

UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

ROUTE 1 - BOX 220 • PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 U. S. A. EDITOR/PUBLISHER: LUCIUS FARISH

August, 1994
Number 301

CHRONICLE, Franklin, OH - June 28, 1994

Do you believe in space aliens?

How do you stand on UFOs?

- 1) Balderdash.
- 2) Well, maybe.
- 3) No way.

I tend to sit on all three fences (one at a time) after reading one of the latest books on our alien visitors, written by Dr. John Mack, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author.

Mack, to give him his full honors, is a professor of psychiatry at the Cambridge Hospital, Harvard Medical School. He is founding director of the Center for Psychology and Social Change.

The book addresses many of the questions generally asked about UFOs, but makes no guarantees nor endorsements of the answers many of the abductees believe were given to them.

Remember, this is a psychiatrist talking. He includes the case histories of a baker's dozen patients, out of nearly one hundred cases he has interviewed both directly and through hypnosis. He deliberates upon the experiences of all these supposed abductees, he recalls experiences and reports on the events and impressions most often encountered.

If you're looking for light summer reading, or something to while away an evening or two when TV is particularly boring — forget it. This is not easy going, and I'm inclined to think the writer could have tried to write in a clearer, even more entertaining vein. But then he won a Pulitzer and I didn't, so maybe it's sour grapes.

Where do they come from? We are all aware of the sightings of saucer-like or sometimes cigar-shaped ships in the sky, assumed to come from other planets or galaxies. Some who claim to have seen them have been given the impression that these UFO appearances are created by the aliens to make a physical connection with humans — give us something material we can see and understand.

They have also taken on a more or less physical aspect that is called humanoid, and the descriptions of different abductees seem to agree in most details. There is some indication that they may come from the future.

The general belief is that they are alien beings of higher spiritual consciousness than humans and they may exist on a higher plane and in a different time element. They choose certain persons and are in contact with them from childhood with the explicit purpose of creating hybrid alien/humans. This, according to those who have been there (inside a UFO) has already been done, and they have even held these children that are theirs as a result of crossbreeding and genetic alteration on the part of the aliens.

Some of these people, after

Muddled Musings



BARBARA KOONS

overcoming the initial fear and anger of being manipulated and controlled against their will, have formed a friendly, even loving relationship with one or more of their captors. They may even believe they are aliens themselves who have been sent to Earth to warn us of the coming destruction of the planet if we don't mend our ways, as to pollution and the destruction of natural resources.

The aliens want to "breed out" the more unattractive aspects of human nature such as hate, fear, jealousy, and the violence that is so rampant in the world today. On the other hand they admire our more passionate ability to love others and seem sometimes anxious to be loved by the humans that meet them.

A HIGHER consciousness or the original source is sometimes referred to that we might interpret as God. Some refer to "going Home," in a way to suggest they are from another plane of existence. Reincarnation is referred to as a fact of life, and some believe they have not only lived many lives on Earth, but the soul travels to other galaxies — living in other life forms besides the human.

A note of comfort is in Dr. Mack's conclusion that the whole abduction process is not evil and that these abductors of humans do not wish us harm, but rather are embarked upon a project of saving the earth and changing human consciousness to the degree the creator intended. They may have not only our well being in mind but their own, as it is suggested the destruction of the Earth may disturb the cosmos.

He suggests that mankind may be at the center of an intelligence in a cosmos we have heretofore regarded as uninhabited and meaningless. We may be helped to realize we are a species that has special gifts of caring, rational thought and self-awareness. We may yet open up to acknowledge other life forms to whom we are connected.

The book has the chilling element of the unknown and unfamiliar. It also offers a seed of hope for a better world and a better human being, and who can argue with that?

TRIBUNE, Mesa, AZ - July 15, 1994 CR: L. Bird

Futurist beams in to talk about extraterrestrials

By Cheryl Hanna
Tribune writer

It may sound out of this world. That's because it is, and Michael Lindemann wants to share the details with Valley residents.

Aliens, spaceships, extraterrestrials, UFOs, whatever they are called, Lindemann, a futurist who studies the possibility of nonhuman life forms from other worlds, said he will discuss the facts at an illustrated lecture Saturday at the Sunburst Hotel and Conference Center, 4925 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale.

Lindemann makes his living as an author and lecturer on the subject.

"We are face to face with very strong evidence that suggests contact with nonhuman intelligence here on Earth," he said.

"For decades there has been controversy as to how the human race would respond if we found out that aliens did exist. We are in a time when the dam is breaking. All the structures of denial and confusion that kept this a secret in fact are falling apart."



Lindemann

Lindemann said he believes the public is better able to deal with the possibility of other intelligent life forms than in years past, but he said it still will be a challenge because we are facing the unknown.

Lindemann, who has never seen an alien, said he started believing in other life forms after investigating a link between UFOs and secret government weapons programs.

In his lecture he will review a large number of the strongest and best documented cases in a historical overview.

Once skeptical, Lindemann said he is not a "believer" but "a person who is working on a hypothesis that is well-supported by evidence."

He said he has seen an increasing interest in his audience over the past three years since he has been actively speaking.

"There is a misconception that most people who go to a UFO talk wear beanies or something. The people who attend my talks tend to be well-educated, white-collar solid citizens," he said.

Lindemann said after his lectures audience members often approach him with stories they have never before told.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - July 13, 1994

Dazzling Lights Appear Again In Skies Over Gulf Breeze and Beach

By Patti Weatherford

There was more in the area June skies than just rain. UFO's have appeared in the skies over the Gulf Breeze area and Pensacola Beach. It seems they are on summer vacation here again. Our first report comes from three teenage girls traveling west on Hwy. 399 around 10:30 p.m. They reported seeing a large, white light to the south. It appeared to have beams of light coming from it in all directions. They pulled off the road and stopped. The light separated into three lights. One of the lights remained stationary, while the other two circled it briefly before all vanished.

