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

CR: G. Fawcett

Local pastor has a close encounter

By JENNIFER BENT
Democrat Staff Writer

The "boy next door" and that nice lady down the street aren't our only neighbors.

It's possible that we have neighbors in the galaxy next door, and that they visit more often than the

nice lady ever did.

"Judging from our studies, only about 10 percent of the people who see UFOs actually report the incident," said George Fawcett, the public relations director for North Carolina's branch of MUFON (Mutual UFO Network Inc.).

Pastor Charles Blanck says he witnessed a UFO 30 years ago and

is still trying to make sense of it today.

"I'm not convinced of who they are or what they represent, but I'm convinced that they are very real," said Blanck, a pastor at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Boone, as he began to recount the story.

It was summertime in St.

Petersburg Beach, Fla., when Blanck saw the UFO, 30 years ago.

Just before dawn, Blanck's father-in-law went out to walk the dog. The UFO appeared, far down the shoreline; it was humming as it rolled toward them on its side.

"My father-in-law said later that he had to decide whether to wake us up to see it or just let us die peacefully in our sleep," Blanck said. "It looked as if it were heading straight for the house."

Apparently, Blanck's father-in-law didn't want to be the only witness.

As the dog began to whine with excitement, he hollered through the open window for the rest of the family to come outside.

"It was wheel-shaped and the color of steel, and about the width of a small house. It also had two sets of windows, one oblong and the other round, and blue light was shining out through them," Blanck said.

"My hair has only stood on end one other time in my life."

The UFO continued on its slow, rolling path down the edge of the water.

"It was so low that the lower edge of it was obscured by the row of bungalows on the beach, and it moved so slowly that you could jog along with it."

The UFO was about 200 feet away from Blanck and his family, but the vapor "trail" that spread out behind it stretched for three or four miles down the coast.

UFO observers said these trails are usually lines, whether they're straight or curving. This trail was a little different.

"I'm pretty sure it was white in color, but the sunrise coming up turned it red," Blanck said. "All down the beach where the UFO had been, there was a red-hued vapor outline around everything, and it was particularly noticeable around the right angles of the piers. It was as if the vapor had coated everything."

Finally, as the UFO reached the point where the family was standing, it stopped and hovered for a few moments.

"It was as if it saw us," he said. "It just flopped over onto its belly and shot away across the ocean and up into the sky."

About five years later, Blanck was working at a church in Greenville, S.C. A fellow man of the cloth, pastor Jim Borom, also witnessed a UFO after it had followed a friend of his for two months.

"Jim had a friend who was a long-distance trucker, and one day this UFO popped up out of nowhere and began to fly along side the truck, at a distance," Blanck said.

"It followed him every day, on every run and even when he just went outside for a walk, for two months."

Borom, the trucker and a group of men from the Oakridge community went out one day in a station wagon with recording equipment, walkie-talkies and video cameras to track the UFO's progress.

As they were about to head up a hilly part of the highway, the trucker said, "It's going to come up right over there," pointing to a place in the sky just over the ridge of the hill.

As the station wagon reached the crest, the UFO popped up and began following alongside the car.

"As it flew over a farmhouse, all the lights in the house and the barn flashed on at once," Blanck said.

The UFO only paused once as it trailed beside the car, whose passengers were recording and filming busily.

"As they passed an electrical substation, it nestled up to it as if it were its mother," he said.

Not long after the pause, the UFO maneuvered in front of the station wagon and landed down in the field to the left of the highway. It was round, and its blue, sparkling lights beamed out from the two sets of windows.

The trucker told everyone else in the car to stay where they were; he would go out to meet the UFO.

"He took a walkie-talkie with him, but as soon as he opened the door and got out of the car, his walkie-talkie and all the rest of the equipment shut down completely, and the video footage and recordings were erased," Blanck said.

The trucker walked slowly up to the UFO while the others waited and watched from behind the car windows on the highway.

He made his way across the field, and when he was within 50 yards of it, it took off, leaving nothing but three burned places in the ground.

"I'm not sure why they come to visit us," said Blanck as he reflected on the similarity between the UFO he saw and the one that followed the truck driver.

"I guess UFOs are just that which are some of our billions of neighbors, many of whom are a lot closer than we think."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO - March 20, 1994 CR: K. & K. Hanohano

Rocky Mountain Memories

By Frances Melrose

Pioneering UFOs

Close encounters of the Cornhusker kind

Apparently, UFOs abounded over the skies of 19th century Nebraska.

Last week's column about a mystery aircraft that reportedly crashed near Benkelman, Neb., in June 1884, brought additional information from Andrea L. Paul, associate director of the Nebraska Historical Society's library and archives. She sent copies of articles about a strange craft that hovered over Haigler, Neb., and other Nebraska towns in 1897.

The population of Nebraska in 1897 was slightly over a million, and within a few months, several thousand people had reported seeing the mysterious airship. In an article printed June 13, 1976, in the *Omaha World-Herald*, Wayne H. Bartlett reported that thousands saw the "phantom airship" during a few days in June 1897. Sightings were reported in Inavale, Beatrice, Omaha, Hastings and Grand Island, and in a few towns in Kansas. Within three weeks, more than 20 appearances of the craft had been reported.

Newspapers had a hard time taking the reports seriously and variously attributed the stories to alcoholic overindulgence, and to the appearance of the brilliant planet Venus. Many citizens, however, regarded the reports as signs of the end of the world.

An article by Roger L. Welsch written for *Nebraska History*, a publication of the Nebraska Historical Society, states that "A huge, canoe-shaped spaceship, like nothing seen before," was

sighted repeatedly in Nebraska in the summer of 1897. The writer stated that the Hastings sighting was the first in Nebraska, apparently not knowing about the 1884 incident.

Recapping a report that appeared in the *Omaha Daily Bee*, Welsch said the mystery craft had been spotted several times, once by a "pious party of 10 returning from a prayer meeting."

According to Welsch, the Hastings sighting in February 1897, had been preceded by one the year before in Sacramento, Calif. This never had been satisfactorily explained.

The greatest cause for skepticism, said Welsch, was that no one had seen the "airship" on the ground and that it appeared only at night.

One of the most bizarre stories for the times came from the *Auburn Granger*.

The report gave the teller's name, James Southard, along with a strong attestation to his character. While out hunting for some lost cattle about 2 a.m., Southard said he had stumbled across the spaceship and met some of its crew.

They talked to him easily and said something had gone wrong with the headlight, and they were repairing it before proceeding. He reported that the ship was about 200 feet long and 50 feet wide, cigar-shaped. The ship was propelled, he said, by a large steel device shaped like a snail shell at each end. Gasoline

engines powered these devices.

Southard said he learned the ship was loaded with dynamite and was headed for Cuba (Spanish American War). Bombings were planned over Cuba and the Philippine Islands.

"One must admire the ingenuity of either the spaceship's engineers or Mr. Southard's imagination," writes Welsch, "for it was not until a year later that airship engineers in France used a 3½ horsepower gasoline engine. The techniques of bombardment from airships as described by Southard were not to mature for another 20 years. Perhaps Southard's report was inspired by writers like Jules Verne whose works were widely circulated in 1897."

Reports on the celestial visitor during this time also came from South Dakota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana. There even was one "sighting" in Cripple Creek.

Through May the visitations continued almost nightly. Then the mysterious visitor disappeared. Such phenomena were not seen again for some 40 years when reports of "unidentified flying objects" once again titillated the all-too-willing-to-believe public.



Frances Melrose is the historical columnist for the *Rocky Mountain News*. Write to her at 400 W. Colfax Ave., Denver, Colo., 80204.

DAILY CAMERA, Boulder, CO - May 26, 1994 CR: M. Quire

Doctor sues over suspension for belief UFOs carry angels

By MATT TRUELL
Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. — A physician who believes UFOs carry angels and aliens plant thoughts in his head should be awarded damages because the state suspended his medical license for nearly three years, his lawyer argues.

Dr. Stephan S. Corder may have "somewhat complicated" beliefs, lawyer Alan V. Johnson told the Kansas Supreme Court.

But those beliefs were no reason for the state Board of Healing Arts to suspend his license in March 1989 pending the outcome of a psychiatric examination, Johnson said Tuesday.

Corder believes that unidentified flying objects are real and the beings inside them are angels from God, Johnson told the justices, who didn't say when they would rule.

Court records say Corder be-

lieves beings on UFOs communicated with him while he slept by planting thoughts in his brain. He believes he saw St. Peter and extraterrestrials at a drive-in restaurant in his hometown of Ot-tawa.

Deputy state Attorney General John Campbell said the case is not about freedom of religion. "I'm sorry; it's about things such as seeing St. Peter at the Sonic Drive-In," he told the justices.

Corder is seeking \$185,000 in damages. His license was reinstated in 1992 after a psychiatric evaluation concluded that

his beliefs did not interfere with his practice of medicine.

The doctor sued the board in Shawnee County District Court, which threw out his case.

Johnson said the board should have conducted a hearing that would have allowed Corder to contest whatever evidence existed to support the emergency suspension.

Campbell said that Corder refused to submit to a psychiatric exam. His license would have been reinstated much sooner had he taken the exam when the Board of Healing Arts requested it.

HERALD TIMES REPORTER,
Manitowoc, WI - March 22,
1994 CR: R. Heiden

Police notified of strange lights

MANITOWOC — Several people called Manitowoc police around 9 p.m. Monday indicating they saw strange lights over Lake Michigan, according to police Detective Capt. Roger Hartman.

Each of the people described the airborne lights as red, white and blue. Officers responded to the lakefront area and observed for a short time until being called away on another matter, but saw nothing matching the description provided.

A police official called the Coast Guard to determine if there were any military maneuvers taking place at the time, but there were not.

JOHN MACK

"I didn't realize that I was having sex with aliens until just a few months ago," Peter Faust is saying over coffee in the living room of his Watertown, Mass., home. "Things unfold: it went from sperm samples to knowing that it had something to do with hybrid children, to knowing that my sperm was somehow being used with extraterrestrials, to seeing myself with an extraterrestrial female."

This tapestry unfolded over the course of a year and a half and eight hypnosis sessions with a Pulitzer Prize-winning Harvard psychiatrist named John E. Mack.

Faust wasn't the only one telling Mack stories. Over the last few years, nearly 100 other U.F.O. "abductees" found their way to him, and told the 64-year-old psychiatrist at Cambridge Hospital stories as bizarre as any he'd encountered in more than 30 years on the wards.

Time and time again he heard of people being floated through walls on beams of light into spaceships, and of people lying paralyzed on tables under alien assault. He was told of "tagging" devices implanted in sinuses and eyeballs removed and put back. From the descriptions of the fetuslike aliens — known, in U.F.O. parlance, as Grays — to the experiments they performed, the sex was nonstop: men told of anal probes and forced sperm-taking; women, artificial insemination and removal of embryos. Mack heard that a human-alien hybrid race was being created on the ships: listless, huge-eyed, wispy-haired children that look like Keane paintings on chemo.

For a Freudian psychoanalyst, this material was compelling. Mack's interest in these patients, and the book he was writing about them, would not have caused a stir.

Except that he believed them.

THERE HAS BEEN A SPATE OF BOOKS ON HUMAN encounters with extraterrestrials — most notably Whitley Strieber's 1987 "Communion," the best-selling book with the

big-eyed alien on the cover. But none by an author with the credentials of John Mack, whose book "Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens" is to be published next month by Scribners.

"I really knew when I first talked with them that this was something that I could not explain psychiatrically," Mack says of his patients. He is in his tiny office, just large

enough for a desk and chair, a couch and a Tibetan tanka. "It didn't sound like it behaved like anything that had a psychiatric origin. It behaved like a trauma." And traumas come from *outside*. Mack,

Humans report abduction by aliens! Harvard psychiatrist swears it's true!

BY STEPHEN RAE

the author of the classic "Nightmares and Human Conflict," also was convinced these stories weren't dreams: They had a narrative consistency, within themselves and from person to person. He was sure his abductees were not making up stories to get attention. "They don't *want* to believe it! It's the *last* thing they want! They want to be told that this is a dream, that this is even madness." What strikes a visitor most about him are his hands: always in motion, painting pictures, grabbing at you, trying to bring you into his vision.

We are talking in the Macht Building, the red-brick home of Cambridge Hospital's renowned psychiatry department. It might have been called the Mack Building, after its founding director, if a psychiatrist named Macht hadn't died first and if Mack's colleagues hadn't feared their beloved professor had gone mad. Of course, people thought Mack was crazy back in the early 60's, too, when he joined the derelict municipal

facility. But then Harvard, in a stab at town-gown rapprochement, affiliated with the hospital. Clearly, Mack was anything but nuts. He built the psychiatry department from scratch and helped turn around the other departments, earning much of the credit for shaping the hospital into another jewel in Harvard's teaching crown.

Later, Mack, a German Jew from New York, would cut a quixotic figure on a camel, traipsing around Jordan to research the psychoanalytic biography of T. E. Lawrence that would win a Pulitzer Prize in 1977. "I was traveling among the Bedouin, trying to get the principles of diplomacy and negotiation, which I would then come back and apply to the City Council here," he says. Mack was always bridging something. In 1980 he even met with Yasser Arafat in a Beirut safe house.

In 1983, Mack and Robert Jay Lifton, a Yale psychiatrist, founded the Center for Psychological Studies in the Nuclear Age as a Harvard Medical School affiliate. Now called the Center for Psychology and Social Change, it shifted perceptions of the psychodynamics of human conflict, bringing into currency concepts like "us vs. them." It connected Russians and Americans, Arabs and Jews, and helped them to acknowledge the sense of victimization of the "other" and to challenge the cultural identity that said, "I exist in opposition to you."

"He really is, you know, a do-gooder," a friend says. And always a seeker. "In medical school, he was the first to get into psychoanalysis, and he had not just one psychoanalysis but two."

Mack's identification with Lawrence was so intense that friends read his book in part as self-analysis. "[Lawrence] had certain confusions of identity similar to mine," Mack agrees. "What fascinated me was the resonance between the inner world and the acted-out, political world, and how we try to transform the world according to our inner struggles and needs." He quotes Lawrence's famous vision of a "new commonwealth," in which "white and red and yellow and brown and black will stand up together . . . in the service of the world." Given that Mack's "Abduction" is likely to obscure all his past accomplishments, this could also be his epitaph — if you add the Gray.

EVEN BEFORE HIS WORK WITH U.F.O. abductees, Mack's quest led him down what are considered heretical paths. It was a stunner when this prominent member of the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute questioned psychoanalysis. "I think there are places the Freudian system has trouble going," he says, citing dissatisfaction with his own analyses and their "endless" rehashing of childhood events. For an emerging activist, the rarefied air of psychoanalysis — the blank screen, the silence, the mirroring — was stultifying.

Then Mack found EST. "He was very struck by how powerful these large-group experiences could be on the workings of people's lives, including his own," says Dr. Edward Khantzian, a longtime colleague. "And I told John way back then that I think he discovered the power of groups too late in his

career and was too, uh, taken in." Mack served on EST's board of directors, and in 1982 he brought Werner Erhard to Harvard to speak. "It raised eyebrows because people saw Erhard as a con man," Khantzian says. "I was given a terrible time by the powers that be," Mack admits.

In 1987, at a United States-Soviet conference of physicians at the Esalen Institute, he met Stanislav Grof, a Czech-born psychiatrist who had written much about LSD and consciousness expansion. Grof and his wife, Christina, had developed a therapy they called holotropic breathwork. It used Eastern breathing techniques and percussive music to produce LSD-like changes in consciousness without the legal risks.

Mack found it revelatory. "I became in touch profoundly with the loss of my mother as an infant and my father's grief at the time," he says. Grof's system of transpersonal psychology also smashed the boundary constraints imposed by psychoanalysis, recognizing that in any human connection, a "co-creation" or "commingling of consciousness" goes on.

Mack plunged into Eastern philosophy and shamanism. He read Huxley's "Doors of Perception" and Castaneda's "Teachings of Don Juan." A straight-ahead guy who passed up the chance to take LSD in the 50's, when it was offered to Harvard psychiatric residents as a way to mimic a schizophrenic state, Mack had sat out the 60's drugfest. He made up for that now.

The John Mack who emerged from these explorations was possessed of

the notion that humanity's present predicament was rooted in the 300-year-old paradigm of Western dualism, which severed awareness of connection to one another, the environment and the cosmos; and in materialism, which cuts off spiritual realms. Every previous culture has accepted "a huge range of entities and gods and spirits" who share our universe," Mack says.

So Mack was predisposed to seeing entities the winter day in 1990 that he met Budd Hopkins, father of the U.F.O. abduction movement. Hopkins showed Mack the proof he'd amassed: photos of strange scars and scoop marks and a collection of symbols seen on the alien ships. Mack met people who said they'd been abducted and came away convinced. "They were very straightforward, healthy-minded folks who had had these unusual experiences," he recalls. "Their stories jibed, and as far as I could tell, they hadn't heard this from anybody else, and it all seemed very real."

And he was fascinated by the entities. "They seem to act like spirit beings much of the time," Mack observes. Yet they "penetrate and enter the physical world, and to that extent they're a little different from spirit entities."

Mack began seeing abductees that spring. Ignoring friends' pleas that he "stay in the closet with this one," he delivered papers at U.F.O. conferences and was elected to the board of directors of the Mutual U.F.O. Network. He was a consultant on the "Intruders" TV movie, in which Richard Crenna, as a psychiatrist who discovers abductees

among his patients, played a Mack-Hopkins hybrid. And he contributed the foreword to "Secret Life: Firsthand Accounts of U.F.O. Abductions," by David M. Jacobs, a Temple University historian.

"A huge, strange interspecies or interbeing breeding program has invaded our physical reality and is affecting the lives of hundreds of thousands, if not millions of people," Mack wrote.

"Oliver Stone, call your office," The New Republic jeered.

IT WOULD TAKE ALL OF MACK'S diplomatic skills to reconcile the ultimate us-them: terrestrial vs. extraterrestrial. To help abductees shed their isolation, Mack set up the Program for Extraordinary Experience Research. He helped them recover memories in hypnotic screamathons. When combined with breathwork, Mack says, hypnosis undoes the repression of memory imposed by the aliens. As the traumas are brought to consciousness, relieved with "feelings of terror, rage and grief as intense as any I have encountered as a psychiatrist," their power was dissipated.

It was tougher to overcome what he calls ontological shock, "the bleak realization that what they have experienced actually occurred and that reality as they have defined it is forever altered." Most abductees came to Mack plagued by what they call vivid dreams and what Mack calls denial. The "undoing of denial," he writes, is effected by having the

(continued on page 3) 2

abductee stare into the "engulfing, searching eyes" of the alien. "This will make them real and remove, once and for all, the denial that has operated as a psychological defense." With the end of denial comes a "shift in their relation to the alien beings," Mack found. A more reciprocal and "even loving" relationship evolves; us-themness diminishes. The more communicative aliens may impart "useful information about fundamental ecological and global dangers," like nuclear war. For Mack, ever the diplomat, the key was to stop fighting.

Describing one abductee's experience, Mack writes, once he "surrendered," he was enlightened about "the way humans are conducting themselves here in terms of international politics, our environment, our violence to each other, our food and all that" — by an alien who sounds just like Mack.

If this smacks of "commingling" or "co-creation of consciousness," Mack disputes the notion. "That would imply that I'm creating the ideas," he says vehemently. "These people are very hard to lead. You throw curves at them: 'Was the hair brown or yellow?' No hair. You can't influence them. This idea that the hypnotist somehow leads them is just not the way it is."

He acknowledges that it is possible to implant false memories under hypnosis, but only memories of inconsequential events — an issue at the center of fierce debates over recovered memories of Satanic cults and childhood sexual abuse. The people at Mack's research program tell me of a Cambridge Hospital psychiatrist whose studies back up this assertion, but in what I've noticed to be a trend among Mack's colleagues, he doesn't return my phone calls.

"NOBODY BELIEVES IT," SNAPS DR. Malkah Notman in her Cambridge Hospital office. She is acting chairwoman of the psychiatry department and Mack's boss. "I wish he were doing something else. This is so off-base." Like other Mack colleagues who don't dodge me, Notman gives

the clear impression that she would rather be swallowing glass. "I think it's part of an ongoing search that he's had for issues he defines as spiritual," she ventures sympathetically. "It fits in with his interest in EST and even the nuclear and nationalism issues — you know, a kind of international presence or cooperation."

Mack is increasingly being compared with Timothy Leary, who gave LSD for homework and was dismissed from Harvard in 1963. But Mack's tenure and issues of academic freedom would insure his right to research.

"I don't know any of his colleagues who would say, 'You gotta stop this,'" Notman declares, drawing a line between believing in someone's work and letting him pursue it, "as long as it doesn't cause any harm."

But some worry that Mack may indeed be causing harm. "We're terribly concerned that he is hurting himself, his patients and psychiatry," says a friend who attributes Mack's recent separation from his wife of 34 years to his abduction "obsession." He raises the specter of Wilhelm Reich, the psychiatrist whose notions about orgone energy destroyed his career.

"I would almost buy the Brooklyn Bridge from him," Philip J. Klass says of Mack. Klass, the publisher of the Skeptics U.F.O. Newsletter, says the abductees are not crazy. Those he's met are just "people seeking celebrity status," people who would never otherwise be invited on Oprah Winfrey's show. "They are, he says, 'little nobodies.'"

Carl Sagan, a longtime acquaintance who had once donned a blindfold and headphones and breathed rapidly and deeply to evocative rhythms when Mack got into breathwork, is also concerned. In 1991 he came up from Cornell University to discuss the validity of the alien abduction claims.

"I tried to argue that on issues of this importance, extraordinary claims demand extraordinary evidence," Sagan says. "And John would have none of that. He was quite content with anecdotal

cases and his judgment that these people must be telling the truth because they are so extremely distraught." Sagan's article debunking alien abductions in Parade magazine last year did not help their relationship.

"Hallucinations are common," Sagan wrote, and "may occur to perfectly normal people under ordinary circumstances." But they are also associated with sleep paralysis, a little-known but surprisingly prevalent occurrence, striking at least 8 percent of the population. In twilight states between sleep and wakefulness, people may feel paralyzed and sense strange presences. Sexual stimulation is often reported, a result of a diminished flow of oxygen to the brain. In the Middle Ages, these presences were called succubi and incubi. Later, fairies were said to paralyze and rape human victims.

"Is it possible that people in all times and places occasionally experience vivid, realistic hallucinations, often with sexual content — with the details filled in by the prevailing cultural idioms sucked out of the Zeitgeist?" Sagan asked.

His friend was kind. Others will be less so. But Mack is almost mystically detached and certain that he is right.

"WE'RE PREPARING FOR AN ON-SLAUGHTER HERE," says Vivienne Simon, executive director of the Center for Psychology and Social Change. "When you have a Harvard professor who is saying these people aren't crazy, and not only are they not crazy, but I've been able to help them, and in some cases actually embrace it, then you've got a flood of people" at the door, she says.

In anticipation of the tsunami, a new telephone system has been installed to route callers: abductees to one extension to leave confidential messages; therapists to the network coordinator; abductees who want to be studied to the research department; overseas callers to the international

coordinator; journalists to the program director.

"A year ago my board was flipping out about this," says Simon, a 43-year-old lawyer who used to coordinate Greenpeace's campaign against the nuclear industry. "I've watched a tremendous change, from when people were afraid John was losing his mind to the point where they are really beginning to understand."

(That might have something to do with why some members of the board of directors left.)

JOHN MACK IS NOT ALL alone. Some colleagues who have met his patients at grand rounds and less formal settings come away scratching their heads. Khantzian recalls a woman who seemed "quite responsive and available and connected — all those nice, healthy things." He says a common reaction to a Mack case conference is "I went in disbelieving and I came out not knowing what to believe."

Though Mack may be "on the front lines of abductee research," as his book jacket puts it, he's got lots of company in the rear guard. "There is what is sometimes called the Hidden College" of U.F.O. abduction researchers, an M.I.T. physicist says — a sort of closet intelligentsia. "But they keep their heads down, they don't want their names in the papers."

