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DAILY BOOMERANG, Laramie, WY - June 25, 1994 CR: P. Norman

Scientist shares views on space images at UFO conference

by Robert Roten
Boomerang Staff Writer

A scientist who analyzed images on a videotape made on a space shuttle camera said Friday in Laramie he has eliminated all other explanations except that the images were made by other spacecraft.

Jack Kasher, a professor of physics and astronomy made his revelations at the 15th annual Conference on UFO Investigation at UW. Kasher is a professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Nebraska and a researcher with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). He has worked on "Star Wars" research in the past.

Kasher told an audience of over 100 people at the conference in the basement of the Wyoming Union that he and others had analyzed a videotape of images captured by a camera aboard the space shuttle Discovery. The images were captured on Sept. 15, 1991. There were broadcast live on cable television across the U.S.

Kasher said he had received a grant from the Fund for UFO Research to analyze the images on the tape. He played the tape for the audience. The camera in the shuttle's

cargo bay was pointed toward the earth's horizon shortly before dawn.

Small white objects moved across the screen. Two flashes of white light appeared on the left of the screen and then the moving objects changed direction. One of the objects moved rapidly upward across the screen.

Kasher said an analysis of the movements of the objects show that some of them stopped before changing direction and accelerating. It also showed that some of the objects accelerated for a second or more.

NASA's explanation for the objects and their movement, Kasher said, was that the objects are ice particles and that their movements were caused by small rockets being fired aboard the shuttle.

Kasher said that by analyzing the movement of the objects on the tape he was able to prove that they are not ice particles and that rocket pulses from the shuttle could not make them move the way they moved.

Kasher said the shuttle's only attitude adjustment rocket that could have caused the movement of one of the particles fires in 80 millisecond bursts, while the object can be seen accelerating for 400 milliseconds.

Kasher also said different objects on the tape can be seen accelerating in different directions, inconsistent with the theory that they were accelerated by a single rocket. Kasher said that by detailed analysis, he was able to discount the effects of movement in three dimensions being depicted on a two-dimensional television screen.

Kasher also said that his analysis indicates the objects could not have been tiny particles close to the camera, meteors, satellites or space junk, the only other explanations for the images he could think of.

The images on the live video feed from NASA caused some queries from Congress and there was discussion about them on several television shows. Since that time, he noted, NASA no longer sends live video feeds to U.S. television. Instead, he said, the video signal is shown on a 20-second tape delay basis.

The images open up "a can of worms," Kasher said. He said his analysis indicates the images had to have been made by "some kind of spacecraft." He also said it is unlikely the spacecraft are from earth. Because of the acceleration and speed of the objects (accelerations up to 18,000 times the force of grav-

ity and speeds up to 430,000 miles per hour), the spacecraft were probably from beyond the earth. He even speculated that some of the objects could have been missiles fired from one spacecraft at others.

Responding to questions, he said a log of all rocket activity on the shuttle is available showing which of the over 40 rockets were fired and when, but it would be extremely expensive to obtain from NASA.

The three-day UFO conference continues today, Saturday. John E. Mack, professor of psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School and founding director of the Center for Psychology and Social Change will give the conference's keynote address on "Alien Abduction: Possible Implications for Human Evolution," today at 8 p.m. at Club U-Dub in the basement of the Wyoming Union.

Barbara Lamb, a Claremont, Calif. marriage, family and child therapist will talk about "An Expanded View of Extraterrestrial/Human Interactions." Lamb uses "past life regression therapy" in her work. Her talk will be today at 1:30 p.m. in the Washakie Center Wyoming Room. There is a \$10 admission fee to each of the two talks for persons not registered for the conference.

BEE, Fresno, CA - June 19, 1994

They see things swoosh across sky

■ UFO network members check out a location in the foothills along Kings Canyon Road.

By Jim Steinberg
The Fresno Bee

Up they trekked, past the rapid Kings River, through rolling Sierra foothills, 3,000 feet, higher, close to 4,000 feet, until finally they reached the spot.

It is tempting to call them Mufonians inasmuch as they belong to the Mutual UFO Network and call their organization MUFON — but that would seem mocking and unfair to their serious pursuit.

The MUFON members traveled Wednesday to this spot along Highway 180 to illustrate their point: There are happenings in skies over the Valley that cannot be explained. MUFON

seeks other witnesses' accounts of such unidentified sightings.

The short expedition brought Debra Flanders, 43, to the place along Kings Canyon Road where she and her late father, Lt. Col. Edward Flanders, a retired Air Force pilot, saw something. It was Easter 1989, between 2 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. in a sky dark with storm clouds.

As she told her story Wednesday, MUFON members Jon Gravatt, 34; Bob Haven, 72; and Roy Yates, 64, talked in the mountain wind about things that go *flipp* across the sky.

Gravatt is a registered nurse and private pilot.

Haven is a retired Air Force major with master's degrees in meteorology and industrial

STORIES
OF THE
SAN
JOAQUIN



Richard Darby — The Fresno Bee

The place. Debra Flanders returns to the 4,000-foot elevation where she and her father saw mysterious lights flit across the sky at incredible speeds in 1989.

the sky, descended and made lateral movements. Then, a second light came from behind a hill and hovered with the first.

Flanders and her father watched this for eight or nine minutes. She asked him whether, given the chance, he would "go with them."

No way, he said.

"I would in a minute," Flanders said.

She told this story for a newspaper article, notwithstanding her fear of being ridiculed in print and portrayed as a nut.

Other sightings

She came in contact with MUFON in March, and learned of other Valley sightings: one north of Livingston along Highway 99, one over Visalia.

Information

Witnesses to unidentified flying phenomena can call Roy Yates at 233-6892, Debra Flanders at 229-2464 or Jon Gravatt at page 263-0604.

across. We're talking *flipp*, faster than anything I ever saw."

At a dirt road running from the highway, overlooking the Valley, Flanders said, "We parked here. My silly father ran down this road."

Her pilot father could not explain this thing. It was not a weather balloon. It was not a hang glider. This moved far too fast, she said.

As fast as it moved over Valley foothills, Flanders said, the circular light came to a dead stop in

Yates counted two sightings of his own: a vivid, rapid light over Sebastopol about 3:30 a.m. in 1989; and another, possibly "space junk" over Pacheco Pass.

"We're working three cases now over Pacheco Pass," Yates said.

They mentioned sightings over Buttonwillow near Bakersfield. They described one steel-like structure with a triangular shape hovering over it and another diamond-shaped something lacking sharp edges, its underside bearing lights, less than 100 feet above observers.

They didn't maintain that these were space ships. They were unidentified, and that was the point.

"I am not wacko," Flanders said.

'You are not alone'

MUFON is an international, nonprofit organization that approaches scientifically and takes seriously the reporting of UFO sightings "to get to the 10 percent to 15 percent that are legitimately unidentified," Flanders said in a prepared statement.

"If you have seen one," it said, "you are not alone, and you are NOT crazy."

Still, Haven said, "Something like this will always attract the nuts."

Flanders again recalled her sighting along the mountain road.

"I probably would have written it off," she said. "But because my father was there, I finally became a believer."

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - June 29, 1994

Locals Star In TV Show

By Patti Weatherford

A television crew was in town Saturday, 6/25/94, interviewing and filming local skywatchers for Fox Network's "Encounters" program. The program premiered Friday night, 6/24/94 and covered a variety of topics such as abductions, UFO sightings by pilots (military and commercial), government cover-up, and crop circles. In my opinion the program was well done. The second show will air Friday night, 7/1/94.

Bruce Morrison and Art Hufford were interviewed about their sightings and also tips on photographing and videotaping UFO's. In the past, Gulf Breeze has provided a rare opportunity for photographers to experiment with different types of cameras, lenses, film speeds, etc., to try to

get that "perfect" shot. Sometimes, I wonder why, because it seems that in the field of ufology, when you get a picture that is really clear, you get blasted by people who say it must be a fake because it is just too clear. Then, when you get one that is blurry or fuzzy, then it is not clear enough to tell for sure if it is a bonafide UFO! Seems like one of those "no win" situations to me. Well, even if you don't get a picture, the weather is nice at the park. Skywatchers were interviewed about their personal sightings Saturday night at Shoreline Park. Unfortunately, there was no sighting that night.

The July Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON meeting will be held on the third Sunday, 7/17/94. More later on our interesting guest speaker. For information or to report your UFO sighting, call the Hotline 438-3261.

psychology from the California Institute of Technology and Purdue University, respectively. Yates is a retired teacher.

Flanders said she and her father were sightseeing that Easter, looking at flowers.

They drove up the road to the entrance to Kings Canyon National Park. It was getting cold, so they headed back down the road. As they drove, Flanders, whose work gives technical support with computers, saw something from the corner of her left eye.

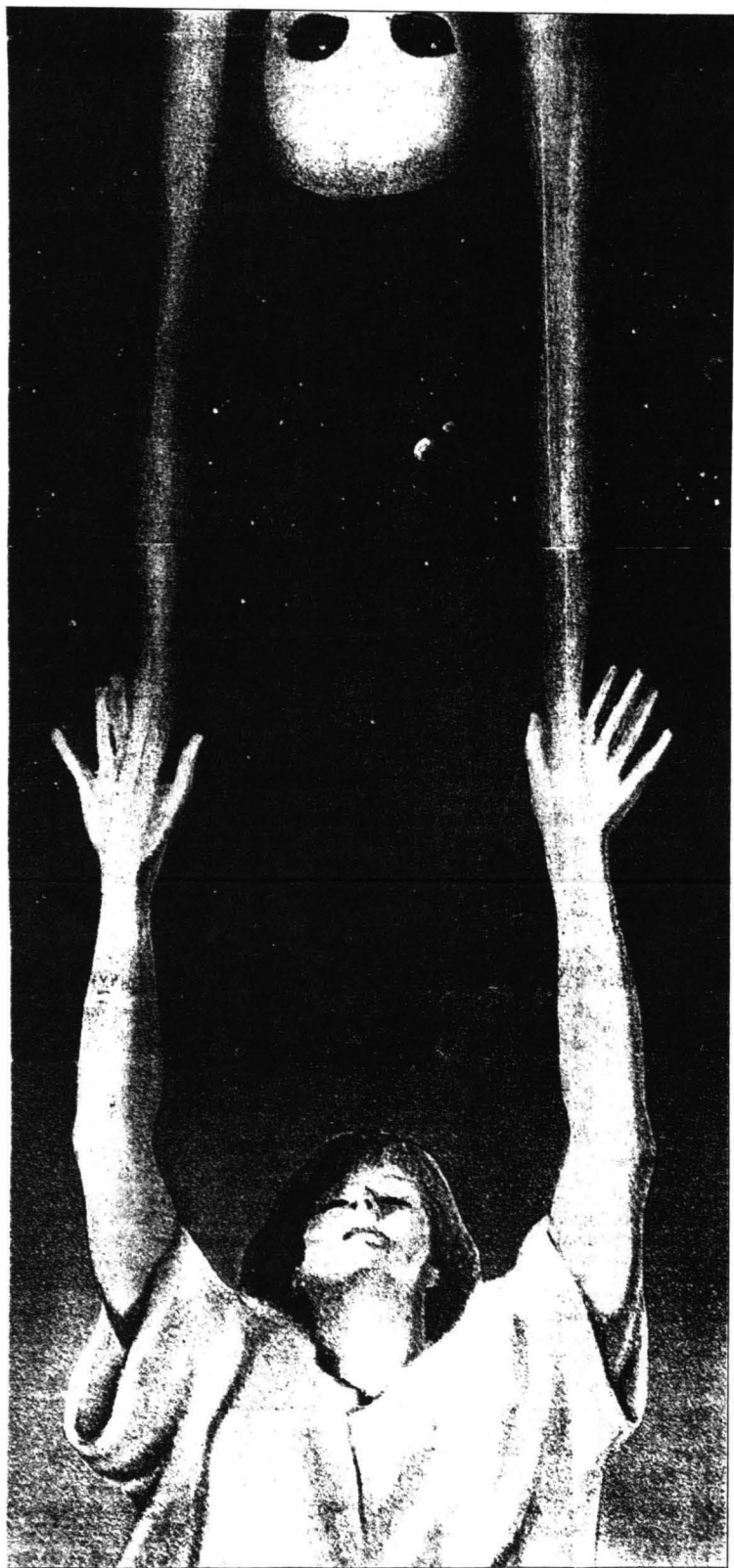
'What's that?'

"I immediately asked my dad, 'What's that?'" she said. "It was a brilliant, white, circular light, the size of a nickel at arm's length. It moved about the speed of a jet for several seconds."

"All of a sudden, it darted way

ALIENATED

They're close encounters of the worst kind. And more and more people are saying they've had them



REBECCA HALL — MERCURY NEWS

BY TANYA BARRIENTOS
Knight-Ridder News Service

IT USUALLY happens at night.

"Almost always the event is accompanied by a light source, an unnatural light source that is not headlights or street lights," said Wendy, a Philadelphia area woman who asked that her last name not be used.

"This light source enables them to travel. It's an energy field of some sort."

Wendy, 30, an articulate woman with a job and a family and strong religious values, is convinced that space aliens have been abducting her for years. Recently they've begun abducting her two children as well. She is not alone.

Alleged alien abduction is all over the media, in books, on television, as fiction and even as could-be fact:

■ Much attention is being given to "Abduction," a new book by Harvard University psychiatrist John E. Mack that recounts first-person tales of space-alien abductions that Mack has certified as real.

■ Omni, a national science magazine, is running a six-part series about an alleged government cover-up of UFO visits since the 1940s.

■ The Weekly World News, a supermarket tabloid, recently ran a front-page headline declaring: "12 U.S. Senators Are Space Aliens!"

Believers say that the abductions are neither bad dreams nor mental illness, but real. And some scientists say that through hypnosis and regression therapy, they've uncovered what the aliens are up to.

■ Abductees have appeared on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," and have even hit big-time news shows such as "48 Hours" with Dan Rather and "Dateline NBC."

Believers say that the abductions are neither bad dreams nor mental illness, but real. Scientists in their

camp say that through hypnosis and regression therapy, they've been able to uncover exactly what the space aliens are up to.

Skeptics, on the other hand, say the reports could be the side effect of a strange physical occurrence similar to sleepwalking. And doubts have been growing about all kinds of memories unearthed during hypnosis, from child abuse to past lives.

Indisputable evidence, however, is scarce on both sides.

□

For 18 months, Wendy has been hypnotized by David Jacobs, a Temple University history professor who in 1992 wrote "Secret Life: Firsthand Accounts of UFO Abductions." She says Jacobs has been helping her re-create her experiences from her subconscious.

"One or two beings will come in with the light and take myself and my kids," she said in a recent interview at Jacobs' home office.

"Normally they just look at me. They have an ability with their eyes and their minds to give almost like a sedative effect, to knock you out and make you go without feelings of your own," Wendy said. "You become robotic. With that mind control, that's part of what facilitates their ability to make you forget. . . ."

Wendy stopped herself, and then added: "I can't blame people for not being able to digest it, for not believing. I just ask that people don't make fun of me because I do believe it."

It took her a while, she said, to accept it herself.

For as long as she can remember, Wendy said she's seen "odd" things, balls of light following her and unexplained shadows in her house.

"But they would be far enough apart that I'd just say, 'What in the world?' and then go about my day."

But that all changed 18 months ago. That was when her 7-year-old son, afraid to sleep in his own room, woke up in terror while sleeping in

Wendy's bedroom.

"He said he'd seen two alien beings in my bedroom," Wendy said. "He consciously remembered seeing these things, wide awake."

Wendy said neither she nor her husband had an interest in such things as UFOs or space aliens. They asked the boy to draw a picture of what he saw.

"He sat down and drew big heads with big black eyes," Wendy said. "He knew nothing about aliens and we hadn't shown him any movies with them so there was no way my son could have picked this up somewhere."

□

Like Jacobs, Mack uses hypnosis, with all its attendant

dangers of suggestion. Wendy's account is similar to the 13 in Mack's book — and, for that matter, to those in Jacobs' book.

Mack performed psychiatric evaluations on more than 100 alleged abductees. He contends that their sincerity, the sheer honesty he felt in their narratives, and an apparent lack of psychiatric instability, convinced him that they were telling the truth.

"I originally thought it (alien abduction) was not possible in the reality in which I was raised," said Mack, in a telephone interview. "I didn't write anything about it for the first two years that I studied it."

Mack's academic credentials give his work some credibility. He is professor at the Harvard Medi-

cal School's Cambridge Hospital and the author of "A Prince of Our Disorder: The Life of T.E. Lawrence," which won a Pulitzer Prize in 1977. The New York Times printed a serious review of "Abduction," and Mack has been on a national public relations tour defending its authenticity.

"I think it (the abduction theory) is coming out of the marginalized status into the forefront," Mack said. "The denial is beginning to break down. . . . I think it's becoming increasingly legitimized."

□

Once aboard the spaceship, Wendy says she and her fellow abductees (rarely is she alone on board) are disrobed and placed on

examination tables. "They have a standard physical, a head-to-toe check, kind of like to make sure there have been no changes in the specimen," she said. "They check the nose, eyes, throat, mouth, they run their hands down your legs and back."

In books about abductions, victims report that the aliens often take sperm from men and implant alien embryos into women. Wendy said it's happened to her. She said she's felt pregnant after some abductions.

"Once I missed my period for three months and I called the doctor," she said. "I made an appointment with the doctor, and the day before they (the aliens) came and it was done."

"It" refers to a procedure that

Wendy said the aliens do to extract fetuses and "put them in these columns with water. Well, I say 'water,' but I don't know what it is."

Wendy said sometimes abductees are led into the incubation room and made to look at the fetuses. Sometimes they are shown what looks like a nursery. "It's a room with children . . . Some look very alien-like, but they have some human qualities," Wendy said. "You can tell there has been a genetic splicing."

Once home, neither Wendy nor her children remember much about the abductions. But, she said, she has found what she considers solid evidence:

(continued on page 3)

"Many times I've come back and my underwear is on inside-out and backwards, or I'll have no underwear at all," Wendy said. "Once I woke up with a sock on my hand instead of my foot. Sometimes my kids and I have woken up and everyone is in a different bed."

She also cites bruises that appear overnight and scars she believes have been left by the aliens' medical instruments.

□

One possible explanation is something called sleep paralysis, a strange physical state somewhere between sleep and wakefulness.

David Hufford, professor of medical humanities and behavioral science at Penn State University College of Medicine, has been researching sleep paralysis for 20 years.

Normally, he said, the body's central nervous system goes limp during dream sleep. That paralysis keeps people from physically acting out their dreams. During sleep paralysis, the body remains limp, even though the person is conscious and no longer asleep or dreaming.

"They are aware of their environment. . . . No matter what the person's cultural background, with no regard of what they believe in, the majority are convinced that at the time there is a threatening presence in the room with them," Hufford said.

That's why, he said, people who report alien abductions claim they are not dreaming. Because, Hufford said, they are fully conscious while still suffering from an abnormal condition that sometimes leads to hallucinations.

"People report that the presence sometimes looks humanoid," said Hufford. "The little grays (the alleged aliens) sound a lot like gnomes or elves that people historically reported."

Hufford said victims of sleep paralysis from all over the world report similar occurrences, which include strange visitors and even the feeling of being prodded by the beings.

"The similarities are just too great for a coincidence," he said.

But Mack says abductions have occurred when people are not asleep. "Debunkers will invent the most outlandish of explanations," he said.

Crop circles leave minds spinning

■ Impressions in a field along U.S. 26 draw scores of observers, each one with a theory of how the figures got there and what they mean

By JERRY F. BOONE
of The Oregonian staff

The circles appeared about 10 days ago in the field along U.S. 26.

At first, not too many people noticed. Then a few stopped to look, and told their friends. And they told their friends.

By Sunday afternoon dozens of cars lined up along the eastbound lane of the highway, just west of the 185th Avenue exit.

Motorists scrambled through the barrow pit and over the earth berm for a closer look.

Scythed into the waist high wheat is a circle about 35 feet across. It is ringed by a second circle of untouched wheat, surrounded by another cut path about three feet wide.

Four arms radiate from the huge center circle, each one ending in a smaller oval of trampled wheat. It looks like the opening scene for a cheap science fiction film.

"I've been here two days," says Chris Ullman, a part-time actor and owner of a small movie production company. "Everyone's got an idea what it means. And no one knows what it means."

Behind him a bearded man in coveralls jokes about having Star Trek's "Scotty" beam him aboard.

A woman who won't give her name says she heard someone say that someone else knew someone who saw lights in the area a number of nights ago.

It could have been a UFO. Or it could have been teens celebrating their high school graduation.

Washington County Sheriff's deputies have been called to the scene a couple of times, mostly to control traffic and ask gawkers not to park along the Sunset Highway.