On June 26, two brothers were on the Beach near parking lot five, between Pensacola Beach and Navarre. At about 3:00 p.m., almost directly overhead, they saw three small circular, disc-shaped objects - dark grey to black in color. They were hovering in place, two side by side and one off to the southeast. The one on the right side of the two moved horizontally several hundred feet to the southeast and then returned to its original position, in about two seconds. The witnesses reported that the objects were quite high in the sky located in a separation between two cloud banks. The discs then moved

together and then disappeared, appearing to do so in different directions. The sighting lasted about three minutes and the witnesses reported feeling the hair on the backs of their necks standing up.

On June 29, two reports came in to the hotline of amber colored lights in the Tiger Point and Naval Live Oaks area between 11:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. These were mentioned last week. Subsequently, another report has been received from a couple living on Ariola Drive, Pensacola Beach. On June 29, the wife felt the urge to take a late evening walk with her husband. At around 11:55 p.m. and 11:56 p.m., they saw a golden colored light appear briefly between them and the water tower. Then at 12:00 a.m., they saw six huge golden colored lights in a circular configuration. They reported three beams of light coming down from the object. Although the sky was clear, there appeared to be a lone black cloud behind the UFO. The sighting lasted about five minutes and the only movement detected was a slight wobble, before the object just vanished.

Keep your eyes peeled, day and night, and call in your sighting to the UFO Hotline - 438-3261.

'WE ARE NOT ALONE'

Space-alien believers share stories, vulnerability

The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the colour of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel.

— Ezekiel 1:16

Those round, metallic objects that descend from the sky from time to time have always been hard to describe.

Explaining them is a real challenge.

Eddie Middleton, a 50-year-old junior college philosophy instructor, believes "the most compelling hypothesis" is that they bear intelligent life from outer space that is exploring our planet.

"I'm not a true believer fanatic about it," Middleton says. "I think I have an open mind. But I think there's evidence to warrant this kind of speculation. I think it's a reasonable kind of hypothesis — that there might be a more intelligent life in the universe than us, and they might be messing with us right now for their own agenda, whatever it is."

Middleton's single sighting of a UFO — a bright light that flashed across the sky, turned from white to orange, then slowed down, stopped, and hovered just above the treetops in the shape of a saucer — is not the most vivid UFO sighting ever reported.

But he is among a small but committed group of people willing to declare their acceptance of an extraterrestrial explanation despite the risk of ridicule, professional setbacks and whatever damage to personal relationships might occur.

He and other members of a local UFO discussion group financed and promoted a Memphis appearance in June by a Columbus, Miss., woman named Leah Haley who says she has been abducted by aliens.

"I think it's developing toward some crescendo," Middleton says. "Something's going to come out of this. I don't know what. Maybe this is how a new religion starts. Someone gets hit by the light, like St. Paul, and a new religion comes out of it."

A fair percentage of the American public agrees that there might be some explanation for the phenomenon that goes beyond the imagination.

A 1985 poll by the Roper Organization found that 25 percent of the respondents believed in "unidentified flying objects from somewhere else in the universe."

In another Roper Organization poll, conducted in 1991, 7 percent of the respondents said they had seen a UFO.

A Roper Organization poll commissioned by the Fund for UFO Research in 1991 found 2 percent of the respondents believed they might have had an abduction experience with an unidentified flying object.

A 1990 Gallup poll found that 47 percent of the American public believed unidentified flying objects were real. Thirty-one percent of the respondents believed they were the product of the imagination.

People who have seen with their own eyes something that can be interpreted as an alien visit and who have had a great deal of exposure to other people's accounts of UFOs and

other strange phenomena seem best equipped to make the leap of faith that pulls extraterrestrial beings into the picture.

The theories of UFO believers are often combined with the cattle mutilation mystery — hundreds of cases in which dead, bloodless cattle have been found in fields with their reproductive organs and other parts removed with surgical precision, often corresponding to strange lights in the sky during the night.

The strange "crop circles" phenomenon — unexplained, artistic designs in bent grain stalks that appear overnight in farmers' fields all over the

world — are often part of the UFO scenario.

Believers also are often avid readers who focus on metaphysical subjects, the occult, the supernatural, the paranormal and other subjects that are beyond the direct experience most of us have with the physical world.

The UFO community's biggest catch in recent years — Harvard psychiatrist John E. Mack — discussed "transpersonal psychology," "frontiers of consciousness," and "consciousness that goes beyond one's biography" at a UFO conference in Eureka Springs, Ark., a few years ago.

These were subjects he was researching before he was convinced by New York artist, hypnotist and UFOlogist Budd Hopkins that he ought to take a look at alien abduction.

The phenomenon is adding fuel to the argument that visions that have been described by humans for centuries regarding metallic objects coming down from the sky can be explained by the notion that we are obviously not alone and it's egocentric to think so.

Randy Kjelland, a 42-year-old Collierville salesman who serves as Tennessee director of MUFON, the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network, said the abduction phenomenon is stirring new interest in UFOs in general.

"A lady in Memphis was at my house a week or two ago who thinks she was abducted," he said. "This is my first experience with it. . . . Why would these people make this up? I just can't imagine."

Kjelland maintains that "there's something definitely going on" up there.

"It's wide open as far as I'm concerned," he said. "Ninety percent of what you hear is probably bogus, but too many people have had too many experiences and too much data has been collected."

MUFON claims 4,000 members in the United States, about 5,000 members worldwide, and a conservative, scientific orientation.

Kjelland, who collects UFO sightings in Tennessee and passes them on to the national headquarters in Texas, has been state director of the group since February. He says UFO reports filter to him about once every six weeks or so, primarily from East Tennessee.

He refused to discuss his own sighting, except to say that "I don't think I'd be as involved as I am without it."

He believes in the importance of accepting people's accounts of alien encounters at face value.

"Whether it's from another world or from within, it's important for people to have a place to express their emotions," he said. "That's what these organizations ought to be all about. Some people have been traumatized and they want to know what's going on in their lives."