As is true of most other U.F.O. abductees who have been studied, psychological tests suggest that Peter Faust isn't crazy. Nor is his story all that unusual. A 1991 Roper survey revealed that 2 percent of American adults had experienced four or five of the "strong indicators" of having been abducted.

And John Mack has made Peter Faust and others feel better. Between Faust's first meeting with Mack, when he remembered abductions from childhood, and his third, in which he saw the "little black chip" implanted in his brain, he felt abandoned and helpless.

But after that "dark night of the soul," the 36-year-old acupuncturist came to know that he was "connected to something infinitely wiser and more powerful than I could understand, that the phenomenon had some meaning that was greater than just me and the sperm sample."

Subsequent regressions taught Faust, who has a psychotherapist to help him deal with what he uncovers with Mack, that the aliens were "longing to connect." More recently he discovered the extraterrestrial girlfriend he'd been breeding with "for eons." More striking was the vision he had of himself as an alien.

"A new breed or 'tribe,' a hybrid form, is being created between the alien race or races and human beings," Mack, ever hopeful, proclaims in his book. "Peter and other men and women like him with a dual alien-human identity, appears to be playing a vital role ... breeding with an alien or hybrid mate to produce offspring that would be able to survive in some sort of post-apocalyptic future."

Membership in this vanguard may have its privileges, but it leaves Faust with questions. "Did John's spiritual bent affect all of us, or did our experiences influence him?" he asks.

"Is it real? I'm always left with: How much of my memories are real? Is some of it the book I read 20 years ago that is somehow lurking in my deepest memory? Are my memories true or are some of them true and other ones part of psychologically transferring a father figure onto John and trying to please him and stay the center of attention — is that part of it, or are my regressions, each one, part of my reality and part of my experience?"

"Believe me," he says. "That's why I'm in therapy." ■

Stephen Rae is a New York writer.

SENTINEL, Hanford, CA - April 9, 1994

Group petitions for UFO papers

ROBERT JUMP
Sentinel Staff Writer

A document referring to a 1947 crash near Roswell, N.M. is being circulated for signatures in an attempt to get released all U.S. documents pertaining to UFOs or extraterrestrial intelligence.

The "Roswell Declaration" is making rounds through the Mutual UFO Network, the Center for UFO Studies and the Fund for UFO Research.

In 1947 near Roswell, New Mexico, several individuals saw what they claimed to be the crash of a flying saucer. The day of the crash a local newspaper published a story with comment from an official Air Force source stating that an extraterrestrial craft had indeed crashed. The next day the source was denied and official sources claimed that the crashed craft had been misidentified and in fact was a weather balloon. Theories that a cover-up took place have surrounded the story ever since.

"In struggling to bring this information to the people, we do not seek in any way to impair or obstruct the government of this country from carrying out its legal and Constitutional duties," said Kent Jeffrey of Fairfax, author of the declaration.

"What we do seek is to end what we believe is the abuse of power by certain factions or individuals within the government. By deliberately withholding information on Roswell, and consequently

on extraterrestrial intelligence, we feel they are abusing the power entrusted to them," said Jeffrey.

In a prepared statement received from Jeffrey, the author of the Roswell Declaration told another story that has been televised on Unsolved Mysteries, and has local UFO buffs talking about what has been called evidence of extraterrestrial spacecraft.

In 1991 the Belgian Ministry of Defense released radar tapes from two Belgian Air Force F-16's that had been scrambled to intercept a UFO. The unidentified craft had been detected by several ground based radar installations and had also been witnessed by numerous individuals on the ground including police officers. The tape showed digital readouts of the changing speed and altitude of the object which at one point jumps 200 meters in altitude after one of the F-16s attained a radar missile lock.

"It's hard to imagine such an event ever taking place here. Perhaps the world's greatest democracy could learn a few things about a free and open society from its small NATO ally," said Jeffrey.

Copies of the Roswell Declaration may be obtained by writing the Mutual UFO Network, Inc. 103 Oldtowne Road Seguin, Texas 78155-4099.

MUFON also requests anyone having sighted a UFO to contact the organization at 233-6892.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - May 25, 1994

Borrowed Earthlings Come Home Wearing Unfamiliar Clothing

By Patti Weatherford

Having just returned from the First Annual Tampa UFO Convention, I thought I might mention a few things you readers might be interested in. The convention featured such well known names as Budd Hopkins, Stanton Friedman, Dr. Karla Turner, Zecharia Sitchin, Betty Andreasson Luca, Dr. Raymond Moody, and more. Space and time (3 dimensional, that is) does not permit me to comment on everything covered in the lectures and workshops.

Budd Hopkins, author of *Missing Time* and *Intruders*, was full of new information, as usual. For those of you who may not know, he researches and writes about the "abduction" experience. The abduction experience involves being "borrowed" for a little while by beings of unknown origin. As far as researchers know, you are returned, but sometimes a little worse for wear, i.e. with some unexplained bruises or scars. One interesting fact is that these bruises are not sore to the touch. Budd also mentioned one of his cases where a female was abducted wearing her Victoria Secret teddy and was returned wearing a big, bulky man's t-shirt. In another case, a woman went to sleep wearing her pajamas and woke up wearing a t-shirt with the name of a Japanese university written on it. He plans to try to track down a person at the university who may have lost a t-shirt under unusual

circumstances.

Research has indicated in the past that multiple abductions are occurring, involving people from different parts of the country and world. Now it seems that these beings are not always getting the right clothes back on the right people! I guess I should explain that these abductions frequently involve a medical type examination. Therefore the clothes are removed for this process. I certainly do not want to make light of the abduction phenomenon because it sometimes does have a detrimental effect on earthly life, personalities, and relationships. Budd does not feel that this is the intent of these beings, but is a side effect of the interaction.

If you feel that possibly you have had abduction experiences and wish to talk with someone about them, confidentially or in a support group, call 438-3261 and leave a message.

A fascinating workshop was con-

ducted by Franceen King, M.A., associated with the Monroe Institute, located in Virginia. The institute was founded in the 50's by Robert Monroe. He initiated research into the use of sound to accelerate learning, expand consciousness, stop addictive behavior, overcome fears, or maintain certain states of mind or awareness. He developed Hemi-Sync Technology which involves the use of sound tones to synchronize the hemispheres of the brain. They do have tapes available, workshops available in Florida, or they offer training at the institute in Virginia. For more information you may contact Franceen King, 14716 Oak Vine Dr., Lutz, FL 33549, (813)971-8808.

If you wish to purchase audio tapes of the lectures or workshops from the convention call (904) 432-8888. Also remember to report your UFO sighting to the UFO Hotline - 438-3261.

Starry,
starry
night
No explanations
for last night's
lights in the sky

By JOHN RILEY
and JUDSON BROWN
Staff Writers

NORTHAMPTON — Muffled explosions and bright yellow lights floating over Northampton last night caught the attention — and imagination — of countless sky-watchers.

Police say they received hundreds of telephone calls about the lights, which appeared to drift west and fade out around 9:30 p.m. The display lasted 15 to 20 minutes, leaving people awed — and filled with questions.

Helen Torrey, of Deerfield Drive in Florence, called the sighting "absolutely the weirdest thing I have ever seen in my life."

The lights appeared to flick on and off, suggesting other-worldly things to a crowd of seventh and eighth graders coming out of a rehearsal of "Bye Bye Birdie" at the JFK Middle School.

"Aliens!" "Beam me up Scottie!" they shouted, amid laughter.

Many ventured theories on what it was that had been seen. But today, no one explanation was available.

Instead, there were apparent dead ends:

- Radar screens at Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee picked up no significant occurrences in the sky between 9:30 p.m. and 10 p.m., when the lights were seen from the ground. A spokeswoman for the base said no military aircraft were on maneuvers at the time.

- An Federal Aviation Administration official said air traffic controllers at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, Conn., saw no unusual activity over Northampton last night.

"There was nothing in our log indicating anything out of the ordinary," said Ed Garlick, an FAA supervisor.

- Police had suggested that falling parachutists checking wind conditions may have set flares.

But David Strickland, of Airborne Adventure Skydiving School, based at the Northampton Airport, said no one with his company was out last night. "People are seeing things all the time," he said.

At the airport, pilot Kate Clayton-Jones said she had just landed a plane and was on the ground when she too spotted the lights. "A student I was with said it was like Saint Elmo's fire," said Clayton-Jones.

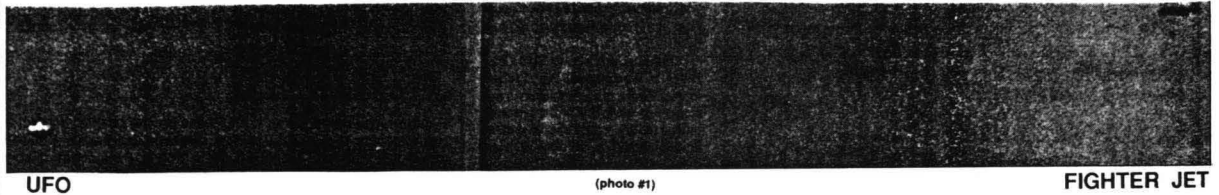
Saint Elmo's fire is a phenomenon in which electricity at large in the atmosphere discharges on an object like an airplane's wing or mast of a ship.

- Descriptions differ radically from earlier accounts this week of sightings of the aurora borealis — or "northern lights."

Lori Devine-Hudson of Northampton said she saw lights around 9:30 p.m. through her bedroom window — and quickly went outside with family members to watch the spectacle from Pilgrim Drive. "They were moving from east to west, but there was no sound," she said. "We saw a stream of about six different things."

At one point, family members heard the sounds of three explosions. Some of the lights appeared to be dropping.

On Saturday, Andrew Kuether of Burts Pit Road saw a light, randomly blinking light over Northampton. Police said they received about four telephone calls that night reporting the sighting.



"UFOs Are Real and the military knows it!"

Dr. Bruce Maccabee



Startling Photos Capture Unidentified Flying Object, Fighter Aircraft

The Experts Say...

By Bland Pugh

"These photographs prove two things. (1) UFOs are real and (2) the military knows it!" That is the conclusion of Dr. Bruce Maccabee, one of the nations leading photo analysts.

Dr. Maccabee and Jeff Sainio, a nationally recognized computer imaging expert, say they are "stunned" by a UFO photograph taken on January 12, 1994, at Pensacola Beach. Dr. Maccabee, who is an optical physicist, said,

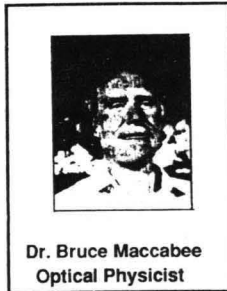
Strong Evidence

"These photos along with an earlier video tape are amazing, some of the strongest evidence I have ever seen in my twenty years of photo analysis." Jeff Sainio said, "This photo, shows a UFO and a fighter jet. I say to you with absolute confidence that there is no evidence of trickery." Using photogrammetry techniques, Jeff Sainio concluded that the 64 foot fighter (Sainio used figures based on the dimensions of an F-15) was about 1.6 miles away. Based on that distance, Sainio calculated the size of the UFO to be 32 feet wide if the UFO was approximately 500 to 1,000 feet beyond the jet.

The photographer, Ed Walters, is no stranger to

the sometimes strange world of UFO sightings. Ed said, "On that morning at about 10:20 a.m., I saw the UFO out over the Sound towards Deep Point. It was stationary, hovering and glinting in the hazy sky. I took my zoom lens camera outside and steadied myself to take a picture. At the same time, I heard three jets approaching from the north. One jet came straight at the UFO, the other two stayed higher. That is when I took the first shot. Then I zoomed in on the UFO and as the jet raced by, I took a second picture. The jets circled and came back toward the UFO but the UFO raced away so fast I could hardly tell which direction it went. When I got the film developed I was surprised to see that I had managed to catch the jet in front of the UFO."

Ed released both photographs to the experts and explained that "if it had not been for the jets I most likely would not have said anything about the sighting. I am very uncomfortable



able with the ongoing UFO debate. With my general contracting business in full swing, I do not have a lot of time to spare. It seems there are always the same few people who are ready to make up false 'hoax' stories. Several years ago the media was tricked into printing a bogus story about a toy UFO model. It took a long time for the truth about that prankster's model to be told. But, to this day, the nay-sayers keep trying to say that all the hundreds of UFO witnesses in Gulf Breeze and Pensacola Beach are crazy. And naturally the official statement from the military is "no comment".

No Information

Ed was correct about no response from the military at the official level. The Eglin Air Force public relations officer said, "Sorry, we have no information on any F-15's in that area."

It has been confirmed that Eglin AFB uses the F-15. The Navy flies F-14's and F-18's, both have a similar but different profile from that of the F-15.

Pilots with the TAC 33F-15 Squadron based at Eglin AFB, who wish to withhold their names, said they knew nothing about any such incident. But, they agreed the photo does appear to be an F-15. "Maybe it was some of the guys over at the Training Squad-

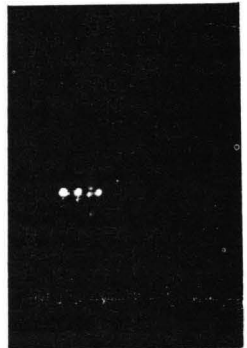
ron." Other officers suggested the jet could be an F-4 flown by other branches of the military.

Skeptical?

What about a toy F-15 model hanging by a string? The experts say "No hoax, the photo is legit." Sainio said, "By using a 2-dimensional FFT spectrum I can say definitely that there is no string, only the expected sky brightness gradient. As for the toy model idea, the jet image in the first picture is quite diffuse, evidence that the jet was more than a mile distant. The UFO, jet and distant shore line are all of similar focus, supporting my conclusion that all were over a mile away."

Fighter Aircraft

Dr. Maccabee agreed and conducted an independent analysis. Maccabee noting that several other "double vertical stabilizer" type aircraft and the single stabilizer F-4 have been suggested. "All the fighter aircraft that have been suggested as appearing in the photos have lengths in the range of 55-65 feet and hence calculations of distance and size can be based on any one of them. For this paper (Maccabee's report) the airplane is assumed to be the F-15", Maccabee also said, "A wealth of information can be determined from the two photographs. For example, in the first photograph, the jet has an altitude of 1,700 feet and the UFO has an altitude of 1,600 feet. The jet and UFO are approximately 3,600 feet apart and at a speed of 410 mph the jet passed in front of the UFO in 6 seconds as seen in the second photo. Also, in the second photograph, Maccabee confirmed that the UFO was 1.6 miles away and is 32 feet wide."



A Fighter Jet passes in front of a UFO over Santa Rosa Sound.

(photo #2)

So there it is. The two experts agree the fighter jet and the UFO were there. The military says "no way" and the investigation continues.

The key to solving this puzzle is the fighter. Because the jet is in front of the UFO it is strong evidence that the UFO is real and we can only wonder what the pilots were thinking when they got a close up daytime sighting of a real UFO. But according to Gary Watson, Asst. State Director for the Mutual UFO Network for North Florida, the pilots are not alone.

Multiple Sightings

"Over the past several years the Gulf Breeze and Pensacola Beach area have been swamped with UFO sightings. During 1991-92 alone, there were over one hundred and forty documented UFO sightings recorded by MUFON field investigators." All I can say is two things, KEEP LOOKING UP and BEHIND YOU!

This article which will also appear in the Florida MUFON News is printed exclusively in The Islander Newspaper with written permission of the FMN publisher.

Last night, Maria Talcott of Hawley Street saw glowing and flickering lights outside her home. "People were pulling over and getting out," she said. "It couldn't have been a meteor shower, because the cloud cover was so thick. We couldn't see stars."

She's been reading "Abduction" by author John Mack. "It's a scary book. They talk about these lights," Talcott said. "The way these were moving, they weren't planes — there was no sound."

At the middle school, students saw the lights flash on for a second or two and then fade out, sometimes leaving a small residue of sparks and then a faint trace image, according to one witness.

The sparks seemed to be arrayed in a loose vertical column, although they formed no discernible pattern. Over the course of 10 minutes, they drifted across the zenith and into the western sky, gradually diminishing in number from a high of about a dozen at once to none at all.

While the JFK students looked up in amazement, high school student Jeremy Bristol and friends elsewhere in Florence had noticed something similar.

Bristol said he got out his video camera and climbed to the roof of his house at 30 Scanlon Ave. to record the phenomenon.

Bristol said he noticed when a plane went by that three of the sparks seemed to form a triangle and appeared to pulsate at a fast rate. "We were in total awe," he said.

CR: B. Greenwood

The Lights: A veteran pilot's story

By LARRY PARNASS
Staff Writer

EASTHAMPTON — As a veteran pilot, Michael Garjian is trained to recognize objects in the sky, gauge their likely altitudes and keep his own panic at bay.

When he became one of hundreds of Valley residents to see odd lights in the sky Wednesday, he applied practiced powers of observation.

While he will venture no guesses about what it was that people saw, his observations, offered yesterday, may bring some shape to what is a question mark.

Garjian was coming down the hill into Easthampton on Route 141 when he saw the lights, he said yesterday. He was on his

"I'm not willing to say what it was, but I know what it wasn't."

— Pilot Michael Garjian

way home from work in Chicopee, where he runs a company that manufactures neon signs.

His watch said 9:27 p.m. He said he checked an altimeter on his watch and saw that he was 400 feet above sea level — and actually was looking down on the lights.

He said the lights seemed to be coming from a group of eight to 10 separate structures that

together were about 20 times the diameter of the moon as seen from earth.

"These things came on, and they gradually dimmed over a fraction of a second," he said. "None of them was flashing on in a regular manner. They weren't a point source, nor were they a strobe."

Once at the bottom of the hill, Garjian said he turned onto East Street and followed along behind the lights. He estimated he was 1,500 feet from them — about a quarter of a mile.

The lights were orange and yellow, not the traditional colors that mark aircraft. On such crafts, the right wing is green, the left wing is red, the required beacon is flashing red, and a strobe is bright white.

"They came on very bright,

then they fizzled," he said of the lights. "It took them longer to go off than it did to come on."

He said the lights appeared to be coming from small rectangles, perhaps 2-inches by 6 inches in size.

Given his own travel speed, Garjian said the lights appeared to be traveling somewhere between 60 and 80 mph, judging from the ground they were covering.

Because of that speed, he reasons, they could not have been carried aloft by helium or other lighter-than-air balloons. Given a sharp change in direction he observed later, they could not have been hot-air balloons, he said.

And because they were moving laterally, they could not have been held by parachutists, he said.

Garjian stopped his car, got out and watched the lights for about 10 minutes. They passed over the Duda farm and a water tower. He lost sight of them when they went below the tree line.

At one point, he said he

observed the group of lights, which had been traveling along the mountain range, turn 20 degrees west of north and head for Northampton.

"These things changed their direction," he said. "Along the mountain chain they were moving in one direction. Then after they crossed East Street, they headed in a different direction."

Standing outside in the still of the night, he said, he could hear nothing from the lights. While some have suggested the lights could be carried by small ultralight aircraft, Garjian noted that such devices are powered by small two-stroke engines without mufflers and likely would be heard.

Similarly, he said he doubts what people saw was any kind of helicopter, since its blades would have produced both noise and a beating vibration.

"I'm not willing to say what it was," Garjian said. "But I know what it wasn't. I found it an interesting thing to observe. All I'm doing is reporting something I thought was very, very interesting."

CHRONICLE, San Francisco, CA - May 29, 1994

Extraterrestrials and Me

Spacing out
JERRY CARROLL

Every generation has to make up its mind about Unidentified Flying Objects, so I suppose I should get off the time. I mark dates down on the calendar, but something always comes up. The next thing I know the year has flown and the 49ers aren't in the Super Bowl again. Then it's time to start all over again.

One in seven Americans believes in UFOs, according to the latest Gallup poll on the subject. The same poll said one in 10 has spoken to the devil, but that need not detain us any more than does their strange claim to have owned and driven Oldsmobiles.

How comforting to think there is a more advanced race hanging about in flying saucers, wringing long four-fingered hands and wondering how they can keep us from destroying ourselves. If that's their mission. They might have other things up sleeves made of a strange metallic fabric, such as sexual plunder and mind theft. My reading of the literature suggests there's no middle ground.

The UFO thing comes and goes. It's sort of like how malaria sleeps in the blood, waiting for something to awaken its fevers. There is a permanent UFO secretariat headquartered in New Mexico that conducts meetings and collects dues. Membership cards are issued and there is a singles club that sponsors an annual hoedown where rosy-faced guys and gals bob for apples. I'm not talking about this hard-core element.

I mean the sporadic interest shown by the public. The huge success of "E.T." illustrates this, as does "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." Both are among the biggest grossing movies of all time. "Star Trek" (two generations and I'll bet a third is gestating) is further evidence. When Scotty, crusty but lovable engineering officer, and Lieutenant Uhuru, the Enterprise's navigation officer, produce their First Generation memoirs this year, every member of the crew will have written a book. I've read none of them and see no reason to start.

Two books have been lately published about ufology, one by a Pulitzer Prize-winning Harvard psychiatrist named John E. Mack. A thick book with all the trap-

pings of serious scholarship, "Abductions" consists of 13 case studies of people who claim they were kidnaped by extraterrestrials. These had small bodies and big heads with large dark eyes that peered into the minds of the abductees, knocking down defenses and sweeping away pretense.

Many of the men abducted claimed semen samples were taken from them as they lay on laboratory tables, while the women complained of medical procedures aimed at removing eggs or embryos. No money was taken.

Typically, the abductees Mack put on the couch reported they were immobilized and transported to spacecraft. Snatched from bed and moving car, they often saw themselves pass through solid walls. Some said this had happened in childhood as well as in adulthood. Others believed they were themselves aliens, put here to check things out or change human consciousness. Some didn't like the extraterrestrials for the pain and terror they were put through. Others loved the creatures for their caring warmth.

Mack put these abductees through the standard battery of psychological tests to detect mental illness, but found only one who was nuts in the clinical sense. Significantly, in the psychiatrist's eyes, most of his subjects at first preferred that their experiences be chalked up to delusion rather than real experience. That way they could at least still hold up their heads.

Mack said he saw no reason to disbelieve their accounts and every reason to believe them. By use of the same hypnosis methods employed by the recovered-memory crackpots, he helped the abductees become comfortable with what had happened to them. "I have come to see that the abduction phenomenon has important philosophical, spiritual and social implications," he says in the book.

"Above all, more than any other research I have undertaken, this work has led me to challenge the prevailing worldview or consensus reality which I had grown up believing and had always applied in my clinical/scientific endeavors. According to this view — called variously the Western, Newtonian/Cartesian, or materialist/dualist scientific paradigm — reality is fundamentally grounded in the material world or in what can be perceived by the physical senses." Mack's col-

leagues at Harvard shake their heads and sigh. They speak off the record of Mack's late-blooming interest in psychedelics and the writings of Carlos Castaneda. Mack's wife of 34 years left him, usually a sign of trouble in a marriage.

The other book, "The Truth About the UFO Crash at Roswell" (soon to be a Showtime movie) was produced by the Center for UFO Studies itself. This is the mother church of the movement to wake the world to its peril or opportunity, whichever it is. On July 4, 1947, something fell to earth in the desert near Roswell, New Mexico, scattering strange debris over a wide area. Several people who handled it said it could not be burnt and the material returned to its original shape after being bent. The federal government says it was a weather balloon and, as is well known, it never lies.

However, the following people are among those who believe that it was a space ship: the sheepherder who found it, several archaeologists poking around an Indian dig, several Roswell sheriff's deputies and firemen, several soldiers, a rancher and a young boy, two campers, and a radio reporter. Other witnesses said the bodies of four small-eyed aliens and one survivor were found in and around the craft. The survivor was seen walking into an Army Air Corps hospital and body bags were observed flown off somewhere in a heavily guarded airplane.

I can see why the government would lie, its natural inclinations aside. I can't see why all those eyewitnesses would make up their stories, however. I'll make up my mind by the halftime of the next Super Bowl. The 49ers will be blowing out the New England Patriots 36 to 0. A little green man told me. ■

Jerry Carroll is on the staff of The Chronicle.