It didn't do much good. Hundreds of

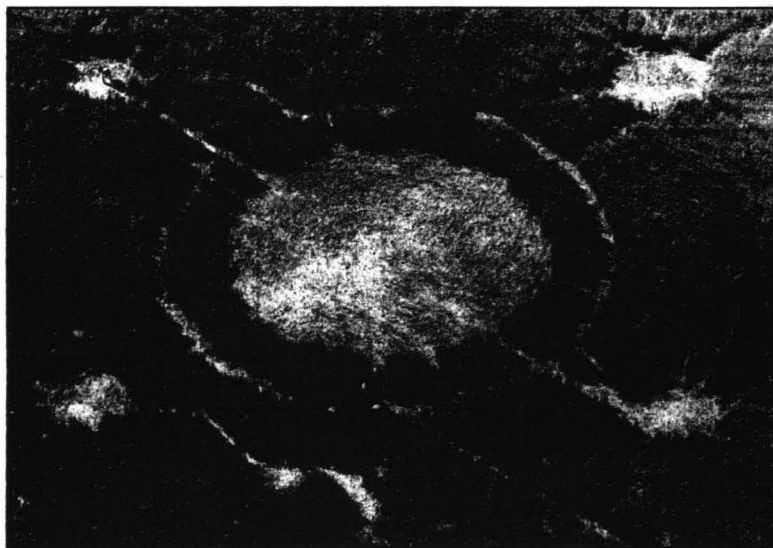
people armed with camcorders and 35mm cameras flocked to the "crop circle" over the weekend, and those who didn't stop at least slowed down for a look as they drove home from the coast.

The circles are on the north side of the hill, just high enough to be seen from the highway. They are about halfway between the exit for Southwest 185th Avenue and the Rock Creek sewage treatment plant.

Each one has a divot in the center, like a stake was driven in to act as a pivot point for whatever was used to crush the wheat.

"There's a lot of evidence to support the teens and beer theory," agrees Ullman. "But you'd think whoever did it would be having a hard time not telling someone by now. And how did they get the circles so precise? In the dark? Seems like you'd need a light source for that."

Unfortunately, the woman who knew someone who knew someone else had already left.



Circles just don't square: A "crop circle" created in a field along the Sunset Highway near Hillsboro has attracted numerous visitors. Some say the circle may be the result of a UFO visit, while others think it is the work of humans with a sense of humor.

Lecturer to recount UFO abduction

By Andy Mar
The Commercial Appeal

Leah Haley says she lost her husband, job, and family members' respect because she publicly talks about certain events in her past.

She admits she has no proof. But Haley wants people to know that she's been abducted by space aliens dozens of times and wants to educate others about the unidentified flying object phenomenon. Haley, 43, and another UFO researcher, Mark Davenport, are speaking Saturday night at the University of Tennessee, Memphis.

A typical abduction, according to Haley, starts at night when she is asleep. She said she wakes to "a beam of white light with a force-field that takes me out of the house into a spacecraft."

She compared her feeling to one like taking drugs before surgery. "I'm awake, but not in control," she said. "I end up on a platform, like an operating table, surrounded by creatures 4 to 5 feet tall, with solid black eyes, two holes for a nose, no hair, no ears, that all look alike."



Leah Haley

They're off-white in color. They perform medical experiments, insert a needle into my ovaries and extract ova, and talk telepathically. That's basically it."

Haley admits her stories sound unbelievable but insists they are nothing but truth. "This sounds weird," she said. "I don't have any proof. But I'm not trying to convince anybody. I just want to help others, if they've had abduction experiences, to realize, 'it's not just me.'"

Ever since her first public lecture in November 1992 about her abductions, which also involve other types of aliens, the Columbus, Miss., resident said she endured family anger and fear of ridicule. Her husband divorced her last month because she continued to lecture, she said. And she claims that government harassment caused her to lose her job teaching at the local Air Force base.

"I would not have had to go what I've gone through if the public was educated about this," Haley said. "It (her lectures) has given other people courage to speak out. So yes, it is doing some good."

Eddie Middleton, co-founder of the UFO Discussion Group of Memphis, said the UFO phenomenon is regaining popularity. He said the last time a UFO lecture occurred in Memphis was 1983. "All these people are having these flashbacks," he said. "I don't know what all that means, but it's getting very intense."

A recent book by a professor of psychiatry at Harvard details several cases of alien abduction. *Abduction* by Dr. John E. Mack presents testimony of several people who claim to have been transported to alien craft and had experiments done on them.

Haley began having flashbacks in 1990 and was initially skeptical. "I thought I must be going crazy," she said. After seeing a hypnotherapist, however, her viewpoint changed. "I wanted to see if there were additional details, or things missing that I didn't remember yet."

Since then, she wrote two books, including one for children. "It's fiction, but I based it on an abduction I had when I was 3," she said. "It's bright and colorful, to appeal to children. I want to alleviate the fear children who were abducted might have."

Haley currently isn't employed but was supported by her husband before their divorce.

She said she is lecturing on a volunteer basis. "I'm going broke doing this," she insisted. "I'm going to have to get a grant or something. When I go to speak, they (the sponsoring organization) pay for my travel and hotel expenses, and if they can I get a little honorarium."

Haley said the fear she had of space aliens is now gone. "The more I remembered, the less frightened I became," she said. "I'm still here, I'm fine, I'm no longer afraid."

Haley and Davenport's lecture is Saturday from 6:30 to 11 p.m. in the Schreier Auditorium on the UT-Memphis campus.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12.50 at the door. Call 683-7178 for more information.



The Outa Limits UFO Enigma Museum owner-curator John Price shows the replica flying saucer with aliens displayed at his museum at 6108 S. Main St.



A space visitor at Outa Limits.

Five museums offer variety

Chris Giles

Record Vistas Editor

Although the sign on North Main Street reads "3 Museums," Roswell actually has five and each provides something different for the visitor.

The two newest museums came into being because of the interest in the unidentified flying object that landed on the Brazel ranch northwest of Roswell in 1947.

Whatever the object was it has caused people — tourists, television crews and movie producers — to come to Roswell to look and to wonder.

Was it a cover up? Was it really something "unearthly?"

The **Outa Limits UFO Enigma Museum** at 6108 S. Main St., has almost every news story printed about the UFO landing on display.

Owner-curator John Price, not only has kept the Record stories about the UFO, but he also has stories from the Albuquerque Journal and The El Paso Times.

Price, until recently, had a video store with the museum, but he closed that out last week and is planning to concentrate on enlarging his museum. He also sells T-shirts and gift items with references to the UFO incident on them.

Outa Limits opened in April 1992. In December 1993 some 300 visitors went through the museum. Price said he has had visitors from as far away as Russia and Brazil come to the museum since it first opened. His January guest log showed visitors from as far away as Alaska and North Carolina.

The most impressive exhibit at Outa Limits is the replica of a flying saucer, crashed in a field with the bodies of the little gray men around it. Price constructed the silver saucer for the 1991 Eastern New Mexico State Fair parade. Adding to the exhibit are ceramic statues of a desert terrapin, a rattlesnake, a horned toad and a cottontail and several stuffed birds.

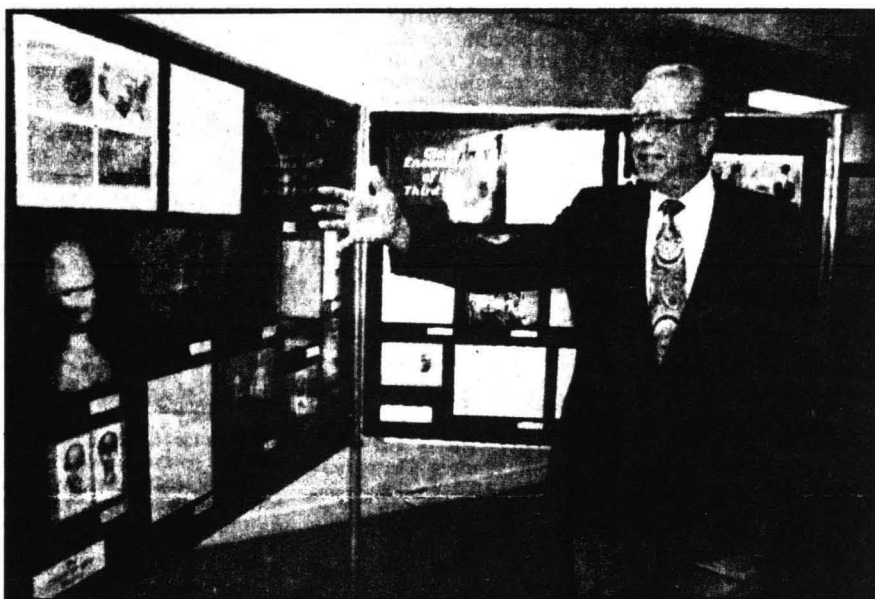
One is left with the speculation that the first observers of the strange craft may have been the small animals, who crept out of hiding to wonder at the thing that disturbed their environment.

Price also displays pictures of the writers who have visited Roswell to find out more about the UFO. Visitors will find posters of the original Star Trek crew as well as NASA astronauts on exhibit at the museum.

Clifford Stone is director of research for Outa Limits. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. It is closed on Sunday. The admission charge is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children.

The International UFO Museum and Research Center is located at 400 N. Main St.

Walter Haut, who was a young public information officer at Roswell Army Air Field when the crash occurred, is president of the non-profit corporation.



Walter Haut stands by the displays in The International UFO Museum and Research Center at 400 N. Main St. The museum has a library of books, magazine and newspaper articles and videos about the 1947 UFO incident.

Glenn Dennis is vice president and Max Littell is secretary-treasurer. Haut said 28 volunteers work at the museum.

The research center features a library with copies of every book written about the UFO crash as well as magazine articles.

The museum has two viewing rooms for the 23 videos on file which have been made about the incident. That includes a copy of the "Unsolved Mysteries" television program about the Roswell incident in 1988.

Haut said "Showtime," a television production, would air a new show about the Roswell UFO sometime in May or June.

Haut said that since the museum opened in October of 1992, some 19,924 visitors from all 50 states and 51 foreign countries have toured the museum. He has a map of the United States and the world on the wall with pins marking the spot the visitors came from.

In December Tad Nakanichi, chief executive officer of Computer Images in Torrance, Calif., presented the museum with a mural of the crash by Albuquerque artist Miller Johnson.

The mural shows the spaceship crashed in the foothills of the mountains with one gray man lying beside the ship. Blue smoke is billowing from the downed craft.

The museum is open from 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Sunday. Special arrangements may be made for group tours. No admission is charged.

Close-Encounter Group

Abducted by aliens? At artist and UFO observer Budd Hopkins' Chelsea get-togethers, you can talk it over with others

By LEWIS BEALE/Daily News Staff Writer

They're discussing implants. The kind extraterrestrials put in your body after they've abducted you, probed you with weird instruments, then dumped you back on Planet Earth.

We're in the Chelsea townhouse of artist Budd Hopkins, the garrulous, avuncular point man for the nationwide underground of alien-abduction true believers. And we are surrounded by Hopkins' work: large geometrical paintings, abstract wooden sculptures and shelves filled with unsold expressionist works in bright colors.

Meanwhile, 63-year-old Hopkins is holding up an X-ray of an 11-year-old girl's skull, which he claims shows something mighty weird behind the eye socket. Crowded around him are 15 white middle-class folks, totally normal (well, maybe one or two are a planet short of a solar system), all of them alleged abductees, straining mightily to see what Hopkins sees.

Watching the skies

And there is something there, a mass of who knows what, which these members of Hopkins' alien-abduction support group take as further proof that They're here, They're messing with us, so why don't you believe us?

"Do people feel their implants?" asks one. "Do people feel numb at the sight of their implants?" wonders another. And: "Has anyone had implants in their earlobes?"

Are these folks seriously deluded, or ahead of the curve on the biggest story in the history of the solar system?

"This isn't being curious about some humped fish swimming around in a lake in Scotland," says Hopkins. "This changes everything. All human history will be measured before and after this kind of contact."

Hopkins, a respected painter whose work is in the permanent collections of the Whitney and Guggenheim museums (among others), jumped feet first into the UFO/abduction controversy in 1975, after investigating reports of a close encounter in a New Jersey park. Hopkins' story of the sighting ran in the Village Voice and other publications, and before you could say "watch the skies," he had received mail from hundreds of alleged abductees and spaceship sighters.

Twenty years later, Hopkins has in-

terviewed more than 1,000 potential abductees (he has identified more than 400 people he assumes are abductees), written two books, and now runs The Intruder Foundation out of his home — it's a nonprofit organization dedicated to researching UFO phenomena, providing support services for abductees and educating the public on the subject.

Hopkins has been in the public eye lately because of "Abduction," a book by Harvard Prof. John E. Mack (Scribners, \$22), which takes the abduction experience at face value. Hopkins introduced Mack to most of the abductees he interviewed, and the book is dedicated to him.

Hopkins himself has never been abducted, but says he had a UFO sighting in the 1960s. He's an engaging and likeable advocate with a sense of humor. That he does not take himself too seriously distinguishes him from many of the members of his support group, who range from interesting and thoughtful to frighteningly obsessed.

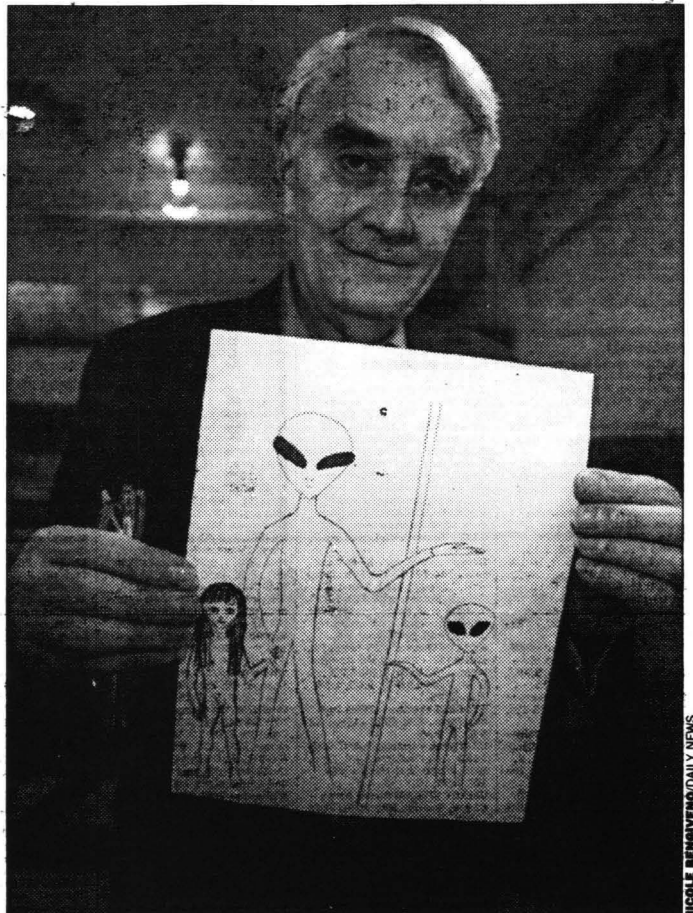
Take Janice (names have been changed), who says her abduction has made her so pro-ecology that she actually wishes most of the people on the planet would die, "so we could start all over again" in a natural way.

Thanks for sharing, Janice.

Then there's Karen, twentysomething and articulate, who describes a dream she had as a kid that she recently remembered under hypnosis. The dream begins with her lying in a cornfield; then she's on the floor of a room, and "the gray guys are there." A horse comes in, drops dead, and a machine strips the skin from it. An eyeball is removed, and put in a box. "The feeling I got was the mutilations were for some sort of monitoring purpose," says Karen.

Karen thinks this dream is related to her abduction, and who's to argue? She's obviously not crazy. Still, Dr. Michael D. Yapko, author of "Suggestions of Abuse" (Simon & Schuster, \$22), says people like Karen "are looking for answers to the most fundamental questions, and they are willing to accept anything that is plausible, even if it isn't true. It's a matter of faith, not science."

Faith is a big thing with Hopkins and his followers, who tend to fixate on the strangest things. Like the T-shirt Hopkins passes around bearing the lo-



BEINGS THERE: Budd Hopkins, with drawing by alleged UFO abductee

go "13th Tsukuba Marathon." Hopkins says an abductee woke up wearing it, but that she had gone to bed wearing something entirely different. Can anyone identify it? The support group members tug, poke and fondle it as if it were a precious artifact.

Signs of intelligent life?

Sit around with these folks for a few hours, and you're seriously conflicted. Hopkins tells endless abduction tales filled with the kind of evidentiary minutiae that can produce an REM state in any listener. And his followers spend a lot of time discussing dreams (are they evidence of abduction?), hypnotherapy sessions and anomalous behavior: watches running weirdly, bread rising at the wrong time.

After awhile the stories get boring, the riffs more convoluted, the behavior way too "Twilight Zone." But then you think: There's something going on, and

you don't know what it is, do you, Mr. Journalist?

And that's all Budd Hopkins is saying. If there's intelligent life in the universe, and some of it is cruising Earth, then maybe some E.T.'s are abducting humans for — What? Gene splicing? Torture? Cheap sex?

If it's really happening, then shouldn't investigating the occurrences be a top scientific priority?

"We are calling for a gathering of information, and a focusing of attention," says Keith Ferrell, editor of Omni magazine, which is running a six-month series investigating the UFO/abductee phenomenon. "There are plenty of good scientific minds out there who can take a hard look at this and get the sensationalism out of the way."

Says Hopkins: "I'm not going to defend my generalship in this. I'm not trying to be George Washington, I'm trying to be Paul Revere."

Man writing book on 1977 UFO sightings in Oil City

OIL CITY — A former Oil City resident is researching a 1977 sighting of UFOs which he says he witnessed in his hometown.

Rick Reynolds, son of former South Side residents Maurice and Barbara Reynolds, was among observers who reported UFOs in Oil City on Oct. 26, 1977.

He is writing a book about that 1977 sighting and, as an independent film producer, also may make a documentary film. Reynolds was in Oil City this week researching the topic.

The Reynolds family lived in Oil City from 1970-75. Maurice Reynolds was a plant engineer at Foster Forbes glass plant.

The couple now lives in Atlanta, Ga.

On that October 1977 date, 13-year-old Rick Reynolds and his two brothers saw circular, lighted objects in the sky over their neighborhood about 6:45 p.m.

As the objects traveled through the sky towards the North Side, Reynolds said, he and his brothers headed for the local vo-tech school.

"There was a large crowd there watching these crafts. It wasn't like your typical sighting that lasts for an instant. This lasted hours," Reynolds remembered.

According to news reports of the UFO sighting, information

on the objects was being transmitted by about 30 mobile citizen band radio units in the area.

Over the years, Reynolds said, he forgot about his UFO sighting experience in Oil City.

Moving to Columbus, Ohio, two years ago to accept a job as national sales manager for a banking processing company, his interest was again piqued when he joined Mid-Ohio Research Associates. The group includes physicists, pilots and others interested in researching UFOs.

"I got involved in that group and I told these fellows about my sighting. They encouraged me to pursue it so I contacted a

former teacher of mine and some retired policemen back in Oil City. They all remembered it," Reynolds said.

He placed an advertisement in the newspaper seeking witnesses to the 1977 sighting. The response has yielded personal interviews with a dozen residents.

Earlier this week, Reynolds traveled to Oil City to interview local residents and photograph key locations.

"I had planned to write just a paper on it but, as I interviewed, I realized there was more here than just a little blurb. So now I'm writing a book," he said.

Persons who witnessed the UFO sighting in 1977 may share their information with Reynolds by calling the associate group's 24-hour UFO Hotline at: 1-614-227-7324.

UFO believer protests government 'secrets'

By Jamy Scott
staff writer

Late one night in Cali, Colombia, Jose Hernandez was awakened from sleep by his brother. Beckoning him onto the balcony, his brother told him to look at the sky.

A rectangular object hung suspended in the air above him. For the next 45 minutes, the object rotated 180 degrees and then split into two circles. Then it was gone.

This was the first of three UFOs Hernandez said he saw in his native country. During his third sighting, the UFO hovered over the Andes Mountains for 30 minutes zigzagging back and forth, Hernandez said.

For the past 25 years, these experiences have led Hernandez to research the existence of UFOs and space beings.

Hernandez, an applications engineer at Campbell Scientific, is one of the organizers of a protest by

Operation Right to Know in California today. The group holds protests in hopes the government will release information about recovered UFOs, he said.

"The U.S. government is pretty much involved in covering it up," Hernandez said. "They have a powerful intelligence system to cover it up."

Hernandez acknowledges that many people would think he was crazy. But he said his own experiences have led him to believe in UFOs.

Those same people might say only the uneducated believe in alien spacecraft. But Hernandez breaks that stereotype.

He came to America 13 years ago to attend school and became a U.S. citizen. He has two master's degrees in physics and has studied engineering, astronomy and neurology. Because of his background in science-related fields, Hernandez said, he wants to examine all the evidence.

"My whole life and profession is related to discovering the truth no matter what it is," Hernandez said. "They (the government) have the real physical proof that we have been visited and monitored by beings."

Hernandez lived in California before relocating to Logan about three months ago. Hernandez is on the board of directors of ORTK that is staging the protest at a senator's office in California.

The group claims U.S. military and intelligence organizations have obtained actual spacecraft and bodies of space aliens.

"We're telling the American people, 'wake up'," he said. "Things are going on. The American government needs to talk."

But critics say there is no evidence backing Hernandez' claims. Barry Karr, the executive director of Skeptical Inquirer, a national publication that debunks paranormal experiences, said it is scientifically possible for other life to exist, "it doesn't mean they are here visiting us."

Karr said people need to remember the term UFO doesn't necessarily mean outer space.

"UFO doesn't mean alien spaceship. It means unidentified flying object," Karr said. "Sometimes people associate the two."