A similar theme is sounded by Mack, the model for the fictional psychiatrist in *Intruders*, a 1992 alien abduction drama aired by CBS, and the author of *Abduction!*, a recently published book based on his own case studies of the phenomenon.

In Cambridge, he runs an "abduction support facility" to help ease the trauma among abductees and stresses the importance of providing people who believe they have been abducted with the kind of therapy that doesn't challenge the facts of their case.

They reveal experiences with aliens publicly in "like you're putting a 'kick me' sign on your

back, which is, I think, why groups like ours are in demand," said Cindy McMullin, a 37-year-old Memphis paralegal who belongs to the Memphis UFO discussion group.

"It's a safe place to talk about these kinds of things in a supportive environment," McMullin said. "You really make yourself vulnerable when you start revealing your experiences."

Abductees, when they decide to tell their stories, often say they were fearful during the early stages, but later felt a sense of calm descending. The experience is often described as interdimensional, the subject drifting into a sort of fourth dimension in which the spacecraft may appear to be small from the outside but cavernous within.

Basic groups of aliens described by the abductees include a sort of Nordic type that looks human, but with eyes more like a cat's. There are the so-called "greys," with the lightbulb-shaped heads and big black eyes, a tiny slit for a mouth, two holes for a nose and no ears. A variation on the "greys" has a long hawk-like nose. The list goes on.

Types of spacecraft seen during the encounters include the classic flying saucer, of course, with several variations. There are also huge wedge-shaped craft and others that are like flying cylinders. Debunkers of the UFO phenomenon point to the wide variety of descriptions as proof that aliens are imaginary. UFOlogists counter that it shows that not only are we not alone, but they're not alone, either.

Alien abductions usually include procedures in which the abductees are used by aliens for the collection of sperm and eggs or as human surrogate mothers for the production of hybrid beings — a sexual component that has led to speculation that childhood sexual abuse could be resurfacing in another form.

UFO theory usually incorporates a government coverup in the scenario. No self-respecting documentary on the phenomenon would be complete without a reference to Roswell, N.M., where an alien spacecraft reportedly crashed in 1947 and was hauled off by government workers for the quietest research and development project west of Oak Ridge.

It all sounds too impossible

Invisible ties tether Memphian to 'visitors'

Please don't call it an abduction, Brenda Williams asks. Her visit with extraterrestrial beings was a positive experience.

"I know people have had experiences where they felt it was very terrifying," says Williams, a petite, blond 38-year-old computer specialist with a trusting smile.

"I think they don't understand the emotions we have here from their point of reference. If you're doing something to someone, and to you it's not harmful, then how can it be hurting someone?"

"I know a lot of people think it's a scary thing, but I think they're here to help us. I'm sure there are some that probably aren't as benevolent as others. But, just like you have negative and positive people here, I'm sure you have negative and positive beings throughout the universe."

for most people, but "If you ever see any of these things," Middleton says, "it will wipe skepticism out real quickly."

But he also clearly enjoys discussing the subject with agnostics and nonbelievers, and begins many of his anecdotes with the phrase "This skeptic friend of mine."

He often falls back on Sophocles, Aristotle, Descartes, James and the other masters to seek answers to such questions as why people believe in the existence of something — God, for instance — that may not be a part of the individual's direct personal experience.

Middleton took his first philosophy class in about 1966 and wound up minoring in philosophy at Christian Brothers, then received a master's degree in the subject at Memphis State, now University of Memphis.

"To say that I'm gullible, I won't say that," he said. "I think my mind is a lot more open than a lot of people. We know in the history of science how many great discoveries came about that at first were ridiculed."

He doesn't have a real problem with agnosticism — religious or UFOlogist.

"Often it's the only rational position you can take if you don't have enough evidence to really form a conclusion."

He has encountered anger and hostility from those who "don't buy into that," as they say, but his interests haven't held him back in his career or his personal relationships.

"It hasn't ruined any real good relationships," he says. "As long as someone is willing to at least look at the evidence, that's all I ask. This may be the most important thing that's happening on the planet right now."

During his life, Middleton has been on a series of quests that go beyond everyday experience, including an advanced EST course on a California mountaintop.

In one of his classes recently, he mentions his trip to the mountaintop.

"Why'd you go there in the first place?" a student asks.

"I was curious," he replies. "I'm curious about a lot of things that can get me in trouble."

"The mind, the psyche, is a fragile kind of thing," he adds a few minutes later. "You've got to be careful what you let in there."



Brenda Williams says that, through her telepathic communications, space aliens have told her they are here "to help us, not to hurt us."

Williams was 5 or 6, she says, when her first encounter with aliens occurred.

Asleep in the same room as two sisters at her family's home in

(continued on page 3)



Educator Eddie Middleton believes "there's evidence to warrant" intelligent life in outer space. And for him, seeing was believing.

Frayser on a summer night, she was awakened by a silent summons.

Suddenly, she was outside and walking toward a wooded area in her baby doll pajamas with four beings about her own size, unafraid but concerned that "if my dad woke up and I wasn't in bed I would be in trouble."

The aliens led her to a saucer-shaped ship with lights around its lower rim and a mushroom-shaped upper section.

Inside, she was touched on the forehead with a sort of wand, which left her unable to move. Carried to a table, she found herself being scanned by an instrument that moved back and forth above her body.

The next thing she knew she was back in her bed.

Not long after that, Williams says, she was led aboard the spacecraft again for a similar visit.

Williams says she suppressed memories of her encounters until May 1993. As in many cases of people who believe they have been aboard alien spacecraft, Williams's memories were resurrected during hypnotherapy.

"I always had a feeling that I knew there were other beings out there," Williams says. "Looking back, it must have been because of that experience..."

Long before her memories were resurrected, she says, she was a student of clairvoyant Edgar Cayce. A practicing Catholic, she also attends a New Age church and believes there will be radical changes at the dawning of the new millennium in the year 2001.