Theories plentiful, but hard facts few for night lights

By JOHN RILEY
Staff Writer

NORTHAMPTON — On his videotape, Jeremy Bristol says clearly what he thought of the blinking lights he and people across Northampton were watching Wednesday night.

"UFOs!!" he shouted into the machine's microphone.

Bristol, 18, was one of hundreds to see the lights in the sky — and feels fortunate to have them on tape.

"My friends and I had the videocamera out downstairs in my basement when my neighbor called to tell us about the lights," Bristol said yesterday.

Many have ideas about what they saw, but no one yet seems to have hard facts on what the lights were.

Local aircraft radar revealed no unusual activity and a spokeswoman for Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee said airplanes from the base were not on maneuvers.

Donald Pashek of Linseed Road in Hatfield figured it was just teen-agers lighting flares. "From where we were, they were pretty close. They really looked like starter flares," Pashek said.

A man who tracked the light for several miles in Easthampton offered an account that debunks that theory, saying the lights may have been traveling as fast as 80 miles an hour during their brief visit.

From 9:30 to 9:32 p.m., the lights captured in Bristol's tape can be seen blinking, and then flaring out into a bright splash. Within minutes, they disappear.

Several of the lights on the videotape moved rapidly in different directions. When Bristol caught sight of them, the lights were to the north of his family's Scanlon Avenue home.

He and friend Patrick Horri-gan saw the movie "Fire in the Sky" about UFOs and believe that's what they saw Wednesday night. But evidence is lacking.

For every story like Bristol's, there's countering skepticism.

A University of Massachusetts astronomer, David Van Berkorn, said he remembers a rash of UFO accounts several years ago in Colorado, after news broke there that a local university had won a grant to study the other-worldly phenomena.

Depth perception at night is deceiving, Van Berkorn said, and something that appears high in the sky could be only several-hundred feet away.

In Colorado, the sightings were found to be a hoax when a small craft constructed of candles and a paper balloon shaped like a flying saucer were found.

"It had portholes that made it look like a flying saucer," Van Berkorn said.

He didn't see the lights Wednesday. "I have no idea what they could be," he said.

Mindy McLain of Holyoke believes she does. She was fishing in the Northampton Meadows near Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary when she and a group of friends saw the lights.

Just as one or two of the lights would blink off, she said she saw the outline of a skydiver's parachute.

"It looked like they were trying to land in the field below the jail," she said yesterday.

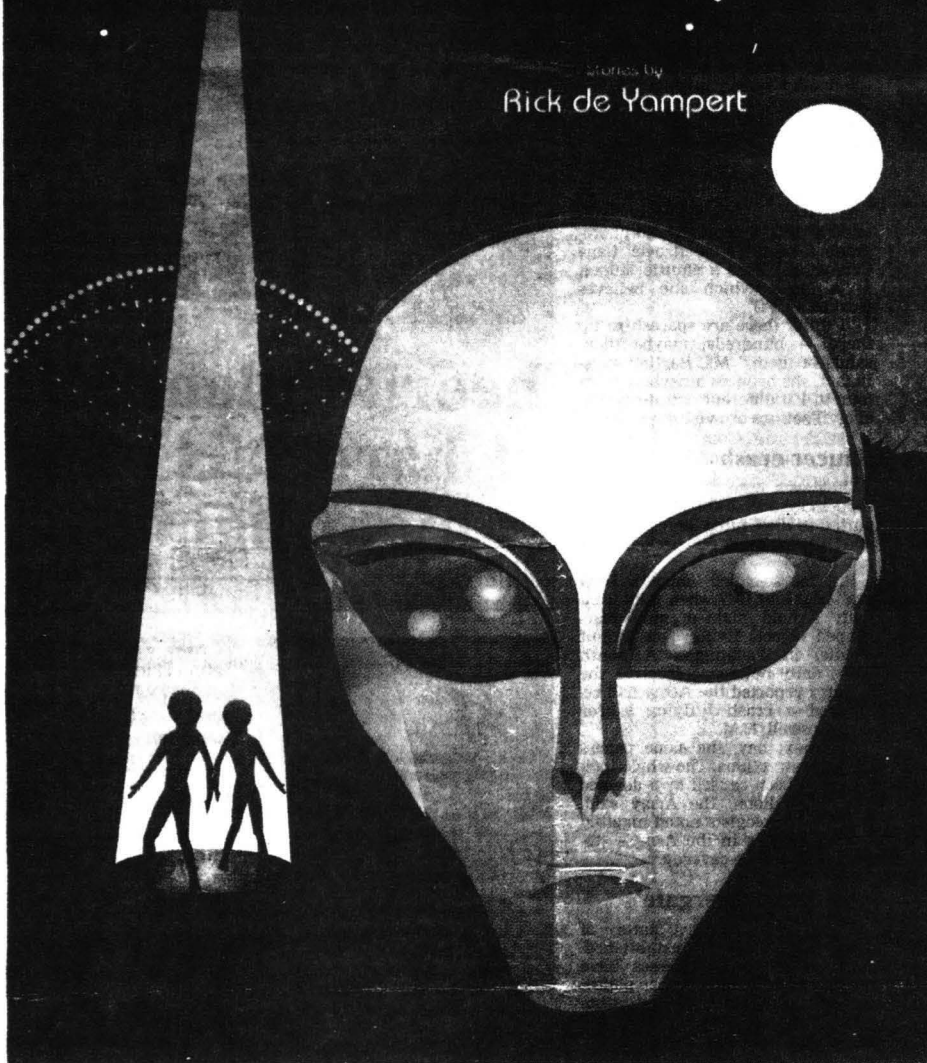
"You could see the outline of a big bubble parachute. At times I could almost figure out the shape of someone, like a leg," she said.

"When some of them stayed lit, we could see a definite bubble," said Nathan Perrier of Easthampton.

McLain's finance, John Carakula of Easthampton, isn't so sure. "I saw the lights like everyone else, but who knows what they could have been?"

Close Encounters

Stories by
Rick de Yampert



News-Journal/Carol Richardson

"This has been a hot UFO area in the last few weeks. Some of it is due to hysteria, no doubt, like a rash, but by no means is all of it."

J. Allen Hynek

J. Allen Hynek, right, made his observation after a 1975 sighting compelled him to visit the Daytona Beach area. The late Hynek was a Northwestern University astronomy professor and an Air Force UFO consultant.



of the article, not the child) "dropped something like a net to the ground, picked up something in the net and hauled it back up to the object" before flying straight up.

The Nov. 15, 1967, News-Journal carried a photo of a UFO snapped by a DeLand teenager. A follow-up article in June 1968 reported the findings of local ufologist George Fawcett, who said tests on the teen's photo proved it to be a hoax.

Curiously, the next great UFO flap, in 1973-75, produced fewer local sightings, but one area report was enough to attract one of the world's leading UFO authorities.

According to a News-Journal article on Dec. 15, 1975, Larry Masters, his family and friends — 11 adults and children in all — saw "what resembled the top of a ferris wheel over the tree line" from their home in Hastings. The John Maltby family of Hastings, a community about nine miles east of Palatka, also witnessed the mysterious lights.

Various accounts described the UFO as "huge, rainbow-colored" and "three times the size of a football field."

The sighting was compelling enough to spur UFO authority J. Allen Hynek to visit the area. The late Hynek, a Northwestern University astronomy professor and an Air Force UFO consultant, told The News-Journal: "This has been a hot UFO area in the last few weeks. Some of it is due to hysteria, no doubt, like a rash, but by no means is all of it."

He added that the sighting "bothers me because from the descriptions it had to be at least the size of the Queen Mary."

As both a MUFON investigator and an independent ufologist, Ms. Smith has been privy to numerous close-encounter reports: A shrimp-er on the St. Johns River followed by a UFO, a "triangle, boomerang thing" spotted off S.R. 40 and I-95 in August '91, a landing in DeLeon Springs, a "big orange ball hanging off the cape" before and after a shuttle launch, tales of the "LGBs."

LGBs? "Little Gray Bastards," she laughs. Though serious about her UFO studies, Ms. Smith's sense of humor is quite intact. LGBs, she

notes, is ufology slang for those most commonly reported aliens — small, bulb-headed, gray beings.

Though she had seen "unusual things I can't explain," her husband was an adamant skeptic until he witnessed "a white jiggling light" over DeLand a few years back.

One of the latest reports — and one of this area's most bizarre — allegedly occurred in DeLand this past January. According to Ms. Smith's source, another witness photographed a UFO and reported the sighting to authorities.

Three hours later, some "military people" arrived at the scene, had the witnesses thumb through a catalog of UFO types and indicate the craft they had seen, confiscated the film and warned the witnesses to stay quiet.

"You get into it (the UFO phenomenon) and it's like a labyrinth," Ms. Smith says. "The more you go into it, the weirder it gets."

Your neighbors may be talking about UFOs

Once upon a time, people who talked of "little green men" and "flying saucers" were ridiculed. These days, psychologists and nuclear physicists, housewives and blue-collar workers gather to discuss UFOs.

Locally, the UFO Forum meets three times a month. For information, call Jenna Bartlett at (904) 428-3888. For information on Don Zanghi's abduction experimenter support group, call 738-3156.

The conference "UFOs and New Frontiers: Connecting with the Larger Reality" will be May 20-22 in Tampa. The conference will feature Budd Hopkins, Stanton Friedman, Zecharia Sitchin and other noted ufologists. For information, call (904) 432-8888.

'Volusia County is a jumping joint'

Extraterrestrial kidnappers and UFO sightings make for high drama on "The X-Files," a television series about a duo who investigate strange phenomena.

A local UFO investigator, as well as The News-Journal, have their own real-life "X-Files," filled with stories of a "Queen Mary-sized, rainbow-colored" UFO in Hastings, a strange, net-dropping craft in Ormond Beach, and a DeLand "close encounter" several months ago which, the account goes, was covered up by government authorities.

"Boy, do I have stories about Volusia County — this is a jumping joint," says Debbie Smith, former director of a local chapter of MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network.

The grass-roots organization is composed of numerous chapters across the nation which investigate UFO reports by following strict MUFON guidelines for collecting and recording data.

Ms. Smith, who recently disbanded her MUFON chapter due to other demands, speculates that the Central Florida coast is a magnet for UFO activity because of the space program at Cape Canaveral.

Like other contemporary "ufologists," she believes UFOs are "probably" due to extraterrestrial visitations. But, aligning with a current strain of ufology, she adds that some sort of other-dimensional, unknown phenomenon may be part of the puzzle.

In either event, Ms. Smith be-

lieves, as do other ufologists, that these strange visitations are serving a purpose — that Planet Earth may be one huge classroom, and a kindergarten at that, with humankind its naive, unschooled students.

"I think we're on a learning curve," she says. The UFO phenomenon will "be intense and then it will die off. It's like we're members of the cosmos and we have to fit in. I think we're being helped to expand our awareness past our own nose, past our own planet."

Ms. Smith has listened to scores of UFO reports from area residents. So has The News-Journal, whose internal library contains a "phenomena file" with published accounts dating back to the late 1950s.

paper reporters as their chartered plane flew from Orlando to Tallahassee at night.

The governor's only comment was, "I will confirm that I saw the same unidentified flying object" the reporters noted. Jack Ledden, a political writer for a Perry newspaper, was more forthcoming: "In shape it resembled two inverted saucers, or parentheses, connected by a long pole."

A June 11, 1967, News-Journal account told of an 8-year-old Ormond Beach girl who saw a large, orange-yellow object which (in the words

"flashed in front of the car and tried to run me off the road." The object rose 100 feet into the sky and headed toward the ocean, she said.

Three other residents reported seeing a "big red ball of fire" that same night, and added the object in no way resembled missile launchings from the cape.

In an April 17, 1966, article, three area teenagers reported seeing three fast-flying, green and white objects over the Atlantic Ocean.

An April 27, 1966 Associated Press account told of a sighting by Gov. Haydon Burns and four news-

Sightings in these local "X-Files" reflect those reports from across the nation and world.

In fact, the great UFO flap of 1965-66 was felt right here. The News-Journal, then published in morning and evening editions, was littered with reports.

"An object resembling a huge sombrero was reported by Mrs. Margaret Parker of South Daytona," read a News-Journal article on April 8, 1966. She told the newspaper she was traveling south on U.S. 1 in South Daytona when an object twice the size of an automobile

(continued on page 7)

Forum explores alien experiences

Wanda felt as if she were being lifted. Then she awoke and "saw" herself floating within an unfamiliar spherical room.

Then she noticed the inhumanly large almond-shaped eyes, the bulbous heads atop ridiculously scrawny, pale-skinned bodies, the prodding silver rods in their three-fingered hands. The "Grays" had come calling.

Wanda, a Matland resident, is recalling her abduction experiences — her close encounters with unidentified flying objects and their alien occupants.

Her stories are mind-boggling. As a 3-year-old, the "little Grays" would appear in her bedroom and play with her. Sometimes she would venture into her backyard to what her young mind thought of

as "the magical oak tree with the elevator that would take me to the sky." As a 16-year-old, she injured her head on a merry-go-round, then awoke in that spherical room, where the Grays and a more human-looking being made her well, she says.

Wanda's audience sits attentive, enthralled — but not shocked. After all, these 90 people have gathered at a regular meeting of the UFO Forum in Edgewater. Most, if not all, of them are familiar with accounts of alien abductions, crashed saucers, coffee-cup-shaped craft buzzing suburbs, and government cover-ups of UFO investigations.

Such topics are everyday fodder at the UFO Forum, founded in March 1993 when Jenna Bartlett, an Edgewater resident and former paralegal, posted notices of a free UFO video showing. She was joined by six fellow "ufologists" — the name researchers of the UFO phenomenon give themselves.

Today, the forum is one of the state's largest UFO interest groups, Ms. Bartlett says. Three meetings, all free, are held each month — two in Edgewater and one in Casselberry, with anywhere from 40 to 70 people attending each.

The forums have featured such guests as "Eddy," an "abduction experimenter" (the term "abductee" is no longer politically correct, ufologists say); author and hypnotist Jiles Hamilton, who has helped people "recover" their suppressed abduction memories; and medium June Schmitt, who discussed the spiritual connection of UFOs.

Circles and clouds

Other meetings have featured video screenings, mostly ufologists' amateur productions. Some sport footage of alleged UFOs. Others are documentary-style explorations of the many strange currents of UFOdom: crop circles; the government's alleged, clandestine dabblings with otherworldly technology; the similarities among the world's religions (part of the "humans are alien offspring" theory).

Ms. Bartlett has never encountered a UFO, though she did photograph a peculiar cloud over Cape Canaveral before a shuttle launch — a cloud which she believes cloaked a UFO.

"I think there are spaceships up there — hundreds, maybe thousands of them," Ms. Bartlett says. In fact, she believes anywhere from four to 100 different extraterrestrial civilizations are visiting Earth.

Saucer crash

Ufologists note that mysterious, zeppelin-like "airships" were reported in the United States, Europe and Australia as far back as the late 1800s.

But the so-called "modern UFO era" began in 1947 when pilot Kenneth Arnold sighted nine disc-shaped objects flying over Mount Rainier in Washington. A month later, daily newspapers across the country reported the Army had recovered a crashed flying saucer near Roswell, N.M.

The next day, the same papers carried retractions. The whole incident had been caused by a downed weather balloon, the Army said. But later, ufologists noted niggling

mental health professionals have even coined the term "experienced anomalous trauma" to describe the distress of clients reporting encounters with UFOs and other paranormal events.

Some of these psychologists are skeptical about the objective reality of their clients' claims. Some are not. But those interviewed in the Omni article all agreed their clients' distress is genuine and said reports of encounters are increasing.

Local 'visitors'

Whether objectively real, UFO abductions are being reported by people here in Central Florida. Don Zanghi, a DeLand clinical hypnotist, ufologist and member of the forum's executive board, directs a local abduction experimenter support group attended by about a dozen people.

"It doesn't take long if you work in this field to see that what these people have experienced is very real," Zanghi says. He subscribes to the extraterrestrial hypothesis but adds that the multidimensional theories may answer part of the complex UFO puzzle.

"People who don't know each other are coming up with the same pattern of events, plus the physical evidence associated with abduction (body scars, nose bleeds) — they corroborate each other's experiences," Zanghi says.

While the "anomalous trauma" term indicates that some psychologists align the abduction experience with post-traumatic stress syndrome, Zanghi says "not all experiences see abduction as traumatic — but it's a very profound experience."

Indeed, Wanda, a member of Zanghi's support group, says some of her abduction experiences have been "intrusive" — particularly her encounters with a "praying mantis-like, disjointed" alien. But many of her encounters — mostly recalled, like those of other contactees, under hypnosis — have been "loving."

Ormond Beach resident Debbie Smith headed a local chapter of MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network, a national grass-roots organization that tabulates and investigates UFO sightings.

Before other demands forced her to abandon her MUFON chapter, Ms. Smith would gather — more often stumble across — fantastic accounts, usually revealed hesitantly by local UFO contactees.

"A woman would tell me, 'I think I've been impregnated by an alien and had my baby taken,'" Ms. Smith recalls. She'd go through her MUFON files, discover similar reports, then relate them to the experimenter.

"That would put their mind at ease," she says. "They'd say, 'Oh, I'm not crazy?' No. These accounts are all written up — lots of people have experienced this."

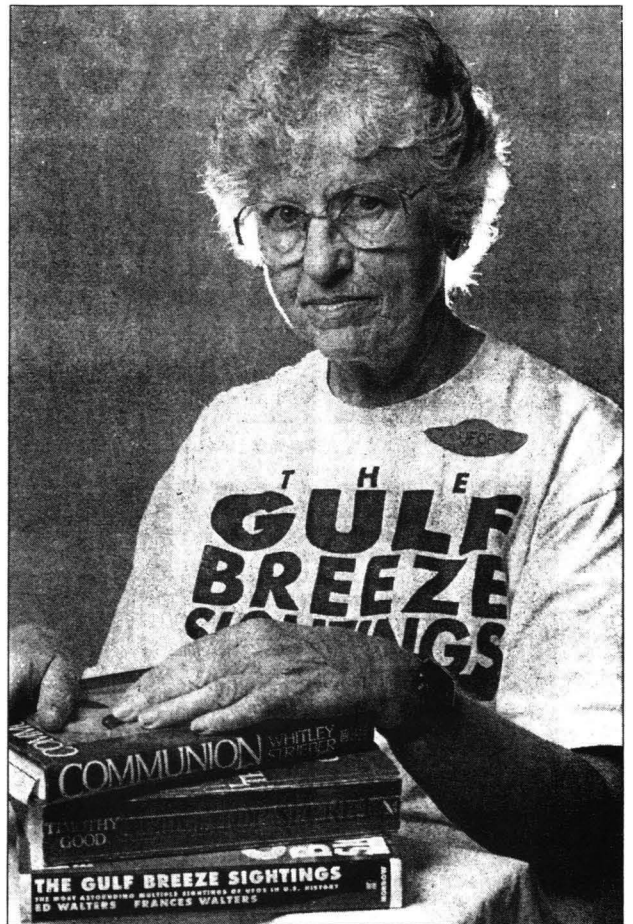
Harvard ufologist

Today, Hopkins, Zanghi, Ms. Smith and Ms. Bartlett find themselves in very good — and well-credentialed — company. John Mack, a Harvard psychiatrist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author, has created a stir with his new book, "Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens." He recently appeared on television on CNN, the "Oprah Winfrey Show" and "48 Hours."

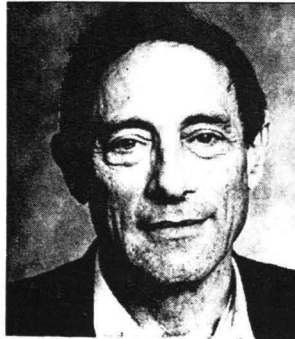
Mack was a quick-to-dismiss skeptic before he met Hopkins in 1990. After Hopkins began referring abduction experiencers to Mack, the psychiatrist became convinced extraterrestrial kidnappings are real.

"What continues to strike me is the 'ordinariness' of the people who are abducted," Mack told Body Mind Spirit magazine in its April 1994 issue. "They come from all parts of society. Abductees include housewives, college students, writers, businessmen, computer industry professionals, musicians, psychologists, a restaurant owner, a prison guard, secretaries."

Polls, including a 1991 survey of 6,000 Americans by the Roper organization, indicate that several hundred thousand to several million adults may have experienced abduction, Mack notes. For his book, Mack studied 80 such people, from children to persons age 57.



News-Journal photo by Michael Takash
Jenna Bartlett, above, is a firm believer who finds herself in good company, including John Mack, left.



John E. Mack

What continues to strike me is the "ordinariness" of the people who are abducted.

"Psychological testing of abductees has not revealed evidence of mental or emotional disturbance that could account for their reported experiences," Mack writes in his book, citing a number of his colleagues' studies. However, he adds, some abductees are traumatized as a result of their experiences.

Skeptics' party line

Time was when a mere belief in UFOs would bring its own trauma, or at least ridicule. And true, skeptics still deride believers.

"Hundreds of thousands of people have experiences to relate, but they're not talking," Ms. Bartlett says. "They don't want to be laughed at." Indeed, at a recent lecture by Mack attended by Ms. Bartlett, the psychiatrist told of the scorn of some of his colleagues.

Ufologists are particularly frustrated by casual, uninformed dismissals. "My response to skeptics is 'Take the time to study it,'" says Zanghi, who met Mack and studied under him at a UFO conference workshop. "I ask skeptics 'How long have you studied this? What research have you done to reach your conclusions?' And most of them just repeat the skeptics' party line."

But these local ufologists say skepticism is easing up. "Most people are narrow-minded about UFOs, but it's getting better," Ms. Bartlett says. "My neighbors are always saying, 'Jenna, who did you see today? Why don't you get them to come down and mow the lawn?'" Ms. Bartlett says. "Once in a while I'll say, 'Instead of making jokes, why don't you attend a forum meeting? Maybe you'd find it's not a joking matter.'"



News-Journal photo by Brian Myrick
Don Zanghi, a DeLand clinical hypnotist and ufologist, directs a local abduction experimenter support group attended by a dozen people.

Forty-seven years ago, a mystery began near Roswell that is surfacing again. Only one thing about it is certain:

Something Happened

BY ANNE CONSTABLE

Roswell, N.M.

Something happened in the desolate ranchland north of here early in July of 1947. Something crashed, leaving metallic-looking debris strewn about. Something that, 47 years later, refuses to go away.

Air Force intelligence officers from Roswell Army Air Field were dispatched, back then, to recover the debris. Glenn Dennis, who was a young Roswell mortician, recalled last week that when he drove an injured airman to the base, "The hospital was in chaos." When he remarked, "Hey, it looks like there's been a crash — do I need to get ready?", he was warned by an Army officer to keep his mouth shut or "somebody'll be picking your bones out of the sand." Military police escorted him home.

Walter Haut, a former bombardier assigned to the press office at the Roswell base, was ordered to write a news release stating that a flying disc had been recovered. He delivered it to the Roswell Daily Record, which published a story on July 8 headlined: "RAAF Captures Flying Saucer on Ranch in Roswell Region."