Most UFOs are easily explained by a natural phenomena, such as planes, weather balloons and bright planets.

Hernandez said that the government has kept things quiet for years. Alien spacecraft were discovered as early as the 1940s, he said.

A government coverup of UFOs isn't possible, Karr said. "I don't have faith in the U.S. government to keep anything secret for this long," he said. "I don't believe the government could keep it secret."

Robert R. Young, education chairman of the Astronomical Society of Harrisburg, Pa., called space aliens and UFO sightings "urban rumors." He said the myth started in the 1940s when the U.S. government launched secret projects during World War II.

"People just like to have a belief that there is something out there," Young said.

But Hernandez said life exists in the universe and space travel is possible. Ignoring the phenomenon isn't the answer, Hernandez said.

"Ignorance is a powerful tool used by those who have an interest in keeping everything status quo," Hernandez said.

Skywatchers See Strange Groups Of Amber Lights

By Patti Weatherford

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL
July 6, 1994

A call received on the Hot-line last week reported groups of amber colored lights in the sky in the Tiger Point area between 11:30 p.m. to 12 a.m. on June 29. The female caller also reported a square shaped object and a string of amber colored lights. A call also came in from skywatcher, Greg Liss, who reported an amber light over the Naval Live Oaks area the same evening around 11:50 p.m.

If the female caller would please contact the Hot-line again so that a more complete report may be obtained, anonymity will be respected upon request. Anyone else who may have sighting information, please call 438-3261.

There were some other reports received that are being investigated and I hope to deliver more information to you as it becomes available.

Eyes on the sky

UFO hotline tracks sightings in NW

By The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The call came in on a Sunday at 11:31 p.m. A woman named Violet was breathlessly describing the glowing object in the sky she and her friend Annie saw from the second floor of their rural house at the end of Moffett Road in Somewhere, U.S.A.

"We were looking at pictures and all of a sudden Annie said, 'What's that bright light out there? Is that a star?' And I casually glanced up and said, 'Oh, it's probably nothing but a weather satellite.'"

"And then I took a second look. I swear, it was like a live coal, the color of it, and it kind of hovered a little bit at first. There were streaks of light coming out of it. Then all of a sudden it came closer. It was ... spinning like a top. It was bright, real bright."

"And then we heard the roar from it. And it sounded like those old-fashioned gasoline lawn mowers, is the way I can describe it. And it took off, as near as I can figure, in a northwest direction."

Violet isn't sure what she saw that night, and neither is Robert Gribble, the man she called to report the sighting.

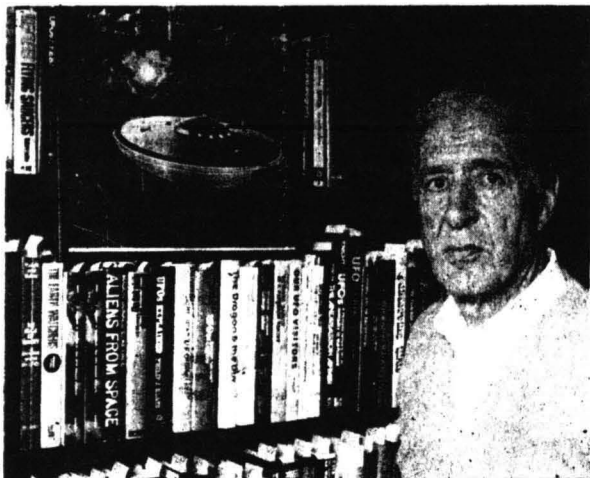
Gribble runs the UFO Reporting Center telephone hot line from the attic workroom of his tidy, white-shake house in south Seattle.

A retired firefighter with a ramrod posture, piercing eyes and a no-nonsense voice, Gribble speaks matter-of-factly about the more than 20,000 calls he's gotten since he set up his hot line in October 1974. He averages about six calls a day.

The vast majority of the sightings — usually some sort of bright light in the sky — turn out to have a perfectly earthly explanation: weather balloons, meteors, satellites, airplanes or other man-made aircraft.

"In the end we end up with about 5 percent unknowns," Gribble says. "Usually those are cases we call 'close encounters,' where the (UFO) vehicle is close enough that people can get a very good identification of some kind of structured object." A tiny fraction of that subgroup involves alleged UFO landings and human encounters with "aliens."

What people report hasn't varied much since Gribble started reading about UFOs 40 years ago as a hobby. Callers generally describe objects that are dome-shaped, lens-shaped, spherical or cigar-shaped, ranging from pulsating discs 6 inches in diameter to nondescript tubes as long



Associated Press

Robert Gribble stands in the workroom of his south Seattle home, where he runs the UFO Reporting Center telephone hot line.

as 1,000 feet.

Because of sheer volume, Gribble mostly follows up only calls involving close encounters and landings. He forwards the information from promising, rich-in-detail calls to the Mutual UFO Network, a nearly 5,000-member international UFO organization based in Seguin, Texas.

MUFON draws on more than 800 field investigators across the globe for on-site probes and research, says its international director, Walter Andrus. He's convinced in a small number of cases, people have seen extraterrestrial objects.

"They're not from this earth. They weren't manufactured by Boeing or McDonnell Douglas," Andrus says.

Reports of strange objects in the sky have been around at least as long as the Bible.

But "flying saucers" didn't make major headlines until June 24, 1947, when businessman-pilot Kenneth Arnold reported a strange encounter while flying his single-engine Cessna around Mount Rainier in Washington state.

Arnold reported seeing nine bright, disc-shaped objects traveling along the Cascade mountains at an estimated speed of more than 1,200 mph.

"Don't sell short those strange flying objects reported whizzing over Western Washington, until the returns are all in," read one Associated Press dispatch a couple of days after Arnold's sighting. "A flyer asserted

today he saw one flash over Oklahoma City several weeks ago. And a carpenter working on a roof in Kansas City reported he saw nine objects shortly after noon yesterday."

Arnold mentioned the sighting to other pilots when he landed at Yakima, but was met by blank stares. But he said he talked with a Ukiah, Ore., man the next day who told him he had seen similar objects over the mountains near Ukiah.

"It seems impossible, but there it is," Arnold told one reporter.

An Army spokesman in Washington, D.C., commented at the time: "As far as we know, nothing flies that fast except a V-2 rocket, which travels at about 3,500 miles an hour — and that's too fast to be seen."

The term "UFOs" was coined by an Air Force captain in 1951.

Gribble, who has never seen a UFO, thinks they come from "many, many different points of origin."

"My only conclusion is these objects are conducting a massive conditioning program," trying to inform humans in a non-threatening way that there is other intelligent life in the universe, Gribble says.

Skeptics are waiting for proof.

"There is nothing that would excite me and the world of science more than to find some scientifically credible evidence that we have alien visitors. But in nearly 28 years, I have yet to find a single such case," said Philip Klass, who has investigated UFO reports for nearly three

decades and has been called "the Sherlock Holmes of UFOlogy."

Klass, for 34 years the senior avionics editor for Aviation Week & Space Technology and now a contributing editor, says he gets 10 to 20 letters a day on the topic.

He says UFOs have the smell of pseudoscience in that nothing more is known about them today than Arnold's first publicized report five decades ago.

"I do not believe in ghosts. I do not believe in demons. I do not believe in Irish leprechauns. But I have not spent any time investigating them. So if Gribble, or someone else who tells stories of being abducted by strange creatures, if those stories are true, perhaps they're being abducted by demons or ghosts or Irish leprechauns," Klass says.

But Gribble is convinced there's something out there. He noted the Air Force secretly investigated UFOs under the code name Project Blue Book during the 1950s and '60s while publicly denying they existed.

Gribble says it could take decades "to condition people out of this 'we are the only ones' mentality."

"I can remember when I was going to parochial school. The nun would say, 'Oh, those beautiful white lights in the sky, they're the windows of heaven, that's the light coming through those windows' and that we are the only intelligent beings. This had been taught to people for 2,000 years up until recently when the space program really changed things and astronomers made spectacular discoveries, new planets, solar systems," Gribble says.

"I think we've reached that point in our global history where as time goes on we will become more and more aware that we are being watched and there is intelligent life out there."

■■■■

The UFO Reporting Center hot line in Seattle is (206) 722-3000. The Mutual UFO Network's number in Seguin, Texas, is (210) 379-9216.

TRI-CITY HERALD,
Kennewick, WA
June 19, 1994

THE NERVE BY KATHRYN ROBINSON



My favorite Martians

Mysteries: Alien abduction stories are impossible to explain, but they shouldn't be dismissed.

The other night I was reading along in *Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens*, the much-discussed new book by the Pulitzer Prize-winning Harvard psychiatrist John E. Mack. I was at the part where Mack explains that right before people are abducted by aliens mysterious electrical malfunctions often occur. It being nighttime, I reached up to turn on a lamp. Sparks flew and the lamp suddenly burst into flames.

I am not making this up. Careful to keep an eye on the clock (abductees often report large, unaccounted-for chunks of time), I blew out the little blaze and sat very still. Was I about to be abducted by aliens? Whooshed up to the mother ship and anxiously probed, like nearly every one of the 100-some claimants Mack interviewed over the past four years? Or maybe I had just *then* been abducted, perhaps relieved (as women abductees almost always report) of a partially incubated hybrid fetus. (The aliens are famous, after all, for erasing memories.) And what was that... *smell?* (Oh, the lamp.)

Outlandish testimonies like these fill the pages of *Abduction*, a book most notable for the fact that its author believes them. For his credulity Mack has been skewered by *The New Republic* and (o humiliation!) *Dateline*, and has become the laughing stock of the scientific and academic communities—even, *The New York Times* reports, his own department at Harvard.

But now that I've finished his book—outdoors, under natural light—I find myself with a good deal more respect for Mack than for the skeptics who keep lobbing conventional wisdom at him. Why is that? It's certainly not the quality of his book, an overlong and confusingly written (how did this guy win the Pulitzer?) succession of case studies chronicling his hypnotic retrieval of people's really disturbing memories of sex with aliens. Though Mack claims to have started out a skeptic, spending "countless hours" trying to find alternate explanations for these stories, he never details the alternate explanations

enough to convincingly refute them. The result is a book with too little of the critical distance a reader requires from an "expert."

That's because Mack has set out not to answer our skepticism, but to ignite our trust. These "abductees" have clearly been through *something*—a bottom line even Mack's harshest critics will allow—and Mack is simply here to testify as a trained psychiatrist that the consistent intensity and authenticity of emotional fallout from these people points to an experience that's real.

For many "abductees," Mack is the first person who has ever believed them. Mack elicits their "memories," gathers them into support groups, validates their experiences. I don't know if those of us who have never had our deepest-held beliefs dismissed as sick and ridiculous can begin to understand the overwhelming therapeutic value of simple respect. It's hard, indeed, to find a downside in Mack's trust: with nobody being sued or impugned (as in "repressed memories" of childhood abuse), his patients reportedly function better after their purgative sessions with him. If this is bad science, it may nonetheless be good medicine.

Yet, is it bad science? One of the most fascinating things Mack does is intentionally suspend his attachment to the Western scientific paradigm and the conventional divisions that separate "rational" from "irrational," "real" from "unreal," "material plane" from "spiritual plane." This receptivity to things metaphysical—no stranger, really, than common belief in God—amounts to handing buckshot to critics like *The New Republic's* James Gleick, who savages Mack for his blowzy disregard for material proof and his suggestion that abductions could be occurring within "another reality."

Mack is savaged, in short, for having an open mind—a fundamental prerequisite for scientific inquiry, not a disqualifier from it. As Columbus and Newton and Einstein would testify, scientific discovery is not a matter of jamming data into existing categories; it's about supposing new ones. It's about ac-

quitting how much we don't know—in marked contrast to the hubris of a rationalist such as Gleick, who argues that any phenomenon that's not available to his senses must therefore be a sham.

Gleick's arrogance would perhaps approach respectability if there were no mysteries left to science. But as we all know, there are innumerable mysteries left to science. A friend's theory that abduction experiences could be the doing of a fancy virus sounds as plausible as any other explanation, given how much scientists have left to learn about viruses.

Even if "abductions" turn out to be mere symptoms of some bizarre brain fever, would that then render the "abduction" experiences any less "true" than if little gray aliens were literally

snatching folks out of their beds on quiet nights? Mack is criticized—with good reason—for using hypnosis to "reenact" abductions, a means as likely to access imagination as memory. But isn't it significant—and rather taxing of the thin explanation that everyone's seen all the same alien movies—that every abductee is imagining virtually the same details? (Did you go see *Communion*?)

Another scientist who experienced derision in his day, C.G. Jung, believed there existed a higher plane of wisdom, a "collective unconscious," to which individuals had access through numinous dreams of a vivid, archetypal sort. It may be that "aliens" are the latest arrival from that ancient plane. But it's interesting to note that where one might

explain away such mythic visitations as cosmic projections of the human psyche's own extremes of goodness and evil—the current influx of angel sightings, for instance, or reports of satanic ritual abuse—Mack's claimants report a different, more chillingly authentic attitude toward their alien captors: ambivalence. With intriguing consistency the abductees report feeling violated and exploited by the aliens' painful medical experiments and humiliating interspecies breeding campaign—even as they admit to simultaneous senses of protection, instruction, even guidance into higher states of consciousness by the aliens. In nearly every case, the abductee experiences a crisis of ego through his or her alien encounter, followed by a life-changing, often ecstatic, expansion of consciousness. Again and again, the

epiphany that kicks off this ascent is the same: the individual's acknowledgement at the hands of the aliens that he or she is not, in fact, in control.

That this triumph over ego also happens to be the essential ingredient of most religions, of Jung's concept of individuation—of 12-step psychology, for that matter—suggests that there may be something very like truth in what seems to be so much alien nonsense. Perhaps the aliens are literally zooming down in their spaceships, perhaps they're penetrating the veil of some parallel universe, perhaps they really are all in our heads, symptoms of some disease the conceits of Western science have—could it be?—hitherto failed to diagnose. But we'll never know, Mack wisely attests, if we persist in reflexively dismissing the folks who claim firsthand experience. ■

Aliens: Skeptics unite

Conference of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal Doubletree Suites Hotel

Tukwila June 23

The skeptics were unmoved. Even a Harvard Medical School psychiatrist couldn't convince them that the alien-abduction phenomenon was anything more than delusion. At best, encounters with UFOs could be explained away as a disturbing form of sleep paralysis; at worst, they were a publicity stunt turned cultural obsession. But Dr. John Mack plowed ahead in his role as opposing-voice panelist at the conference of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP). "There's a point where courage drifts off into foolhardiness," said the Pulitzer Prize-winning author and abduction believer about the criticism heaped on him for accepting the paranormal as possibility. "I have this naive place inside me that says dialogue can occur. I do not have any explanation for this. It is an authentic mystery."

Dr. Mack was a picture of reason at the CSICOP conference opening event. Prominent

skeptics such as Philip Klass tried to portray him as a quack with flawed research procedures. Dr. Robert Baker (who faced off with Mack on a *Dateline* NBC alien-abduction segment a few weeks ago) tried to prove that the phenomenon was nothing more than anthropomorphism caused by vivid imaginations and maybe even indigestion. Another of the counter-speakers was Donna Bassett, who had suckered Mack in his clinical studies by faking an abduction claim. Bassett and Mack recently duked it out in the pages of *Time*, and her appearance at this conference was a surprise to Mack. In a terse response to her condescending tone, Mack relied on the confidentiality of his profession to unleash the ultimate putdown: "I'm constrained because I can't talk about her troubled past and the traumas in her life."

Throughout the evening Mack maintained his resolve, characterizing the skeptics' vehemence as "epistemological totalitarianism." Issues such as false-memory syndrome, ritual satanic abuse, and regressive hypnosis therapy were all part of the lively and divisive discussion. But when the issue of past-life regression was broached, Dr. Mack demurred to the skeptics. "I would be utterly mad to get into the subject of reincarnation with this group," he said. "I may be crazy, but I'm not that crazy."

Ted Fry

First sighting in NW brought instant fame in addition to ridicule

■ William Bequette was the news editor of the East Oregonian newspaper in Pendleton in 1947 when he wrote the first story about UFO's over the Northwest. When the short story was completed, he entered it on punch tape, in the manner of those days, and transmitted it to The Associated Press. The AP sent it around the world. Bequette came to work for the Tri-City Herald in 1948. He retired as the Herald's editor in 1982.

By WILLIAM C. BEQUETTE
Herald staff writer

Kenneth Arnold was obviously puzzled on June 24, 1947, when he came into the newsroom of the East Oregonian, the Pendleton daily.

He said while flying home to Boise that morning he had seen something "strange," nine saucer-shaped craft flying between Mount Rainier and Mount Adams at a speed he estimated at 1,200 mph, faster than any known aircraft of that era. He wondered if they might be experimental planes the military was testing.

Neither Nolan Skiff, the associate editor, nor I could answer Arnold's question.

We said we would run a story and maybe some reader could help him.

Nolan and I wrote a five-paragraph story for the paper and I gave the story to the Associated Press. Arnold checked into the hotel and I went to lunch.

Awaiting me when I returned to the office an hour later were telephone calls from newspapers around the United States and Canada and from the Associated Press. All of the callers wanted more details on the "flying saucers."

During the next two months almost 300 UFO sightings were reported in the U.S. and Canada. Whatever it was Arnold saw, life

was never the same again for the former University of Minnesota football player, trained pilot with more than 1,200 hours of flying time, father of four daughters, founder of the Great Western Fire Control Co. in Boise, and an unsuccessful candidate for lieutenant governor of Idaho.

Everywhere he went he was the object of public curiosity and occasionally ridicule as the man who "saw things."

Whenever he flew after that first sighting he kept a movie camera in the cockpit. He said years later he saw UFOs seven more times and twice he made in-flight movies of them.

At first he believed the UFOs he saw were military guided missiles. But subsequent interviews with scientists and military officials convinced him they were not.

What did he think they were then? His response to the question was always cautious: "Nobody knows. Perhaps other-worldly is the right word."

Since Arnold's story was first told, the number of UFO converts grows. Attempts at explaining the UFO phenomenon range from the ridiculous to the pseudo-scientific.

Perhaps Swiss psychoanalyst Carl Jung gives the best insight. In an essay in 1954 he suggested the saucer shape represents a spiritual symbol of order and wholeness he called a mandala.

"There is a tendency all over the world," he wrote, "to believe in saucers and to want them to be real."

The story the East Oregonian published June 24, 1947, ended by saying:

"Mr. Arnold—and perhaps others—saw something strange and almost unbelievable. What it was perhaps only time will tell."

Forty-seven years later, we still are waiting for time to tell.

TRI-CITY HERALD, Kennewick, WA - June 19, 1994

True believer takes on UFO skeptics

Has science closed its eyes to possibilities or are some things just out of this world?

By BILL DIETRICH
Seattle Times science reporter

John Mack is a Harvard psychiatrist, the founding director of a renowned psychiatry department at Massachusetts' Cambridge Hospital and a Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer of Lawrence of Arabia.

He also believes about 90 of his patients have been abducted and molested by space aliens and has written a new book on that subject called "Abductions: Human Encounters With Aliens."

Last night Mack gamely addressed an overflow audience in Tukwila at the national convention of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, a skeptics' group that made a heated discussion hotter by confronting Mack with a woman journalist who had hoaxed him with an abduction story he swallowed.

The timing was apt: Today is the 47th anniversary of the first modern reported sighting of flying saucers, made by a pilot near Mount Rainier.

The debate posed an intriguing question: Are skeptics justified in demanding physical proof and conformance with physical laws, or is the scientific community closing its mind to compelling evidence of what Mack called "something not of this world but which enters into this world?"

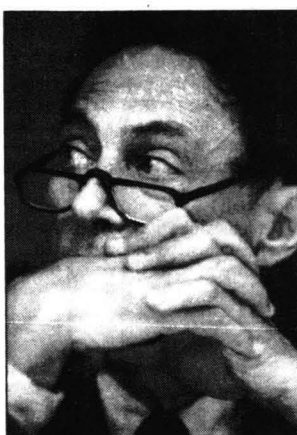
The Tukwila convention is addressing not just the alien-abduction issue but human belief in repressed memories of past abuse, angels, conspiracy theories and questionable "expert" courtroom testimony.

One of Mack's allies was Sharon Filip, a Seattle hypnotherapist who described her encounter with a UFO. When she asked the crowd how many believed in God, no hands went up.

Mack said his patients' stories were so compelling he is convinced there are realities and realms beyond scientific laws and human senses.

"We are the condemned prisoners of rationalism," he quoted.

But Donna Bassett, a North Carolina free-lance journalist who posed



KORT DUCE/SEATTLE TIMES
John Mack, a psychiatry professor at Harvard, discusses the possibility of alien abductions.

as an abductee, said Mack is simply gullible.

"I've never seen a UFO, nor have I ever been abducted," she said. "I faked it. ... The (research) environment was disturbing. There was no scientific method whatsoever."

Among the arguments:

• **Delusion.** University of Kentucky psychologist Robert Baker said abduction stories fit a common "hypnogogic" sleep condition that will affect 4 to 5 percent of Americans in their lifetime — or more than 10 million people — who will wake to a vivid hallucination that a ghost, demon or alien is in their room. Similar visions have been recounted since the Middle Ages, he said.

Thomas Bullard, a folklorist at Indiana University, countered with a survey he did suggesting 80 percent of abductees reported a similar appearance for the aliens.