The recovery of her suppressed memories, she said, led her to a 62-hour class on hypnotherapy last March, which prompted out-of-body experiences and telepathic communications with aliens.

On some occasions, "I just communicated with them during deep states of meditation," she says. "They showed me the planet Earth, and they said that once at some point when there is more light on the planet than darkness — and they're talking about the way people are acting — that we will be invited into this group of beings or planets or whatever."

"They said people need to understand they're here to help us, not to hurt us."

What else did she learn through her telepathic communications?

Space alien whisked him into craft, man claims

"I call it a dream for lack of a better word," 37-year-old Kenneth Welch says, "because there is no actual physical proof that this happened."

"All I know is that this shuttle craft came down. It did not land or touch the ground, so it didn't leave any prints. Neither did the larger craft. ... I didn't have any proof the next morning — just my footprints in the snow."

Welch, a barrel-shaped blues guitarist who's lived in Memphis, St. Louis and Boston and worked on a cruise ship in the Caribbean, sits in the living room of his sister's home in Memphis, fidgeting on a sofa as his story pours out rapidly, like a man ridding himself of a burden.

It is the first time he has talked about his experience, he says, other than with researchers, his pastor and other UFO enthusiasts.

On a sleepless night after the January 1985 storm that blanketed Memphis with 10 inches of snow, Welch says, he went for a walk along a winding street near his home in Frayser.

Startled by what sounded like a jet engine flying close overhead, he looked up into blinding spotlights.

Williams hesitates, laughs nervously, then plunges on.

"I don't know if I can tell you all this stuff. When you talk to someone it's like — wow — this is really way out there. ..."

"Well, they were showing me that the reason this happened to me when I was 5 or 6 was that I had made an agreement with them from a past life when I was part of their race of beings. ..."

"They told me that we were one and that we would always be one, and they showed me a symbol that was in my forehead that is obviously not visible, but to them it's visible. They said they would always be able to get in touch with me wherever I'm at."



Kenneth Welch says that since his 1985 brush with extraterrestrial humanoids, he has had periodic dreams that leave him temporarily psychic.

"At that point, I knew what was happening. ... I tried to hide behind this little bush. I panicked. Still, here it is. They've got the spotlights on me."

From a hatch in the bottom of a round or perhaps octagonal space ship emerged a shuttle craft piloted by "a young-looking Caucasian dude" with white hair who "had a little robot with him, like on *Star Wars*, you know — R2D2, something like that."

"Get in. The captain wants to see you," the humanoid said.

"I had barely got in and this guy was taking off when we were whisked back up to the larger craft," Welch reports.

He found the ship staffed by men and women who looked like humans but for their perfect builds and white hair.

"The captain gave me a message. ... The message was, 'Congratulations for reading the Bible and other holy books of the world in light of today's technology, or an understanding of today's technology.'"

"But he said I would be contacted again when I was ready."

When he awakened, he was back in his bed.

Like other people who say they have been abducted by aliens, Welch says he has subsequently had telepathic communications with aliens and additional "dreams," as he continues to call them, at the rate of once every six or seven months.

He had a conversation in March 1993 with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., he says, and in December 1990 he could read the thoughts of George Bush and Saddam Hussein as the United States and Iraq were approaching a state of war.

His dreams "leave me in a high state of ESP," he says. "I don't want to go around calling myself psychic. I don't do readings, because I'm not psychic all the time."

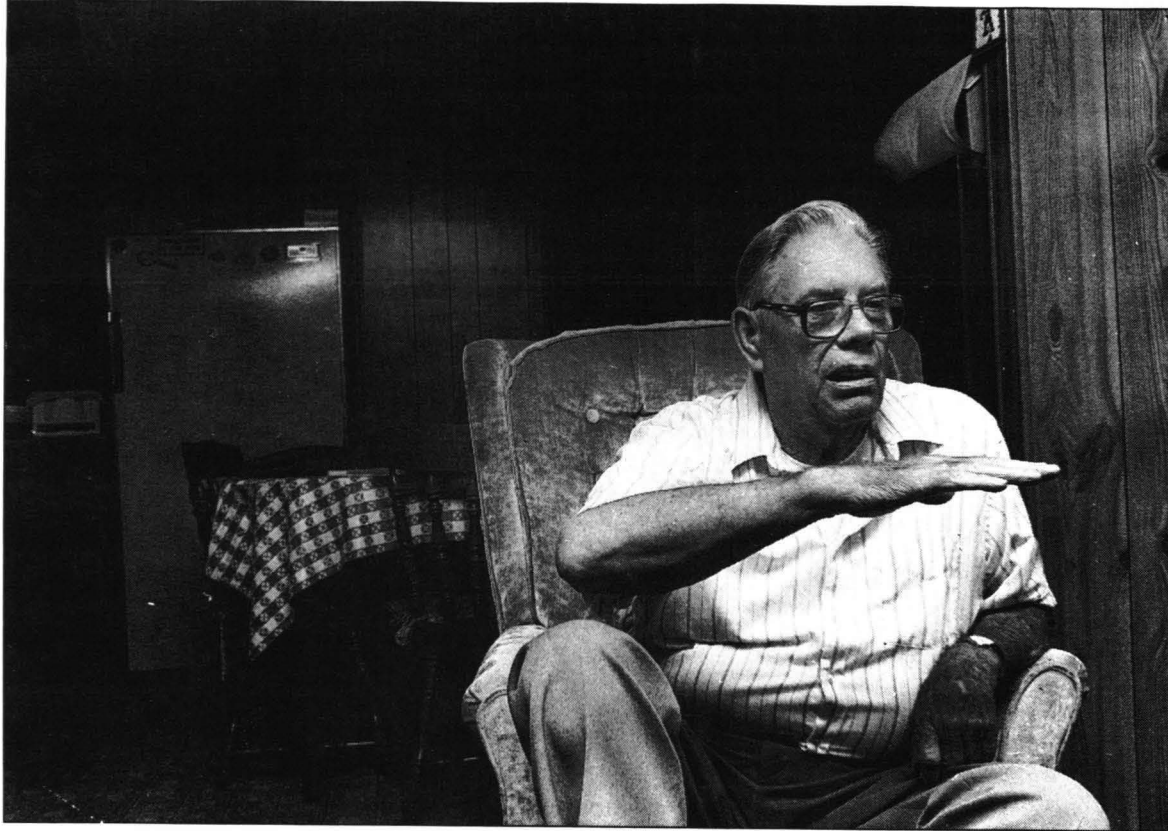
Welch underwent therapy with a psychologist for two months.