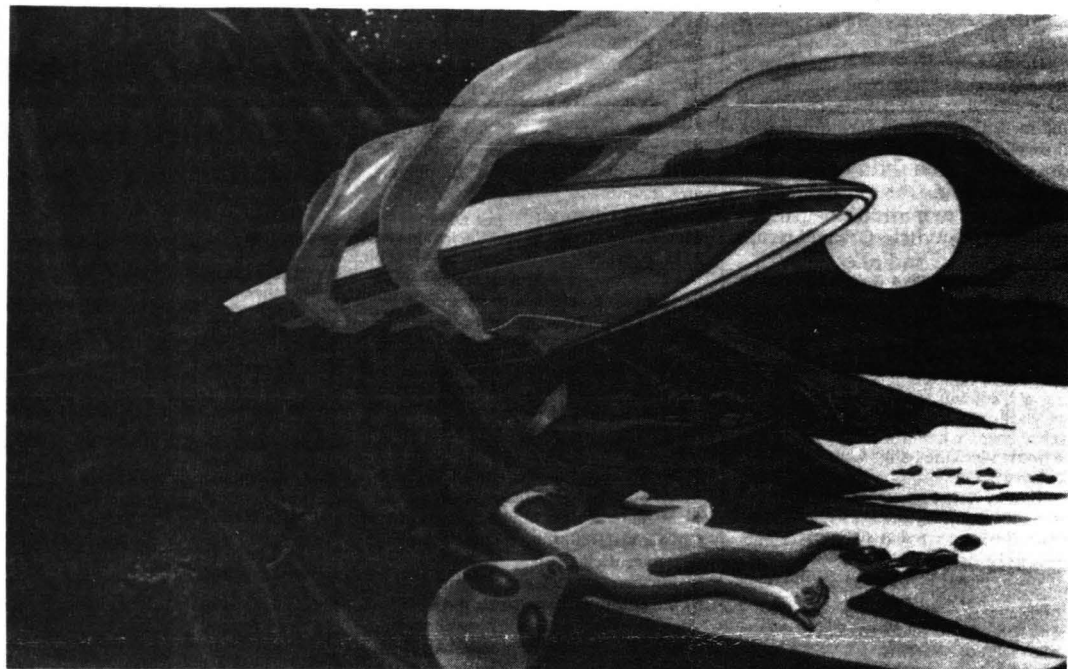
"Too much transpired to say nothing happened," Haut says today.

But was the crash in the desert "one of the most important events of this millennium," as Stanton Friedman, founder of the Fund for UFO Research, maintains. Did an alien spaceship with five crew members come down in New Mexico 47 years ago?

Or was it simply what then-Associated Press reporter Jason Kellahin, now a Santa Fe resident, says he saw: the remains of an old weather balloon?

The question of what happened in Roswell back then is so intriguing that the incident has become the best documented and most thoroughly researched of all crash stories about unidentified flying objects. Four books have been published on the subject. A UFO museum opened here 17 months ago. And now the mystery is heating up again. A crew from the CBS television program "48 Hours" was filming here last week in preparation for a network story. A made-for-television movie on the incident will be released this summer. U.S. Rep. Steve Schiff, R-N.M., officially has asked federal officials for release of all information on the Roswell incident — so far without success.

The bare facts are well known. During a violent thunderstorm in July 1947, W.W. "Mac" Brazel, a rancher who lived near Corona, in western Lincoln County, heard a thunderclap that sounded like an explosion. The next morning he went to investigate and discovered a field of debris. The scattered wreckage was so deep that his sheep refused to cross the pasture. Brazel picked up some tough but pliable foil-like material that, when crumpled, would return to its original shape. He showed some of this to his neighbors. The next day, July 6, he drove 75 miles into Roswell, where he



'The bodies had only four fingers on their long, fragile hands. At the end of each of the fingers was a pad that resembled a suction cup.'

ATTRIBUTED TO A NURSE

delivered a sample to Chaves County Sheriff George Wilcox.

Wilcox notified the military. Col. William Blanchard, commander of the 509th Bomb Group stationed at Roswell, ordered Jesse Marcel, his intelligence officer, to investigate. After interviewing Brazel and examining some of the debris, Marcel and a senior counterintelligence agent assigned to the base drove to the debris field on the Foster ranch. On Monday, July 7, they collected the wreckage and loaded it into two vehicles.

On his way back to the base, Marcel stopped at his house at 2 a.m. to show the material to his wife and son, Jesse Marcel Jr., then 11 years old. Marcel senior, who is now dead, said the material was like nothing he had ever seen on Earth. His son, now a Montana physician, also remembered later that there were some hieroglyphic markings on remnants of I-beams.

Later that morning, Walter Haut delivered his press release to the radio stations and daily newspapers. At 2:26 p.m. an announcement went out on the AP wire: "The Army Air Forces here today announced a flying disc had been found."

Half an hour later, Marcel flew to Fort Worth with a few packages of debris. They were turned over to Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey of the Eighth Air Force. Shortly thereafter, Ramey announced that the flying disc was nothing more than a weather balloon. And silence descended over the military.

The Defense Department has never budged from the July 8 announcement that it had recovered a high altitude weather balloon, and not a flying disc as it had "erroneously" reported a day earlier. No official documents ever have been found that contradict that statement, or, indeed, that shed

any further light on the incident. But many military and civilian witnesses and dogged investigators have refused to accept this explanation. "They won't let it die, will they?" asks Kellahin, the former reporter.

In fact, "they" — the true believers in UFOs — believe the July 8 statement was the beginning of a half-century cover-up, what Friedman calls a "cosmic Watergate."

For years, witnesses who claimed they were sworn to secrecy by military officials kept their pledges. Even Haut and Dennis, who have been friends for decades, never discussed the subject until the late 1980s. "I had completely forgotten it," Haut says. "It was not that big a deal. When the military said it was a weather balloon, it was accepted: We goofed up."

But slowly, UFO investigators have uncovered more military and civilian witnesses who dispute the weather balloon story, and who have been willing to break their oaths. Glenn Dennis, the mortician, described last week a conversation with a nurse at the base hospital in which she told of seeing two doctors examining three "foreign bodies" that she assumed had survived the crash. A horrible odor filled the room and eventually forced everyone to cut the examinations short. The nurse said the bodies had only four fingers on their long, fragile hands. At the end of each of the fingers was a pad that resembled a suction cup.

She also described the heads as large, with sunken eyes and two little orifices for a nose. Their mouths were very thin, and in place of teeth, she said, there was something that looked like a piece of rawhide. The bones of the head were so pliable they could be moved like those of a newborn.

VISUAL EFFECT: This is an artist's conception of the 1947 Roswell Incident, painted by Miller C. Johnson of Albuquerque.

As she described the bodies, Dennis recalled, the nurse, who had been educated in a convent school, was very agitated. "I thought she was in total shock. I didn't think she would make it," he says.

Their conversation in the officers' club was the last time Dennis saw the nurse. She was reassigned, and a letter he wrote to an APO number was returned, stamped "deceased."

Despite this experience, Dennis says he is still a skeptic: "I still don't want to be involved. I haven't read any of the books or seen the videos. I'm not a UFO person," he insists.

On the other hand, after speaking to

Jesse Marcel and other reputable military sources, Walter Haut now has concluded that an extraterrestrial vehicle did crash in Roswell. Albuquerque artist Miller Johnson, who has long been interested in UFOs in general and this incident in particular, adds, "There are too many credible witnesses that point to the fact this really happened."

Of the four books written on the Roswell incident since 1980, two were authored by Kevin Randle, a retired Air Force captain, and Donald Schmitt, special investigator for the Center for UFO Studies. Their latest, "The Truth About the UFO Crash at Roswell," (M. Evans and Company, New

York), will be published April 1. In the process of conducting 2,000 interviews with 500 sources connected to the Roswell incident, they have turned up what they describe as important new evidence — some of which they have released to UFO journals in recent months.

The crash site: Until recently, Roswell researchers thought the "saucer" crashed southeast of Corona, three miles from the debris field on the Foster ranch. Randle and Schmitt now locate the impact site much closer to Roswell. They claim the space vehicle crashed 30 miles north and 15 miles west of Route 285 on private land just inside the Chaves county line. (A tip for those

who may try to find it: beware of cattle who will mistake your car for their feed wagon.)

Haut, who visited the site earlier this year with a former aide to Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, representatives of the Bureau of Land Management and aides to Congressman Schiff, admits, however, "I don't know how they can be sure that it happened right at this spot. It all looks the same."

The chief source for the new impact site is witness Jim Ragsdale of Roswell, who signed an affidavit for the authors stating that he and a companion (identified in the book as "Trudy Truelove") were camping that holiday weekend about 30 miles north

(continued on page 9)

(continued from page 8 —
REPORTER, Santa Fe, NM
— March 23-29, 1994)

of Roswell. They say they heard an object roar overhead and slam into the ground a mile from their campsite.

Other witnesses saw a UFO heading in that direction. The next morning the couple set off to investigate and, according to Ragsdale, discovered a craft protruding from a cliff and, even more amazing, some bodies, four or five feet long. The couple threw some wreckage into their Jeep and then hid as Army trucks arrived at the scene and soldiers began cleaning the site.

• The shape of the craft: The authors even revise the shape of the alleged craft. Until this book was published, the spaceship always was described as a disk, but Randle and Schmitt now say that eyewitness evidence suggests it was a narrow vehicle, with a bat-like wing, just 15 to 20 feet wide and 25 to 30 feet long.

• The date and time of the crash: Randle and Schmitt now believe that the crash occurred about 11:30 p.m. on the evening of July 4, not on July 2. This conclusion is based on Ragsdale's story, but is corroborated by other evidence. For example, Corp. E.L. Pyles confirmed seeing a fiery object on either July 3, 4 or 5 after 11 p.m. An order of Franciscan nuns who worked as nurses at St. Mary's Hospital produced a record in which they routinely logged observations of the night sky. On July 4, 1947 between 11:15 and 11:30, they recorded the appearance of a fiery object.

Furthermore, new evidence uncovered by the authors suggests that the military was aware of a UFO in the Roswell region. A military witness from Roswell Army Air Field told the authors that he was ordered to the radar sites at White Sands Proving Ground to monitor the movement of an unidentified object overhead. On July 4, he says, the object disappeared from the radar screen. Later, he told them, he was sent with a team from Washington and others from the Roswell air field, including Colonel Blanchard, to the impact site.

This alleged witness, whose identity has been kept secret, reported to the authors that the main part of the craft was jammed into the arroyo at the base of a cliff. Two of the crew were outside the craft, one sprawled on the ground and another sitting serenely next to the cliff. The other three bodies were inside. The ETs, this source said, were placed in body bags and driven to the base hospital. Later they were shipped to Andrews Air Force Base (apparently so that Army Chief of Staff Eisenhower could have a look) and then on to Wright Field in Dayton.

• The archaeologists: For years there have been rumors that there were archaeologists working in the area of the crash site. Previous testimony put them further west on the Plains of San Agustin, however. But Randle located Dr. W. Curry Holden, an archaeologist from Texas Tech, who was living in Lubbock, Texas. Holden, who was 96 at the time of the interview (and is now deceased) allegedly told the author that he had seen it all: craft and bodies. His wife and daughter, however, were skeptical. Holden had never spoken to them about the crash, they said. Holden's presence in the area was confirmed by a vertebrae paleontologist named C. Bertram Schultz, who encountered the military cordon along Route 285. He reportedly spoke to the archaeologists in Roswell and learned of the crash of an alien ship.

• The authors also claim that former U.S. Sen. Joseph Montoya, D-N.M., was a witness to the events of July 1947. They interviewed Ruben Anaya, then a cook at the Roswell Officers Club, who told them that he had met Montoya, then New Mexico's lieutenant governor, at the base and found him "very, very scared." After drinking "a quart of Jim Beam" to calm his nerves, Montoya allegedly told his friend that he had seen "four little men." According to the cook, Montoya said that they were small and "one was alive." Montoya had observed the bodies laid out on mess hall tables set up in a hangar at the base. They were hairless, their skin was white and they were wearing tight-fitting one-piece suits. "I tell you that they're not from this world," Montoya reportedly said.

Randle and Schmitt are scheduled to hold a press conference about their book at the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell on Friday, March 25. The museum, founded by Walter Haut and others, opened Oct. 25, 1992. Since

then, nearly 22,000 people have visited it. They have travelled from all over the U.S. and from many foreign countries including the United Kingdom, Japan, Holland, Germany and even Russia. According to Haut, some enthusiasts are disappointed to learn that the museum has none of the pieces of the spacecraft that supposedly crashed in 1947.

Schoolchildren come to pose with "Ralph," the resident alien figure, or to view

the eyes of Marcel, who participated in the recovery process at the debris field — but never saw the impact site.

Despite concerted research over the last 15 years, efforts to obtain government documents concerned with the Roswell incident through the Freedom of Information Act have gotten nowhere. But researchers recently got an ally in Schiff, who in March 1993 asked the Defense Department for a briefing on what the Pentagon knows about the events in Roswell in July 1947.

According to Schiff's press aide, Louis Vega, the congressman has received more than 100 requests from constituents wanting to know what really happened. A group of UFO researchers, including the husband of Mary Martinek, an aide to Schiff, submitted a 168-page briefing paper and 29 witness affidavits to the New Mexico congressman.

After initially ignoring Schiff, the Defense Department suggested that the congressman check with the National Archives, which stores the Blue Book, an official Air Force investigation into UFO sightings that was concluded in December 1969. The National Archives said that it had nothing on Roswell, either. Finally, in October 1993, Schiff asked the Government Accounting Office if it could assist him in locating the files.

"The issue is whether the government is being forthright with the American people, and that is a serious issue for me," Schiff has declared.

The GAO search continues. Most people connected with the case think it is likely Schiff will come up empty-handed. But

'I tell you that they're not from this world.'

ATTRIBUTED TO FORMER
U.S. SEN. JOSEPH MONTOYA

one of the 26 UFO tapes in the museum's video library. Each week several visitors ask for the form the museum makes available for reporting personal experiences with UFOs. Among the recent guests have been a crew from the CBS show, "48 Hours," which is filming a segment on UFOs.

The Roswell incident is also the subject of a movie that will be aired on "Showtime" this summer. The movie was filmed not in Roswell but in Bisbee, Ariz. It was directed

Stanton Friedman is encouraged by the precedent set by Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, who ordered the release of decades-old documents on radiation experi-

ments on humans. "The Cold War is over. That makes all the difference in the world," he says.

Many UFO sightings eventually are discounted as hoaxes, or explained as natural phenomenon. For example, in 1988 there was a report in Weekly World News that invaders from another solar system had set up a secret underground base in the mountains of northern New Mexico. Claims that an alien vehicle hovered over Taos and sprinkled powder over the city were later proved false when the "powder" turned out to be latex house paint.

The Roswell incident is more difficult to dismiss. Randle thinks he knows why: "Everything you could want in a UFO sighting is here: There are multiple witnesses. Three dozen people handled the debris. There's a spacecraft and bodies and civilian witnesses," he says. "We can prove something crashed, no question. And we can prove a cover story, no question."

But why would the government want to cover up the crash of a UFO in New Mexico?

A number of explanations are offered by UFOlogists for the alleged conspiracy of silence. Officials and politicians may have feared the nation would panic if they knew the truth, just as people on the East Coast did nine years earlier following the broadcast of Orson Welles' fictional "War of the Worlds." Some say that since the technology of the crashed ship clearly outstripped what was known on earth, the U.S. would

by Jeremy Kagan, produced by Paul Davids, and stars Kyle MacLachlan (of "Twin Peaks") as Jesse Marcel, the intelligence officer. Authors Randle and Schmitt have bit parts in the film: Kevin plays a journalist and Don a bartender. The movie is based on Randle and Schmitt's 1991 book and on their subsequent research. The story centers around a mythical 30th reunion of the 509th Bomb Group. The events of July 1947 and a military cover-up are told through

have wanted to study and duplicate it. If the public were convinced that nothing out of the ordinary had happened, scientists would not have to worry about foreign espionage.

Others argue that once the government denies the existence of anything, it is loathe to turn around and admit that it has deliberately misled the public. Yet, says Stanton Friedman, "Is there anybody who believes the government hasn't lied to us?"

Finally, why would a UFO be flitting about southeast New Mexico? That's easily explained, the believers say: New Mexico was the site of the laboratory where the atomic bomb was developed and the missile range where it was tested. The 509th Bomb Group, the only military unit capable of dropping atomic bombs at the time, was located in Roswell. The military was testing V-2 rockets at White Sands. "If somebody were checking up on us, where else would they come?" asks Max Littel, secretary-treasurer of the UFO museum in Roswell.

The Roswell incident took place just weeks after a pilot, Kenneth Arnold, saw nine bright objects that looked like pie pans flying over Mt. Rainier, Wash. This was the beginning of the modern UFO era. Forty-five years later, NASA began using large radio telescopes to search for transmissions from intelligent life forms outside our solar system. In that context, the possibility that extraterrestrials have been visiting us seems far less bizarre. Miller Johnson says, "It seems like eventually the whole thing will break wide open." But until the government produces conclusive evidence, both believers and non-believers will continue to wonder, "What happened at Roswell in 1947 that still is being kept secret today?" ■



UFOLOGIST: Walter Haut now runs the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell. PHOTO BY ANNE CONSTABLE

Check it out

In the desert north of Las Vegas the government is hiding the longest runway in the world; many huge hangers and hundreds of support buildings for building and testing top-secret aircraft; an estimated 2,000 civilian and military personnel living there or flying in on a dozen or so daily flights; an enormous array of electronic communication and surveillance facilities; an army of heavily armed, camouflaged security men who patrol public roads outside the base and observe and harass anybody who approaches; and — many have said — a huge underground facility devoted to experimenting with alien-supplied technology.

The Groom Lake facility costs the taxpayers \$1.5 billion a year to support. This secret air base has been featured on the cover of Popular Science [March '94] and in numerous other respected national publications. It was one of the main features in a recent televised documentary about the ongoing government cover-up of contact with UFOs. Also shown on network TV were videos, taken just off-base, of erratically moving flying objects that appear to violate the limits of normal aircraft performance.

CRK (Citizens with the Right to Know) is organizing a free car caravan to this area the weekend of May 21. The purpose of this event is to inform the taxpayer of what the government is doing behind our backs and to give those interested in UFOs a chance to see for themselves.

Joe Thor
Fresno

What really happened in the sky?

Just about once a decade, something happens out there. By "out there" we mean Lake Michigan. By "something" we mean strange objects that appear to violate every known law of gravity and aviation science. Our files are full of such accounts dating back decades.

West Michigan's latest close encounter with this phenomenon occurred between 9:30 and 11 p.m. on March 8 as stunned radar operators for the National Weather Service tracked a series of remarkable moves by what appeared to be an unidentified flying object. That same evening, several Holland-area residents reported seeing — there's no getting around this — a strange spaceship-like object that looked like something out of a science fiction movie.

The single-most intriguing thread running through these occurrences has been the quality of the descriptions and the reliability of the witnesses. Those who came forward, both on and off the record, aren't persons who might be expected to fabricate stories about what they've seen. Most are ordinary individuals who stumbled by happenstance into a raging controversy. And their experiences were underscored by another "sighting" on a nearby radar screen. All this suggests that something out of the ordinary may have occurred.

But what? ... All the sightings and observations agreed on one point — that the object or objects were large and able to move from point to point at speeds suggested at a mile per second, which works out to 3,600 mph. If true, that's more than 1,000 mph better than the existing world's record. By all accounts, the objects witnessed were huge, maneuverable enough to stop on a dime and able to accelerate noiselessly beyond world-class speed in the blink of an eye.

The last rash of "serious" UFO activity recorded in this vicinity occurred in October 1978, and include pictures taken by a U.S. Coast Guard petty officer in Ludington.

Skepticism, of course, is greatly warranted in cases pertaining to the sightings of UFOs. Ample evidence of hoaxes, deliberate misinformation and fraud abounds, including so-called "authenticated" photos that later turned out to be nothing more than a Frisbee launched at the camera. Alternate, credible, natural explanations of many so-called "unexplained" UFO sightings also exist.

The government itself has officially "closed" its own investigation into the UFO phenomenon. An Air Force study known as Project Blue Book was shut down in 1969 and never, at least to our knowledge, reopened. However, continued reports of sightings or alleged sightings have kept the pressure on. Congress itself is investigating the purported 1947 "crash" of an object near Roswell, N.M., that is one of the more exotic and controversial episodes of UFO lore.

For our part, we are more than a little curious about the events of March 8. If there is a logical explanation for what happened, we'd like to know it. If there isn't one, we'd like to know that, too.

— THE MUSKEGON CHRONICLE.

Rocky Mountain Memories

By Frances Melrose

Rounding up a UFO

Did 19th century Huskers have a close encounter?

A "very startling phenomenon" occurred on the morning of June 6, 1884, about 35 miles northwest of Benkelman, Dundee County, Neb., according to reports in several local newspapers and journals at the time. The *Nebraska Nugget*, a weekly newspaper in Holdrege, reported the following:

"It seems that John W. Ellis and three of his herdsmen and a number of other cowboys were out engaged in a round-up. They were startled by a terrific whirring noise over their heads, and turning their eyes saw a blazing body falling like a shot to the earth. It struck beyond them, being hidden from view by a bank."

"He (Ellis) rode at once to the spot, and it is asserted, saw fragments of cog-wheels, and other pieces of machinery lying on the ground, scattered in the path made by the aerial visitor, glowing with heat so intense as to scorch the grass for a long distance around each fragment and make it impossible for one to approach it."

Several answers have come in from readers regarding a *Rocky Mountain Memories* column of Feb. 6, asking for information about a UFO reportedly sighted in the Benkelman, Neb., area in 1884. Along with the plea for information I mentioned that I had written the Nebraska State Historical Society in Lincoln and had received instead a tirade saying that I had written to the wrong person. That statement brought results.

A phone call came in from Andrea I. Paul, associate director of the Nebraska Historical Society's library and archives. She had no explanation

for my difficulty, except that the letter probably had been directed to another agency. She did offer extensive material about the UFO.

Another who helped put this story together is Chuck Stansburge, director of the Denver chapter of the UFO Institute, whose purpose is "to do field investigations of all UFO sightings around Denver and nearby areas."

Stansburge telephoned Benkelman and was directed to Mrs. Ned Tecker of the Tecker Ranch Inc., Parks, Neb. She enclosed a copy of an early newspaper clipping about the sighting and asked: "Does this article make sense to you, or do you think it was a cowboy prank?"

Stansburge said he did not think it was a prank. For one thing, it occurred so far ahead of any experiments with space travel. He is so impressed with the story that he plans to visit Nebraska. Anyone who wants to discuss it may phone him at 650-5972.

And now to return to the account. "Coming to the edge of a deep ravine into which the strange object had fallen, they undertook to see what it was. But the heat was so great that the air about it was fairly ablaze, and it emitted a light so dazzling that the eye could not rest upon it more than a moment. The heat from this strange wreck was so intense that a cowboy named Williamson fell senseless from gazing at it at too close quarters. His face was blistered and his hair singed to a crisp. His condition is said to be dangerous."

"Thd distance from the aerolite

was nearly 200 feet. The burned man was taken to Ellis' house ... and a doctor sent for. His brother, who lives in Denver, was telegraphed for."

"Finding it impossible to approach the mysterious visitor, the party turned back on its trail. Where it first touched the earth, the ground was sandy and bare of grass. The sand was fused to an unknown depth over a space about 20 feet wide by 80 feet long, and the melted stuff was still bubbling and hissing. Between this and the final resting place there were several other like spots where it had come in contact with the ground."

The next morning visitors came to see the unearthly visitor. This group included E. W. Rawlins, brand inspector for the district. Rawlins returned to Benkelman and gave a full story of his visit to the object.

"The smaller portions of the vast machinery had cooled so that they could be approached but not handled," according to the article in the *Nugget*.

"One piece that looked like the blade of a propeller screw, of a metal in appearance like brass, about 16 inches wide, 3 inches thick and 3½ feet long, was picked up on a spade. It would not weigh more than five pounds, but appeared as strong and compact as any known metal. A fragment of a wheel with a milled rim, apparently having a diameter of seven or eight feet, was also picked up. It seemed to be of the same material and had the same remarkable lightness."

"The aerolite or whatever it is, seems to be about 50 or 60 feet

long, cylindrical, and about 10 or 12 feet in diameter. Great excitement exists in the vicinity, and the roundup is suspended while the cowboys wait for the wonderful find to cool off so they can examine it."

"Mr. Ellis will take the first train to the land office with the intention of securing the land on which the strange thing lies, so that this claim to it cannot be disputed."

In *Sutton's Southwest Nebraska*, E. S. Sutton recounts this same story, and concludes:

"Even the Air Force set about in recent years to determine the truth of all the flying saucer stories. Its conclusion was that there was a lot of malarkey in this sort of tale. But it made good copy, then and now."

A note at the bottom of one of the accounts sent to me is from Ida Toler of Benkelman, who wrote:

"This story was sent to me by my son, Russ Toler, who worked in the news department of the Omaha *World Herald* in the mid-60s. It had been sent to him by a fellow who said it had been printed in a Holdrege paper in the early days."