"Surprisingly, there is a great deal of consistency," he argued. "What we have here is an anomaly. I don't know what it is. It's worth investigating."

• **Motive.** William Cone, a Newport Beach, Calif., psychiatrist who has treated alleged abductees, said that based on his experience, "Many of these people are in it for the money," and others are troubled and seeking an identity that abduction stories give them. "Some of these people are just certifiably nuts," he added. "Not all of them."

Mack said his patients were often reluctant to share their experience

and include a businessman running for Congress, two children under age 3 and a paraplegic with scars from a claimed spaceship medical examination that the paralyzed man could not have made himself.

• **Evidence.** Baker pointed out no abductee has returned with a surgical implant, spaceship souvenir, photograph or other artifact that has withstood scientific scrutiny. No hybrid children have turned up as proof of alleged alien-breeding programs. Members of the audience argued abductions are primarily an American cultural phenomenon, with few reports in most other countries.

Mack said the stories are so frequent, convincing and similar that there must be something to them. "All other cultures allow other beings, other realities, other dimensions," he maintained.

One UFO enthusiast who came to the skeptics' gathering was DeAnna Emerson of La Conner, Skagit County, who brought a photograph of what she said was a UFO over Skagit Bay taken in 1988. "It's always a good idea to hear both sides out," she explained. "I keep balanced."

Aliens and feds: Both lie

UFO abductees decry 'cover-up'

By JOHN HUGHES
Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

Sometimes when Karla Turner is cooking dinner they come.

Right there in her Arkansas kitchen, stirring a pot of soup or cleaning grease spots from the oven door handle, she is visited by uninvited guests.

Sometimes they bless her. Other times they torment her.

They are the color of ash, with eyes like those children in bad '60s pop art, with elongated limbs and digits, spindly, as if they could be snapped in two like a cockroach even by a woman of Turner's slender build.

But they are powerful and capricious, lying little bastards given to sexual perversion and experiments more inhuman than the maddest of mad scientists of archaic comic book lore.

For more than 20 years, they've bothered Karla Turner and her family. She's pretty fed up about it and wishes her government would use its available resources to stop the invasion.

At the recent UFO convention in Tampa, Turner, a former professor (Ph.D., English) told a meeting of more than 400 this:

"I am not a person whose job it is to convince a disbelieving audience."

Naysayers, nay. But do not think for a moment your disbelief shakes Turner. She has seen too much.

Besides, Turner says, "The nature of alien activity is designed to keep us from knowing too much concrete evidence."

Put another way: These extraterrestrials are so powerful that they even control

what we do and do not know about them.

So make up your own mind, but Karla Turner and those who joined her in Tampa have not time for validation or acceptance.

And they are not, as you might suspect, ignorant dirt farmers with bad teeth. A nuclear physicist shares Turner's conviction. So does Harvard professor John Mack, a psychiatrist and author of "Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens."

They are, simply, detectives of another kind, looking skyward suspiciously to say, "Hey, what's this?"

Read their books — Turner has sold about 40,000 copies of "Beyond the Fringe." Buy their tapes. Believe it if you will, but listen.

"We don't know with any certainty what they may be," Turner told her audience. And:

"At least some of them lie." And:

"Human perceptions are controlled by aliens during the encounters."

She told of a religious woman of extreme modesty who was taken captive by aliens, stripped naked, placed in a tube of light and used as a chart for biological explanation.

"Sexual intrusions occurred," she said.

Turner said her husband was "abducted, drugged and interrogated about alien phenomenon. And if you find this hard to believe, there are other examples we could discuss."

Let's.

There was, for example, the 25-year-old man in Alabama who was seduced by an attractive blonde, who after hypnotizing him with considerable womanly passion, turned into an alien beast who "rammed a two-foot rod down his throat to extract juices and left claw marks on his shoulders."

There have been, Tampa conventioners were told by Bud Hopkins, one of UFOlogy's leading experts, cases of animal mutilation.

Hopkins, a New York sculptor who became an E.T. specialist after years of studying the phenomenon, is something of a deprogram-

mer, on hand to counsel abductees. He says he sees about two new cases per day.

Average and remarkable citizens (Hopkins says he's counseling a Hollywood actor's son and seven psychiatrists) are "being played with in ways that are distasteful."

A recent national survey, Hopkins said, showed that about 2 percent of the population are abductees.

Of course you don't believe any of this.

There are people in this world who don't believe astronauts landed on the moon, UFOlogists will say.

It is not about credulity, this notion we are not alone.

It is about whether a people who demand to know who their president has slept with will allow its government to continue to lie to them about outsiders playing tricks on a male model and turning a housewife's dinner into a close encounter.

"Never believe two groups," Hopkins said to boisterous applause in Tampa, "the aliens or the U.S. government. They both lie."

And so there is Operation Right To Know, an organization with a flying saucer on its letterhead from a Washington, D.C., address.

"The mission of Operation Right To Know," the literature says, "is to take public political action to end the UFO cover-up and build a worldwide movement which will demand the truth from all governments."

Cover-up?

The evidence is overwhelming that Earth is being visited by intelligence-controlled aliens," said Stanton Friedman, a nuclear physicist from Canada, whose lecture was "UFOs: Earth's Cosmic Watergate." There have been, Friedman said, 4,400 physical traces of alien invasion in 65 countries.

"This is the biggest story of the millennium," said Friedman.

"There are nuts concerned with UFOs and there are nuts with New Age. But there is also some very credible scholarship."

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - June 15, 1994

National TV Shows Film Islander UFO Stories

By Bland Pugh

As Jane Waters wrote in her article last week, "Sightings" came week-end before last and interviewed Ed Walters, Jane Waters, and myself. They were here to interview Ed and Jane about the UFO/JET picture that appeared in the April 27 issue of *The Islander*. This picture has drawn both national and international attention. I have received calls and letters from all over the country, Washington D. C. to California and as far away as England and Canada about this article. So as you can see *The Islander* gets around.

"Encounters" the TV show came to town this past week-end and did an interview with Ed Walters on the UFO/JET story we ran in *The Islander* about a month ago. They interviewed him about this story and the November 28, 1993, video he had taken of a UFO over Pensacola Beach. For those of you who don't know about that particular video let me describe it.

On November 28, 1993, several flashes caught his attention, they were to the southwest over the gulf and appeared to be quite some distance from his home, so he grabbed his video camera and drove to the "Gates" area of Pensacola Beach. Walking on to the Beach, he clicked on the camera and did a panorama of the Beach and ocean, while doing this a "bait boat" came by heading in the direction of the pier, which was several miles away. Talking to the camera, he described the day and the location of the video, just as he turned to follow the boat, something caught his eye coming from the mainland towards the gulf. It was a UFO. The object stopped and hovered to the east between him and the pier. He was able to kneel down on one knee

to steady himself while filming. As the boat was working its way along the surf the UFO hovered just above what appeared to be the second sand bar, approximately one half mile away. One of the most fascinating parts of the video was a person walking towards him, as this person continued to walk in his direction, Ed talked to the camera, saying something to the effect "I hope this fellow will get just a little closer so I can yell at him". Just as he was about to shout to the person, the UFO decided it was time to leave and flashed away.

The remarkable part about this video is the way the UFO interacted with its environment, the waves, the boat in the surf and a person walking towards the camera, all of the things were a photo analyst's dream. These items were extremely useful when the video was examined, resulting in complete authentication by both Dr. Bruce Maccabee and Jeff Sainio. Also, the UFO displayed the same characteristics, vanishing instantaneously as the Martin Allen UFO did in the March 1993 video. The UFO zipped away at such incredible speed that it was there one split-second and gone in the next. After the video was examined it was discovered that the UFO was indeed there in one frame and gone in the next, it reappeared in one more frame and then totally vanished. Now think about that, one frame of video tape is 1/30th of a second long. Folks, that is not quick, it is damned quick.

So I guess both "Sightings" and "Encounters" will have two pretty special shows for us in the near future. Keep your eyes to the tubes and while you're at it, Keep Looking Up and Behind You!

UFO Abductee Makes Peace With Past at City Expo

Man Tells of Trip At Whole Life Fair

By Phill Casaus
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

If Travis Walton could retrace the footsteps of his life, he'd change one thing. One big thing. One huge thing. He'd never have walked into that forest clearing on the evening of Nov. 5, 1975.

That was the night, Travis Walton claims, he was abducted by space aliens.

"If I had to do it all over again, I guess I'd have stayed in the truck," Walton told an audience of about 100 people at the Whole Life Expo in Albuquerque on Saturday.

Walton's account of his experience with UFOs was the spark behind the 1993 movie "Fire in the Sky" — and a controversy that continues to simmer even now, nearly 19 years after it happened.

Walton is a shy man who seems uncomfortable talking with UFO-ophiles who regard him — or his story — as proof of aliens' contact with Planet Earth.

He is not a polished public speaker. For years, Walton said, he'd do almost anything to avoid talking about the experience.

But now, in the wake of the movie, and with plans to write an expanded book about that night in the Sitgreaves National Forest, Walton tries to make his peace with the past.

That's one reason he still lives in tiny Snowflake, Ariz., the pretty logging-and-timber town where he was raised. Though many in Snowflake believed Walton was a flake — or a fake — when he recounted his story, he has resisted the urge to move to another place where he is known to no one.

"My wife and I thought about it," Walton said after a 1½-hour presen-

tation at the Expo. "But really, what good would it do?"

The experience, according to Walton, went like this. Walton was returning home in a truck filled with seven loggers on that clear fall evening. As the pickup meandered on a mountain road, the men inside spied a blue-gold light coming from the treeline in the forest.

Walton, then 22, got out of the pickup to investigate the light. Though his companions screamed at him to return, he stayed outside long enough to be hammered by a beam of light.

Frightened by what they'd seen, the men left Walton, believing he was dead. When they returned, he was gone. The witnesses' stories, Walton says, have been backed up by lie-detector tests.

Walton says that when he woke up, he was on a spaceship, surrounded by alien beings. He was eventually returned to a lonely Arizona roadside — five days after he disappeared.

His story, of course, has been the source of much talk — both by believers and skeptics in Snowflake and around the country. Every day, Walton says, he has tried to make sense of the incident, if not the fallout.

"I don't think I lived up to the role," said Walton, a red-headed man who was a rarity at the Expo: He was dressed in a coat and tie.

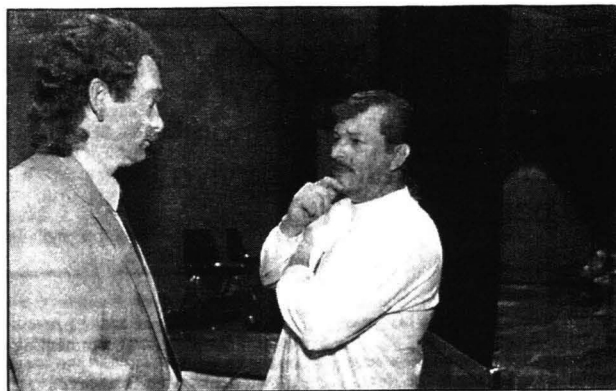
"For me," he said, "the main way of coping was to withdraw and just try to get on with my life. That might not be the best way, but it worked for me."

Walton decided to stay on the road he's always known. Now 41, he is a husband and the father of four. He still works in the wood molding plant in Snowflake. He remains friends with many of the men who witnessed his experience on that night so many years ago.

And while many people come up

to ask him about his opinions on space aliens and extraterrestrial beings (one astrologer on Saturday asked for his birthdate to advance her "research"). Walton believes he's become something of an expert on human nature — rather than UFOs.

"Over time, I've broadened my perspective," Walton said. "I've learned a lot about people."



PAUL BEARCE/JOURNAL
Travis Walton, left, and Michael Rogers, who says he saw Walton's abduction by a UFO, talk before their presentation.



PAUL BEARCE/JOURNAL
Santa Fe residents Susan Goseyun, left, and Nancy Halonen look over a selection of crystals.

TIMES, Seattle, WA - June 3, 1994

Unidentified Flying Objects? Skeptic wants your photos

ERIK LACITIS

Times staff columnist



We really aren't much of a country of individualists anymore. Oh, sure, there are the few thousand people who make up the perpetual guest lists for the Oprahs and Geraldos.

But in the corporate world, in universities, in any large workplace, we've learned not to appear controversial or unconventional. It just means trouble — or what we perceive as the potential for trouble, which is just as inhibiting, so we begin self-censoring ourselves.

That's why I told Gloria Freeman that I admired her candor, and why I told her I wasn't going to make fun of her in print, if she feared that.

For the last 13 years, Freeman, 65, has been a legal secretary and word processor with the King County Prosecutor's Office. She deals with all kinds of important documents and is well-regarded at her job.

"She's superb. She gets things right, and she does a lot of work," said Pat Sainsbury, head of the prosecutor's fraud division.

So there would be plenty of reasons for Freeman not to have her name in the paper, talking about how she took photos of a UFO, and how aliens have been making regular visits to this planet. That kind of talk immediately puts you into that "Kook on Oprah's" category.

Not afraid of mockery

But Freeman hasn't been fearful about being mocked. By her desk, she puts up photos of flying objects. "Kind of interesting, don't you think?" she'll say. Her co-workers accept it all in stride.

I met with Freeman after she wrote me a month ago. She was a bit upset about a column of mine on the best-seller "Abduction," a book about people reporting they were abducted by aliens. Freeman did not think this was satire material.

"Obviously the well-controlled media would not have allowed you to publish a serious article evaluating the reports," she said.

I asked Freeman just what serious proof she had. I have to admit, I was impressed with her well-written letter. Even my name was spelled correctly.

That's how we ended up talking about her photos. I looked at them and told her this is the kind of alleged proof that makes us UFO skeptics remain skeptics.

Freeman said that in early 1970, she took sequential photos of the moon to test her camera. It was when the film was developed, Freeman said, that she noticed something unusual. The pictures showed a spherical object flying past the moon. This wasn't a reflection on the lens, she said; it had to be a UFO.

I told Freeman that, frankly, I had hoped for proof that didn't look like a picture of a light bulb.

I asked if there had been something else that had convinced her of their existence. She recounted another experience: In 1967 she was driving by the former Air Force base at Paine Field. It was 9 a.m. Between two clouds, she said, "I saw a glowing orange disc, at least 30,000 feet high or more, going like a bat out of hell."

'The pilots see them all the time'

She drove to the base, she said, and made a report of her UFO sighting to a major. Afterward, Freeman said, as she was leaving, "this non-com says to me, 'UFOs? The pilots see them all the time. They just can't catch them.' " That's called anecdotal evidence, and is another reason we UFO skeptics remain skeptics. How come there are never UFOs that hover over a downtown, where thousands of people could take detailed photos?

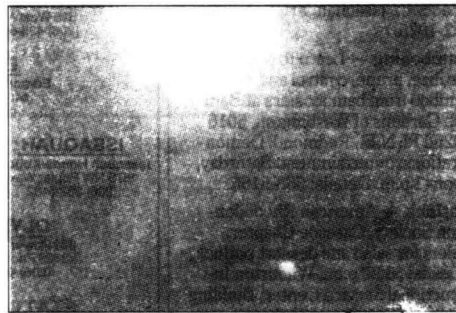
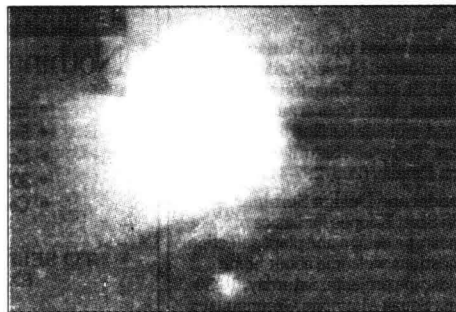
Gloria Freeman assured me there are plenty of such detailed pictures. All I had to do was ask the public.

Well, all right, I'm game. There's nothing like some UFO pictures to goose up those ratings.

Have you got such a photo? There should be plenty. It was here, after all, that the UFO craze began in 1947, when flying saucers were reported near Mt. Rainier.

That address is: Erik Lacitis, The Seattle Times, P.O. Box 70, Seattle, WA 98111. Include your name and daytime and evening telephone numbers.

I asked Freeman if it had been worth it, her insistence on UFOs, and knowing that some might ridicule her. "Oh, of course," she said. "You know, there's nothing sadder than thinking there're no mysteries."



GLORIA FREEMAN
Gloria Freeman says the small round object at the bottom of these sequential photos she took is a UFO flying past the moon.

Nevada town's reputation for UFO activity brings in believers

By TIMOTHY R. GAFFNEY
of Cox News Service

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

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

Oh, and aliens, too.

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

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

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

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

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

Pictures of aliens, saucers and well-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUN SENTINEL, Ft. Lauderdale, FL - May 22, 1994

Speakers describe close encounters at UFO meeting

By JOHN HUGHES
Staff Writer

TAMPA — A slight woman of academic manner is speaking with unwavering certainty about sex with extraterrestrials, and not one of her 200 or so listeners so much as snickers.

At the UFO Convention in Tampa this weekend, much that in other circles might be dismissed as lunacy is instead absorbed with something near reverence.

So it was then that Karla Turner, author of the UFO book *Into the Fringe*, was neither scoffed at nor challenged on Saturday when she said this:

"It's easy for [space aliens] to get you anywhere."

Aliens got her and her family. Swept them out of their Texas home and into a world of weirdness, Turner said. Into a world where slimy raisin-colored things with egg-shaped heads and eyes the size of doorknobs perform brain surgery, clone earthlings, use virtual reality for propaganda and cross-breed with humans as a means for easing unnoticed into our culture.

Do not be deceived by Neil Diamond's mushy anthem (Turn on your heartlight ...) or Steven Spielberg's movie *ET*, these are nasty little buggers. Liars. Perverts.

Do not phone home.

Turner, a former professor who has a doctorate in English, told about a woman who was raped by aliens and about a 25-year-old man who "had a 2-foot rod rammed down his throat to extract juices and [had] claw marks left on his shoulders."

Her audience hung on her words, took notes, nodded as if she had just described events as common and earthly as yesterday's Little League practice.

She is, in fact, an ordinary woman who loves her new grandchild and listens to Bruce Springsteen.

"We do have lives outside this phenomenon," Turner said.

■ New books add to debunking UFOs. 1D

"The evidence is overwhelming that Earth is being visited by intelligence controlled aliens."

— Stanton Friedman, one of UFOlogy's leading experts

But it is this phenomenon that has drawn more than 400 people from 16 states and five countries for three days of meetings, lectures and workshops about things that go bump in the sky.

Each conventioner paid from \$12 (for one lecture) to \$245 (for eight lectures and seven workshops) to attend sessions such as "The Watchers, The Secret, The Answer" and "Symptoms of Hidden UFO Abductions."

On Friday, a nuclear physicist spoke on "Cracking UFOlogy's Watergate."

"The evidence is overwhelming that Earth is being visited by intelligence controlled aliens," said Stanton Friedman, one of UFOlogy's leading experts.

In an exhibit room, conventioners could buy alien-head paperweights, ceramic angels, caps that say "UFO Pilot" or have their "aura-photograph" taken.

Or they could buy books on ETs. Lots of books. Enough books to convince even a skeptic that if there are as many extraterrestrials on Earth as there are books about them, then certainly all of us must have met at least one.

Pat Crumbley, one of the directors of the UFO Convention, says she expects to make this an annual event.

"So many people are just beginning to realize that ETs exist and that they are going to have to accept it and learn to live with it," Crumbley said.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO - June 23, 1994 CR: C. Carpenter

UFO believer speculates 'they're here to help us'

Aliens walk among us, man says

By Gary Massaro

Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

FEDERAL HEIGHTS — Chuck Stansburge says we're being watched.

Not by Big Brother, but by aliens.

"They say one could be sitting right next to you and you'd never know it," said Stansburge, president of the UFO Institute's newly formed Denver chapter.

Stansburge claims four sightings of UFOs over 30 years. The last was two weeks ago while he was parked on the Thornton Parkway near Interstate 25.

Stansburge can't offer proof of the sightings — only his word.

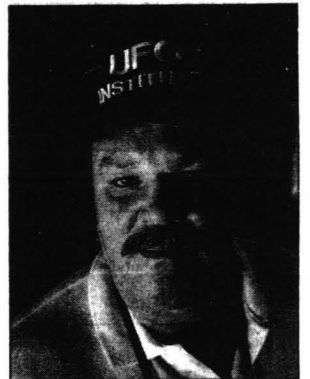
Stansburge, 48, isn't on a first-name basis with the Man in the Moon.

"I laugh at stories made up by the kooks themselves," said Stansburge, a retired truck driver. "You've got to be insane not to think there are other life forms. There are even certain things in the Bible. In Ezekiel, there's mention of a 'wheel in the sky.' What was that wheel?"

Stansburge knows wheels. He says he drove trucks before a bad back forced him into a disability retirement.

The ex-Marine was also a Colorado State Patrol trooper from 1969 to 1971.

After his back gave out, he started chasing UFOs and compiled a library of books and magazines. He has talked with others who say their sightings



Chuck Stansburge
Claims he's seen four UFOs

couldn't have been planes because they changed direction too fast. And they couldn't have been shooting stars because they were too big.

Stansburge also has a collection of supermarket tabloids to show the fake, sensationalized accounts of UFO sightings.

"This is what makes real UFO investigators look bad," he said.