"I thought I was going crazy. I said, 'Why would I have dreams in such detail?' He didn't really have any answers."

"I wanted to come forth and tell people there are other aliens" besides the diminutive "Greys" associated with many UFO abduction reports, he says.

"The little 'Greys' — I don't think they're from space at all," he says. "I think they're from hollowed-out sections of the Earth. ..."

"What people have to realize is there's a coverup," he says. "The government's sitting back laughing at those of us who are speculating. The way they operate now is just to discredit people and make you look like kooks. Some people may have death threats like they did in the '40s, but mostly they just laugh it off and try to make you look kooky."



'...little wisps of whitish vapor coming off of it, going toward Whiteville.'

Focus
on
people

Phenomenon chaser: Lawrence Willett

It was in 1968 that the first Lear jet landed in this part of the country, setting down easily at the hands of a military pilot at an airport in Flippin.

Considering it to be an historic event, a visitor to the airport a couple of days later snapped a picture of the resting Lear.

According to Mountain Home resident, Lawrence Willett, who was the airport manager at that time, "There was apparently a UFO in the background above Lee's Mountain. We sent the picture in to the Aero-Phenomenon Research Organization (APRO) and they sent it to the University of Arizona where it was researched. They said there wasn't a flaw in the picture and that the picture was real as far as they were concerned, and that the object was between a half and two miles from the camera and between 60 and 340 feet in diameter. In their opinion, (it was) a solid object."

Since that time, Willett has been fascinated by the possibility (the certainty?) that

UFOs (unidentified flying objects) do exist, that there is "something out there."

"They were seen by the military in World War II," he said. "We (the U.S.) thought they were owned by the Germans and the Germans thought they were a new development of ours."

"As to where they come from, I'm undecided," he said. "Scientists say something traveling at the speed of light would take years and years to come from the nearest other solar system. So they're either traveling faster than the speed of light or they're in another dimension close to us and just coming in and out of that other dimension. It's all theory. But there's no doubt we've got something visiting us, or something showing up."

According to Frank Edwards in his book "Flying Saucers — Here and Now!", published by Lyle Stuart, New York, the first mysterious flying object was seen from a Mexico observatory in the late 1800s. Since then, people from all walks of life — including

American astronauts — have reported strange objects in the sky, like nothing they knew of that the technology of the day had produced. According to Edwards, astronauts James McDivitt, Michael Collins and John W. Young reported an egg-shaped object with a visible contrail circling their Gemini 10 capsule over the Pacific in June 1955. There were two sightings. The first was later deemed to be fragments of a rocket. The second was later described by a member of NASA's public affairs office as "moving north to south against a star field in an (apparent) polar orbit. Identity of the object was not determined."

Willett served as a military aircraft mechanic during

World War II and it was then he decided he wanted to fly. Following his service time, he became a charter pilot. He said he has personally reported strange sightings both in the air and on the ground.

"I've seen lights at night on aircraft that didn't look like aircraft and didn't act like aircraft go down at a steep angle and land on the ground where there was no airport, land in the dark, at a fast, conventional plane speed. Went right down to the ground and disappeared. Went out."

"Another time, flying back from Illinois, east of St. Louis, I saw a big orange ball, just one big orange light, off to our right, come toward us, then turn back and go to the left, no running lights, no strobe

lights, no blinking lights, no red lights, no green lights. Just a big orange globe. St. Louis airport reported no such aircraft in the area." Willett said he was asked by the tower if he wanted to make a report but he declined. "At that time, pilots making such reports got called up on the carpet to find out if they were psychologically okay to fly, you know."

Willett has been a volunteer section director for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) for five years and he said he has investigated many reports of UFO sightings.

"I saw one myself (in Arkansas) in 1979 and reported it to KTLO-Radio," he said. "It was on a Friday. They reported it

(See Page 15)

'At that time, pilots making such reports got called on the carpet to find out if they were psychologically okay to fly, you know.'

-- Lawrence Willett

on the Friday 5 o'clock news and then all day Saturday.

"I was on Highway 178 going into Mountain Home, West Road. I had come off Highway 126. It was, I believe, late summer. A front had just gone through. It was crystal clear and the sun was shining real bright, visibility unlimited. I came off of 126 and came down the hill, made all the turns before the road straightened out into Mountain Home and there, through the windshield, was this thing on edge and turning at the same time. Real bright. Silver-colored. A quarter to a half mile away about 1,000 feet above the ground, just hovering there at the time.

"I stopped the car and stood out in front of it. It moved back and forth and shot beams of light at me. Little flicks of bright light at intervals. I wanted a witness so I held up my left hand at a pickup truck coming. He stopped and the instant he stopped, that thing goes out just like you'd turn out a light. It didn't go dashing off somewhere. It just wasn't there anymore. I felt like a fool."

After the trucker pulled away, Willett started to walk back to his car and, he said, the object reappeared in the same spot where he had seen it before. He stood beside his car and watched it take off. "Not very fast," he said. "Little

wisps of whitish vapor coming off of it, going toward Whiteville."

Willett estimates that, whatever it was, it was probably about 30 feet in diameter and eight to 10 feet thick, oval shaped and a little higher on top. He said he could see no markings on it.

UFO sightings have been put down to "swamp gases," according to Frank Edwards; to sun spots and balloons and boomerangs and atmospheric gobbledygook; to less than credible witnesses or to publicity mongers.