"The *World Herald* did research but couldn't find anyone who knew about it. They decided it must have been a dull day at the newspaper office and they needed a story so somebody concocted this tale. No proof was ever found."



Frances Melrose is the historical columnist for the *Rocky Mountain News*. Write to her at 400 W. Colfax Ave., Denver, Colo., 80204.

SPACE SNATCHERS!

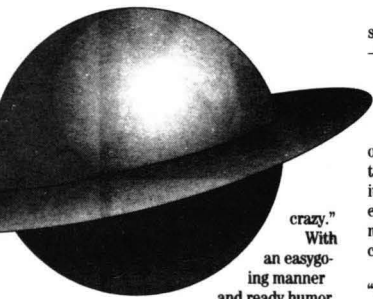
BY GREG LAND

Over 100 people showed up last week for a slide show and presentation by John Carpenter, a Missouri-based hypnotherapist who has been investigating "UFO abductions" for over six years. Sponsored by *UFO Encounters*, a publication produced in Norcross dealing exclusively with UFOs and extraterrestrial-related matters, the three-hour-plus presentation drew a decidedly un-looneylike crowd to hear an un-looneylike Carpenter recount some of his 80-odd cases of alleged UFO abductions.

While admitting that stories of individuals claiming to have been spirited away by aliens are generally relegated to the grocery store tabloid racks, Carpenter asserted that his own investigations, involving hypnotic regression of his subjects, reveal consistent traits concerning the abductors themselves, as well as the spacecraft and circumstances surrounding the abductions.

Boasting his presentation with a lengthy series of slides containing sketches by numerous subjects, Carpenter pointed out the striking similarities of hypnotically-induced drawings by individuals from various locales around the country.

"I have worked with hundreds of psychiatric patients," said Carpenter, "and I have the clinical background to say that these people are not



of "encounters of the fourth kind" dating back to the '40s, and claimed that evidence pointed to an actual retrieval of an alien spacecraft in 1947. Among the dozens of cases he outlined, he noted an instance in which a New York woman was allegedly "floated" to a spacecraft in full view of numerous witnesses.

"This was witnessed by, among others, two security guards and an important political figure — whose name we can't release right now, because he'll deny it forever — who has admitted to seeing it privately."

The figures reported by most of Carpenter's subjects are probably familiar to moviegoers and bookstore habitués: grayish in color, with large, almond-shaped eyes, pointed chins, and virtually no nose, mouth or ears. But Carpenter's cases also have other consistent features: individuals' descriptions of the "examining rooms" and diagnostic devices frequently tally, and many describe being shown into "nurseries," where they are urged to hold "hybrid" children bearing characteristics of humans and aliens.

"I've tried to 'trick' a lot of these subjects," said Carpenter. "I'll ask 'em — under hypnosis — what they 'see' in the corners of the room they're in. Their response is always the same — there *aren't* any corners."

Also among Carpenter's displays was a videotape purporting to be a possible "sighting" of an alien, the result of a video camera accidentally left running, while the muddy image is, in itself, unremarkable, taken with Carpenter's exhaustive introduction and replayed in slow motion, it caused several young ladies to jump, clutch each other and laugh nervously.

"These are just my cases," said Carpenter. "There are other cases that match — one researcher in Oklahoma has over 100 cases that match mine."

Carpenter also noted other recurring types of aliens — the "tall blondes," who appear nearly human; and the reptilians, tall scaly creatures with a penchant for rough sex. Honest.

"There's never any deliberate harm or hostility in these abductions," notes Carpenter. "They're sedated and examined — we do the same thing with grizzly bears, 'cause they're just 'dumb animals.'" He laughs. "Maybe we're just 'Lab 101' for alien high school students."

A handful of those present identified themselves as members of MUFON — the Mutual UFO Network — but many said they were just curious. Were they convinced?

"Well, it still seems kind of lacking in solid details to me," said David Dorris. "I'm not of avid follower of UFO stuff or anything...But I want to see dates, facts, things like that." He paused.

"I want to see the government documents on UFOs! But that'll never happen." ■

(For information on UFO Encounters, contact Aztec Publishing, 404-923-7247.)

Flint youth, 14, reports sighting of UFO

Similar reports bring researchers to state to determine if we really 'are not alone'

By Lisa J. Haley
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Denis Roberts, 14, was sitting in his yard one evening last week when suddenly he saw a giant, triangular-shaped object hovering over him.

The piercing white and red lights on the front of the mysterious craft beamed through the dark sky.

Frightened, he ran into his east Flint home and continued to watch the craft through his bathroom window.

"It just hovered there. It was so low,

only about half a mile above the house, then it just zoomed off. But it didn't sound like a jet," he said. "It made a humming sound. And it was big, as big as my whole street."

Roberts spotted the UFO about 8:30 p.m. on March 10, two days after dozens of people reported seeing a round-shaped aircraft with similar red and white lights hovering over Muskegon.

Residents, police officers and even Muskegon's National Weather Service officials, who saw blips on their radar screen, confirmed the object's location.

"It was the weirdest thing I saw in my life," said Holly Graves of Holland, who ran to the window with her husband, Darrell, after their 14-year-old son screamed.

Hovering just above tree level across the road was a huge, rotating globe-shaped object with white and red lights.

"What we saw was not a whole craft, but the bottom of it, turning in a clockwise motion," Holly Graves said. "People might think we're nuts, but we're not."

The Graves family called police and a responding officer saw lights in the distance and contacted the National Weather

Service office. It, in turn, notified the Mutual UFO Network after picking up signals on radar.

UFO researchers are descending on southwestern Michigan this week as reports continue to filter in from dozens of people who say they saw something unusual in the night sky March 8 from Grand Rapids to the Lake Michigan shoreline between Muskegon and South Haven.

"It is, right now, the hottest case we have in the country," said Walter Andrus, director of the Texas-based international Mutual UFO Network.

Lee Lamberts, sports editor for The Holland Sentinel, saw intense lights flying in a boomerang-shaped formation about the same time as the Graves family.

"The formation (of lights) stayed perfect," Lamberts said. "It sounded distinctly like one jet, but there were half a dozen lights, up to 10."

Some reported the object or objects to be slow moving, but radar trackings showed it to move 10 miles in just 10 seconds.

In Flint, Roberts excitedly told his mother, Terrie Todd, about the UFO when she returned from the grocery store that evening.

She said she believed her son saw something unusual, but didn't start wondering seriously about it until she read a news story about the Muskegon sighting the day after her son told her about the UFO.

"He's never been one to make up stories," she said. "Whatever he saw, I've never heard of anything like it. I even called my brother to tell him about it and he said it was probably a Stealth bomber that was being moved."

Shirley Coyne, the Mutual UFO Network state director, said it was probably no Stealth bomber.

The Flushing Township resident said she has received at least six reports in the past nine months about a craft fitting the description the boy gave.

"It is very possible he could have seen this. I don't think he is making up stories," she said. "We've had a lot of activity on the east side of the county close to Davison, Lapeer and even in the Thumb area. People have seen a triangular-shaped craft like this."

Coyne, a UFO investigator and enthusiast, said she is going to Muskegon next week to meet with reporters from the news program, "48 Hours." She believes the craft the boy saw was probably not the same one that passed over Muskegon.

"It was a different craft, the one that has been hanging around here. All we know is that it is a UFO," she said. "We don't know who it belongs to or anything about it."

"We know it is silent and does have lights that beam down. It hovers, it maneuvers and it moves in erratic patterns," she said.

Air traffic controllers at the Bishop Airport tower spotted nothing unusual on their radar the night of March 10, said Ted Wasilewski, Air Traffic Control Supervisor.

"We've seen meteors before from just looking out of the tower, but I am not aware of anything unusual that evening," he said.

Coyne isn't dissuaded. "The FAA wouldn't tell us if they did see anything," she said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

CHIEFTAIN, Pueblo, CO - April 5, 1994

Brady heads local group probing phenomenon

By MARGIE WOOD
The Pueblo Chieftain

Chuck Brady is not your typical UFO enthusiast. He's a retired dentist and a longtime faithful Republican.

But he also has a longtime interest in unidentified flying objects, dating back to "the Roswell incident" in July 1947, and he's equally interested in whatever phenomenon is going on in the San Luis Valley this year.

Accordingly, he is the Pueblo chapter director of the UFO Institute, a group which formed last year to investigate reports of UFO incidents. The local group meets the third Wednesday each month at 7 p.m. at McClelland Library, and has eight paid-up members. Attendance at the meetings has ranged from a handful to a high of 75 people.

Brady speaks with an aura of great familiarity about the 1947 incident in which a rancher reported finding a crashed aircraft with four alien entities on board — "two dead, one dying and one which remained alive."

The rancher called the local sheriff, who contacted the nearby Air Force base at Roswell, N.M. A press officer for the Air Force first announced that a "flying saucer" had been found, but the next day the statement was retracted and the craft was described as a weather balloon.

And the rancher, who was barely making a living before the inci-

'(I have) a strong feeling that there are visitors from someplace. We're all energy, you know. There are a lot of wave lengths that we don't necessarily know about.'

— Chuck Brady



dent, suddenly acquired a new pickup and a business in another town, Brady said. UFO investigators believe that the craft and its passengers were taken to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base but the military never has released any information about it.

"In this country, the Roswell incident is the one that has gotten more continuing investigation than any other," Brady said. The book "UFO Crash at Roswell" was published by Kevin Randle and Donald Schmit in 1991 and an updated version is out now.

Recently the congressman from the Roswell area, Rep. Steven Schiff, has gotten the General Accounting Office to investigate

what information the government has about the Roswell incident and why the military won't release it, Brady said.

"Since then, the Air Force set up a project to investigate UFO sightings, but they went in with the preconception that they would disprove it," Brady said. "Obviously a lot of these sightings probably have been false, but I don't want to go in with any preconceived notions."

Brady joined the UFO Institute shortly after it was founded last fall by Steve Alexander of Colorado Springs, who is a captain in the National Guard.

Alexander, he says, had what he

considered a sighting of a UFO near Buena Vista some years ago.

"I can't honestly say I've had a sighting myself," Brady added. "I would want a little more evidence than just some lights flashing."

He enjoys the institute's work of investigating UFO reports, but even more than that he enjoys the "interesting philosophical discussions."

Personally, Brady has "a strong feeling that there are visitors from someplace" but he isn't so sure they are extraterrestrials rather than the product of a space/time warp.

"I'm just as open to the idea that they may be terrestrials from another vibrational level," he said. "We're all energy, you know. There are a lot of wave lengths that we don't necessarily know about."

UFO reports often speak of unusual forms of motion that are sometimes attributed to anti-gravity, he said, "but I think space-time warp is a better explanation."

UFO watchers have been interested in the San Luis Valley for years because of frequent reports of cattle mutilations, and this year interest has intensified with reports that NORAD has picked up some unexplained heat sources on radar.

"NORAD says there's no evidence, but the government sure keeps looking into it," Brady said. No doubt the UFO Institute members will keep looking into it as well.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - June 1, 1994

Night Vision Goggles Bring UFO's Up Close

By Bland Pugh

As Asst. Mufon State Director I receive reports of UFO sightings from all over the state of Florida. The following report drew my attention, so I thought I would pass it along as there are several parallels to the Gulf Breeze case.

The Reporter, a Florida Keys newspaper, ran an article by Jim Rubino on a series of sightings by a gentleman named Ron Ellis. The article described those sightings and one method this fellow uses to spot UFO's, night vision goggles. It seems that he has been able to observe them at very short distances.

Mel Tennis, SSD for Dade county is investigating the case. Prior to Ellis' case, Tennis said "we've been conducting an investigation in the Key Largo area for quite some time." Tennis, further stated "as people become more knowledgeable about the sky and what they're looking at, the

quality of sightings - legitimate or otherwise - also increases. Within the past year we have had between five and six sightings that seem to be legitimate, they seem to occur about every one to three months."

Ron Ellis is hoping that what he has seen, and what he has to say will garner more legitimate attention than the "cold shoulder" reportedly received by government agencies about a series of recent sightings near his Florida Bay-side home in Key Largo.

What Ellis saw were described as cylindrical, metallic objects that moved across US-1 from the ocean to bay, at times exceeding speeds of 200 MPH. Armed with 'night vision' goggles similar to those used by military reconnaissance, and a laser range-finder device (all incidentally available through most military surplus and arms dealers) he was able to track 'multiple sightings' on April 4 & 5,

1994. "There was no sound", said Ellis, but according to the witness, they came as close as several hundred feet to his residence, at times hovering and at times performing aerial acrobatics that are beyond the realm of conventional aircraft.

Ellis' first UFO encounter was nearly two years ago, during a lightning storm on July 4. As he and family members waited for storm conditions to clear so they could watch a nearby fireworks display, several arcs of lightning proved to be a good subject for photographs. "I got out my Polaroid and there it was!"

Ellis' reports, to then Homestead Air Force Base, went unnoticed as did his sightings last week (Reporter article was dated April 14, 1994). In the 1992 incident, some of the objects seen appeared triangular in shape. The descriptions match sightings of others in Key Largo and Tavernier that same summer.

Ellis' pictures are en route to a Mufon photo analyst, the results should be very interesting. I talked to

Jim Rubino, reporter for The Reporter in Key Largo on May 31, 1994, and he says things there are status quo since writing his article. His contacts with local military have produced very familiar results, they are basically the same as we have experienced here along the pan handle. "they will neither confirm or deny the reports."

I talked to Tennis on Saturday, May 28, Mel says his UFO investigation schedule is still quite busy along the Keys and in the southern Florida area, so it appears that Florida is still on the preferred tour list for your mysterious visitors.

The use of the special equipment by Ellis is quite impressive, especially to one who has logged as many hours as I have looking through a pair of hand held binoculars, a tripod mounted 35 mm camera and, on occasion, a beefed up video camera in my attempt to capture the secrets of the Gulf Breeze UFO. So I guess all I can do is Keep Looking Up and Behind Me until I can find similar equipment.....

Mystery still surrounds latest UFO sightings

BILL KRASEAN
GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

Richard Jordan and his family arrived at their Cooper Township home late on the evening of March 8.

As they exited the car, they heard a deep, rumbling sound, like the sound Jordan imagines comes from a huge military transport craft. Looking south, Jordan, his wife, Cheryl, and their two children, Evan, 9, and Hilary, 7, saw five bright white lights in the sky moving slowly toward the southeast. Then, and now, he has no idea if what they saw and heard was a single craft or five.

But that's not all.

At the same time, two bright red lights moved across the sky, east to west, at an incredibly rapid speed, so fast the observation was measured in only a few seconds. These objects made no sound at all.

It wasn't until the next day at work that Jordan, an artist at the Kalamazoo Gazette, heard about the series of purported UFO sightings near Holland that had been reported the same evening he and his family stood transfixed in their driveway watching a mystery unfold.

Since then, a tape recording has been released of conversations between a Holland police dispatcher, a National Weather Service weather radar operator in Muskegon and several witnesses on the state's west side.

"There's something there," the radar operator said to the dispatcher, according to the Associated Press. "There's something big down

'There's something there,' the radar operator said to the dispatcher, according to the Associated Press. 'There's something big down there (near Holland). It's really strange.'

March 8.

Reports have come from Ludington south to the Indiana border along the Lake Michigan shoreline; from the Thumb and just to the west in Saginaw and Bay City; and from a few suburbs south of Detroit.

What will emerge from this latest mystery in the night skies remains in question — and likely always will. Since the 1940s, UFO reports have cropped up with regularity. And while there have been thousands of reports, there is no official, indisputable proof of what is going on — alien spacecraft, vivid imaginations or some other not-yet-understood natural phenomenon.

This latest report, however, is unique in that there were both radar images and a recorded real-time conversation between witnesses, said Michael D. Swords, professor of natural sci-

ences at Western Michigan University and editor of The Journal of UFO Studies.

A National Weather Service official told the Muskegon Chronicle that the object "zipped" from South Haven to 10 miles west of Muskegon, over Lake Michigan, in 10 seconds.

South Haven police said Monday they received no reports of unidentified flying objects that night.

By last Friday, however, the Michigan section of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network had received more than 100 reports of UFO sightings in lower Michigan since



EAGLE, Butler, PA - April 20, 1994 CR: E. Plaisted

Pulitzer winner: Aliens are among us

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Harvard psychiatrist Dr. John Mack has never had sex with a space alien, nor does he care to. It could compromise his objectivity.

Mack, a Pulitzer Prize winner and Harvard faculty member, firmly believes those people who claim to have had extremely close encounters with beings from other worlds.

And in his new book, "Abduction," he relates his findings after spending four years studying 120 "experiencers" — people who say they had sexual or reproductive experiences with aliens who abducted them and took them aboard spaceships.

The 13 case studies in his book include Ed, who remembers an alien woman taking a sperm sample from him when he was in high school; Jerry, who says she gave birth to a human-alien hybrid; and Peter, who tells Mack he had an "alien wife" in a "parallel universe."

"There is a consistent reproductive theme," Mack said. "Now, do I mean by that literally there are millions of babies being made? I don't know. I can't claim that this is occurring literally in our physical dimension of reality."

What Mack does claim is that experiencers are not mentally ill and not working out the effects of rape, incest or other abuse. Their emotional and psychological state resembles trauma, he said, and trauma is the response to something outside the body, not inside the mind.

"They don't want to believe it any more than we do," he said. "They want me to find them crazy."



AP PHOTO

Harvard psychiatrist and Pulitzer Prize winner John Mack sits in his office in Cambridge, Mass., Tuesday. He has written a book on people's sexual experiences with alien beings.

Descriptions of abductions are consistent from patient to patient, Mack said. So he believes the experiencers, even if he can't explain exactly what they experience.

As for having such a close encounter himself, he said: "I think my role is to be uncontaminated by the phenomenon. As soon as a psychiatrist reports they had an abduction, then they're immediately disqualified as an objective observer."

As "Abduction" hits bookstores this week, Mack hits daytime television. His fellow academics have been less welcoming than talk show hosts.

"There's a split between how people regard him as someone with past accomplishments and skills and how they regard this project," said Dr. Malka Notman, chairwoman of Cambridge Hospital's psychiatry department and Mack's boss. "People are skeptical because it just seems quite remote and unsupported."

Mack is on the staff at Cambridge Hospital, a Harvard teaching hospital. He also leads the Program for Extraordinary Experience Research, which is

overseen by the medical school-affiliated Center for Psychology and Social Research.

His accomplishments include founding the psychiatry department at Cambridge Hospital and winning a 1977 Pulitzer for his psychoanalytic biography of T.E. Lawrence, or Lawrence of Arabia.

Since then, Mack has developed an interest in Eastern philosophy and religion.

"We don't have room in our culture for this. It's the elite people, my colleagues, who decide what we're supposed to believe," he said, "and to them this isn't supposed to be."

Even Mack's fellow researchers into the otherworldly think "Abduction" is a little, well, out there.

Dr. William McCall, a physician in Anaheim, Calif., said that for 10 years he used hypnosis to evaluate experiencers. His theory: They're actually remembering being born. People's memories of going aboard spacecraft match their hypnosis-evoked memories of passing through the birth canal, he said.

ences at Western Michigan University and editor of The Journal of UFO Studies.

"It's like an old-fashioned report," Swords said. "Radar cases are almost unheard of these days. They were far more common in the 1950s."

Swords, who said he has always been fascinated by — but skeptical of — reports of UFOs and other unexplained phenomena, said stories about unidentified flying objects have evolved over the decades.

First, there were the eyewitness accounts of flying discs. Later there were the radar images. Later yet, reports of landings.

In the 1970s witnesses told of so-called "close encounters" of a kind that prompted the making of a movie. And now there are reports of abductions.

An evolving pattern may provide some clues to what is happening, Swords said, although several explanations could fit. "If you are one to believe in behavior only, then you could say the reports are a series of cycles, each made-up story better than stories before."

"I don't buy that."

There are, he said, far too many independent reports of similar phenomena — hovering objects that cause car motors to stop or descriptions that are identical. "It could be that whatever is behind the phenomena has decided to display itself in different ways," Swords said.

While radar seems to add credibility to sightings, it's not necessarily always reliable. "Radar is tuned to pick up certain things and not others," he said. "It's job specific." Additionally, radar has all kinds of potential for ghost images from temperature inversions, for example, or other phenomena, he said.

"One argument against UFOs is that if they are technical craft, we would see them all the time on our military radar," Swords said. "Not

necessarily. They are tuned to military machinery, not UFOs."

Radar does pick up objects that move in discrete ways, he said. Observations on March 8 may indeed be such a case.

Swords discounts the possibility of lakeshore witnesses misinterpreting as objects the lights of Milwaukee, which on clear nights can be seen from Michigan. Those lights are too close to the horizon. And while the northern lights were active that night, they don't explain the radar images, he said.

Swords suggests one possible explanation is high-tech military craft that "our own government is using and does not see a reason to report."

The only way to solve the puzzle, he said, is to investigate the night's events thoroughly by interviewing as many witnesses as possible. That way a complete story can be told, linking observations with times to see if there is a common and plausible thread that ties all the stories together.

Look closely, he said. And don't make assumptions.

"I hope we see that kind of investigation," Swords said. "But I don't expect it."

UFOs may always be that — unidentified. The challenge is to avoid jumping to conclusions. University of Virginia astronomer Charles Tolbert noted during a visit to Kalamazoo College last year:

"We have all seen unidentified flying objects — that is, something we have seen flying that we couldn't identify."

"But just because we rule out falling leaves or birds or airplanes or weather balloons, that doesn't mean it must be a flying saucer. There are many things, primarily quick phenomena, that are perfectly natural but simply haven't been explained. Arguments by elimination only work when we have a complete set of possibilities. And we don't."



UFO sightings by the hundreds

Stories by
MARK KENNEDY
Ottawa Citizen

OTTAWA — Strange, pulsing lights in the night sky; a hovering object following a woman's car along a lonely prairie highway; children chased through a park by a large, hairy being with red, glowing eyes; a diamond-shaped mother ship with smaller ships going in and out.

Figments of the imagination or fact, these encounters with the unexplained are contained in dozens of reports filed with the National Research Council over the last two years and obtained by the Ottawa Citizen under the Access to Information Act.

The NRC has been the government's central collection agency for such reports about unidentified flying objects since the 1960s. It receives about 100 reports every year — generally from police or the departments of national defence and transport.

Names on the documents were blacked out under privacy terms of the access law. These are some of the sightings:

Location: Hull
Date: Sept. 3, 1993

Incident: Two "unidentified witnesses" reported seeing a "blue ball, very clear and condensed, with halo" and a second larger and brighter light in a field behind their house.

"There was a power outage in the house, but the stereo kept on playing. Wind was very strong and a strange sound could be heard. After opening a window, the sound stopped."

Afterwards, Hull municipal police said they "had nothing unusual to report with the exception that a radio frequency was out of service and that communication with a number of computers onboard patrol cars was also disabled for unknown reasons."

Duration: Five minutes.

Location: Mission, B.C.
Date: Aug. 2, 1993

Incident: At 11:30 p.m., a woman was sitting by her backyard pool with her 14-year-old daughter and her daughter's friend.

"My daughter starting yelling to 'look at that' again and again. She stood up in the pool as did her friend. I looked up and all I could say was 'Oh my God' over and over."

"It was a triangular shape, darker than the night sky with round or oval dull, reddish brown lights. There was absolutely no sound at all. The lights did not blink, flash or change color. I tried to see where it was headed but it banked to the right and disappeared with the brightness of the moon."

"It was so silent, it was like watching a giant kite. I told my husband and then I realized what people who see unusual flights must go through. People will think you're either nuts or making it up. To be sure I wasn't crazy, I asked my daughter and her friend to draw what they had seen without looking at each other's drawing. The result made me realize we all had seen something unusual."

Duration: 15 seconds.

Location: Nanaimo, B.C.
Date: All of August, 1993

Incident: The witness told police about seeing a "mother ship and small ships going in and out. One mile long, a half-mile wide. Diamond shaped."

Duration: 4 a.m. to 5 a.m. every night.