Stansburge says the government has conspired to conceal evidence of alien sightings as well as autopsy reports on aliens.

Why would intelligent life visit Earth?

"I believe they're here to help us, and to know life other than their own," Stansburge said.

Although a UFO believer for 30 years, Stansburge didn't join the UFO Institute until last year after reading a newspaper article about strange sightings. About 130 people belong to the group. The national headquarters is in Colorado Springs.

Stansburge says it's no bother if people scoff. He says newspapers are filled with stuff about people doing bad things. He says he's not doing anything wrong. So he'll continue to look at the night sky for UFOs and continue to believe.

"I have nothing else to do," he said. "Some of the stories I read, I laugh at. It makes me feel I'm doing the positive thing, that I've got the truth."

OREGONIAN, Portland, OR - June 27, 1994 CR: J. Deardorff

Some lookouts recall seeing unidentified flying objects

In what was probably the biggest surprise of the recent Forest Service lookout conference in Oakridge, a number of firewatch veterans said they had observed unidentified flying objects during their lonely summer vigils.

The fact came out just as conference participants were sitting down to a buffet dinner at Timber Jim's on Oregon 58. Jim Doerter, who served on Flat Top

Lookout near Mount St. Helens in 1959, announced that he had seen a red and white spinning disk perhaps a 1,000 feet across travel the distance from Mount Hood to Mount Adams in 40 seconds, one of two close encounters he had that summer.

His wife, Martha, attending the banquet with him, said she also had seen the huge, silent object.

"It looked like a mercury-vapor

lamp," she said. "I thought I could see windows."

When Ron Johnson, director of the Oregon chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association, asked who in the room had seen similar things while on lookout duty, a dozen hands went up. The sightings seemed to be concentrated in the Cascade Range.

Several lookouts said they had not reported the strange phenomena because they didn't want their district rangers to think that they had lost their minds.

Bill Friday said a large, bluish-white disk had awakened him one night in the summer of 1974 when he was serving on Illahee Rock Lookout on the Umpqua River. It was so bright, he said, that he could still see it when he pulled his sleeping bag over his head.

"I was in a cold sweat, and the hair stood up on my neck," he said. "It was very real."



FOREIGN NEWS

Greenbank family may flee from 'alien visitors'



□ Householder with drawings of the figures— "I know something is happening in this house".

By TONY MOORE

A RURAL family has undergone hypnosis and exorcised their home after what they believe to be a series of visits from UFOs.

The family say they have seen unexplained "humanoid" forms and robot-like figures in their bedrooms and strange lights hovering near their home, near Greenbank Army Reserve.

One boy claims to have had contact with the aliens.

They do not want to be identified for fear of public ridicule but are considering moving from their home to escape their terror. Priests have already been brought in to exorcise the home.

Queensland UFO Research Inc spokesman Martin Gottschall said their group received up to 100 sightings from Redbank Plains to Ipswich each year. He said 80% of sightings

remained unexplained, with more never reported.

Mr Gottschall said he had interviewed the family several times and treated the reports as sincere.

Most appearances were seen by two of the family's children, boys aged five and seven, and their mother.

One boy yesterday described being taken aboard a spaceship, of passing through a window, and of "robots", one a female, disappearing into yellow light.

All have drawn pictures of what they claim to have seen. They appear as stereotyped humanoid-type drawings, but are described as "shadows — black, but solid".

The family have undertaken hypnosis sessions to detail their claims.

Mr Gottschall said independent attempts to videotape sightings have not succeeded.

Friends 'led off moor' by UFO

by Gavin Ledwith

DETAILS of how three friends were guided off Ilkley Moor at night by an unidentified flying object (UFO) will be revealed next week.

Menston-based ufologist Nigel Mortimer hopes one of the witnesses will discuss the sighting at the Clarke Foley Centre in Cunliffe Road, Ilkley, at 7.30pm on Monday.

"These people have not told anyone about it so far for fear of ridicule. But hopefully I will try to get one of them along," he said this week.

Mr Mortimer said the incident took place about two years ago when the friends visited the moor's Swastika Stone landmark during a church outing.

Bright light

"They arrived on the moors at about 7pm and went to the Swastika Stone where they found they had fallen into a trance and when they woke up it was 11pm," he said.

"Then there was a bright white light the size of a football which led them across two streams which they never would have been able to negotiate on their own at that time," he added.

Mr Mortimer said the friends, who are from Pudsey, Baildon and South Yorkshire, will each shortly be hypnotised in an effort to see if their accounts tally and to discover what happened during the lost hours.

He said they did not contact him about their experience until after he presented a talk in Ilkley last October.

Ilkley Moor has provided a rich vein of UFO sightings dating back to the Roman occupation of the town.

An anonymous man claimed he was abducted and taken aboard a spaceship while walking his dog near the Cow and Calf Rocks in the 1980s.

Only last month two women claimed they saw multi-coloured bright lights near Westwood Drive.

Mr Mortimer will also next week discuss bright lights seen over Addingham this year and the apparent geographical significance of the Swastika Stone.

"The Swastika Stone is one of three in the world of that design. The others are in southern Italy and in Sweden and if you trace a line across the globe between the three places you will find it forms an equilateral triangle," he said.

He added that UFOs have been regularly spotted in all three areas.

UFO shock for woman driver

AN alarmed West Country motorist stopped to watch as a strange horse-shaped UFO hovered above her car, it was revealed yesterday.

For five minutes the object remained stationary above the Blackdown Hills in Somerset, and then moved slowly northwards and out of sight.

"She was quite nervous about it and made sure she was near a street light before stopping the car and getting out to watch," said UFO investigator Sue Hembury Kellow.

"She first saw it hovering between Blagdon Hill and Welling-ton Monument at about 11.20pm on

June 9. It had lots of flashing lights coloured green, orange, blue and red."

Sue, a member of the Somerset UFO research and investigation network, said the woman refused to be named.

Witness

"She is a middle-aged business-woman, very respectable and a good witness. I believe her statement utterly."

"She was initially excited at having seen something unusual, but was quite frightened."

"There have been a number of similar sightings in Somerset recently," she added.

UFO body believes 'sightings genuine'

UFO group experts are investigating reports that a number of mysterious, brightly-lit cigar-shaped objects have been seen in the sky over Wakefield.

A national UFO hotline was inundated with reported sightings from Ossett on Wednesday evening last week, between 8.55pm and 9.35pm.

UFO society experts say the reports represent a "major sighting" and are linking them with similar incidents throughout the district, including Crofton, Normanton, Upton and Pontefract.

Mr George Wild, a member of the Yorkshire UFO Society and regional co-ordinator for Quest Publications International Ltd, said he had received more than 200 reports of sightings from all over Yorkshire in one four-day period.

"One Ossett witness reported seeing a large bank of lights behind which he could just make out a cigar-shaped object when looking through binoculars," he said.

"This account is supported by others who all recall seeing something extraordinary at around the same time."

Mr Wild said checks had been made with Manchester University and the Ministry of Defence to see if there was another explanation but these had drawn a blank.

"We believe these reports to be of a genuine sighting and we will be studying them closely."

The UFO hotline can be contacted on 0756 752216.

Suffolk's UFO remains a mystery

Worldwide interest in 'spaceship'

ONE of Suffolk's greatest unsolved mysteries - the sightings of a UFO near an air base - has attracted worldwide interest.

People fascinated by the claims that a spaceship landed close to RAF Woodbridge in 1980 are still anxious to uncover the truth.

Americans keep ringing up investigators with information and occasionally make visits to the site.

The Japanese printed 35,000 copies of a book by Brenda Butler and Dot Street about the mysterious sightings. It quickly sold out and the 39,000 copies of the reprint were also snapped up.

And even now the remote spot in Rendlesham Forest still has an

eerie feeling for Ms Butler, of Leiston.

"When I walk along here and think back over all the years, it makes the place feel cold and sad. There is also a special feeling and I can not help thinking something definitely did take place," she said.

"There are too many witnesses for all of them to be telling lies and I am still investigating what did happen. People phone up from The States and other people still want to come to the forest and look."

Sarah Richardson, of Turner

Road, Ipswich, was just 12 years old when the dramatic events occurred on two nights in December, 1980.

She was in her bedroom in Rodney Court, Woodbridge, and could not sleep. Looking out of the window she saw: "Lights which I thought were like fireworks. There were three of them and I will never forget about it."

Sightings of the lights were also recorded by people living in Ipswich, Woodbridge, and as far away as Leiston.

A shroud of secrecy has been

drawn over that winter night - but a report was written by the deputy base commander at RAF Woodbridge Lt Col Charles Halt in which he says a "strange glowing object" touched down in the forest.

He told how USAF security patrols from the base were sent out to check on unusual lights and discovered an object which "illuminated the entire forest with a white light."

He said: "The object was hovering on legs. As patrolmen

approached it, it manoeuvred through the trees and disappeared."

"At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The next day three depressions one and a half inches deep and seven inches in diameter were found where the object had been sited on the ground."

It was later concluded the indentations were probably made by an animal. But traces of radiation were found in imprints on the ground and air traffic controllers

revealed they had received reports of aerial phenomena over southern England.

Ms Butler still preserves the anonymity of an American serviceman who gave a graphic account of seeing three "entities" with a spacecraft.

The Ministry of Defence has investigated the incidents and found there was no military or defence significance and took no further action.

Anyone who recalls seeing anything unusual around the time of the sightings is asked to contact Brenda on 0728 830757 or Sarah on 0473 711061.

The Warminster Thing Still Bobbin' Along

Was there never such a Thing? Warminster sceptics always knew there wasn't, and could have told you so, long before the *Daily Mail* told the nation last Friday.

The picture helped to prove back in the 60s that UFOs had elected this town and its downs as their favourite visiting - and even sometimes landing - spot. However, the picture is a fake. So says one Roger Hooton from the safe distance of Adelaide, Australia.

The Truth

In the wake of the most famous picture of the Loch Ness monster being uncovered as a hoax, he now says that he cannot sleep peacefully at night any longer.

The truth must out: he and his pal Gordon Faulkner concocted the whole Thing with a milk bottle top, a cotton reel and a button.

Gordon Faulkner, who used to live in Pound Street, Warminster, disagrees. The picture of a flying saucer is genuine, he says - and he has never heard of somebody called Roger Hooton.

Mr. Faulkner took the picture on the evening of 29th August, 1965.

He had stepped out of the back door of his home to visit his mother and had his camera with him to lend it to his sister Caroline.

"As it flew fast and low over the south of town I could just make out the unusual shape," he is quoted in Arthur Shuttlewood's book *The Warminster Mystery*.

Sonic

Arthur Shuttlewood, then a journalist with the *Warminster Journal*, reported the phenomena descending around Warminster and its villages



Snapper Gordon Faulkner, pictured in 1965.

from the very beginning.

Later he became a witness and a believer in the Thing, writing several books about it and other strange things.

It all began with 'sonic deluges' in December 1964, heard and endured by soldiers at Knook Camp, 'ordinary housewife' Marjorie Bye near Christ Church in Warminster, and head postmaster of Warminster Roger Rump at his home near Christ Church.

Pigeons were killed in flight, after brushing into fatal contact with paralyzing sound beams at Crockerton, and pheasants suffered a similar fate, wrote Mr. Shuttlewood.

From then it was sightings all the

way, of cigar-shaped silent silvery objects, mostly, witnessed by courting couples, respectable business people, a vicar's wife... culminating in possibly the only public meeting anywhere in the world where a whole town came together to discuss Things.

Ever since, the Thing has attracted visitors who come from as far as Japan and America to get a glimpse of it - and of course our very own, the late Ken Rogers, who settled here as a young man to be closer to the UFO action.

Pigeon

So was there nothing in it? Will the UFO Centre Warminster sink back into the obscurity of being just another Wiltshire market town?

Is Ken Rogers turning in his grave?

But reconsider. No pigeon or pheasant has come forward to explain how their mates faked their untimely death, and until they do, it may be safe to continue in the stories that added some poetry - in motion - to the unremarkable day-to-day life of our town.

The chief picture, taken by the 19-year-old factory worker Gordon Faulkner - 'our chief picture', as Arthur Shuttlewood called it - was always doubted, from the time he sent it to *Journal* proprietor Charlie Mills.

'Genuine'

The *Daily Mirror*, who brought the story to nationwide attention, had the photo examined by its science reporter and others of its staff, who had their suspicions then.

Be that as it may, Roger Hooton was never mentioned in Mr. Faulkner's account, and neither is he mentioned in Ken Rogers's book *The Warminster Triangle*, to be published posthumously.

"I am quite certain that the picture is completely genuine. And Mr. Faulkner would stake his life on it!" wrote Arthur Shuttlewood.

Controversy Out Of The Blue

"This came quite out of the blue, you could say," said Gordon Faulkner's mother Olive Emm. She was talking on Wednesday about the alleged hoax of her only son's famous photo.

"He was quite amazed, he didn't even know the man, he has never heard of him," she went on.

Mrs. Emm, who is one of the stalwarts of Warminster's Tourist Information Centre, saw her son on Friday, when he was on his way back home to Gentheshaw in Staffordshire from Portugal.

He now works as a flight instructor.

Not Since

"He laughed," she said. "It's so long ago, he is not really interested any more."

Mr. Faulkner, who emigrated to Australia in 1966, spent three years there.

"As far as I am concerned it was a genuine photo," states his mother. "He has not seen a UFO since, though."

Mrs. Emm, of Boreham Road, says she can't see what the mysterious Mr. Hooton could gain by his claim.

"There was nothing in it for Gordon at the time. I think he got something like £50 for the picture, but nothing more. He didn't know he would make history."

"But it certainly put Warminster on the map. We still get a lot of interest in it."

Journal co-proprietor Diana Watkins was contacted about 16 months ago by the vice-chairman of the British UFO Research Association, after Roger Hooton confessed the 'hoax' to him.

He wanted to know if Mr. Hooton had worked for the paper - and he had. From 23rd August, 1965, to 29th October of the same year, in the printing works.

DAILY MAIL, Hull, England
June 21, 1994 CR: T. Good

'UFO' noise turns eyes to the sky

TERRIFIED families dived for cover when a mystery aircraft swooped over their homes last night.

Residents around Hedon and Thornthorpe said their houses shook as the object roared overhead.

Mr Neil Wilson heard a terrific noise and saw a "flame-shooting rocket" flying over his home in Hedon.

"The whole house shook and I saw what appeared to be a big flame in the sky," he said.

"The noise seemed to go on and on and all the neighbours were out looking to see what was happening," he said.

Mr David Wilson, of Main Road, Thornthorpe, thought a plane was about to crash. "I thought there was going to be a terrible accident," he said.

Mr Tony Scaife of the Hull and East Riding Astronomical Society, said a meteorite could have caused the "flames", but the noise was a mystery.

The Thing: 'Hoax' Was Not The Only Sighting

Long-time skywatcher Chris Trubridge is not impressed by the renewed 'is it or isn't it?' debate over the Gordon Faulkner photo of the Warminster Thing.

Last week, Mr. Roger Hooton claimed from Adelaide that the photograph of the Warminster Thing was a hoax - while Mr. Faulkner insisted that the object which he snapped on 29th August, 1965,

was genuine.

"It's wrong to judge the UFO controversy over one picture that always was doubtful," said Mr. Trubridge, who lives in Bishopstrow.

"Other people saw unidentified Flying Objects. Are we saying they are liars?"

Weekends

Mr. Trubridge, who is now 44, moved to Warminster with his wife when they got married in 1973, and has lived here ever since.

Before that, however, at the age of 15, he was a music student in Winchester. As he was interested in astronomy, he followed up reports of sightings in Warminster.

"I had friends in Warminster, and I used to come often on weekends and vacation times."

He continued his studies as a violinist at the Royal College of Music in London, but still came to Warminster as often as before.

"I got to know Arthur Shuttlewood very well in 1967, and many more."

He met Gordon Faulkner once on Cradle Hill.

"I saw various sightings in the 1960s at Cradle Hill, Cley Hill and Star Hill," he said. "I saw a very good sighting in 1969."

Sightings

However, he has his doubts about one sighting at 8.20 p.m. on Sunday, 29th August, 1965.

"I have always been sceptical about the Gordon Faulkner photograph," said Mr. Trubridge.

The UFO controversy had broken out eight months earlier, when sounds were reported on Christmas Day 1964, and sightings began the following May. A total of 22 incidents were reported, all relying on personal testimony.

Skywatcher Challenges T.V. Verdict

Then the photograph suddenly emerged.

It was taken two days after the big public meeting about UFOs, organised in Warminster by Councillor Emyln Rees.

It was taken one day after the resulting reports and pictures had hit television and the national press.

UFO consciousness was high.

However, does the allegation of 'hoax' for this one photograph justify the statement by H.T.V. that it's "the end of a 30-year mystery here on Planet Earth"?

At The Journal

Chris Trubridge doesn't think so. In fact, one sighting that did not please him was on television - the H.T.V. West report on Bristol on Friday, 15th April.

(This should not be confused with the report, same day, by B.B.C. television from Bristol, who came to the *Warminster Journal* beforehand to check their facts, and point their cameras.)

Mr. Trubridge crossed swords with H.T.V. because, he says, they showed the wrong photo.

Reporter Graham Purches said that "it all started with a photograph published in 1965 which appeared to show a flying saucer-like object in the sky near Warminster."

However, the picture shown with his words wasn't the Faulkner photo. It had treetops in the foreground, with a flying saucer above it.

Yet the Faulkner picture contained nothing except the Thing - no treetops.

The picture shown was the one taken by Bob Strong more than a

year later, on 24th October, 1966.

Wake up at the back there, H.T.V.!

Another

Mr. Trubridge is more concerned with Mr. Purches's suggestion that, if the Faulkner photo is a hoax, then it's "the end of a 30-year mystery here on Planet Earth".

Not so, says Mr. Trubridge.

The Faulkner photo is still debatable. Whatever the doubts, there was another reported sighting on the night Mr. Faulkner took his photo.

The photo was taken at 8.20 p.m.

About an hour later, at 9.40, four Swindon boys who were camping out near the central car park saw a bright orb of light over the downs.

Flash! Explosion! Then it divided into two, and zig-zagged, and streamed over the horizon - the boys told Arthur Shuttlewood.

So much for that night.

Mr. Trubridge feels that, whatever the status of the Faulkner photo, the other evidence still stands.

Witnesses

"The issue is still very much debatable, and still continues... with sightings," said Mr. Trubridge. "There was a sighting last December, above Thornhill Road, according to the *Warminster Journal*."

He wanted to make the point, to protect "all the many hours put in by local people to provide evidence."

"There are reliable witnesses - police, solicitors, clergy - who have reported sightings."

"It is a world-wide phenomenon which has been going since 1947."

He feels that Warminster, as a centre of the UFO scene, is still in business.

Mr. Trubridge took the trouble to ring H.T.V. to point all this out, and they promised to ring him back.

He is still waiting for their call.

Warminster Holiday Tourist Centre

DRAWS WEEKEND CROWDS

Bank Holiday weekend traffic may have been light generally, but a fair percentage using West-country roads converged on Warminster, which was packed out with sightseers from all parts of Britain, some travelling from overseas.

Since The Thing supposedly haunting Warminster skies was debated at a public meeting on Friday, making national news headlines on Saturday, shoals of visitors descended on the market town, its population of 11,000 swollen considerably over the holiday.

Hotels, pubs, restaurants and clubs were packed tight, local pottery, curios and anything bearing the town's name (providing it was portable) eagerly bought. Warminster was a minor boom town for three days, coaches filled with the curious and cars laden with seekers of further information about The Thing disgorging excited people.

One tired man was Mr. Emyln Rees, Chairman of Warminster U.D.C., who called the special meeting. Scores of phone calls and visitors invaded his home. Busier than ever, too, was a local reporter, whose notebook contain over 50 names, addresses and descriptions of The Thing witnesses.

At a late hour on Monday he or his wife had dealt with no fewer than 167 phone enquiries or callers. Some, foreigners among them, swore to seeing similar phenomena or hearing strange sounds at places far distant from Wiltshire. "I can never bank on a Bank Holiday," he said on Tuesday.

Departing for a three-week holiday on Monday, Mr. Rees said before leaving: "It's just one darned Thing after another, here-I'll be glad of the break!" A man from London has volunteered to carry out weekend observation in Warminster, searching for sky objects; and the Royal Observer Corps has been contacted and asked whether they are interested in helping if The Thing is fact or fiction.

How the Warminster Journal reported sightings and sensations on 3rd September 1965.

OUR READERS VIEWS

The Editor, Warminster Journal.

Dear Sir,
I am sure that many of those people present in the Town Hall last Friday night, are as grateful as I am to Councillor Emyln Rees for arranging the meeting.
In spite of being packed like sardines in the upper room, frizzled by television lamps, and unable to hear all that was said by the three speakers on the platform (owing to the placing of the microphones), I felt that the meeting was like a breath of fresh air blowing on the controversy which has raged through June, July and August in the columns of the *Journal*.

We were reassured by Prof. Cleary-Baker that we have nothing to fear from these unexplained sounds and sights in the sky, which have been reported all over the world for centuries. The Rev. Laurence Inge, who helps to man an observation post 12 miles from Salisbury, reminded us that there is a lot of "ironmongery" orbiting the earth and that what is "sent up," has to "come down" sometime, somewhere!