But the number of sightings and the types of individuals who have reported seeing them — military personnel,

pilots and scientists — have gotten thousands upon thousands of people, including Willett, convinced it's more than hogwash.

In another part of Arkansas, as a MUFON investigator, he spoke with a woman and her two daughters, ages 10 and 14, who claimed to have seen a large orange or amber light "just hanging low in the sky" as they were traveling in their car down a dirt road. The woman reported the object coming to a stop "right over the treetops" 50 to 100 feet from her car. She said they hightailed it off the dirt road and onto an old highway "and we could see it coming right behind us. It was round. We heard no

noise. I was scared. My whole body was numb. I couldn't hardly move. The kids were scared. I was actually more scared than they were."

Willett has pictures of some reported UFOs. One resembles the space shuttle and another is triangular and looks like a box kite. Not everyone reports seeing the same thing.

The only sighting by Willett in daylight in Arkansas was that one on Highway 178. "And there was no doubt," he said. "I had 7,000 hours flying time then. I was a charter pilot for most of that 7,000 hours. I had both nighttime and day-

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4 — BAXTER BULLETIN, Mountain Home, AR — May 10, 1994)

time flying experience and there wasn't any doubt in my mind that what I saw was not something made by us. It wasn't a helicopter. It wasn't an airplane. It wasn't a balloon and it wasn't a bird. It was a metallic craft, possibly internally lit because it was impossibly light, even in the daytime."

Someone reported seeing a possible UFO land, he said. "He thought it was a UFO or something and when he went out to check it, there was nothing but a burned 30-foot circle and nothing would grow in there but wild strawberries for two or three years. Where'd the wild strawberries come from?"

Since Willett saw that photograph of the mysterious object hovering over Lee's Mountain in 1968, he has investigated — as an individual and as a volunteer for MUFON — many reports of sightings throughout the United States, including in California and Alaska. It isn't likely he'll lose his interest, despite doubting Thomases worldwide.

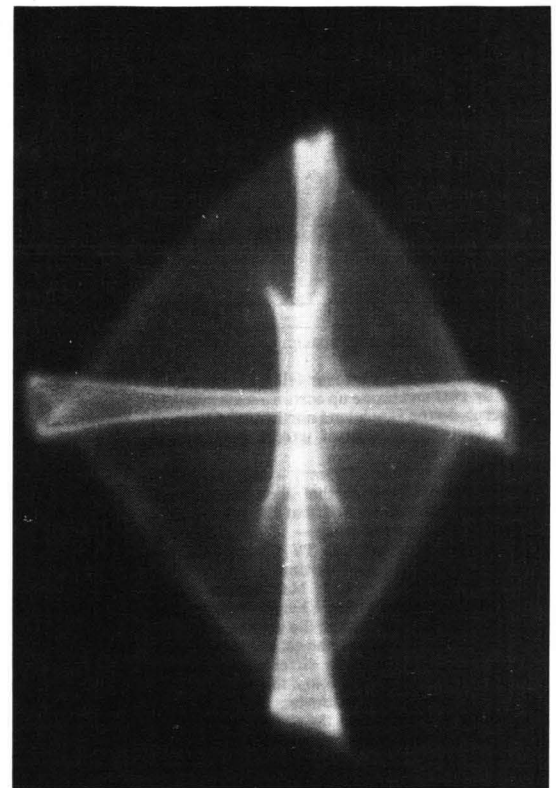
"If people criticize me, they do it behind my back," he said, "because everybody I know is friendly."

Edwards notes in his book a speech made by German science writer and educator Willy Ley to students and faculty of

the College of Engineering and the student chapter of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics at Virginia Tech in late 1966.

Ley told his audience, "Sooner or later, America's astronauts are going to run into astronauts from another planet outside our solar system. Taking the most pessimistic figures, there would be about 1,500 planets in our galaxy which would have conditions very similar to ours. They should have animal or human life."

Willett sees no reason to doubt they are as curious about us as we are about them. — bjl



Willett snapped this photo of the mysterious light.

Cross-light remains mystery to Willett

Lawrence Willett's curiosity follows phenomenon wherever it appears.

A few years back, he heard and read in the national media about a strange cross-light that appeared in the front door glass of a woman in another part of Arkansas. The photo above was taken of that light by Willett. He explains the incident as follows:

"Her husband was killed in a drag racing accident. She was very religious and she and a neighbor woman went into her living room and started praying for a sign that the husband was okay on the other side.

"All of a sudden, the neighbor woman said, 'Look in the front door glass!,' and there it was.

"It was one of those opaque types of glass that is rough on the outside and plain on the inside. The cross stayed in the window for about a week and a half. The lines of people every night to see it was two to three blocks long. The neighbors were complaining because the people were lined up to see this house. The people would go through the carpet and into the living room and take pictures.

"After a while I went down and stood in line for two hours. I took pictures that (at first) turned out green. After about two weeks, the cross started moving out of the glass, to the left. But you could get up next to the glass with your camera and look back to the left, and it was like looking through a slot at about home base and, out about where third base would be, in the dark, was this thing all lit up. It seemed to have flickering lights in it.

"They wouldn't let people look at it in the daytime because it was so bright it would hurt your eyes. It wasn't a reflection. You could hang a blanket over the other doors or you could leave the door open or lights on or lights off and it didn't make any difference. That cross was there.

"I just don't have an explanation. The woman was praying. That's the only indication of what the source would be."

SUN, Bremerton, WA — June 19, 1994

UFOs

First 'flying saucers' sighted in Northwest

SEATTLE (AP) — People have reported seeing mysterious objects in the sky for hundreds of years. But it wasn't until 1947, in a case in the Pacific Northwest, that "flying saucers" began to make headline news.

On June 24 of that year, according to media reports, Boise, Idaho, businessman and pilot Kenneth Arnold reported seeing nine bright, saucer-like objects flying at "incredible" speed at 10,000 feet altitude along the Cascade mountains in Washington state.