Location: Williams Lake, B.C.
Date: Jan. 25, 1993

Incident: At 7 a.m., someone in his backyard saw a fireball, "round in shape, bright white-yellow in color, observed just over trees on horizon. No sound associated."

Location: Kamloops, B.C.

Date: July 26 to Aug. 18, 1993

Incident: Witness saw a UFO that was "triangular in shape moving east to west, low level. On evening of Aug. 18, two objects. Green, red and white lights. No sound. Landed on hill top."

Duration: Some nights as long as four hours.

Location: Miquelon Lake, Alta.
Date: June 28, 1993

Incident: Witness saw UFOs flying in a circle, then a straight line.

"At one point, they formed a triangle shape. Color: Light orange. Started high and eventually descended below tree line. At least 12 separate lights. Sound: nothing specific."

The police investigator reported the following: "All her animals seemed jittery and excited, dogs barking and wanting in. She said it was not a planet or a star that she saw and it made no sound like a helicopter might make. She believed in whatever it was she saw."

Duration: unknown.

Location: Flamborough, Ont.
Date: June 23, 1993

Incident: About 10:30 p.m., a third-year university physics student was shaving in the bathroom of his home when his brother called for him to look out the window. He saw "a large diamond-shaped object with many lights moving slowly from east to west."

"I would say not much higher than two, maybe one-and-a-half hydro towers tall, no sound at all from this object. Many lights were on it, blue, red, and white, none were flashing."

"Clearly to me, this was an alien spacecraft with an advanced magnetic propulsion system."

Duration: 15 seconds.

Location: Roblin, Man.
Date: June 8, 1993

Incident: At 10:45 p.m., a witness saw a "triangular shaped" UFO "with white bright light in front and bright red on bottom centre. Orange and yellow on edges/perimeter. Approximately 30 metres off ground. No sound emitted."

Duration: 3 minutes.

Location: Edmonton, Alta.
Date: May 11-12, 1993

Incident: At 11:35 p.m., several people sitting in their backyard saw "triangular shaped" objects flying "at a high rate of speed."

"The first object I seen had five lights in a triangle shape. This object did not make any sound. There was a second one about 10 minutes later with only three lights."

Two other witnesses in the backyard reported a similar scene of "ship-like objects." All witnesses drew pictures of what they saw.

Duration: 11:35 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Location: Miscou Island, Que.
Date: March 4, 1993

Incident: At 7:15 p.m., two people saw a bright fluorescent light about a half-mile from shore in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

"Snowmobiles or other vehicles never venture on that particular ice since it shifts around and is not stable. One witness stated that there appeared to be some type of bright red flickering lights directly underneath the bright light. One witness described it as being the shape of a banana. It remained motionless during the whole time and it made no sound."

Duration: 7:15 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Location: Plenty, Sask.
Date: Feb. 3, 1993

Incident: A woman was driving on a prairie highway with her two sons when she saw in the sky a "single object, globed, shape, yellow and hazy flowing light." It was "hovering over the ground and followed the woman's car and departed as she arrived home. Similar sighting was observed by witness approximately two weeks prior."

Duration: 15 minutes.

Location: Williams Lake, B.C.
Date: Jan. 29, 1993

Incident: About 11:45 p.m., a man and his wife "went outside to get wood to put in the stove and saw a large light of some sort (about 200 yards away). It was basically the shape of a moon, but it was too large. It sent a beam of light directly toward our house, but had darkness everywhere else. We could see a smoking or fog-like stuff around the light that was blue in color. I could also see a flashing light that looked like street lights, yellow in color. Within minutes, it seemed to fade away. There was no noise at all."

The RCMP examined the area and only found a "tree knocked over in the area where the light may have been coming from. The tree did not have any snow on it."

Duration: 10 minutes.

Location: Gatineau Hills, Que.
Date: Jan. 9, 1992

Incident: At 5:20 p.m., a girl was walking along a lane to her home after skating. "She spotted the UFO as she looked southward, over trees, for about a minute as it zigzagged in an irregular fashion, but came back to about the same place. There was a soft puttering noise and sometimes a 'pssst', sputtering-like sound, maybe engine trouble. It was twice the size of the family's van, had color lights on the sides and a white/yellow beam on top." The girl is a "normal and reliable 8-year-old, lives in Aylmer." She drew a picture and her parents posted a notice asking any other witnesses to come forward with information.

Duration: unknown.

Location: Aylmer Lake, N.W.T.
Date: 1936

Incident: On Jan. 17, 1992, someone wrote the NRC that they were "privileged" to witness a UFO 56 years earlier while based in the Arctic in Aerial Mapping Operations.

"Having now passed my 81st birthday with time running short, I feel I should try to outline and describe the incredible sighting I was so privileged to see, and to say that I firmly believe I was the only person likely to have observed this phenomenon."

"I was standing on the float of my aircraft when I happened to glance skyward and detected the vehicle in question completely stationary." Its color was light aluminum. "From a north/south stationary position it turned east in a moment. The turning was hardly detectable to the eye. After the turn it took off at a fantastic speed going east. From the time of take-off until it vanished was a matter of moments."

"The fact that I have not bothered to mention this sighting officially or otherwise until now undoubtedly seems strange. At the time in question, as a young fellow, I took most happenings for granted. I took the sighting I have de-

scribed as a point of interest only. From an early age I considered our world to be a mere speck in the vast universe."

Duration: Several minutes.

OTTAWA — Somewhere in the bowels of the National Archives, there's a rather unusual three-page police report from rural Alberta that might as well not exist.

In Ottawa, it seems, no one in government has cared to pay it much heed. For although RCMP File No. 92-0653 is professionally prepared, it was headed straight for the dust-covered files the moment its subject matter was revealed at the top of the first page: "RE: UFO SIGHTING. Near Taber, Alberta, 92 JUL 06."

Here are the highlights: A 15-year-old girl, watching TV at 3:23 a.m., saw a large "sphere-shaped" object hovering outside the window. She ducked under the covers of the living room couch and blacked out. The next day, "fresh impressions" that

were "roughly circular in shape" were discovered in the field.

The Mounties followed procedure. They sent the report to the National Research Council in Ottawa. Since 1968, the NRC's solar terrestrial physics section has been responsible for collecting all reports of unidentified flying objects. The federal agency receives about 100 such reports a year from police forces, the military and the transport department.

Some are clearly just meteor sightings. Others are more intriguing.

There's an amazing similarity to many descriptions: flying "triangular-shaped" objects that flash white, blue and red lights, and hover motionless.

So what does the NRC do? Does it send out a

squad of investigators? Does it track the sighting reports for trends?

Nope. It tucks the reports in its own files, and after a year, ships them across town to the archives for posterity.

Ron Burrows, who headed the NRC's solar terrestrial branch for 13 years until this fall, says the government simply doesn't have the money to investigate such a complex phenomenon as UFOs.

"I mean, does anybody ask the government of Canada to go out and prove that there is a God? It just isn't something that is amenable to the scientific method of investigation."

Burrows says he doesn't doubt the sincerity of people who report UFOs, and the last thing he wants is for them to be told: "Go away and don't bother me, you're crazy."

She doubts the official government line and believes it knows much more than it lets on. "I think they're still covering up. I believe it's a conspiracy."

That doesn't satisfy Ottawa resident Katherine Allen, one of the Ottawa Citizen readers who suggested the access request.

"Maybe they say something and take comfort in feeling they've done the right thing in talking to the authorities. Part of the role of the policeman is to be adequately reassuring."

Reassurance is fine, says Burrows, but answers are unreasonable.

"I don't think you can expect the government to solve all the mysteries in life."

Government files, then ignores reports

UFO sightings on rise

WINNIPEG (CP) — Over the past five years, more and more Canadians have reported seeing strange things in the sky.

These include silent black triangles, giant cigar-shapes and strange nocturnal lights.

According to a Manitoba astronomer, there were almost 500 reports of unidentified flying objects in 1993, triple the number in 1989.

But Chris Rutkowski doesn't interpret this to mean that earth has become a hot destination for intergalactic alien tourists.

More groups

Rather, the explosion in reports probably has more to do with the proliferation of UFO study groups around the country, he said.

Both British Columbia and Alberta now have 24-hour UFO hotlines and most other provinces have at least one group devoted to researching UFOs.

As these groups become more well-known, more people call to report unexplained sightings that they might otherwise keep to themselves, said Rutkowski, who is with Ufology Research of Manitoba.

The Alberta UFO Study Group, formed in 1989, issued a news release last week seeking anyone who may have seen some mysterious black triangles gliding silently

overhead.

"Since then, we have been getting hundreds of calls," said group member David Thacker of Red Deer, Alta.

Triangles sighted

The triangles were sighted in Edmonton and Red Deer last month and were also seen in Lethbridge, Alta., last year.

Thacker, who makes a living as an agricultural consultant, said triangles have also been sighted in large numbers in the U.S. and Belgium.

"One of the more popular theories in recent years is that this is actually a sighting of an advanced United States secret spy plane," said Thacker.

"But it's impossible to prove that because they don't even admit that it exists."

In fact, few UFOs can't be explained once investigated. Of the 489 reported in Rutkowski's study, only 26 were unexplained.

And last year's survey was skewed somewhat because at least 120 reports were on the same event — a spectacular fireball and sonic boom over Western Canada. A meteor was established as the likely cause.

Annual survey

For the past five years, Rutkowski has been gathering re-

ports from around the country and putting out an annual UFO survey.

He thinks the phenomenon deserves serious scientific study.

"Even if it turns out that it's not real, we should learn why people are thinking that it's real."

At one time, the National Research Council in Ottawa actively investigated UFO reports, but now it only collects the information and files it away.

Reports studied

The Meteorite Impact Advisory Group studies reports of meteors but its funding may not be continued this year.

For the most part, UFO investigations are left up to the initiative of independent observers.

Why is there so little official interest in studying the matter?

"Because of what's called the ridicule curtain," said Rutkowski.

"This subject has just been thought of as very trivial and frivolous. Why should the government spend taxpayers' money on something that's trivial and frivolous?"

Shoppers spot UFO over store's car park

SHOPPING at Tesco in Rickmansworth was an unforgettable experience for a couple who looked up to see a craft "the size of a hundred aeroplanes" overhead.

The mysterious craft, shaped like an eye and covered in lights, appeared in the sky as Mr Barry Clarke and his wife, Carol, were loading groceries into their car on Monday evening.

It flew at the height of a helicopter but was, Mrs Clarke said "much, much larger".

The even more bizarre twist to the tale came when the Clarks looked at other shoppers expecting them to be in similar awe of the unidentified flying object.

In a scene reminiscent of Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Mr and Mrs Clarke found themselves the only people to have noticed the giant ship.

While the couple craned their necks to the skies, other shoppers waited impatiently to leave the car park.

Then, as they tried to follow the ship while it continued its flight, the pair could not believe other motorists in Riverside Drive were not stopping to watch.

Mrs Clarke, 42, who runs a card shop in Buckinghamshire and has never seen a UFO before, said: "I

have been wondering to myself if I was seeing things but my husband backs me up and he is a very logical man."

"It was unidentified and it was flying so, yes, it was a UFO."

"I am desperate to talk to anyone who saw it as well. I have always believed the light can play tricks on your eyes, especially at night, but this was not a trick."

Mrs Clarke has asked for anyone else who saw the craft to get in touch with her.

She said: "It was covered in lights, hundreds of them, with one flashing on the top."

"I am sure other people must have seen it. I cannot understand how so many people missed it."

"I am beginning to even doubt it happened myself because I have never seen anything like it."

UFO sightings that are reported to the Civil Aviation Authority are referred to the Ministry of Defence.

A spokesman for the ministry said the sighting would be logged and investigated by a secretariat dedicated to the subject.

● Anyone who wishes to contact Mrs Clarke should do so through the Watford Observer, 124 Rickmansworth Road, Watford WD1 7JW.

CR: T. Good

Skies are alive – with UFOs

TRUCK driver Mark Kitchener joined other ET readers in spotting a fire in the sky.

Mr Kitchener, of Duchy Close, Higham Ferrers, was on his second run of the night, travelling along the A45 towards the M1 past the Earls Barton turn, when he noticed the object just after midnight.

He said: "It came down in an uncontrolled fashion in the area of Wollaston and Grendon. It reminded me of a flare from a flare gun, and it flicked as it dropped."

Another reader, who asked not to be named, said he saw a mystery fire in the sky two Thursdays ago at about 2.30pm.

He said: "Looking over towards Islip and Thrapston I saw what looked like two halos side by side which were bright yellow and orange."

"They hovered for about a minute

quite low in the sky and moved upwards and diagonally towards Wellingborough."

Motorist Nick Gibbins saw a blazing object falling from the sky, which has not been explained.

As he was driving on the A509 last month, he saw the object descending from the sky over Grendon. He drove there but could not find anything.

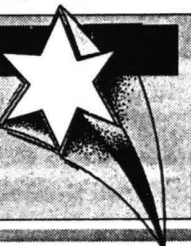
Mr Gibbins, of London Road, Bozeat, received three calls from other ET readers interested in his sighting.

He said: "I must admit I was fairly sceptical about UFOs until I saw it that night. The reason I phoned the ET was because I wanted a logical explanation, but there wasn't one."

"It was like something burning. To begin with I thought it was some wreckage, but it came down slowly as if it was coming to land."

When YOU see something

POLICE stations often receive calls from the public when there are "sightings". A Northants Police spokesman said: "When people phone us, there's a number for the MoD which we invite them to call. We get a handful of calls, but often it's when there's something like a laser show on or if they see Venus."



MPs to be be given 'evidence' on UFOs

A NORTH Yorkshire man is to lobby Parliament and the Ministry of Defence as part of a transatlantic campaign to focus attention on unidentified flying objects.

Mr John Holman, of Ripon, will present evidence on UFO sightings to MPs at the same time as activists in the United States speak to the defence headquarters at the Pentagon.

As the organiser of the Alien Acknowledgement Campaign, Mr Holman was contacted by members of the U.S.-run Operation Right To Know. Both groups are trying to publicise the growing number of UFO sightings across the world.

Mr Holman, who also runs a branch of Skynet which meets near York once a month, agreed to turn his campaign into the British branch of Operation Right To Know.

So on May 23 Mr Holman will be giving every MP and MoD official in Whitehall a document entitled Are You Aware...? which gives details of worldwide UFO activity.

He said: "We think that most of the MPs and their equivalents in America are not aware of the extent of the evidence."

That evidence includes more than 3,500 sightings of inexplicable objects in the sky by pilots, as well as many more by people on the ground.

A number of sightings have already been reported this year in North Yorkshire. Several people reported seeing a large, bright object hovering over the village hall at Huttons Ambo, near Malton, in January.

Later a number of witnesses spotted a silent object in the daylight sky at Scarborough.

There have also been patterns of UFO activity on the Humber side coastline, said Mr Holman.

He thinks people are generally too afraid of being ridiculed if they say they have seen a UFO.

● Skynet meets on the last Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is on April 27 at 7.30pm, at the village hall in Acaster Malbis, near York. If you have a UFO contact Mr Holman on 0765 602898.

Another believer

BUENOS AIRES (Reuter) — Like Shirley MacLaine, Argentine President Carlos Menem said he believes in extraterrestrial life and flying saucers, Diarios y Noticias news agency reported Tuesday.

Menem, 63, made the remarks Monday, after meeting U.S. film star MacLaine, who is appearing at a show in Buenos Aires this week.

"We spoke of the power which comes from the Earth and then about the existence of unidentified flying objects," the Argentine head of state was quoted saying.

"I told her I believed in them," Menem added.

"After all, why shouldn't there be more advanced life forms than ourselves in other solar systems?"

NUGGET, North Bay, Ontario, Canada
May 4, 1994 CR: M. Deschamps

Close encounters of the Crowcombe kind

UFO hunters are investigating two sightings in West Somerset on Saturday, March 5, which they believe may be linked.

First, a woman in Wiveliscombe saw an object hovering in the sky and then shooting high into the air near her home.

As she went outside to investigate, it came lower and passed overhead and disappeared in the direction of Willets Tower.

Three hours later, at about 11pm, a group of people living in Crowcombe saw an object hovering in the sky in the direction of Willets Tower.

They were able to use binoculars to study what appeared to be a transparent craft surrounded by a scaffolding-type structure for more than an hour.

The observers also telephoned a 24-hour hotline run by Somerset Unidentified Flying Object Research and Investigation Network.

The network checked with civil and military air flight controllers for the area and was told no activity was taking place.

The Crowcombe object was said to be ultra-bright with silver, white, gold, red and blue colours and emitting beams of light.

Eventually, a helicopter and an aeroplane arrived in the area and appeared to be examining the object when it moved away in a northerly direction.

SUFORIN director of UFO investigations Sue Hembury-Kellow said: "We have got some good witnesses here."

"They did not know each other and these are separate reports, but it sounds as if they could be connected."

"Until we know what it is, any information would be useful. We would like to hear from anybody with corroborative evidence or any sightings either at that time or any other time."

The SUFORIN hotline telephone number is 0823-491068.

New mystery object sighted

ANOTHER sighting of a mysterious object hovering over Scarborough has been reported to the Evening News.

Andrew Crimlis, of Colescliffe Road, Scarborough, spotted a ball of red light in the sky while on his bus journey to work.

He said that the light was solid and perfectly round — "like a red light bulb" — and flew slowly above trees near Barrowcliff School and in the direction of Raincliffe Wood at 7.20am last week.

Investigations

But Mr Crimlis, who works at Booker Cash and Carry, didn't take much notice of it until other reports of strange sightings came forward.

He said: "I do believe in UFOs and other strange sightings, but I haven't seen anything like this before that couldn't be explained."

This follows similar sighting last week over Scarborough and Ryedale which are to be investigated by the British UFO Research Association.

YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS, York, England - April 11, 1994 CR: T. Good

Heavenly signals

Lloyd Mason, Upperhouse, Hade Edge

In the Holme Valley Express, February '88, I read with interest the accounts of mysterious sightings of strange footprints in the snow and strange, gleaming, metallic objects in the sky over Holmfrith district during the last week or so.

As police inspector Terry Jenson and British UFO Research Association director Philip Mantle suggested, these types of sightings may have a perfectly rational explanation.

But seeing is believing! Those who have had a very clear view of this type of phenomenon cannot forget the detail, even though the sightings lasted only a few seconds. I myself am not

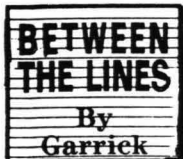
given to exaggerations or hallucinations but what I saw about 40 years ago convinces me that I witnessed a UFO.

In the early 1950s I was walking up a very steep hill overlooking the Don Valley in Brightside, Sheffield, at about 6.30pm on a clear, cold, dark night.

Suddenly above me, about 500 to 1,000 feet, I was surprised to see a very big, circular, metallic looking object hovering in the night sky. It had the appearance of a large saucer with a dome covering its top. Its colour was bright orange and round its sides shining lights penetrated the darkness.

As I looked, it shot across the sky at incredible speed and disappeared in the northern sky in a matter of seconds. A UFO? I think so!

Could it be possible that the mysterious sightings of unidentified flying objects are in fulfillment of the prophecies of Jesus, which He stated would be witnessed in the last days? Among a great variety of signs, He said that there would be great signs from heaven to herald His return to planet earth!



I was interested to read about the meeting on the subject of UFO's (Unidentified Flying Objects).

Whatever happened to them? No-one seems to be seeing them around here these days.

Surely, if their sightings were just the result of imagination people would be imagining they had seen them all the time.

No-one will ever shake my convictions about what I saw (and the entire flight deck crew with me) way out in mid-Atlantic while flying to New York overnight aboard a Boeing Strato Cruiser, way back in 1950.

Two brilliant globes of light formed near our port wing tip and remained there for several hours before we began to descend to Gander in Newfoundland, when they flashed away like two meteors, into the upper darkness.

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

UFO SIGHTINGS ON THE INCREASE

WEEKLY NEWS, Wellington, England
March 8, 1994 CR: T. Good

More strange lights spotted at monument

MORE strange lights have been spotted in the sky around Wellington Monument.

The latest sighting was on February 24 when a local man spotted a dark round object hovering near the monument.

Having gone to check on his children at around 9.30pm, he had looked out of the bedroom window towards the

Blackdown Hills and saw the object clearly illuminated in the lights around the base of the monument.

Around the perimeter of the object was a circle of lights - red, blue, green and yellow, flashing on and off.

After approximately 10 - 15 minutes he

said the craft flew away very fast - much faster than a helicopter - in the direction of Hemyock.

The incident was reported to local UFO expert Sue Hembry-Kellow (0823 491068), who is keen to hear from anyone else who may have seen this or any other incidents.

By SARAH GOLDTHORPE

TWO more mysterious UFO sightings have been revealed to the Express, following hard on the heels of last week's reports of strange footprints and unusual UFO-type lights.

The Express has informed the British UFO Research Association - and director of investigation Philip Mantle is urging other witnesses to make contact with him.

In the latest incident a Parkhead resident, who asked not to be named, was walking up Spring Lane at 8.55am last Thursday morning. She said it was a beautiful, cold, clear sky as she climbed the hill to the bus stop.

Something in the sky caught her eye, which she thought at first was a hot air balloon - a closer look revealed a strange, gleaming, metallic object.

"I saw what I can only describe as a big stainless steel silver disc in the sky, with the sunlight reflecting off it."

"It was stationary, but it was big, that's all I can say, big! I have never seen anything like it before," she said.

A work colleague had laughed at her

tale of the unexpected. Even so, she said: "I believe in these things but I have looked for a rational explanation for what I saw. I am definitely sure that it wasn't a plane."

"It is inexplicable, but I do believe that I have seen something that could be described as a UFO."

A possible rational explanation for this type of sighting was given by BURA's Mr Mantle. He said firstly that 95% of all sightings have an explanation.

In this case, he knows for sure that an airship had been seen in the Midlands and may have drifted north.

Viewed from the side the airship looked like a silver cigar, said the ufo-logist, but if seen from the front it may look like a silver disc.

"Since the beginning of the year we have had an awful lot of UFO sightings," said Mr Mantle. "Chester and Scarborough are most popular with over 70 sightings. At the moment they are unidentified."

Mr Mantle is appealing for anyone who has, or thinks they have, seen a UFO to contact him confidentially on (0924) 444049.

WEEKLY NEWS, Runcorn, England - Feb. 24, 1994 CR: T. Good

Spotlight turns on the 'saucers'

by DAVE FOX

UFO experts reckon reports of a 'flying saucer' above Frodsham and Runcorn are more than a flight of fancy.

There have been a spate of sightings of a strange cigar-shaped craft over the past few weeks.

Members of the British UFO Research Association are taking them seriously and are now carrying out an in-depth investigation.

Latest to report a sighting is 74-year-old former lorry driver Mr Tom Wade, who lives in Clifton Drive at Frodsham.

Wheelchair-bound Mr Wade saw the UFO out of an upstairs window at 9.30pm at night and it has left him baffled.

"At first I thought the moon was very bright. I pulled the curtains apart and realised it was not the moon but an object with lights along the side."

"It was lit up with blue, gold and orange colours along the side."

"At first it appeared to be stationary and then it moved off towards ICI Rocksavage Works. It was strange because there was no sound."

"Then it swung sharply round and headed towards the Kestner Kellner towers. After about three minutes it flew off in the direction of Liverpool."

Added Mr Wade: "It was not an aircraft or a helicopter. The way it moved was completely different."

"I've always thought there might be something in UFO reports. After seeing this I believe they do exist."

An investigator from the British UFO Research Association has taken a statement from



BAFFLED: Tom Wade, of Clifton Crescent, Frodsham, takes another look through his bedroom window after spotting an UFO.

0926J2A

Mr Wade as part of inquiries into over 70 recent eye-witness accounts of UFO sightings.

Said association spokesman Philip Mantle: "Strangely we have had an awful lot of similar reports from the Wirral and Chester area and also from over on the East Coast around Scarborough."

"They've all come over about six weeks and a lot of them are of a very similar nature."

"At the moment we have not been able to come up with an explanation and that means we're keeping an open mind about it."