With trained, scientifically detached observers noting these occurrences, I do not think we need trouble ourselves over-much with those who claim they KNOW that the phenomena are due to space-ships, manned by dwellers on another planet.

Yours truly,
MISS F. M. BALDWIN,
M.A. Cantab.

13 Imber Road, Warminster.

Letter in the Journal 3rd September 1965.

Keep your eyes peeled for UFO

by Simon Ritchie

THIS is what postman John Hunt claims to have seen fly at high-speed over his River Ouse houseboat.

Mr Hunt, 50, gave a detailed description of his sighting to Yorkshire Evening Press graphic artists who superimposed it on a photograph of the city skyline.

He claims to have seen the mystery lemon-coloured onion-shaped object soar over his boat, moored near Skeldergate, at the speed of a fighter jet. The sighting took place at 8.40pm on Wednesday.

Mr Hunt, who was shocked by what he saw, said: "It first appeared as a black blob and as it got closer it I thought it must be a helicopter. But it wasn't. It made no sound at all."

A spokesman for Leeds Weather Centre said it was "highly unlikely" that the object was a weather balloon.

"There are only two weather stations in the North of England, at Liverpool and in Cumbria, which send up balloons. The wind on Wednesday night would have sent them out to sea. The balloons are also cream coloured, not yellow, and they would have floated slowly down to earth, not at high-speed."

Balloon Rides of York said it did not have any hot-air balloons in York that night because it was too windy.

There were no military aircraft, microlites or hang-gliders flying over York that night.

About two weeks earlier Bridlington student Karen Clark, 20, saw what she described as a UFO hover over a field near Stamford Bridge.

"Me and my partner Simon saw a round object with white lights. It was very close to the ground and travelling very fast. It hovered for a while and then left," said Karen.

"I did not report it at the time because I did not think

anyone would believe me. It was only when I saw the piece in the Press that I decided to get in touch."

North Yorkshire is the number one county for spotting UFOs.

Over the past ten years the county has accounted for more than half the national total.

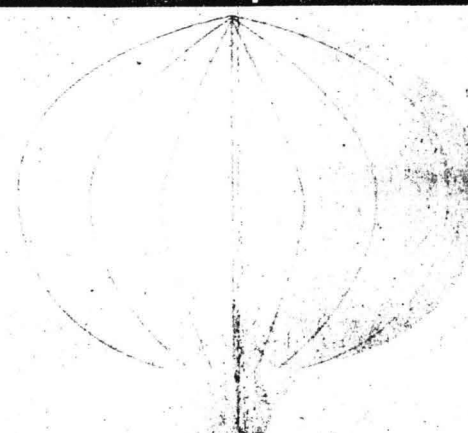
Ripon-based John Holman, of the Alien Acknowledgement Campaign is lobbying Parliament next week as part of a transatlantic campaign to focus attention on UFOs.

● If you think you have seen a UFO contact Mr Mantle on 0924 444049 or Mr Holman on 0765 602898.



An artists impression of the UFO (not to scale) as it came in for a close encounter with the York skyline.

John Hunt's description of the UFO



- Lemon-coloured and onion-shaped
- Flew at the speed of a fighter jet
- Made no noise
- Travelled east-west over River Ouse

More close encounters

I RECEIVED a tremendous response from the excellent article on UFOs (*The Glaswegian* issue week 240).

I have been following up a number of reported UFO encounters.

One took place as far back as 1978, but is particularly interesting.

A witness who wishes to remain anonymous was a pupil in St Mark's Primary, Parkhead.

One morning he was standing with a group of friends in the playground when they saw a shiny, metallic object hovering about 20 feet from the ground.

This object was disc shaped and silver in colour.

It also had a smooth appearance. In short, it looked like the traditional "flying saucer".

I have contacted the school, but they have not been able to provide any more information.

I wonder if any readers were witnesses to this event. If so, I would be interested in hearing from them.

Ron Halliday,
Fountain Road,
Bridge of Allan,
Stirling FK9 4AU.

GLASGOW, [City Unknown], England - Feb. 17, 1994 CR: T. Good

DUNFERMLINE PRESS, Fife, Scotland - April 8, 1994 CR: T. Good

'UFO' photo is object of some debate

THE testimony of a Rosyth man will play an important part in a major UFO conference in Scotland later this year.

And one expert told the *Press* this week that Ian Macpherson's photographs of an unidentified object might prove to be one of the world's major sightings.

Tickets for the conference, taking place in Falkirk Town Hall on 30th June, are selling like hot cakes.

Councillor Billy Buchanan, who is hosting the event, said that there had been several enquiries about the evening from people in the Dunfermline area.

There will be presentations from UFO experts Philip Mantle, who will be discussing UFO abductions, and Malcolm Robinson, as well as a performance by UFO rock band C.E.I.V from Glasgow.

One of Mr Robinson's two presentations will be about Scottish sightings and the testimony and photographs of Mr Macpherson will be dealt with extensively.

Mr Macpherson spotted and photographed a large frisbee-shaped object at Craigluscar Reservoir in February.

"I feel that the testimony is very good," said Mr Robinson.

"This could well end up as one of the major UFO photograph cases - not just in this country but overseas as well."

The photographs, one of which was reproduced on the *Press* front page, are still in the hands of the RAF, which has not yet provided any answer for what the object could be.

"They appear to be dragging their heels a wee bit on this one," he said of last month's incident, which has also sparked much debate among *Press* readers.

However, a representative of the RAF secretariat that deals with sightings denied this.

"These things really do take quite an incredible amount of time," he said.

Tickets for the event are available from Falkirk Steeple, telephone (0324) 628038, priced £4 and £2 for concessions.

Ladbroke's, which has cut its odds against the Government backing UFO activity within the next two years to 50-1, will be taking bets at the conference.

INDEPENDENT, London, England - May 22, 1994 CR: T. Good

BOOKS

Close encounters of a psychological kind

By Anthony Storr

ABDUCTION: Human Encounters with Aliens
by John E Mack, Simon & Schuster £16.99

instruments which remove eggs from females and sperm samples from men. These experiments are usually felt as intrusive, but there are also reports of rewarding sexual intercourse with aliens. Many abductees believe the aliens have an interspecies breeding programme, and say they have seen hybrid infants in spacecraft.

Aliens are generally regarded as "more advanced spiritually and emotionally than we are", which makes it hard to understand why they should want to interbreed with humans, whose misuse of the earth they usually condemn as wicked or stupid. For not all the habits of aliens are nasty: they also issue timely warnings. When in the spacecraft, the captives are given information about the fate of the earth, which may include scenes of devastation following a nuclear explosion, lifeless polluted landscapes and "apocalyptic images of giant earthquakes, firestorms, floods, and even fractures of the planet itself". Some lucky abductees are given

glimpses of their previous incarnations, as, for example, a tomb-painter in ancient Egypt.

Abduction experiences often run in families. Mack states that his subjects are free from psychiatric illness or psychological or emotional conditions which could account for their abductions. Yet examination of his 13 cases reveals that all reported strange experiences, neurotic symptoms or preoccupation with the paranormal from early childhood onward. One subject had been seeing a psychia-

trist for seven years. Another had seizures, migraine-like headaches, visual hallucinations and a temporarily abnormal electroencephalogram. Some have been searching for enlightenment in a variety of sects throughout their lives. Mack used hypnosis to induce regression to childhood and recover memories of abduction experiences. He states that "abductees are peculiarly unsuggestible". If so, one would expect that they would be hard to hypnotise. Yet he also

writes that "abductees seem to move readily into trance" and shares with readers his impression "that the reports provided under hypnosis are generally more accurate than those consciously recalled".

Mack's technique of inducing the hypnotic state includes deep, rapid breathing. He reports that, at the end of the session, his subjects often experience cramps in the muscles of the hands. Overbreathing interferes with calcium metabolism and may cause such cramps, which are known as tetany; but Mack does not mention this. Nor does he consider the possibility that his form of therapy is creating a new, crazy sect whose members try to outdo each other's fantasies. We have enough interplanetary societies already.

Mack learned the breathing technique from the work of a psychiatrist called Stanislov Grof. It is said to facilitate travel through history and the establishment of "transpersonal relationships". Mack told *Esquire* that, when he practised it himself, he found that in one of his past lives he had been a 16th-century Russian who had to watch a band of Mongols decapitate his four-year-old son.

I wonder if aliens are as credulous and gullible as human beings? They could hardly be more so. John Mack, of course, realises that he has put his reputation as a professor of psychiatry on the line. If he is eventually professionally discredited, his \$250,000 American advance will hardly constitute sufficient comfort.

JOHN MACK is a professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, a faculty member of the Boston Psychoanalytic Society, president of the International Society for Political Psychology, and the author of a prize-winning biography of T.E. Lawrence, *A Prince of Our Disorder*, which I read with admiration. Since many people will find this new book incredible, it is important to emphasise that the author's credentials are impeccable.

Mack claims to have interviewed more than a hundred people who say that they have been abducted by aliens. Of these, 47 females and 29 males, including three boys of eight and under, have convinced Mack that their accounts of being abducted are genuine. In this book, he presents 13 selected cases, eight men and five women.

The usual pattern of an abduction is that the abductee is at home or in a car. He or she sees a bright light, sometimes blue, which emanates from a spacecraft or UFO to which the abductee is taken by "floating" through walls or the roof of a car. Further transportation to a larger spacecraft follows. "Communication between aliens and humans is telepathic, mind to mind or thought to thought, with no specific common learned language being necessary."

Most victims describe aliens as small, grey, and hairless, with large heads and long arms. The captive usually feels unable to move any part of the body except the head. The aliens then conduct experiments on the abductee's body, often using

Flying saucers probe

A GROUP has been set up to investigate a spate of UFO sightings on the Lincolnshire Coast.

Since last May, there have been more than 20 eyewitness reports of glowing objects or flashing lights - particularly in the Mablethorpe area.

Now Mr Peter Gregory (54), of Somersby Avenue in the resort, has established a group called Skywatch with a view to counselling and analysing the information.

He himself has 'captured' one of the flying objects on video.

He says: "We're not cranks and we're not saying these are visitations from little green men from Mars."

"However, there is definitely some unexplained activity which

needs proper researching."

Mr Gregory and his fellow UFO spotters believe the craft may be using the East Coast as a flightpath.

The red lights on the British Telecom mast at Truethorpe therefore providing a particularly useful beacon for the craft.

Phenomenon

There is also a theory that UFOs may be linked to a bizarre phenomenon 17 miles away in Louth where several householders reported that their TVs had suddenly switched channel for no apparent reason. Skywatch has already staged one meeting in Mablethorpe but they are still looking for interested people.

Mr Gregory can be contacted on Mablethorpe 442597.

Let's go, Sixto - hail a UFO ride

UFO enthusiasts hear some pretty wild tales but even their hair may stand on end at Bournemouth's Positive Living group next Monday.

Peruvian archeologist and historian Sixto Paz Wells will tell how he can call down flying saucers - and even how he hitched a ride in one.

Sixto, who addressed the United Nations in 1986, was just 18 when he claims to have been telepathically contacted by space beings and with a group of friends went into a desert near Lima to rendezvous with an alien spaceship.

On a second close encounter four people watched Sixto step into a beam of light and vanish into the craft where he met beings who later whizzed him off to Ganymede, one of the moons of Jupiter, where they live underground.

Triangle victims 'live on Jupiter moon'

If you find that hard to swallow, how about Sixto's claim that in one of the moon's underground cities live 12,000 Earth people rescued from the hands of bad ETs or zapped by the Bermuda Triangle!

There's lots more crazy

stuff - so what are we to make of it all?

It is easy to dismiss Sixto as being one star short of a galaxy but it still has to be explained why hundreds of people worldwide are claiming to have been abducted by UFOs.

In the States there are even abductee support groups who meet to share their fears in the manner of incest or rape victims.

Something's going on - but what?

Positive Living meets at the Metropolitan Church Hall on May 23 at 7.30 pm. Admission £3. Aliens free!



MPs urged to lift veil on aliens

LOCAL MPs John Ward, John Butterfill and David Atkinson will be handed a letter on Monday urging them to seek out and reveal the truth on UFOs.

A simultaneous lobbying of the Ministry of Defence and the US Pentagon and then later the House of Commons takes place under the joint American/UK Operation Right to Know. Every MP will get a letter headed Alien Acknowledgement Campaign listing six points of hard evidence for UFOs.

These include: 3,500 documented reports of clear non-human technology from military and civilian pilots, 4,000 documented landing traces worldwide, tens of thousands of witnesses and 17 independent camcorder recordings of a UFO over Mexico City during an eclipse of the sun in 1991, 200 witnesses of the retrieval of a craft following a UFO crash in New Mexico including many testimonies to alien bodies recovered, worldwide animal mutilations which vets say are impossible with known technology.

The document finally quotes a 1990 videoed interview with Col. W. De Brouwer, Chief of the Belgian Air Staff, following a fighter plane interception of a UFO over Belgium.

UFO sighting backed up

ANOTHER two people say they have independently seen an unidentified flying object (UFO) over Ilkley Moor.

The sighting was confirmed on Monday at a talk by Menston UFO expert Nigel Mortimer held in the Clarke Foley Centre, Ilkley.

This follows last month's report of how two teenage women saw mysterious lights in the sky at about 10.30pm on April 21. Shortly afterwards they were overcome with a feeling of dread. As they sped away an envelope of light engulfed their

car and shimmering lights appeared on the inside surface of its roof.

At the meeting Eileen Furbank, 61, of Aynholme Close, Addingham, said she had turned out her kitchen lights at about 10.30am on April 21 before going to bed.

She then looked out of the window towards the Cow and Calf, something she often does to watch car headlights coming over the moor.

But on the 21st she saw something else: "I don't know what it was. I saw this light,

it was miles up, orange and blue. It never moved, it just hovered. At the time I thought it could be a UFO. It was very very small, like a diamond shape. Although it was hovering it was not stagnant - it was twinkling but at the same time not moving," she said.

Another woman who wishes to remain nameless said her husband saw the UFO. "He had gone to the loo that night. The next day he said he had seen a funny light which corresponded with what those girls had seen," she said.

UFO inquiry after sighting at Scots jail

A TOP E.T. hunter has launched a probe into a baffling UFO sighting at a Scottish jail.

The UFO was picked up on TV surveillance cameras which were scanning the perimeter fence of Glenochil Jail near Alloa, Clackmannanshire.

The brightly lit object, said to resemble a giant Polo mint, was spotted darting over the fence and into the prison grounds and then leaping back over again.

Two warders were sent out to investigate but failed to spot anything, even though their colleagues in the control room could still see the UFO.

The UFO, said to be about two feet in diameter, probed the jail for about five minutes before vanishing.

Yesterday as UFO expert Ron Halliday of Scottish Earth Mysteries Research launched an investigation into the sighting, he said, "This is a very interesting sighting particularly as it seems to have been seen by quite a few people."

"I'll be wanting to speak to as many witnesses as possible. This is all the more intriguing as there have been a great many UFO sightings in this area over the years."

A jail insider said, "It was at around

midnight when this object suddenly appeared on the monitors in the control room."

"It was moving back and forward over the fence. It was moving purposefully and of its own volition."

"It was a bright white light with a big hole in the middle; like a giant Polo mint."

"A couple of prison officers were sent out to have a look, but they couldn't even see it."

"The guys in the control room could still see it on the TV monitors hovering above them, reacting to their movements."

Yesterday jail bosses were dismissing the incident as a camera fault.

A Scottish Prison Service spokesman said, "Staff were sent out to investigate the area concerned but there was nothing unforeseen."

"The logical explanation is camera fault and no other action was deemed necessary."

But Ron Halliday insisted that the sighting should not be dismissed so quickly.

"It often happens that cameras pick up strange, unexplained phenomena undetected by the human eye."

1979 SIGHTING: 'Mirage' theory dismissed by witness

Attack on UFO claim

THE man at the centre of Scotland's most famous UFO sighting today dismissed startling new claims about the strange incident.

In a new book out tomorrow author Stuart Campbell says an astronomical mirage caused an epileptic fit which made Bob Taylor believe he had seen a spacecraft.

But his theory was rejected today as "absolute nonsense" by the 75-year-old retired forester, who is standing by his story.

And local UFO expert Ron Halliday described as "preposterous" the suggested solution in the new publication.

But Stuart Campbell is standing by his claim, despite the criticisms.

Bob Taylor, who now lives in Blairgowrie, hit the world headlines in November, 1979, with his account of a spacecraft landing at Dechmont Law.



RON HALLIDAY: New solution "preposterous"

by Ian Kyle

NEWS REPORTER

The new book - The UFO Mystery Solved - devotes a chapter to the strange incident, which was investigated by Stuart Campbell. In his book, the author gives a detailed account of Bob Taylor's story, which he admits baffled him for a long time.

After investigation, Mr Campbell says the best expla-

nation was an isolated epileptic attack. And he suggests that was caused by a mirage of the planet Venus in the morning sky. He also claims his Astronomical Mirage Hypothesis is the solution to the UFO mystery.

But Bob Taylor insists that after all these years he still believes he saw a spacecraft landing in a forest clearing.

"I visited the site at least a dozen times with Stuart Campbell just after it happened," he said. "We discussed it in great detail."

"Even at that time I told him he was talking a load of rubbish. This claim is absolute nonsense. I thought he had given up his daft theories."

"I still feel it was some kind of spacecraft. My views have not changed after all these years."

■ The UFO Mystery Solved will be published tomorrow by Explicit Books of Edinburgh. Stuart Campbell, an architect and science writer, has 20 years experience in investigating UFO reports from all over the world.

New focus on UFOs

By MAXINE GORDON

UFO spotters are landing in Oxford to launch a national campaign.

Members of the Alien Acknowledgement Campaign will hold a brain-storming session at the city's Town Hall to produce an information package about UFOs. They will send the material to journalists and MPs in an attempt to put them in the picture about alien life forms.

Yorkshire designer John Holman founded the campaign two months ago to break some of the mystique and fear surrounding UFOs.

He said interest in the subject was steadily growing with at least 40 UFO groups established throughout Britain.

He said: "Sightings are extremely common. Statistics show that a UFO is seen every three minutes throughout the world."

The 44-year-old, who has been a spaceship spotter for 30 years, hopes the campaign will remove the ridicule sometimes levelled at UFO fans.

He said: "The subject should be debated without ridicule. Many people are genuinely interested in the area."

Mr Holman, who claims to have spotted two UFOs himself, said many people did not report sightings because they feared they would not be believed. He said his ultimate aim was to make contact with alien life forms.

"We are not the only ones in the universe. There is something around us hoping to meet us," he said. UFO spotters from all over Britain will take part in the campaign meeting at the Town Hall on Saturday at noon.

DOVER EXPRESS, Kent, England - June 9, 1994 CR: T. Good

UFOs over Alkham?—some people think so

Report by Jonathan Irwin

Now a monitoring group may be set up

A STRANGE cigar-shaped object with a dome on top and a ray of light beaming from underneath has left a cab driver determined to set up a UFO monitoring group.

Despite official assurances that all he saw was part of a meteor shower, 48-year-old John Dixon is unconvinced. And he is not the only person shocked after seeing something mysterious in the sky over the Alkham Valley.

Mr Dixon, of Cowper Road, River, says he had just dropped a passenger off in his taxi at Temple Ewell at about 10.42pm when he stopped his car at Egerton Road and got out to look at the sky.

He claims he saw one bright light hang among the clouds then zip away and disappear.

Soon afterwards he met Keith Hughes of nearby Park Road, who was walking his dogs. Both men claim they saw another object which glowed green or grey-green with a varying brightness.

And when the light was brightest, a dome could be seen on top of the object with a shaft of light coming from underneath.

Mr Dixon, 48, said: "After two or three minutes it suddenly went sharply to the right but only a short way. We watched it until 10.57, when it dived to the left then up in a zig-zagging movement with incredible speed and it finally disappeared."

Coastguards monitored a meteor shower that could be seen throughout the south of Britain that

night — but Mr Hughes and Mr Dixon insist what they saw was not a meteor.

Former hotel owner Mr Hughes, 65, said: "Meteorites move at some speed and they don't stop for half an hour then carry on falling."

In another incident a DJ at a Folkestone nightclub claims he had an even more unnerving experience driving his van in the early hours along the Alkham Valley Road a month ago.

The man, who wants to remain anonymous, said: "It was raining. I had just turned onto the road from the roundabout at the Folkestone end and what I saw, over the new motorway, is hard to explain."

'Incredible colours'

"It was a grouping of incredible colours — pastely orange and blue is the closest description I could give of them."

The cluster of light suddenly flew about 700 yards ahead of him and low to the ground.

He says the vehicle's engine cut out and electric lights, including lights, went dead and the back of the fuse box in his dashboard blew out. He claims he then found parts of the box had melted into the dashboard.

He commented: "My first reaction was that it was a UFO but ever since then I've been trying to tell myself it wasn't." He had to repair the fuse box himself before he could drive on.

He would not want to join a UFO monitoring group but said: "I'm not sure what I saw but it was very strange indeed."

Dover coastguard officer Mick Hathaway said it could have been ball lightning that was seen in both incidents.

The Meteorological Glossary describes typical ball lightning as a cluster of light of varying intensity which can last for a few seconds or minutes.

Amateur meteorologist Fred Thomas, of Valley Road, River, says the subject is controversial because little evidence accompanies reports of sightings.