"Flyer Reports: Mystery Disks Hurling in Sky," one Seattle newspaper headline blared.

Arnold was in a single-engine Cessna searching for a missing military transport plane when he noticed the objects flying in and out of formation about 3 p.m. He

clocked them as they moved between Mount Rainier and Mount Adams and estimated their speed at 1,200 mph.

The objects appeared to fly almost as if fastened together — if one dipped, the others did, too. He described the objects as each as big as a DC-4 passenger plane, "flat like a pie pan," and so shiny that they reflected the sun like a mirror.

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.

Though the public's interest was piqued, Arnold's tale was met by skepticism from the military.

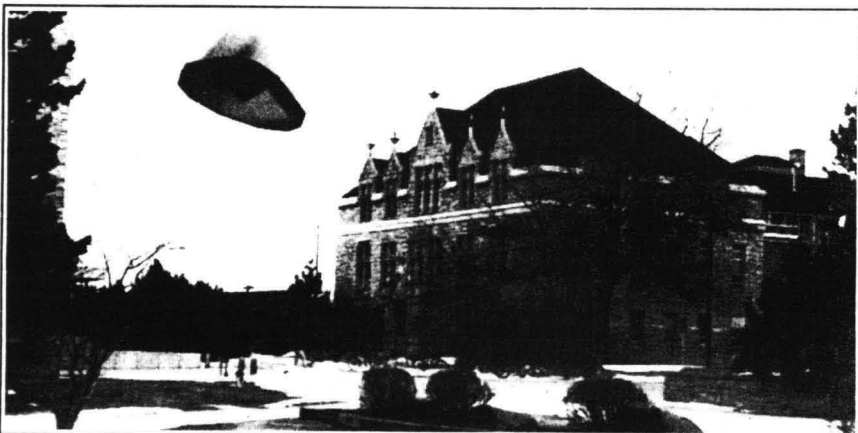
An Army spokesman in Washington, D.C., commented at the time: "As far as we know, nothing flies that fast except a V-2 rocket, which travels at about 3,500 miles an hour — and that's too fast to be seen."

Nevertheless, news accounts of Arnold's sighting spread across the globe. They spawned a spate of reports in the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere of others who claimed to have witnessed something similar.

"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."

BRANDING IRON, [University of Wyoming], Laramie, WY — June 23, 1994



Mike Weiland/BI

Digital photography can be easily used to alter a photograph. Here TV Production student Mike Weiland added a hovering UFO to enhance a photo of the UW Geology Museum.

Is that a UFO? Student digitizes photo reality

By RACHEL KEATING
Branding Iron Editor

Want a spaceship racing across the sky, Bigfoot in your backyard or the Lockness Monster in the local pond in a photograph? Well, it's easier than you think.

Computer art animation, also called digital photography, is becoming the wave of the future for modern media. Most major newspapers have converted to it.

"If an altered photograph is good enough, then you can't tell if its been altered," said Mike Weiland, junior TV production major.

Weiland said he has heard that magazines such as the National Enquirer use digital photography to create some of their unusual photographs.

However, there are many ethical considerations involved in using digitally altered film, especially in the press, Weiland said.

"Ethically, you are not supposed to change or alter anything in a photograph with a computer," he said.

UW students have digital photographic capability through the university's facilities, but they do not use it, he said.

Weiland creates his own digital photographs by putting together what he has learned at the School of Communication Arts and Sciences in North Carolina with what he has learned at UW.

To create one photo, Weiland must travel between several UW departments.

"It could take one day to do it, but I usually take

about a week doing a little bit at a time," he said.

After taking a photo using a 35-millimeter camera with black and white film, Weiland processes the negatives and then takes the negatives to the UW Media Lab to scan them into a computer program called Photoshop.

"Once the original photo has been scanned, it becomes a digital form which can be loaded into Photoshop," he said.

To create UFO's, Weiland uses a separate three-dimensional program, and then imports the UFO image into Photoshop to be added to the photograph.

Eventually, the Engineering Department processes the digital image of the photograph with a UFO into a slide, so Weiland can print it in a darkroom.

CR: P. Norman

TELEVISION

'Roswell' UFO: Fact or Fiction

Cable Movie Alleges Cover-Up of Incident

By Rick Nathanson

JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

It came from outer space. Or maybe not. In any event, whatever fell from the sky in July 1947 and broke up across a wide swath of scrub-dotted ranch land northwest of Roswell remains the subject of intense interest and controversy.

One hotly debated theory — that the debris was extraterrestrial, that alien beings were among the rubble, and that the government promptly covered it up — is the subject of "Roswell," an original TV film premiering Sunday at 9 p.m. on Showtime.

The movie stars Kyle MacLachlan ("Twin Peaks"), Martin Sheen, Dwight Yoakam and Charles Martin Smith in the leading roles.

Two New Mexicans who got a sneak preview of the movie had wildly different reactions: a local UFO researcher found the main premise of the film believable; the local editor of a scientific journal called the movie "a fictionalized version of a story that has no credence to begin with."

The mystery begins July 3, 1947, the morning after a violent thunderstorm, when rancher Mac Brazel (Yoakam) finds strange metallic debris spread across three-quarters of a mile of the sheep ranch he manages. He notifies local officials in Roswell and the military dispatches Maj. Jesse Marcel (MacLachlan) to the crash site.

Marcel, the intelligence officer at the Roswell Army Air Force Base, determines the debris is not military and notes that it has peculiar properties unlike anything ever seen before. It might even be extraterrestrial, he concludes.

The unit's public information officer subsequently issues a news release announcing that the Army has recovered the wreckage of a flying saucer. The story becomes headline news in the July 8, 1947, edition of the Roswell Daily Record, and an immediate international curiosity.

Marcel is abruptly called to the 8th Air Force Headquarters in Fort Worth, where common weather balloon wreckage is being shown to the press. Marcel is ordered to pose for photos with pieces of the balloon, thereby lending authenticity to the military's revised story: There are no flying saucers. Rather, Marcel had made a mistake in his investigation of the crash site.