"Plenty of people will have seen the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and I have no doubt personally there are craft from another world."

UFO FACTFILE

- UFO Investigators say 95% of eye-witness sightings can usually be traced to some other explanation but 5% remain unexplained.
- MANY of the latest reports are of a cigar-shaped object with seven different coloured bands across it.
- THE British UFO Research Association has a national network of voluntary investigators which follows up calls from members of the public and then produce reports.
- THERE have been a number of past reports of UFOs over Runcorn including a spate in 1972 when people saw an object 'like a teapot without a lid'.
- ANYONE who wants to report sightings to the British UFO Research Association can telephone Phillip Mantle on 0924 444049.

CHRONICLE, Chester, England
Jan. 28, 1994 CR: T. Good

Experts probe new UFO sightings

by JIM BRAKELL

CLOSE encounters of the mystery kind have happened in Chester, Helsby and Eastham, say UFO experts.

They say about 30 further sightings of a hovering cigar-shaped object have taken place since initial reports came in last week.

Eye witness accounts suggest the unexplained craft was in the skies over the area for a four-day period and people who spot it are being urged to get in touch with a group investigating the incidents.

Philip Mantle, of the British UFO Research Association, said a stream of details had come in from eagle-eyed householders since we reported the original sightings over the Boughton Heath and Wirral areas.

He said people coming forward with further descriptions of the craft included a resident in Chapel Lane, Boughton, a Helsby villager and a youngster from Eastham.

"The reports of a strange cigar-shaped object are still coming in and are consistent with the information we received last week," he said.

"We have also had similar sightings in the Wrexham area and the reports are continuing to come in slowly but surely," Mr Mantle added.

"We have had about 30 reports, all from around the same time, although there will be more than 30 people involved as some were with relatives or friends."

"There is a chance the sightings will not be explained but we are keeping an open mind," he said.

Mr Mantle added that witness reports are now being examined and air bases are being contacted as the investigation continues.

● Anyone who has further information about the mystery object can contact the association on 0924 444049.

M5 'magnet' for UFOs?

COULD it be the local section of the M5 is attracting visitors from outer space?

Sue Hembury-Kellow, director of investigations of the local UFO organisation, is beginning to think this may be the case for several sightings recently reported to her have been close to or along the route of the motorway.

The most recent sighting was in mid-January. A driver travelling towards Wellington between junctions 25 and 26 at 5.15pm saw a row of four lights over the top and to the left of Wellington Monument.

The witness watched for two or three minutes as the lights hovered and then suddenly "shot up into the sky at a vast rate of knots and disappeared."

A previous sighting occurred in West Buckland towards the end of November on a clear night at 6pm. The witness saw a round, star-like object, moving too fast for an aircraft, with green and red lights.

For approximately 15 minutes the object moved backwards and forwards very fast, suddenly disappearing and then re-appearing in a different position.

It made a noise but, apparently did not sound like an aircraft.

A previous UFO sighting in West Buckland was also reported in October. This time the object, spotted at 5.30am, was described as oblong, covered in red, blue, green and yellow lights. "It sped away so fast, you couldn't compare it with any known aircraft," claimed the witness.

Other sightings include a silvery disc-shaped UFO at Bradford on Tone, and several sightings at Trull, near Taunton.

Mrs Hembury-Kellow is keen to hear from anyone who may have seen anything unusual. "The majority of sightings have quite ordinary explanations, such as weather balloons, aircraft, etc.

"But there are still a certain percentage that we just can't explain," she said.

Mrs Kellow can be contacted on 0823 491068.

CR: T. Good



■ A print taken from Ian's negatives at the Press studios

Ian's close encounter

THE sighting of a large frisbee-shaped UFO at Craigluscarr Reservoir is baffling and intriguing experts.

Pictures taken of the object by Rosyth man Ian Macpherson have been described as the best to come out of Scotland.

And Dunfermline youngster Barry Smith has also come forward to report the sighting of a similar object from his house.

Several other incidents were reported in the 48 hours around the sighting and are currently being probed by the Scottish Research into UFO Group, which has been investigating the area for several years.

A keen amateur painter, Mr Macpherson (43) had gone to the reservoir at about 3.15 pm last Saturday to take photographs of its banks for a painting. On his way there he saw the large object several hundred feet in the air.

Mr Macpherson said that it had been in the air for around 15 minutes and he did not know why he had not taken a picture when it was closer to him. However, he added, "If I had not had that camera ready, with the cap off and wound on, I would not have got anything, because by the time I had done that it would have been away."

While he had not had a particular interest in the subject before the incident, he knew right away that what he was seeing was not an aircraft.

Mr Macpherson said he had not been looking for any publicity from his sighting and had been "disappointed" by what he described as sensationalist treatment of the incident by a national newspaper.

Barry Smith (14), of Woodmill Crescent, told the Press he had been looking out of his bedroom window at about 7 pm two or three weeks ago when he saw a similar object with flashing lights.

He had been "really excited" and had rushed downstairs to tell his parents, but by the time his father had gone outside to look, it had gone.

Nick Pope, of the secretariat that deals with UFO sightings on behalf of the RAF, said that a closer look would have to be taken at Mr Macpherson's pictures, but initially no obvious explanations sprung to mind.

Ron Halliday, who runs Scottish Earth Mysteries in Stirling, said that there had been a number of UFO sightings in the area over the last five years, with reports dating back to the 1960s. "There are certain spots where you do get greater incidence of sightings. This is continuing a bit of a trend."

A similar object had been seen in Edinburgh two years ago and since Mr Macpherson's sighting, a Glasgow woman had contacted him to say that she had also seen one.

Malcolm Robinson, of Strange Phenomena Investigations, said that the sighting was particularly interesting because of how close Mr Macpherson had been to the object. And he said that the photograph was the closest and most detailed he had seen to come out of Scotland.

There could only be speculation about what the object had been, such as a secret military aircraft, and he was not saying that it was something extra-terrestrial.

"What we are saying is that without a shadow of a doubt it is, to all intents and purposes, an unidentified flying object," he said. "Sometimes when people hear the words UFO, it conjures up fanciful imagery of little green men. It should not be like that."

There were numerous ways to fake a photograph, but he did not think that Mr Macpherson's sighting was a hoax.

The picture will now be examined more closely with state-of-the-art computer enhancement in Phoenix, Arizona.

SCOTLAND ON SUNDAY, Edinburgh, Scotland - Jan. 23, 1994 CR: T. Good



Unidentified flying objects may soon be the subject of a new European observation centre planned by the European Parliament. We ask, who has seen these objects and why hold this seemingly irrational belief?

JENNY RANGLES
Ufologist

"I've been a professional UFO investigator for the past 20 years. My interest started when I was a teacher and children told me of unusual things they had seen. I thought they deserved a more sympathetic hearing. The proposal which has been put through the energy commission would be a significant development. Research on earthquake diffusion would be most useful. People should learn the facts before they call us cranks."

FERGUS STORRIER
Policeman and UFO investigator

"I do all my research in Scotland. The kind of people who come to me usually don't want to report it to the police for fear of being called loonies. I've never seen anything myself but so many people have had sightings that I felt I had to find out more. A friend from up north once saw a spaceship outside her house. I'm always sceptical but there are things out there that we don't understand yet."

BOB MAJOR
Curator, Museum of Flight

"One time I was convinced that I was witnessing the arrival of UFOs. I looked up and saw two or three shining objects in the sky which looked like nothing I had seen before. However, I soon realised that it was simply the sun reflecting off a flock of seagulls."

Dr GORDON SAYER
Retired pharmaceutical chemist

"I was in Michigan in 1966 when I got involved in a wave of UFO sightings. I didn't see anything but for a whole month reports came in. The whole experience was most bizarre. One man nearly had a collision with a spaceship which landed in his path. I think there is something very peculiar going on in the world but I don't know what the explanation is. I would be in favour of a European study centre as long as people take it seriously."

JAMES FERRIER
Male nurse

"I'm a Catholic but I believe that there are other life forms which we haven't made contact with yet. I was walking home one evening when a huge blue light hovered in the field next to me. There was a strange humming sound coming from somewhere. I was so frightened that I fell into some bushes and sat there quivering for about an hour. If there is a rational explanation for what I saw I sure as hell can't think what it is."

RON HALLIDAY
University administrator and UFO investigator

"Our group investigates throughout Scotland. We have had several hundred reported sightings. I think the idea of an official study centre is a good thing. People are becoming more interested in UFOs. In Edinburgh in 1992 a man saw a group of round objects land within 150ft of him. In Livingston a dome shaped craft sent out sharp objects which knocked a man out. The highest concentration of sightings has been in the Edinburgh area."

DAVID REYNOLDS
Meteorologist

"My specialism is research into crop circles. This is one area where people think they have proof that UFOs have landed. However, 30 or 40 of the cases we had were genuine — that is, they were caused by whirlwinds (some of which glow). The others were all fakes made by people trying to fool the experts. A centre for serious study would be worthwhile but you always have to look out for the lunatic fringe."

DES BROGAN
Ghost Tours operator, Edinburgh

"There are certain things you can't explain which is why a study centre would be a good idea. Like many others I believe there are supernatural forces at work. One of my friends who set up the company had strange encounters every time he went under Edinburgh City Chambers. The light above the door would flicker, turn green and then go out every time he stood there. We made many investigations and it never happened to anyone else. I think it's wrong to be completely sceptical. I don't believe these forces are evil. We should open our minds to new things."

JESS FERRIER
Sociologist

"In my experience people who claim to have seen UFOs either like a drink or are wishful thinkers. You'd think the European parliament would have better things to spend their money on."

Ingrid Kent

Riddle of UFO over island

THE sighting of a bizarre object shooting over the skies of Orkney has left locals baffled.

A huge bright green, blazing trail with a blue tail stopped two electricians in their tracks.

Stephen Leech and Paul Anderson are sure the cigar-shaped puzzler was a UFO.

"It was a clear morning and we were driving from Stromness to Kirkwall," said Paul.

Debris

"I caught sight of this thing for a few seconds before it swooped between some hills.

"It seemed huge and was moving far too fast to be an aeroplane."

Steve added: "I wondered if it was some space debris burning up."

The lads have appealed to others who saw the mystery object on Thursday.

'UFO' sparks scare

A FLYING saucer scare spread across the Midlands today after scores of people reported seeing a strange object in the sky.

A glowing object seen in Birmingham, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and the Black Country last night was today identified as an advertising balloon.

But Yvonne Darby, aged 19, who followed it from Tanworth-in-Arden to her home in Northfield, said "It was definitely a flying saucer. It was a big, white light, an oval shape, with a blue and red light below it."

Derek Walker, of Howley Grange Road, Halesowen, said it was shaped "like something between a fat cigar and a lemon and glowing."

ASAHI EVENING NEWS,
Tokyo, Japan - April 9-10, 1994
CR: Y. Matsumura

Philippines investigates UFOs

MANILA—The head of the Philippine government's Air Transportation Office (ATO) confirmed Friday that they were looking into reports of UFO sightings in a province just south of the capital.

ATO chief Panfilo Villaruel said he had sent personnel to Laguna province, south of Manila, to interview local residents who claim to have seen an unexplained display of lights in the sky earlier this week.

Speaking in a live interview over radio station DZXL, Villaruel said, "We are keeping our minds open on this," although he admitted that radar had picked up no flying objects in the area during the alleged sightings of the unidentified flying objects, known as UFOs.

CORNISH & DEVON POST, Launceston, England
Nov. 25, 1993 CR: T. Good

Can you solve UFO mystery?

A STARTLED couple who spotted an Unidentified Flying Object near Week St Mary, are keen to hear from anyone else who saw it.

The couple were driving home from a night out — neither of them having touched a drop of alcohol — when they saw the very bright white light pass across the road in front of them.

They stopped the car to try to catch a second glimpse through the hedge, but the object had vanished.

"It looked about 50 ft above the ground, like a tennis ball travelling fairly fast, but making no sound," said the 35-year-old wife.

She asked that her and

her husband's name should not be used because they had already suffered a lot of leg-pulling.

The object was not a plane, a weather balloon, or a star, she explained.

"We sat up afterwards going through all the logical explanations, but none of them fitted."

"It seems peculiar. We can't think of any logical explanation. We would be very interested to see if there was anybody else who spotted anything, although I have my doubts as it is such an isolated area."

"I do stress that we had not had anything to drink. We were completely sober."

The sighting was made

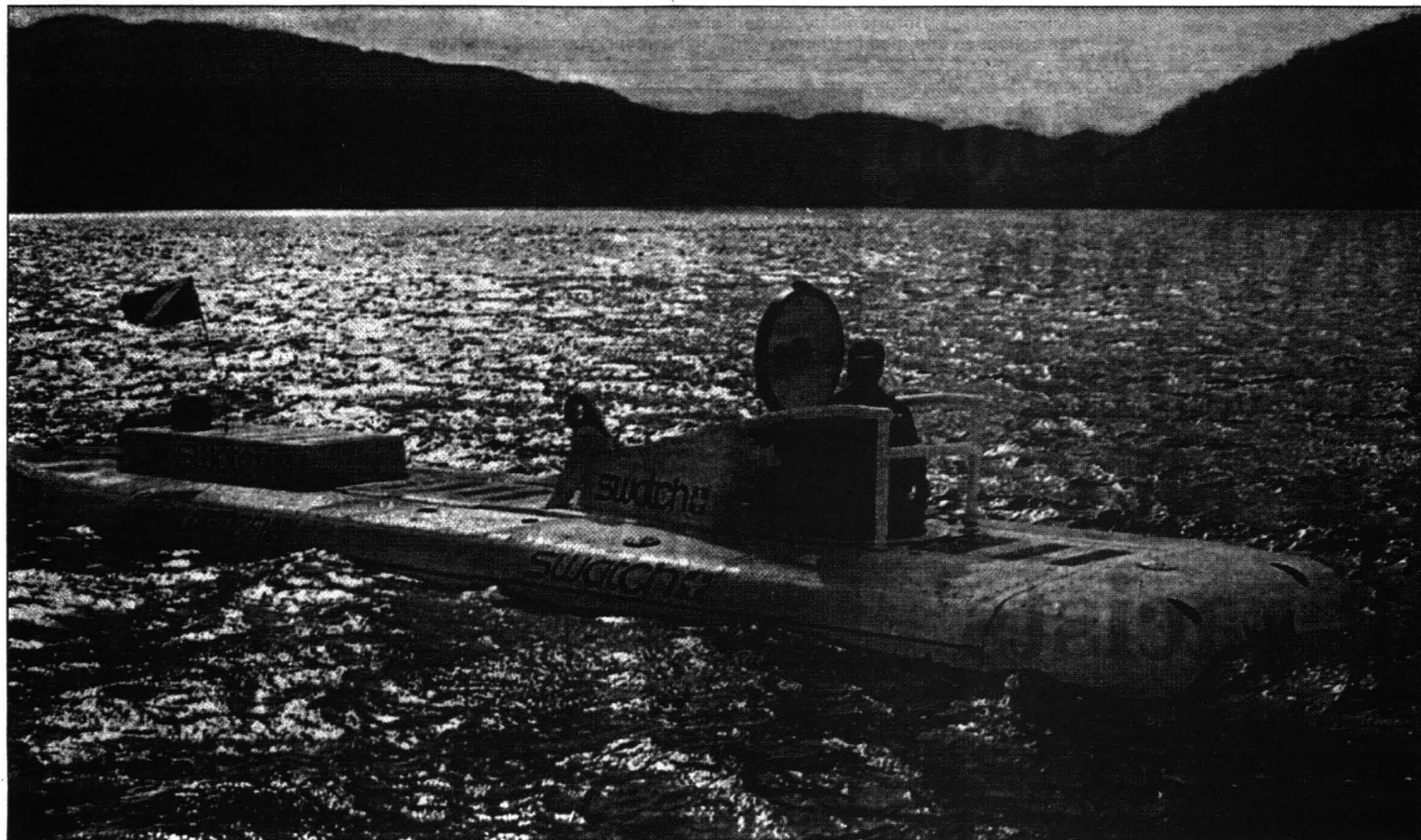
in the East Hele or Hele Barton area between Jacobstow and Week St Mary, at about 9.55pm on Wednesday, November 17.

Anyone else who saw the UFO or has any information on what it might have been can contact the couple through the Post, by ringing our newsroom on 0566 774444.



EVENING STANDARD, London, England - March 29, 1994 CR: T. Good

On the loch-out for Nessie



Taking the plunge: Alan Whitfield at the controls of the submarine that will take monster-seeking tourists to the bottom of Loch Ness for £68.50

Pictures: CLIVE HOWES

DOWN into the black waters of Loch Ness we sink, the engines humming gently. Since time immemorial, man has only guessed what lay below. Now, at last, we can see. For the first time, a submarine was taking six ordinary non-scientists into the world's most famous mystery. This is the ultimate monster hunt.

"Clear to vent," says pilot Gordon Swindells, and to the sound of rushing water and the creaking of escaping air - unglamorously like the sound of an amplified empty stomach - he drops the nose and takes us out of the light, and into a sparkling pea soup of floating silt and plankton.

Down here the lights from 100 switches are glowing red and white and green over our heads. As the rush of ballast stops, the only sounds are the gentle hum of the electric thrusters and transformers, and the pinging of a sonar.

And waiting somewhere in the gloom beyond the searchlights that pick out our path through the deepest, darkest hole in Europe, is the truth of Loch Ness.

For those who believe in such things, this may be the chance to come face to face with a Jurassic plesiosaur somehow miraculously trapped in a sub-Arctic, landlocked lake 60 million years after it should have died out.

For those who don't it is an extraordinary experience, exploring a world of Inner Space that has been hidden from man for all of its 12,000 years of existence.

A huge round porthole gives a view forward from this £3 million former naval rescue submarine. Below, a smaller one that was once for rescuing crews from stricken nuclear submarines, shows the bottom.

On this dive, visibility is poor. Last month, a storm washed into 700 feet of loch the dock that the sub should have used, and the trials must take place in the silty waters of a bay a mere 70ft deep and stirred up by an incoming

Standard's man takes first submarine trip in ultimate monster hunt

by GERAINT SMITH

river. The first object of interest is an ancient wellington boot.

According to Alan Whitfield, head of the Gloucestershire-based Silvercrest Submarines, the company running the Loch Ness Submarine, when the real thing starts, the visitors will have an awe-inspiring descent from the reconstructed dock down a vertical 600ft cliff to the loch bed - a distance greater than the height of the Post Office Tower.

THE water pressure will be around 300 lb per square inch - well inside the safety limits for the submarine, which can operate with confidence in depths of 1,000ft. In the hour of underwater safari they will get for their £68.50, visitors will stand a good chance of seeing not only staggering rock formations, but the great cannibal trout of the lake, salmon, and shoals of Arctic char, survivors from the Ice Age.

The submarine is much more than just a tourist attraction, though. It is the self-funding hub of a complex web of scientific studies that will, it is hoped, also help scientists to discover the truth about life in the loch, and its development since the last Ice Age. Samples of sediment 12 metres long will be taken from the bed, which holds in layers like the rings of a tree a

history of the plant and animal life and how it has changed since the loch began. They have already shown, for instance, a horrifying injection of radiation into the water in 1987, the year of the Chernobyl disaster.

Scientists from the Loch Ness and Morar project, who have been working here since 1961, will track the mysteries of some small forms of life that rise and fall with the coming of darkness.

And, of course, they will try to find out what lies behind the Nessie myth.

Last month it emerged that for 60 years the public had been fooled by the most famous monster picture of them all. The long necked monster emerging from the water was in fact a one foot high grey painted model powered by a motor from a toy submarine bought at Woolworths.

One of the pranksters responsible, 90-year-old Christian Spurling, confessed to researchers before he died last November that he had helped set up the picture with two friends.

According to Dr Adrian Shine, head of the Loch Ness project, what lies behind the myth is likely to be a stray sturgeon, if it is anything. The loch is too poor in nutrients to support anything else.

So far 400 people have booked to see if there is more. And their chances? "Well," says Gordon with a grin. "We are starting the dives on April 1st. With Loch Ness, it couldn't really be any other day."



Down the hatch: Reporter Geraint Smith gets on board

'Monuments' on moon topic of OSU speaker

By Michael B. Lafferty
Dispatch Science Reporter

Richard C. Hoagland has amused the space science community for years by arguing that NASA photographs show monuments and other artifacts on Mars built by intelligent aliens.

On Thursday, in a Columbus lecture, he will talk about related structures on the moon.

Hoagland, 48, says his findings are based on advanced computer analysis of space agency photographs not available when the photos were first taken more than 20 years ago. The computer analysis, he said, has uncovered spires, domes and other structures of a long-dead alien city on the moon.

He will present his evidence publicly for the first time at Ohio State University during a 7 p.m. Thursday talk in Independence Hall, 1923 Neil Ave.



This NASA photo of Mars' surface allegedly shows a pyramid, upper center, constructed by aliens.

"It's a . . . structure of high complexity that cannot be explained away as a natural feature. Even the astronauts observed things of this nature."

Bruce Cornet
speaking of alleged dome on the moon

His talk, delayed from last Thursday, is sponsored by OSU aeronautical and astronautical engineering students and MidOhio Research Associates, a local UFO investigation group.

Hoagland, who lives in Weehawken, N.J., was reported unavailable for an interview last week because of illness.

Bruce Cornet, an independent geologist who works with Hoagland, said Hoagland is exhausted from trying to prepare his findings for his Columbus presentation.

Cornet said the images confirm the presence of structures of an ancient, ruined, lunar metropolis beneath a long-broken transparent dome in a basin known as the Mare Crisium. The area is in the upper right portion of the moon's disk as viewed from Earth.

"It's a multi-tiered structure of high complexity that cannot be explained away as a natural feature," Cornet said of the dome. "Even the astronauts observed things of this nature when they were flying over them. They thought they saw clouds but what they may have been seeing were the micrometeorite frosted surface of the (dome)."

Hoagland has named the remains of the dome "the Shard." The frosting Cornet refers to is the result of dust-sized meteorites scarring the surface of what Cornet believes are the remains of the transparent cover. The city has been destroyed by meteorites striking the moon's surface.

Cornet said the area covered by one of the ruins compares in size to Los Angeles.

OSU astronomer Gerald Newsom doesn't believe Hoagland's theory. He said lunar photo analysis is much like "interpreting rubble."

"There's rubble all over the moon. It sounds like he wants to see ruined civilizations."

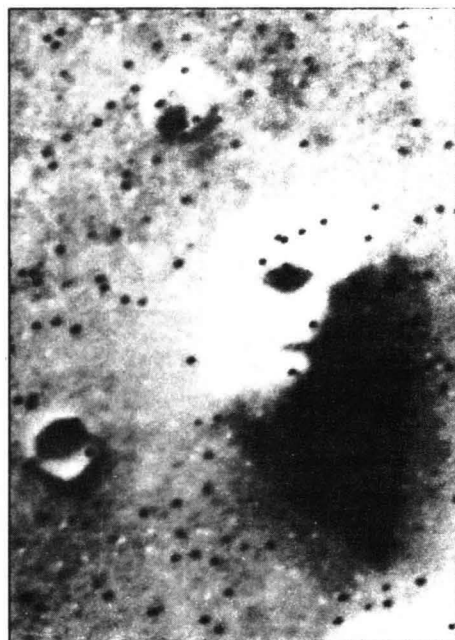
Hoagland says he is a former consultant to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. A NASA spokesman said he could not confirm Hoagland's claim.

Hoagland bases his analysis on moon photos taken by the Surveyor 6 spacecraft in November 1967, the lunar orbiter in February 1967, the Apollo 10 spacecraft in May 1969 and Apollo 16 in June 1972.

Hoagland believes his lunar evidence is linked to pyramids and other monuments, including the famous "face on Mars" he purports to have discovered from NASA photos. He outlined his theory and evidence in a 1992 book, *The Monuments of Mars*.

In the late 19th century, astronomer Percival Lowell theorized the "canals" observed by earlier astronomers were part of an extensive irrigation system. Various science fiction authors have helped foster an image that Mars might have once harbored life, notably Robert Heinlein in modern times with his *Martian Chronicles*.