But most witnesses say they see a ball of brilliant, yellow-green light which can both hover and fly at speed. It is thought the ball is made of plasma, which is electrified gas.

Retired schoolteacher Mr Thomas added: "It always happens in thundery conditions or storm conditions."

An RAF spokeswoman said there were no practice flights in the area on the weekend Mr Dixon and Mr Hughes claim they saw something. Air traffic controllers reported nothing flying there at the time.

Mr Dixon, who is keeping an open mind about what he saw, wants anyone interested in setting up a UFO monitoring group to contact him on (0304) 822785.

I videoed mysterious nocturnal visits from ET's pals

RAY and Eleanor Baughn can't take their eyes off the sky at night after becoming intrigued by appearance of a dazzling UFO.

Their neighbours in Pinehurst, Swindon, have also spotted the mysterious mushroom-shaped object which sparkles and shines.

The couple, of Spindle Tree Court, have 100 minutes of videotape of the strange phenomenon which they are keen to show to experts.

Disabled Mr Baughn, aged 49, says it appears in spells of up to 90 minutes, often several nights a week and has been going on for two years.

When he zooms in with his binoculars Mr Baughn says he can see pointed leg-like objects jutting from both sides of the triangular shape before it shoots off at great speed.

"I am convinced there is something there," he said.

His wife said: "I wasn't sure until I'd seen it myself several times."

"It's not a star, there are no other stars in the sky when it appears."

Community centre caretaker Tony Haimes, aged 37, of Cunningham Road, Pinehurst, said he and his wife Tina had both seen the green, red and orange UFO.

"It spins backwards and forwards and then disappears."

"It's not manmade, I'm sure of that," he said.

Father-of-four Cecil Vernon, aged 47, of nearby Wavell Road said: "I've had one sighting and I can't be certain what it is."

"But I've seen UFOs in the past and I'm convinced that there are extra-terrestrial beings out there."

The sightings have intrigued the Earl of Kimberley, who lives in Cricklade near Swindon and is a member of the House of Lords All-Party UFO study group.

He hasn't seen the Swindon UFO but said: "There are other civilisations more advanced than ours."

Close encounters for Sheffield pals

By Helen Johnston

WAS it a bird? Was it a plane? Or was it an alien spaceship?

Two friends are trying to unravel the mystery of a series of flashing lights they saw moving across the sky above Sheffield.

Andrew Wragg, aged 25, was walking to a phone box to ring for a taxi after a night out with friends when he saw a strange light in the sky.

He said: "I saw a flashing light, then a strip of lights like you'd see on a fairground ride. The lights were flashing across a distance of about 200ft."

Baffled by what he was seeing, Andrew dashed back to his friend Shane Dowles' house.

Shane, aged 24, of Buckenham Drive, Burngreave, and his wife Elsa went outside and also witnessed the strange phenomenon.

"If someone had told me about the lights I

'I saw a flashing light, then a strip of lights like you'd see on a fairground ride. The lights were flashing across a distance of about 200ft'

wouldn't have believed it without seeing them myself," admitted Shane.

"They were moving across the sky. I thought at first it might have been something like a helicopter but there was no noise and they were too low for that."

Andrew, of Richmond Park Drive, Richmond, said when he later told the taxi driver what he had seen, the driver said he had seen something similar over Shiregreen.

"We thought it might be lights at Don Valley Stadium or the Arena, but they were different from anything down there," added Andrew.

"We couldn't see a shape behind the lights. We'd just to know if anyone else saw the lights or know what they are."

Andrew and Shane saw the lights at 10.10pm on Wednesday night.

Hazel Moody, a committee member of the Birdwell-based Aetherius Society which studies alien life forms, said they had received calls in the past about lights in the sky.

But in one case they had turned out to be lasers and in another it was a light being projected into the sky from a tower.



UFO spotters . . . baffled friends Andrew Wragg and Shane Dowles saw strange and mysterious flashing lights in the Sheffield night sky

ET PHONE FALKIRK



SCOTS are set to go UFO mad later this year when a major conference is held to discuss strange sightings in the sky.

Scots host UFO talk-in

The idea is the brainchild of UFO expert Malcolm Robinson who says Scotland has become a focus point for visitors from outer space.

The conference, at Falkirk Town Hall on June 30, will attract more than 700 people from all over the world.

Malcolm will join other UFO buffs who claim to

EXCLUSIVE

By COLIN MacFARLANE

have had close encounters.

He says Scotland has been blitzed with UFO sightings in recent years.

Malcolm, 36, a factory worker from Tullibody,

near Alloa, said: "About 95 per cent of sightings can be shown to have natural explanations.

"But we are concerned with the five per cent that can't be explained.

"We are expecting a lot of people. If ET turns up, that will be an added bonus!"

STANDARD, Lincolnshire, England - April 8, 1994 CR: T. Good

Richard's on trail of UFOs

THE account (right) is the one given by former city man Richard Millen of an unidentified object which he personally witnessed in the skies over Lincoln in 1980. And it was an experience which spurred on his already lively interest in UFOs.

Having moved to Newark in 1981, Richard — a representative of the Mansfield UFO group established in 1987 to provide a focal point for people interested in UFOs and similar phenomena — has become the official UFO investigator for Newark and Lincoln. As such, he is interested in hearing from anyone locally who has experienced a UFO sighting, or who has captured an unexplained object on film or video.

"One of the first things that really caught my interest was when articles on Erich Von Daniken were serialised in the national newspapers. I think that sparked the interest of a lot of kids at that time," Richard told the Standard.

But international interest in UFOs and flying saucers has actually been growing steadily since the 1950s, both through the work of bona fide investigators

"IT WAS about 1am and I was driving down Yarborough Road when I saw what looked like a star, but it was moving.

"It was November 5, but I knew it was nothing to do with Bonfire Night. I turned into Long Leys Road and looked across to where it came from just behind St George's Hospital.

"It started off as a point of light and I wondered what it was, so I pulled the car up and watched it come nearer and nearer, becoming a row of lights that proceeded to circle. I watched it approach and then it continued to circle around. It was very cold but I watched it for about an hour and a half. In the end I just had to drive away.

"It may have had a terrestrial explanation but I just haven't a clue what it could be. I have thought it could have been a helicopter circling with a boom of lights, or a small plane, but there were no flashing lights and no normal navigation lights. There was a slight droning sound, but not the sound of a helicopter. And why a small plane would circle round for an hour and a half at 1am, I just can't imagine."

and through the bug-eyed monsters and green aliens which have rampaged through countless novels, pulp comic books, films and television series over recent decades. Hollywood's infatuation with visitors from space reached another peak in the late 1970s after director Steven Spielberg unveiled Close Encounters of the Third Kind.

Said Richard: "Steven Spielberg did use UFO experts in making that film and a number of the characters were based on UFO research so that it would be as accurate as possible."

Those in UFO circles have also heard that

Spielberg is planning to release a film in 1997 about a famous incident which happened 50 years earlier in 1947 at a US air base in New Mexico. The base issued a press release — which appeared as a story in a local newspaper — about the discovery of a crashed saucer.

Said Richard: "Within two days, a counter-story was released to say the object was a weather balloon, which does beg the question: Is the American air force really so stupid as to mistake a weather balloon for a crashed flying saucer?"

There are also reports that distinguished director Oliver Stone may be



working on a film based on an incident in Suffolk in 1980 when a flying saucer allegedly landed but later took off again.

And implicit in many reports of UFO activity are stories of people being abducted — claims of "lost time" when people have no feeling of time having passed but cannot account for even several hours.

Phenomena

Said Richard: "It's something psychiatrists and psychologists have been sneering at for years but now are starting to take seriously. It may be in the mind or it may be a physical event — we really don't know — but it is a real thing which is happening to these people; they are experiencing this abduction syndrome."

The number of reports

of strange phenomena from this area has been small in recent times, mainly because of the lack of a focal point or investigator. Richard's job will be to collect and investigate any reports of unusual sightings, and be the first line of explanation for what often turn out to be natural phenomena.

"Obviously there is a possibility that people are lying. But mostly they are being truthful, and we have to see whether they are mistaking something mundane for something else," he said.

"The most common one is Venus which does show as a very bright light at times, and which may even appear to be pulsating or moving slightly. That can usually be identified if we know the time of day of the sighting.

"You also find people who have an interest in UFOs ignoring the more rational side of their character."

There have been a number of interesting sightings in the Mansfield and Nottingham area recently, including one over Radcliffe on Trent which was captured on video. That film is now being analysed at NASA.

But it is also part of Richard's job to remain healthy sceptical: "Some people do more readily accept things. I would like to believe an extra-terrestrial hypothesis rather than one of the more mundane explanations, but I can't kid myself."

● Anyone wanting to report a UFO sighting or other phenomena should contact Richard on Newark (0636) 72587.

Pensioner's UFO sighting 'confirmed' by second report

Pensioner Alfred Clarke thought he was imagining things when he saw a UFO from his kitchen window — until he read the *Oxford Mail*, sister paper of the *Bicester Advertiser*.

For there in black and white was Geoff and Jenny Cunningham's account of their sighting of a UFO on the same night.

The Cunninghams from Hampden Avenue, Thame, saw an 80ft long object near the Oxfordshire Golf Club at Moreton on the edge of the town.

Mr Cunningham said it was about 25ft high, with lights round the middle, and emitted an orange glow. It appeared to go down near Kidlington airfield.

Mr Clarke, 69, of Nuffield Close, Bicester, said he saw a huge object, glowing red, from his kitchen window as he made a cup of tea one evening.

He said it was in the sky for a few minutes then disappeared behind a house. It was heading north.

Since the sighting he has been teased by his family.

He said: "I was as sober as a judge. I don't drink. But when I told my son he said I was crazy."

"But when I saw it in the paper I realised I was not talking out of my hat and I was quite sane."

No-one at the Oxfordshire Golf Club or Kidlington airfield had any knowledge of the machine and no sightings were reported to Thames Valley Police.

UFO alert

DID anyone see an unidentified flying object last Saturday night? That's the question being asked by a Darton woman this week.

Mrs. Anne Standeven first noticed an illuminated object in the sky when looking west or north westwards through the window of her Meadow Lane home at around 10.20pm.

But it wasn't until she noticed that the yellowish light was still there some 20 minutes later that she picked up her binoculars and focused them on it.

"You couldn't see anything other than a light without binoculars," said Mrs. Standeven, a voluntary hospital worker.

"With them, however, it looked like a dome on its side — not a solid shape but more like a lac metal construction with a solid and brighter crown-shaped structure at its widest point.

"It was too low and still to have been a plane or helicopter."

Mrs. Standeven says the UFO remained still for several more minutes before moving away slowly. She used that time to alert neighbours, Melvin and Carol Brookes, who, she says, were also unable to explain what they saw.

"I've never seen anything unusual in the sky before," added Mrs. Standeven. "But I don't think I'll ever again mock anyone who says they have seen a UFO and I would certainly like to know if anyone else saw anything similar."

BUCKS HERALD, Aylesbury, England - April 21, 1994 CR: T. Good

'Extra-terrestrials' sighted over the town



□ Phillip Horne: Saw weird pulsating lights in the sky

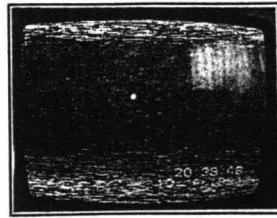
A VIDEO-TAPED recording of a pulsating bright light hovering high over Aylesbury has been described as the best UFO evidence for nearly half a century.

This video picture was taken by Phillip and Louise Horne on their camcorder at 8.40pm on Sunday, April 10. Philip noticed a bulge of light from the back bedroom of his house in Havelock Street, in Aylesbury and his wife fetched the family's video recorder.

"It was perfectly stationary in the air," he said. "It looked as

though it was about two miles away, probably around Meadowcroft and a couple of thousand feet in the air."

He recorded the phenomenon for two minutes before it came back into view a lot higher up and then shot away at an incredible speed. The couple passed the tape on to the London UFO Study Group in Barking, Essex. Roy Lake, founder and chairman said: "I've been studying UFOs for 42 years and this is the best evidence of one I've ever seen."



□ Could this grainy white dot really be the little green men?

Whitehall to view video of town's UFO

By Ben Hatch

THE MINISTRY of Defence is to scrutinise UFO video footage taken over Aylesbury to see if the sighting poses a threat to national security.

In the wake of the discovery of three new planets last week the MoD wants to rule out any chance the pulsating light spotted hovering over Aylesbury was not ET.

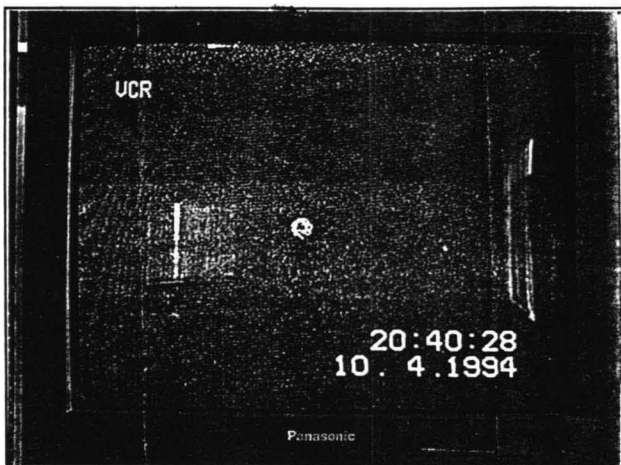
Louise Horne, from Havelock Street, Aylesbury, recorded the UFO over Meadowcroft two weeks ago, with her husband Phillip.

The sighting, caught on the couple's camcorder, looked like a firework exploding and then contracting back into a sphere. It hovered for about two minutes a few thousand feet high then darted off at high speed.

A spokesman for the MOD's Air Staff secretariat, in Whitehall said: "We want to have a look at it to check to see if it poses a threat to the UK's national security."

He said the MoD, which is being sent a copy of the film, would be running it through a series of hi-tec, hush-hush tests.

"I can't reveal what equipment we will use, but with it we will try and discover what it is. We will also be checking with the Royal Observatory to see if there is an astronomical explanation



● Experts in a Whitehall bunker will examine this picture on highly sophisticated equipment to find out what it really is? Do you have a theory? Send it to: The Advertiser/Gazette, 2-4 Exchange Street, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1UJ

and we will want to rule out that it was not one of our military aircraft," he said.

"In 95 per cent of cases we can identify what the object is. This one sounds a bit different though. Nobody can rule out the possibility of extra-terrestrials. Although we have no evidence they exist, we must keep an open mind about them."

UFO expert Roy Lake,

founder of the London UFO Study Group, said: "It is a very exciting piece of footage. I've been looking into UFOs for 42 years and I have never seen anything like it."

Mrs Horne said: "The night it happened we couldn't sleep at all and we've played it hundreds of times and we still have no idea what it is. Perhaps the

MoD will be able to tell us."

Three new planets, the first to be identified outside our solar system, were discovered by an American astronomer last week.

It is not known whether they are capable of supporting life.

If you saw anything unusual in the sky on Sunday April 10 phone the MoD's Air Staff on 071 218 2140.

Was the bright light a UFO, ET or a threat to our security?

STAR, Sheffield, England
March 22, 1994 CR: T. Good

Mystery of UFO 'lights in the sky'

MYSTERY flashing lights have again been seen in the skies above Sheffield.

Darnall man Steve Briggs has confirmed the claims of two men who spotted what could have been a flying saucer over Burngreave last Wednesday.

Steve saw similar lights on the same night as he looked up in his garden, on the Littledale estate — and he says it's the second time he's seen them.

He said: "I saw the lights on the rear end of the thing. There was a green and a red light crossing over each other, and they were about 100ft in the air. I never used to believe in things like UFO's, but seeing is believing."

Steve saw the lights about 10 minutes after friends Andrew Wragg and Shane Dowles spotted a strip of lights low in the night sky over Burngreave.

Mystery of UFO seen at Williton

□ A WILLITON resident reported a UFO sighting to the police on Thursday — a 'strange light in the sky' slowly descending into woods on Watchet Hill.

At about 11 pm Caroline Witcher, of Whitecroft, opened her front door to investigate a noise she thought was her cat screaming, and saw a bright white light in the sky over the hill.

She watched it for about 15 minutes as it pulsed and slowly changed colour, white to pink, before landing.

Taunton police initially told her the light was a helicopter, but after checking discovered that there were none in the area and sent two Williton-based officers to her house. The officers checked the woods but could find nothing to explain what she had seen.

Mrs Witcher said: "You see things all the time if you look, but most of them can be explained. You can tell an aeroplane or a helicopter from the way they move, but this was quite stationary — it just slowly landed without making any noise at all."

Williton police Sgt John Lucas said: "I am a sceptic — until I can see it, feel it, touch it and kick it I just don't believe it. There was no evidence that anything had landed at all."

SOMERSET CO. GAZETTE, Taunton, England
May 20, 1994 CR: T. Good

Village UFO watchers hit target on D-Day

RARE footage of what is believed to be a UFO manoeuvring above the Wharfe Valley has been captured on video.

The two-minute sequence is the result of a "skywatch" by UFO

investigators near Addingham earlier this month.

It shows an intense white light, oval in shape, executing a series of complicated and sometimes frenetic movements in the night sky.

At times it moves from left to right or up and down in a perfectly straight line. Then in the blink of an eye it shoots off at an unpredictable tangent or completes a series of high-speed loops. In between these aerial gymnastics it hovers unsteadily.

Bursts of light

On several occasions a brief burst of light appears to the side of the UFO which the investigators think may have been caused by "thrusters" used to control its flight. It disappears suddenly as if the light has simply been switched off.

"There's no doubt about it — there's an alien intelligence, a non-human intelligence, and they've been with us for thousands of years and they're supreme masters. And there's no technology on Earth that can touch them," said Peter Cliffe, Director of investigations for The UFO Society

by Matthew Catling

Nationwide UK which he formed in 1992.

The 47-year-old estate caretaker of Whincover Drive, Old Farnley, Leeds, thinks the video will be invaluable to back up these claims. "I would say it's brilliant — I've seen a lot of tapes where you're only looking at pin-pricks. I'd like to show it worldwide," he said. Prior to its Addingham success the UFO society had carried out 30 skywatches all over Yorkshire and Lancashire. Skywatch 31 started on the evening of Monday, June 6 in a field just south of the Chelker Reservoir.

Midnight

Mr Cliffe set up camp with Alan Rhodes, 45, of Belle Isle Road, Bell Isle North, Leeds, also a member of the UFO society, and his 16-year old son Lee Rhodes.

"The first observation was at midnight overlooking the Wharfe Valley. That was a poker type object, white at the top and brilliant red at the bottom. The compass bearing was 30 degrees north-east," explained Mr Cliffe.

This only lasted seconds. But 42 minutes later excitement swept the skywatchers as they spotted and filmed what they say is definitely a UFO and possibly an alien craft moving in the same area.

"We saw a massive intense bright light, a smaller light was flashing. I saw a blue light to the right of the unknown and a red one which was pulsing. At certain points it gives off what seems to be a jet of light or energy," said Mr Cliffe who watched through binoculars while Mr Rhodes filmed.

The weather was cloudy and drizzly and unfortunately much of this detail has not been picked up by the camcorder. It has also reduced the size of the phenomenon by failing to pick up a pulsating sphere of bright light radiating from the centre of the UFO.

But the investigators still think their video is something of a miracle bearing in mind the notorious tendency for photos of UFOs to come out blank.

The possibility that two UFOs moving in tandem were involved in the second sighting has been put forward by Mr Cliffe who also thinks an earlier torch flash may have put the skywatchers into contact with the UFO.

The UFO Society Nationwide UK thinks the Ministry of Defence is suppressing a wealth of documented close encounters via sophisticated military radar and aircraft.

"There's a massive conspiracy because it's too frightening — I'm not crackers, I'm not loopy. We want the truth," said Mr Cliffe.

As a result he holds General De Bower of the Belgian air force in high esteem. "He's the only one who has had the courage to face the cameras and to reveal what I've just told you. His pilots have played cat and mouse with them. They've had to return to base because their computer systems have been blanked out," he added.

West Yorkshire police have confirmed that their helicopter was not in the area at the time of the sighting. RAF bases at Dishforth and Linton-on-Ouse have also said that military aircraft were not in the area.

MAIL, Hartlepool, England
June 21, 1994 CR: T. Good

UFO sighting

A HARTLEPOOL man told today of his midnight sighting of a UFO.

Rob Sweeney and Rob Walker were driving down the A19 near Peterlee at about 12.15am when they had their close encounter.

"We saw a large light, like a type of torch, coming down towards the ground at an unknown distance in front of us," said Rob Sweeney, of Kipling Road, Hartlepool.

"It then disappeared from sight but then we saw what appeared to be a flare heading towards the clouds at great speed, with a smaller light preceding it."

UFO sighted by schoolboy

UFOLOGISTS have long considered the Chingford and Epping areas prime locations for mysterious sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects.

Now the Barking-based London UFO Studies group is investigating the latest report of a saucer-shaped object over the area.

It was seen by Walthamstow schoolboy Stuart Halliday of Garner Road at about 11.30pm on Thursday February 17.

"I was just about to go to bed when I noticed a dome-shaped object with bright orange or red lights underneath," said Stuart, 14, a fourth year student at Aveling Park School.

