatch mystery created a nice little cottage industry. Sasquatch researchers and experts popped up all over. Most quickly disappeared.

Peter Byrne was one of them. He operated a research project near The Dalles, Ore., from 1970 to 1979, then ran out of funding and went back to Nepal as a guide for white-water runs and big-game photo shoots. He's back again, operating The Bigfoot Research Project near Mt. Hood (1-800-BIGFOOT).

He said he had only five "credible" sightings reported last year. And only one so far this year. Where have all the sasquatch gone, I asked him.

"People are reluctant to make public reports," he said. "They don't like being laughed at. They don't like being ridiculed."

That's true. But sasquatch researchers would rather be ridiculed than ignored.

The 68-year-old Dublin-born Byrne, who looks and sounds like a Great White Hunter from central casting, says private donations funneled through the Academy of Applied Science in Boston got him and three full-time associates back in business.

Right now, people from the television program "Unsolved Mysteries," which loves sasquatches, UFOs and Loch Ness Monsters, are with Byrne for his latest tracking.

This time around, Byrne is steering his sasquatch research down The Information Highway. He is computerizing all new and past information to develop a pattern of sasquatch behavior. He hopes it will lead him to exactly where and when one should show up.

Anything yet? "No, it probably will be another year to 18 months before we can expect answers from the computer."

Byrne adds: "Some day you won't be a skeptic." We've got a deal. I'll believe when he troops a 9-footer into my office for a handshake.

Until then, we'll just have to settle for that Coliseum sasquatch wearing green and gold.

Don Hannula's column appears Thursday on editorial pages of The Times.

COLUMBIAN, Vancouver, WA - April 16, 1994

INK



By DAVE JEWETT  
The Columbian

## On the trail of Bigfoot

TV's 'Unsolved Mysteries' heads to the woods with Vancouver man in search of the beast

The syndicated TV show "Unsolved Mysteries" is sending its crews to this neck of the woods for another exploration of the mystery of Bigfoot, the legendary ape-like creature that some think roams the Northwest wilderness areas.

Larry Lund of Vancouver, who has been active for years in Bigfoot investigations, says he has been contacted by program officials to participate in the filming of a dramatization.

Lund said the episode will follow an investigative club through a field exercise. In the dramatization to be shot this week on Mount Hood, Lund will play a fugitive running through the woods. The sequence apparently leads up to a Bigfoot sighting.

The show should air sometime in May.