The fires of imagination also have been stoked by



Richard C. Hoagland says this NASA photo of Mars shows a face.

the failure of some of the space probes to Mars — both from the United States and the former Soviet Union. In 1993, conspiracy theories popped up in the wake of the loss of the Mars Observer spacecraft.

Was the destruction an accident? Was the spacecraft destroyed by aliens? Was it destroyed because the federal government wished to keep the public in the dark at least until more is learned?

In fact, was the observer destroyed at all? One theory holds that Mars Observer is out there still sending closely guarded data back to Earth.

Hoagland claims that one of the Martian artifacts — in the shape of a triangle enclosed in a circle — provided the lead that allowed him to find the ancient lunar city.

He discovered the same symbol on the moon.

Hoagland's investigations have identified a structure he called "the Tower" in an area in the Sinus Medii near the center of the moon as viewed from Earth. The Tower is about 200 miles from the Shard and rises 5 miles high. The top of the Tower, according to Cornet, appears to be composed of regular cube shapes that form a larger cube more than 1 mile in diameter.

The connection of the Martian and lunar theories with pyramids and similar monuments on Earth are obvious and, if proven by independent investigators, the implications are staggering.

But that's a big "if."

NASA officials have consistently said that what Hoagland believes are Martian monuments are merely shadows and odd reflections and that the photos show nothing but natural features.

Cornet said Hoagland's analysis is based on original, unretouched NASA photos; he claims the agency now retouches or censors the images when they are ordered by the public. That's disputed by NASA.

USA TODAY, Arlington, VA - March 4, 1994 CR: COUD-I

Toxic body fumes latest phenomenon

Neurologist
says, Nature
shares her
secrets
through her
exceptions

By Anita Manning
USA TODAY

On May 15, 1986, a gentleman in Gwent, England, sat in front of his fireplace, stretched out his feet and burst into flames.

Or so the story goes.

All that remained for the scene-of-crime officers to find were a pile of ashes in the partially burned chair, a blackened skull and feet — still in socks. About a yard away, says *The New Scientist*, a British journal, was a settie, unscorched. Plastic tiles under the rug were undamaged.

Not that most logical, scientifically minded people believe such tales, but it's one of about 200 cases of spontaneous human combustion on record, says folklorist David Hufford of Penn State's College of Medicine. Hufford, who has done research on unusual medical phenomena, says the reports "appear to be" authentic — he's seen autopsy reports, news stories and photos.

While doctors attempt to unravel the mystery surrounding fumes that knocked out a doctor and five nurses Feb. 19 in a Riverside, Calif., emergency room, collectors of medical anomalies are taking note, reminded that truth is stranger than fiction, and sometimes the line between the two isn't clear.

"Medicine only really got going in the middle of this century, and there's a vast amount of legend and superstition," says Dr. Richard Gordon, author of *The Alarming History of Medicine*.

He's gathered dozens of examples, ranging from a persistent story that Napoleon was killed by arsenic in his wallpaper (he really died from stomach cancer, Gordon says) to the tale of Mary Taft, who "gave birth to 17 rabbits April 23, 1726," he says. "At Windsor Castle, they were talking of little else."

The simple explanation: "She thought she was going to make money and fame out of it," Gordon says. "The idiotic doctors believed her. She ended up in jail for 14 years for receiving stolen property, i.e. rabbits."

Of spontaneous combustion, Gordon says, "It's known as a very real thing. (But) it's not a real thing. It doesn't really happen. It's (been around) since 1681 when a man who drank lot of brandy in Germany suddenly, supposedly, ignited."

Paul Sieveking has become an expert on oddball medical stories as editor for 20 years of the *Fortean Times*, a bimonthly journal of the weird published in London, England.

Interrupted on deadline, he scanned his memory for recent tales. There's the one about the Congolese woman who didn't know she was pregnant and set off on a three-day, 60-mile journey. "She had triplets, each in a different place," he says.

And the undeveloped fetus removed from inside a baby in New Delhi; the Salt Lake City woman who removed her own tonsils; the girl who sneezed for two months; the blind man who tripped over his dog, landed on his head and could see.

"And there was a bloke who had a pain in his scrotum and it was discovered he had a uterus between his testicles," Sieveking says. "Theoretically, he could have fertilized himself."

A more common occurrence, he swears, is "foreign language syndrome, where people get hit over the head and begin speaking in a foreign language. That happens in America, all over the place."

Judging from the reaction of Dr. Jerome Kassirer, editor-in-chief of the prestigious and no-nonsense *New England Journal of Medicine*, a little skepticism might be in order.

"Spontaneous human combustion?" he asks. "Hahahaha! . . . out of the blue? . . . hahaha, that's terrific! I think it's a riot! I never heard of it. It sounds preposterous."

OK, well, how about getting conked on the head and suddenly speaking a foreign language?

"Hahahaha! You mean having never spoken the language before?" Kassirer hoots.

So maybe those phenomena haven't yet made it into the peer-reviewed journals. Medicine is still a science and art, full of the unexplained, Kassirer agrees.

"The diagnostic process is a mystery," he says. "That's one of the exciting aspects of medicine, that there's substantial mystery in trying to figure out what's wrong with a patient. You bark up a wrong tree for a long time with tests, and you're simply off base. Sometimes, you find (the answer) almost by accident."

That's a far cry from exploding bodies, he says.

Still, reports of spontaneous human combustion have believers. Sieveking insists they may be more common than we know, "because coroners suppress it."

Descriptions, wherever they appear, are eerily similar, Hufford argues.

"It's often someone who lives alone, often an elderly person," he says. "And what you find is a body which seems to have burned from the inside, starting with the torso. It's the reverse of ordinary burning."

"It looks sort of like what you might get if there were a sudden burst of microwave radiation," Hufford says.

But, he concedes, "it's not much of an explanation, because where do these microwaves come from?"

Any other suggestions? Well, there's ball lightning — "a mystery, but is generally accepted to exist." Ball lightning, he says, is "a static charge that bounces around until it hits something."

Why it would attack humans in the torso is not clear.

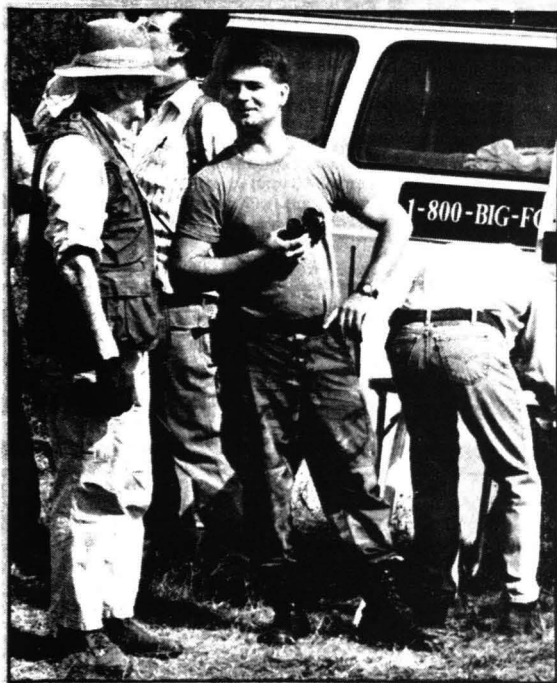
Chalk it up to the unknown. Dr. Richard Cytoiwic, a Washington, D.C., neurologist who studies people with synesthesia — a rare ability to experience senses simultaneously, so they smell colors or taste music — says nature "shows her secrets through her exceptions."

He cites mysteries, such as heat meditation by Tibetan monks, who lie down and become "extremely hot. It seems spooky at first," Cytoiwic says, "but we know from biofeedback we can slow our heart rate, raise our body temperature."

Brain disruptions, such as epilepsy or small blockages of blood flow, can cause seemingly strange or paranormal experiences, like out-of-body sensations and transient amnesia that can be explained medically, he says. And, eventually, the case of the mystery fumes in California may be explained, too.

Or, maybe not.

"We think of modern science as the pursuit of objective data," Cytoiwic says. "Sometimes it takes something like this to change our way of thinking."



SIMULATION — A volunteer uses binoculars (above) to follow a simulation of a Big Foot sighting during filming of a segment for "Unsolved Mysteries." In the drill, a helicopter carrying sophisticated equipment tracks the object after a sighting, then calls in volunteers to corner the sighted object for filming and recording. In this case, a stunt man in a bigfoot costume provides the target for air and ground crews. In the other photo, Big Foot Expedition leader Peter Byrne (wearing a safari hat), chats with a staff member helping put the program together.

W.S. Eakin photos

Seeking elusive Big Foot

Volunteers fan out as part of an exercise simulating a Big Foot identification mission involving coordination of a helicopter and ground crew.

Filed by the "Unsolved Mysteries" television show, the scene will be aired during the May 25 showing of the program at 8 p.m. on Channel 8. The crew came to Hood River to confer with Peter Byrne on his Big Foot Research project.

On notification of a sighting, Byrne says, a helicopter carrying sophisticated gear can be called in to scan an area to locate the object. Then a team of volunteers is called in to enclose and hold the object until it can be filmed and recorded.

The occasion of the TV filming gave Byrne and his volunteers an opportunity for a drill with a live model — a stunt actor dressed as a Big Foot.

In addition, several persons will be interviewed who claim Big Foot sightings, and there be a re-creation of some of their stories. The filming here took place Monday on a remote stretch near the Old Dalles Road between Hood River and Mosier.

SE's most mysterious residents

Tales of Kushtakas linger long after sightings

By Lori Thomson

They were the creatures who scared young children in Southeast Alaska into good behavior. They were the creatures who could lead a lost soul in the woods back to safety. They were the creatures who could make the minds of hardened men soft as rotten fish.

These creatures were called Kushtakas, which translates from the Tlingit language into "Land-Otter People."

The otter had a special place in the beliefs of Tlingits, who believed there was a little bit of the otter spirit in all people.

The Land-Otter People, however, were those who had drowned or died of exposure. Half-human, half-otter, these people were said to seek out those lost or in trouble in the wilderness, so that the Kushtakas could transform them into a being like themselves.

Kushtakas (pronounced *Koosh-Da-Kaws*) have been blamed for storms, avalanches, disease, famine and the kidnapping of children.

But occasionally they would also follow a good streak and help the lost wanderer find his way back home from the woods.

On Mitkof Island, the

Kushtakas made their home where the ferry terminal was later built, according to a local Tlingit, Loretta "Betty" Marvin.

"After they built the ferry terminal there and the ferry crashed into the pilings, they said it was because of the Kushtakas," Marvin said.

Some of the older Tlingits, especially those who have become Christians and adopted non-Native ways, are reluctant now to talk about Kushtakas — though many have stories of their own experiences with them from childhood.

The experience of John Silva, a Petersburg Tlingit, is typical of the tales many hesitate to tell in public. An avid hunter, Silva encountered the Land-Otter People in Thomas Bay in the 1930s, Marvin said.

Thomas Bay, about 15 miles north of Petersburg, was known by Tlingits as the "Bay of Death." About 165 years ago, a landslide wiped out a village there, killing its 500 inhabitants, whom some believe turned into Land-Otter People.

A man whose passion was hunting, Silva went to Thomas

Bay on a hunting trip, said Marvin, who is Silva's niece.

While there, Silva first heard a whistling sound and then someone calling his name as a bizarre feeling overtook him. Realizing that these were the signs of Kushtakas, he did what he was told would bolster his strength against them. He grabbed a branch and bit down on it, as he nervously left the area.

He was so rattled by the experience, he never hunted again, Marvin said.

Non-Natives have had their own experiences with Kushtakas. Former Petersburg resident Harry D. Colp wrote "The Strangest Story Ever Told," which describes numerous run-ins between prospectors and the mysterious occupants of Thomas Bay in the early part of the century.

Each of the men, alone in the woods during the encounter, came back silent or temporarily senseless, so shaken that most either never wanted to step foot in the area, or even the state, again. What happened to them in

the meantime often remained vague, except that they faced or were chased by the Land-Otter People.

One man who saw the Kushtakas described them as "hideous creatures." "They were entirely sexless, their bodies covered with long coarse hair, except where the scabs and running sores had replaced it," the man described.

Marvin said the Land-Otter People could also transform themselves into other creatures, such as whales or porpoises, or a deceased friend to fool their victim.

The Tlingits supposedly at one time tried to mend relations with Kushtakas and invited them to a potlatch, or peace party, Marvin said.

But as they sang songs, the Kushtakas passed a spell over the Tlingits, who began falling asleep. The only one to withstand this spell was the holy man, who for an antidote sipped a small child's urine. He blew the urine into the faces of the Kushtakas, warding them off and saving the village.

WALL STREET JOURNAL [Europe],
Brussels, Belgium

March 9, 1994 CR: T. Good

Extinction of Bigfoot Linked to U.S. Robot Pointing a Cucumber

* * *
Not Really, but U.K. Journal
Notes Abnormal Nuttiness
In 1993 and More for '94

By DANA MILBANK
Staff Reporter

LONDON—These are weird times. In fact, the times are a full 3.5% weirder than they were just a year ago.

That, at least, is the conclusion of the Fortean Times, a London-based magazine dedicated to the study of all things bizarre. The February/March issue of the 20,000-circulation journal compares thousands of zany happenings in 1992 and 1993, and declares, somewhat arbitrarily, that the overall strangeness index rose during the period to 3,520 from 3,400. Among the curiosities of 1993:

Ticket, Please

A trash bin belonging to the London borough of Lewisham was found beside the Sea of Galilee. An enormous egg laid by an extinct elephant bird washed ashore in Australia. Sixty lambs in Germany were attacked and killed by hundreds of crows. Swedish doctors cured a deaf man by removing a 47-year-old bus ticket from his ear.

The Fortean Times Index (not to be confused with the Financial Times Index, which has been heading the other way), has 34 components, including apparitions, strange things falling from the sky and water monsters. In each category, the editors pondered their newscippings from 30 countries to gauge the change in weirdness in 1993.

Leading the index upward was the Strange Behavior component, which includes people who throw birds into cars waiting at stoplights, people seriously injured by vegetables ejected from passing cars, and the robber who taped two cucumbers together and pretended he had a sawed-off shotgun.

The Hoaxes and Panics category got a boost from Chong Qing, China, where people were convinced that a giant deranged robot from America was killing and sucking the blood of people who wore red.

"People are more and more erratic," says Robert J.M. Rickard, the editor. "There are just such stupid extremes of behavior."

The component for Out of Place Animals also had strong gains in 1993 on the numerous sightings of pumas and panthers around Britain. But the Minimal component, which includes Bigfoots, declined in 1993. "They may be becoming extinct," Mr. Rickard theorizes. "Or people may be sobering up." The index also saw a dip in UFO sightings.

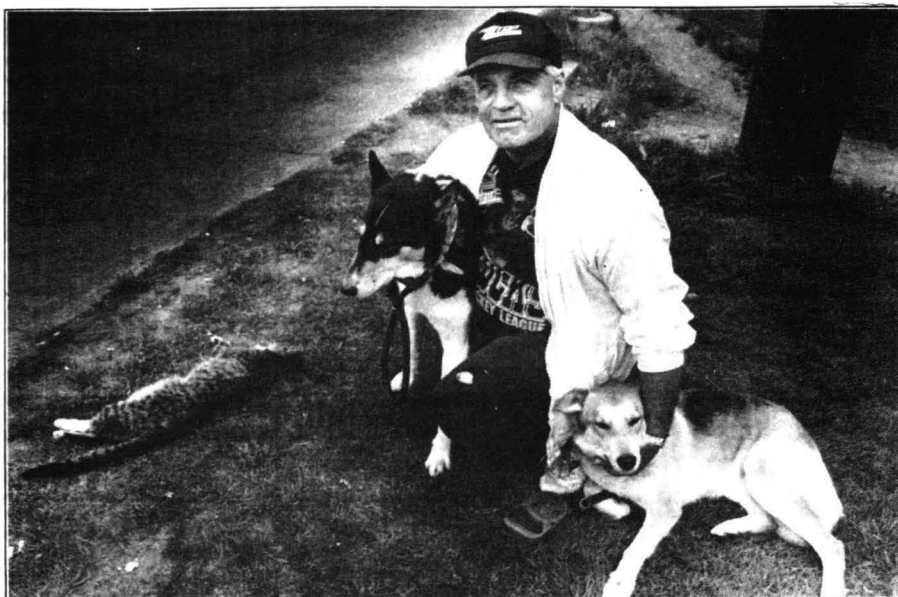
The new FT Index hasn't exactly moved the market. "I salute these guys, and I'm intrigued to think the world is becoming less rational, but it's probably worthless," says Nicholas Stevenson, an S.G. Warburg & Co. European equity strategist. "If people start using it for investment analysis, that would be even more weird."

Spanner in the Works

There are early signs that 1994 may be even weirder than 1993. Sightings of the Virgin Mary and highway ghosts are on the rise so far. Mr. Rickard has also recorded a surge in crimes against men's genitals after the celebrated case in Virginia. A Chinese woman cut off her husband's penis in the belief that he would grow a new one and it would restore their marriage. A Filipino woman wired her man's penis to an electrical device used to stun fish. Another man came to a hospital with a monkey wrench stuck on his testicles.

With such weirdness already on record for 1994, Mr. Rickard thinks his FT Index could well outperform the other FT Index. For the Fortean Times, at least, that's a bullish sign.

"The world is more full of anxiety, a more uncertain place," Mr. Rickard says. "I take comfort in the fact that it's getting weirder. It shows that man hasn't explained away everything yet."



Newton carpenter Dan Taylor, 54, was walking his dogs Adam and Tia Tuesday when he discovered a dead cat that appeared to be purposely mutilated. According to the SPCA, the animal was in fact hit by a car. LEAH S. BRIGGS/NOW

▼ NEWTON

"Mutilated" cat hit by car: SPCA

■ **A man who found a dead cat fears it was purposely mutilated, despite what the SPCA says.**

By Corry Anderson
STAFF REPORTER

A cat found along King George Highway yesterday with one eye gouged out and teeth missing was not mutilated in an act of animal sacrifice, according to Surrey SPCA.

Shelter superintendent Garry Smith says the adult cat was hit by a car, despite the contention of the resident who found it.

"It's just from skidding around," said Smith of the strange patches of fur missing from the feline's left forepaw. "There's usually an explanation for these things."

The striped cat had one eye gouged out, several teeth missing and a rectangular patch of fur shaved from its inner paw. There was no other apparent damage to the body.

Newton carpenter Dan Taylor discovered the ani-

mal at King George and 80th Avenue early Tuesday morning. He was walking his two dogs along the busy highway when he saw a furry gray patch clumped in the grass.

Told of the SPCA's belief the cat was run over, Taylor stuck to his original contention it was purposely mutilated.

"Its teeth were gone, its tongue was gone and there was no blood around at all," said Taylor, 54. "Being hit by a car doesn't take its eye out or its tongue out."

He added: "I don't agree with them — but that's just one man's opinion."

According to Surrey RCMP media liaison Mark Hepburn, animal mutilations are a rare find. Often, people mistake coyote attacks for mutilation, he said.

"I don't get alarmed about this until the SPCA calls us and says 'hey — we've got a weird one.'"

About a week ago, a pet found in a South Surrey park was also thought to have been mutilated. Its paws had been cleanly sliced off.

The SPCA believes it was killed by a coyote, its paws severed after death by a lawnmower.

Has lake monster surfaced again?

Thomson News Service

KELOWNA, B.C. — Has Ogopogo surfaced again?

Two women are convinced they spotted what some claim is a monster that inhabits Okanagan Lake south of Kelowna. Ronda Caplan, of Kelowna, and her friend Michelle Horne of nearby Peachland say they saw the lake monster three times this week.

They were visiting one of Horne's friends, who lives about 200 metres from the waterfront.

"We were sitting outside on the lawn drinking tea watching the waves come in," Caplan said. "I saw something that caught my eye for two or three seconds. I thought, 'Is that a black boat?' I looked again and all of a sudden a big black thing was there, a foot out of the water, with white caps on top of it."

The protrusion was about 13 metres (40 feet) from shore, gray-black in color with a shiny surface like an eel, she said.

"There was another break in the water behind it and a smaller break behind that. It disappeared but came halfway out of the water again."

Something clicked and I said I'm looking at Ogopogo. It was kind of neat."

The object then left the surface of the lake again, but Caplan said she could still see it underwater and it left a disturbance on the lake surface.

"Michelle said 'Did you see that?' It was exactly the same thing everybody else says they saw. She (Michelle) saw the same thing in the same place on Saturday. She couldn't believe it and she forgot about it."

The object was definitely not a log, insists Caplan. "It was moving. I know I saw Ogopogo. I should have brought my camera."

Caplan said she has always believed Ogopogo exists and hoped she would one day see it.

STAR, Kansas City, MO - May 26, 1994 CR: L. Souza

The case of the Ray County calf mutilation

By MIKE KENNEDY
Staff Writer

The first calf was found dead in early April on Vesta Glenn's northern Ray County farm.

It seemed odd, but Glenn couldn't tell exactly how it had died.

Earlier this month she found another dead calf. And this time she was worried.

"The second one didn't look

right," Glenn explained. "They had taken the right eye, the tongue, the rectum and the sex organ. They were cut out with a knife."

A neighbor, Vernon O'Dell, said he also found one of his calves dead in early May. It also appeared to have been mutilated.

"I think the people who did this are devil worshippers," O'Dell said.

Ray County authorities aren't

sure how O'Dell's animal died. But they say the mutilation of Glenn's calf in May could be linked to a satanic ritual. Police are investigating but have no leads.

"We have found one of them that did appear to be mutilated," confirmed Sgt. E.B. Chester with the Ray County's Sheriff's Department. "There's really not much more to go on."

Chester said it had been several

years since Ray County had had any satanic-related activity. But there has been no other evidence linking the recent calf killings to a satanic cult.

Chester, however, isn't ruling out something less sinister.

"It's really hard to tell, because the organs that a satanic group or something like that would go for are the same parts an animal would go for," Chester said. "They go for soft tissue parts."

But whoever killed Glenn's calf in early May was not an amateur prankster, Chester said.

"It was done professionally, it appeared," Chester said. "It was done with a lot of precision."

Glenn's veterinarian, Cathy Harris of Richmond, said she doubted the calf was killed by other animals.

"There were no punctures or tears that usually accompany an animal mutilation," Harris said.

BAXTER BULLETIN, Mountain Home, AR - March 19, 1994 CR: L. Willett

Official says calf probably killed by coyotes

Baxter County Sheriff Joe Edmonds said Thursday that he has received a preliminary autopsy report from Dr. Norris, the lab director for the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission, in which Norris said the calf found mutilated on the Les Skeets farm was the victim of animals.

It was probably coyotes which killed the newborn calf, Norris told Edmonds in a preliminary report.

Edmonds said that although the circumstances and condition of the calf's carcass were unusual and first appeared to be a case of mutilation by someone with a

knife, Norris said he had seen similar cases.

"The calf was probably killed by coyotes," Edmonds said, "and Dr. Norris said it was first grabbed by the nose or mouth and probably suffocated or went into shock."

Edmonds said Norris said he felt the lab will be able to conclusively determine what killed the animal, and said that there was evidence of hemorrhaging in the animal's lungs, which would indicate a struggle of some type.

"There were bone fragments which show they had been gnawed on by some type of animal," Edmonds said. "And they

were able to determine that the calf was only 1 to 1½ days old and had never nursed."

Edmonds said that Norris had explained to him that the bones of the calf were relatively soft and the skull is easily removed from the hide of the head on such a young animal.

The sheriff said Norris told him he feels comfortable with saying the animal was killed by animals and probably by coyotes, but will submit a full written report within a short time.

The case is unusual, Edmonds said, and the veterinarian offered to send some literature about

similar cases in which it was eventually determined that animals caused the mutilation.

"I'll admit I had never seen anything like it before," Edmonds said, "and I think it was reasonable for other people to fear it was some sort of mutilation, too... that's what I thought until we started consulting with veterinarians."

Edmonds said that after the final report and the supporting documents and literature is received from the commission veterinarian, "the case will be closed unless there is new evidence."

—CAROL HOWELL