"At first I thought it was a shooting star but it appeared to be very near to my house, perhaps over Kitchener Road — about 400 yards away and 300 feet in the air."

"I'd never seen anything like that in my life and it hung there for about three minutes before moving off very fast."

Dome shaped

"It was totally silent and had bright lights coming from the edges. It was dark and dome shaped."

The incident is being investigated by Roy Lake, founder of London UFO Studies, who is calling on anyone else who saw the object to contact him.

Roy says the area close to Epping Forest has a long history of sightings and research into paranormal activity.

Cynics might suggest that the area is close to both Stansted, Stapleford Abbots and North Weald airports plus a police helicopter site at High Beach which could account for aerial activity.

But Roy is unbowed by that and says that in particular the Pole Hill and Barn Hill areas are known for paranormal activity because of a Ley Line crossing through there.

"Since the 60s when I became interested in paranormal phenomena some pretty strange things have occurred up there," said Roy.

"Two children were found drowned in a pond off Barn Hill and the area was immediately cordoned off by the Army, for no apparent reason."

"We're interested in hearing from anyone who has seen any unusual aerial activity. Anyone interested in contacting us or joining the group should phone me on 081 594 4797."

YELLOW ADVERTISER, Colchester, England - March 4, 1994 CR: T. Good



BEACHCOMBER, Vashon Island, WA - June 16, 1994

Former Islander a bigfoot convert

by Kelly Davis

On the evening of July 15, 1989, Elmer "Skip" Frombach, Jr.'s wife and his friend Kevin Johnson thought he was acting rather strange. His face was unusually pale and he seemed a little distracted. They really knew something was wrong when he collapsed in the kitchen.

When he recovered, Frombach began telling them of an experience so frightful and unreal that until then he'd been unable to accept it himself.

Earlier that day, the former Vashon resident had been on a day hike on the western slopes of the north Cascades near the Canadian border with his parents, Islanders Elmer and Beatrice Frombach, and his niece, son and son's friend.

Though in prime Bigfoot territory, nary a thought of the legendary beast was on Frombach's mind — he did not believe Bigfoot existed.

The group's destination was riddled with old mine shafts which Frombach, his father and niece decided to examine closer. A part-time prospector, Frombach remained behind to set up a mining claim.

What he says happened next started out scary, then turned terrifying.

He was walking on a footpath when he heard what sounded like two rocks being bashed together on a slope high above his head. He thought his campmates were playing a joke on him, so he called out for them to stop, then heard a crash.

Looking up the slope, he saw a hairy mass tumbling toward him. Frombach tracked its descent for several seconds, preparing for an encounter with an angry, confused bear. It landed in a brush-tangled heap 30 feet away, emitting a grunt. As Frombach watched, the creature stirred, moaned and slowly stood up. Immediately, the prospector knew he was not in the presence of a bear.

Whatever it was, Frombach said, it stood up straight and walked on its hind feet. It had three-inch-thick hair all over its body except on its face, which was bald, and the top of its head, where Frombach estimates it grew to a foot and a half. Whiskers grew from the bridge of its ridged nose, and its deep-set eyes were surrounded by ruddy brown patches. Frombach estimates the creature was eight or nine feet tall and strode like a giant man rather than



Shortly after his encounter with the hairy creature in 1989, Skip Frombach drew this sketch.

"It looked like a Tasmanian Devil cartoon when it came through the bushes," he said.

a slouching gorilla.

And it was staring intently at him. "Its stare was not of aggression but of extreme confidence," said Frombach.

A stare that said it knew it was the biggest thing on the mountain. Frombach fired his pistol into

"What I saw there was a living creature and not a figment of my imagination."
— Skip Frombach

the air, but the creature ignored the blast, turned around and walked calmly down the trail out of sight. Frombach followed it to get his supplies. When he came around the corner, it was crouched down digging in the ground. The creature took up a basketball-sized boulder and pounded it on the ground three times when it saw him.

When Frombach backed away, the creature leapt into the brush to cut him off. Even in his fear Frombach almost laughed. "It looked like a Tasmanian Devil cartoon when it came through the bushes," he said.

Though he didn't actually see it following him as he ran through the trees, Frombach said he could hear the creature's footsteps. "It could have caught me if it wanted to," he said. "I think it just wanted to scare me off."

If so, it was successful. Frombach reached the car and rushed his family back home to Seattle. "I told them a bear was after me," he said. He figured they wouldn't believe him if he told them what he really thought. He had trouble believing it himself.

Frombach's story eventually reached Peter Byrne of the Bigfoot Research Project. The project is a sophisticated operation using detailed accounts of sightings to systematically search for the elusive creature with infrared-equipped helicopters.

The NBC television show *Unsolved Mysteries* recreated Frombach's experience and interviewed him and Byrne in a bigfoot segment that aired May 25.

The Bigfoot Research Project has tagged the location of the incident an "active site" because new footprints have appeared since Frombach's scare, he said. Footprints that measure 20 inches by 7.5 inches, just like the ones he says were made by the creature that chased him.

Frombach continues to keep the location of the incident secret from all but the Bigfoot project — to keep the site from being overrun with glory seekers, he said. He hopes the project will find the creature, but keep quiet until scientists have fully documented its behavior and devised a means of protecting it.

And he hopes to be taken seriously. He is working on a book of his experience to convince others of what he told his TV interviewers: "What I saw there was a living creature and not a figment of my imagination."

DAILY MAIL, London, England - March 18, 1994 CR: T. Good

Is the Loch Ness monster a myth?

FOR

JOHN Woodcock's article revealing that one of the best known photographs of the Loch Ness monster was in fact of a suitably modified toy submarine, was of great interest to me.

I have never told anybody of this before, but many years ago my father-in-law, the late B. J. Sear, arrived at my home with a piece of paper on which he had written the latin name of the Loch Ness monster: *Nesiteras Rhombopteryx*.

After much cogitation he had discovered this name is nothing other than an anagram of 'monster hoax by Sir Peter S'. I have kept the original piece of paper on which he worked this out and tucked it away for many years.

Mrs J. M. SEAR, Stevington, Bedfordshire.

AGAINST

THE toy submarine story seems to put paid to that particular monster picture but doesn't alter the fact that in 1933 my step-grandmother Margaret MacDonald Stewart, married to the chairman of the local parish council and a JP, saw it herself.

She was travelling by car to Skye, where her father was a headmaster, with her sister from Denver, Colorado, but stopped by Loch Ness where a group had gathered to look at what they thought was the monster. The sighting was reported in the Inverness and Denver papers. My step-grandmother told me: 'I saw three humps like overturned rowing boats, moving through the water.' I asked: 'Did you see a neck?' And she replied: 'No, there was no neck.' I believe it. She would not have made up the story.

HENRIETTA ADAM, Solihull, West Midlands.

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK - June 23, 1994

CR: J. & L. Nicholson

Meteor fungus alarms Canadians

OTTAWA — In what sounds like a scene from a science-fiction movie, Quebec farmers are worried about a strange orange substance growing inside craters formed by meteors which crashed into their pastures last week. Scientists conducted tests Tuesday on scores of the small craters which now dot the area near St. Robert, Quebec, 48 miles from Montreal. Initial tests indicated the orange growth is a common form of earthly fungus, not an alien life form, scientists said on Canadian television. But local farmers told CBC TV they still had their doubts and were keeping their children and livestock well away from the site just to be safe.

Daily News wire services

WEEKLY WASH BY DAVID BREWSTER

Endangered Sasquatch

Lore: Our loveliest legend turns into travesty.

Almost lost in the deconstruction of the SuperSonics last week was a forlorn Sasquatch story. The team's mascot, a goofy Sasquatch, was given his walking papers. As if that wasn't bad enough for us Sasquatchians, John Sweeney, the acrobatic mascot, threatened a lawsuit (which no monster would ever do) and then said, "I'll sign something and prom-

ise to act in a mature, responsible manner," if the team would send him on a mascot junket.

In all, a dismal turn of events. Another Sasquatch sacked, to derisive laughter all around. Instead of living up to his mythic role as a country bumpkin baffled by the ways of the city, this "Squatch" sounds like a yuppie lawyer. A true Sassy never would have taken

the job in the first place.

For years I have watched in silence as the finest legend of this region is turned into a cartoon. Now I must speak out. Not only am I the president of a company calling itself Sasquatch Publishing Company (the least we could do), but I am also an amateur collector of Sasquatch lore. Something has to be done to arrest this decline into travesty.

Sasquatch (the word is a Chehalis Indian term, meaning "hairy giants") have been showing up around here since 1792, and Indian legends go back much farther. Stories of our lost ancestors, of shaggy old humanity left behind by "progress," have been a part of the world's lore for thousands of years. There are the Nsanas of Tibet and Turkestan, the Almas of Mongolia, the Agogwe of Tanzania, the Tok of Burma,

the Mapinguary of Brazil, and the Yeti of the Himalayas.

Among the loveliest of these stories are those of the Northwest Indians, who told tales of hairy, impossibly strong earth gods who dwell in the deep forest. Mothers used the stories to get their children to come in at dark. In a typical legend wily youngsters would outsmart Tsunoqua (a Kwakiutl term meaning "to be alive"), who might be mystically attuned to nature yet was a stumblebum in the village. Smelly, scary, loud, sexy, vain, twice the size of men: yet they cannot be killed.

White stories lack the legendary aura of Indian tales, though they partake of tall-tale frontier humor. There are amazing numbers of them, especially in remote hamlets. About 800 sightings of Sasquatch in the Northwest have been documented, and some are not at all easy to dismiss. In 1884 a small one (4' 7") was captured, given a name (Jacko), and put in a jail briefly in Yale, BC. A large female Bigfoot was captured on 24 feet of film in 1967, as it stared at the shaking camera and thrashed into the woods in Bluff Creek, in northern California. Of the thousand or so footprint events, some are clearly fakes, but others have such detail of "fingerprints" that forensic experts have not been able to disprove them.

Sasquatch range in size from 6 to 11 feet, weighing from 700 to 2,500 pounds. Most have black hair covering their bodies, though some are auburn or beige or even white. They have lipless mouths. Their eyes reflect light, like nocturnal animals. They walk upright, swinging long arms and swaying their bodies to turn their heads (they have no necks). Maybe they have little radar sets in their noses. They are curious—footprints in Bellevue showed a couple peering into subdivision houses (what must they have thought?)—but exceedingly shy. They eat berries and roots, plus an occasional deer. They love taking long walks. They live about 200 years, mating at around 100. Perhaps only a dozen or so remain.

The few scientists who dare take this seriously speculate that Sasquatch might be a long-lost descendent of Neanderthal man; perhaps they are relics of a Glacial Man who grew bigger (to produce more body heat) and diverged from man's socializing course; or they could have wandered over from China, a cousin of the large extinct ape, the *gigantopithecus*. It's hard to imagine that they could still elude detection, though bones vanish fast in forests. And remember, until the middle of the 19th century, stories of the gorilla were thought to be fantasies.

Real or imaginary, Sasquatch enact grand stories of that ancient parting of the race, that momentous divorce of social man from natural man. In Jungian terms, these are stories of the wandering brother, such as Ishmael (Isaac's half-brother) or Cain (marked by God to be unkillable). One haunting Biblical story is of Jacob, the smooth man of the tents, and Esau, his hairy brother of the forest whom Jacob deceitfully deprives of his inheritance. After warfare, they reconcile: in Jungian terms, the personality in midlife incorporates its darker, repressed side.

In this respect the Sasquatch will never be "captured" or tamed into a mascot. They stalk us still as profound psychological legends, as reminders of a lost race of giants—strong, stumped, innocent, and mocked at our peril. ■

Seminar looks at mutilations

By Rick Romancito
The Taos News

A spate of unusual animal deaths in Taos and Colfax County has a number of ranchers and townsfolk worried — and watching the skies.

Described as classic examples of "cattle mutilations," the animal deaths reportedly have been occurring near Questa, Eagle Nest and Taos within the past few months.

According to the Thursday (May 19) issue of the *Sangre de Cristo Chronicle*, Moreno Valley rancher Eli Hronich reported finding two head of cattle with their right eyes, tongues and sexual organs "surgically removed" May 14. He said there were no traces of blood and the flesh exposed by the wounds "looks bleached."

About 20 people attended a seminar on the subject of animal mutilations, which was organized by Gail Staehlin and conducted at Quality Inn in Taos Saturday (May 21).

Staehlin, of Albuquerque, was described as a "coordinator and investigator." She was joined by fellow independent investigators Gene Nieri, a video photographer with Albuquerque Community Cable Channel 27; Vic Brown, a forensic photographer; and Christopher O'Brien, editor of "The Mysterious Valley Report," a newsletter listing "anomalous activity" in Colorado's San Luis Valley and northern New Mexico.

Staehlin said 17 mutilation cases were reported in the region last year and five so far this spring. She added that usually only one in six cases is reported to authorities.

According to speakers, reports of animals being killed in a similar manner reached a peak during the mid-1970s, with most occurring in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado.

"We live in the place where it started, the epicenter," O'Brien said. "This is the home of this thing."

O'Brien, of Saguache County, Colo., theorized there are several groups responsible for the deaths — which apparently occur not

only to cows, but also to deer, horses, dogs and cats. The groups, he said, include "satanic cults, ultra-right wingers, hoaxers, the military and the real thing."

People he says he has talked to have reported seeing strange lights in the sky and silent black helicopters near places where mutilated animals have been found.

Information provided at the seminar also concluded the incidents may be tied to space aliens, unidentified flying objects, time or dimensional travelers and sightings of "Bigfoot."

Official explanations most often attribute the deaths to natural causes, predator attacks and criminals.

"Evidence" displayed at the seminar included slides and videotapes of supposedly mutilated animals, footage of a so-called secret Colorado military base and statistics.

A number of cases have been reported in the Taos area. The first specific mention of local incidents in which the term "cattle mutilations" appeared was in a June 24, 1976, *The Taos News* article by Paul C. Merz.

Merz reported that a mutilated cow was found May 13, 1976, near Pot Mountain, across the John Dunn Bridge west of Arroyo Hondo. Several at the time appeared to have occurred near the 13th day of each month, he wrote.

Gabe Valdez, a state police officer from Dulce, was quoted as saying of a June 13 incident that he saw "some type of aircraft," which landed near the carcass of a mutilated cow and "scorched the grass" on the mesa about 550 feet from it.

"Missing from the dead animal," Merz wrote, "were its left ear, lips, half of the tail, its udder and anal passage — each removed with almost surgical precision, which a veteran butcher at the scene said he could not have duplicated."

A *The Taos News* article by Phil Bateman from Dec. 21, 1978, speculated a UFO sighting in Ranchitos that July was tied to another round of mysterious animal deaths.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - May 13, 1994

OKANAGAN LAKE

Ogopogo sighting claimed

Canadian Press

KELOWNA — Ogopogo has resurfaced, two Okanagan women claim. Ronda Caplan of Kelowna and friend Michelle Horne of Peachland said they saw the legendary lake monster in Okanagan Lake three times this week.

They were visiting a friend whose house overlooks the lake.

"I saw something that caught my eye for two or three seconds," said Caplan. "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 from shore, grey-black with a shiny surface like an eel, she said.

"Something clicked and I said, 'I'm looking at Ogopogo.' It was kind of neat."

Ogopogo's existence has never been proven, but sightings have been recorded since the Okanagan Valley was first settled.

The famed serpent-headed monster was painted on cave walls by Indians in the early to mid-1800s. The natives called him Naitaka, or "holy serpent of the water."

Common to almost all sightings is a description of a creature as long as 20 metres with a horse-like head and six or seven humps.

In 1984, the Okanagan Similkameen Tourist Association offered a \$1-million reward to anyone who could prove Ogopogo exists by capturing a live specimen.

UNION CO. LEADER, Clayton, NM - May 25, 1994

Moreno Valley cattle mutilations studied

Two new cattle mutilations have ranchers in the Moreno Valley area forming an investigation group and seeking assistance from state and federal authorities. According to a report in the May 19 edition of the *Sangre de Cristo Chronicle*, rancher Eli Hronich found two cattle mutilations, stating their "right eye, tongue and sex organs were surgically removed. It's pretty professional, pretty high tech. There were no tracks and there's never any blood. The flesh even looks bleached — there's just not any blood in it." Hronich had eight cattle similarly killed last summer. The believability factor is what Hronich said keeps federal and state investigations from taking place.

A conference on the paranormal is due to take place next weekend. Among those taking part is Jenny Randles, a psychic investigator from Cheshire who specialises in UFOs. She is pictured here with a family from Oakenholt, Flint who claim to have had many sightings of aliens, and even been abducted by them...



The weird and the wonderful

Crop circles and UFO sightings, showers of frogs and the Loch Ness monster...

WHAT do the following have in common - crop circles, visions of the Virgin Mary, the Loch Ness monster, spontaneous human combustion and showers of frogs?

You may well scratch your head in puzzlement, but the answer is very simple - they are all strange phenomena which continue to fascinate an ever-increasing number of people in this country and around the world. And these happenings, along with many other equally unexplained events, will soon be discussed at the first-ever strange phenomena conference.

Appropriately entitled Unconvention 94, it is being held over the weekend of June 18 and 19 and will bring together the world's leading researchers and investigators into strange phenomena. There will be a contingent from North Wales, which is said to be an area rich in unexplained happenings.

The subject matter, from UFOs to houses that drip blood, may be out of the ordinary, but those attending the conference are just the opposite - they are normal, down to earth people who do most of their digging for clues and explanations in their spare time.

Science teacher

However, there is a small number of people who have turned their interest in strange phenomena into a career. One is former science teacher Jenny Randles, an expert in strange phenomena, who is one of the speakers at the conference.

Randles, who lives in Cheshire, says: "I trained to be a science teacher, but decided to become a full-time researcher into strange phenomena back in 1978."

"I have researched and written about many different things, but primarily about UFOs, which is my main field."

"Most of the people involved in the field of strange phenomena are ordinary. They have day to day jobs."

Next month she has a book coming out about time travel and she is also involved in work for a forthcoming ITV series, *Strange But True?*, which will be presented by Michael Aspel in the autumn.

Says Randles: "Many people show an interest in strange phenomena."

By Cathy Gordon,
PA News
Features
Writer



things in this life which are simply mysteries. The only thing you can do is try and find out what the answer might be."

The conference is being hosted by the Fortean Times - the journal of strange phenomena - to celebrate its 21st birthday.

The publication was established in 1973 to serve the growing numbers of people interested in strange phenomena and experiences, curiosities, mysteries, prodigies and portents.

The Fortean Times does not seek to explain the phenomena it chronicles, rather the editors see themselves as "cosmic clerks" recording those happenings in the "grey area of human existence" which cannot be explained by science.

It asks that phenomena be accepted until they are proved wrong. Published bi-monthly, it prides itself on its reputation for independence, knowledge and in-depth analysis of complex issues.

It takes its name from a journalist, Charles Fort, who collected strange stories in the 1920s.

At the conference, spontaneous human combustion will be one of the main themes.

Two of the speakers on the subject are John Heymer, a former scene-of-crime officer for Gwent police who first formulated his beliefs concerning the phenomena when he investigated a house fire in Ebbw Vale in 1980.

The other is Joe Nickell, described as "America's top sceptic who challenges the very idea of spontaneous human combustion".

The other subjects for discussion make a fascinating list - crop circles, how to investigate psychic phenomena, the near death experience, Loch Ness investigations, mediums and visions of the Virgin Mary.

□ The Unconvention 94 conference is being held at The University of London Union, Malet Street, London W1. Members of the public can attend, and tickets will be available on the door.

'Bigfoot' most likely very homosapien

By Dave Moller
Managing Editor

It was fun while it lasted and despite three more sightings of a possible Bigfoot, the Plumas County Sheriff's Department is treating the whole thing as a hoax.

Just before midnight on Saturday, Feb. 12, Jim Keenan of Sear reported to a Sheriff's

dispatcher that he had seen a subject in dark clothing run across Hwy. 70 at Lee Summit. Two hours later on Sunday, Feb. 13, an anonymous caller told the dispatcher he had seen a black figure run across the highway at the same location about eight miles east of Quincy.

About 1:15 a.m. that same morning, Quincy residents Jerry

and Merry Cain were returning from Reno when something "with a fur-covered head," crossed the road in front of them at Lee Summit, according to Mr. Cain. "We'd have hit it if we were going faster or if it had slipped," Mr. Cain added. The Cain's did not report the sighting to the Sheriff's Department.

After the called-in reports, a Sheriff's deputy went to Lee

Summit looking for evidence. What he found were some very human-like bootprints behind a highway maintenance shed. "We haven't found any physical evidence to substantiate it was anything other than a hoax," said Asst. Sheriff Rod DeCrona last week. "There would be some giant footprints out there or something if it was true."

Last week, several area residents told this newspaper that the Feb. 12-13 sightings and the original two sightings around midnight on Thursday, Feb. 3 in the Williams Loop area were hoaxes. The sources said at least one young man was wearing an ape outfit and was perpetrating a hoax. The sources even supplied a name. That same name was also supplied to the Sheriff's Department, according to DeCrona, who said he

was not sure how the department would act upon it. But one thing is for sure. If someone is impersonating Bigfoot and running in front of cars on Hwy. 70, they should stop. DeCrona said. "Impeding traffic is serious and very dangerous," DeCrona said. "Someone could drive off a cliff," and then the hoaxter would be liable for more serious charges.