So far, a totally factual story.

Now, time leap from 1947 to 1977, where the dramatic license begins. Jesse Marcel is attending the 30th reunion for the 509th Bombardment group. The aged and ailing Marcel has been bothered all these years about the events surrounding the Roswell incident. He resents how he was made to be the military's fall guy and how he was coerced to participate in the cover-up. He wants the truth to finally be told, but many among the group of ex-aviators and guests shun his questioning.

Others, however, including a shady character named Townsend (Sheen), point Marcel in new directions with new mind-boggling information: The wreckage was extraterrestrial. The bodies of several dead aliens and one who was still alive were recovered from the crash site.

spective," a 189-page report examining and assessing the existing body of data on the Roswell incident. It also includes some new information gathered through Pflock's own independent research. The project was supported by a grant from the Fund for UFO Research in Washington, D.C.



Pflock

"There is no reasonable basis for the military's (revised) account about the recovery of a weather balloon," he said. "That was a cover story to squelch the press and divert the growing public interest in the matter."

Still, Pflock wasn't completely satisfied with the TV movie version. "As entertainment, it was not an unpleasant way to spend an hour and a half," he said. "But they may



A still-alive alien crash survivor is treated by military doctors in the film version of "Roswell."

The still-alive alien warned of other visits by different races of aliens. Other spacecraft that had been recovered over the years were being studied in a top-secret military hanger.

What should be done with the information. Is it true? Is it possible? Who will believe it? That's the state of quandary where the movie version leaves Maj. Marcel, who died in 1986.

Executive producer Paul Davids said the film version accurately represents the book upon which it is based. The book, "UFO Crash at Roswell," by Kevin Randle and Donald Schmitt, includes the testimony of 350 people who were in some way connected to the crash and its aftermath.

Despite the title, "Roswell" was filmed primarily in the desert around Tucson. The production crew needed to be closer to the West Coast film industry's plentiful supplies of post-World War II era automobiles and airplanes, Davids said.

His personal interest in the subject, he said, stems from his own daylight sighting of a UFO outside his Pasadena home in February 1987.

"It convinced me that disks or flying saucers really do exist. The propulsion and behavior were different from anything I had ever seen before. I have no way of knowing if it was extraterrestrial," he said, "but I've never seen anything of this earth act like that."

In 1989, Davids optioned the rights to Randal and Schmitt's then-unfinished book. Originally he envisioned it as a feature motion picture, but major studio executives rejected it, Davids said, "because they were unwilling to deal with flying saucers in any context other than science fiction."

He then began negotiating with premium cable networks and finally struck a deal with Showtime to make the movie, which was budgeted for \$5-\$6 million.

have taken too much dramatic license. They took all the crazy stuff floating around the fringes of UFO research, and they hitched it to the Roswell wagon."

He specifically cited a movie sequence in which the surviving alien creature telepathically communicates to then-Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal that other aliens of different races will be visiting earth. Forrestal is seen arguing the position that mankind has a right to know about the discovery, a view vehemently opposed by others in the government.

Forrestal later checks into the Bethesda Naval Medical Hospital suffering from a nervous collapse, and the movie leaves open the question if he subsequently jumped to his death or was pushed.

Pflock, who was a deputy assistant secretary of defense under the second Reagan administration and is a former CIA intelligence officer, said there is no documented evidence to suggest that any alien being survived the Roswell crash or



Dwight Yoakam as rancher Mac Brazel stumbles across strange metallic debris on the sheep ranch he manages northwest of Roswell, initiating what would become the best known alleged UFO encounter and cover-up in modern history.

"I think that the events which inspired the movie definitely, without a question, involved the recovery of something extraordinary, maybe extraterrestrial, including bodies, and the cover-up of that by the United States government," said Albuquerque UFO researcher Karl Pflock.

Pflock recently completed "Roswell in Per-



Frazier

that Forrestal ever met with one. Pflock also took issue with a sequence depicting Area 51. The long-rumored ultra-secretive desert hanger is where recovered alien aircraft are allegedly warehoused and studied, yielding discoveries such as "stealth" technology. There is, indeed, an Area 51, which is located at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, Pflock said. "It is a test facility for advanced aircraft and other defense technology. From my own personal knowledge, there is nothing there that has anything to do with alien spacecraft or beings. Stealth technology is a result of plain old human gray matter."

"I thought the movie was a glorious exercise in myth making and conspiracy theory mongering," said Ken Frazier, editor of the Sandia Lab News. Frazier also edits the Skeptical Inquirer magazine, an international academic and scholarly publication that promotes science and reason in evaluating controversial claims — such as UFO sightings and related encounters.

"They've based the movie on one particular book of at least three that have been written (about the Roswell incident). All three books were written by UFO believers and they all contradict each other on important points. But all three are engaged in the same process of myth making. It's an interesting story. The story is so good now the way it's being told that it's attained the status of legend, and the facts will never catch up."

The generally agreed-upon facts, Frazier said, are that rancher Brazel found some metallic foil-type debris on the ranch northwest of Roswell in July 1947, and that the military base in Roswell put out a release initially saying they believed the debris was from a flying saucer.

"The most reasonable view is that they made a mistake, and what they really recovered was the remains of a radar reflector carried by a helium balloon," he said.

The quality of evidence in support of the Roswell alien crash theory and a subsequent government cover-up is "extremely poor," Frazier said. "What we have are stories and anecdotal information. What we want is something tangible, something we can study. It's not clear why the government would cover it up, and it's not clear if the government could cover it up."

"This would be the greatest discovery in the history of mankind if it were true. Hundreds of thousands of scientists would leap at the chance to study an alien artifact. It would change our lives in all areas — anthropology, biology, physics, technology, engineering, even theology. But show us the evidence first."

Albuquerquean Frank Joyce isn't interested in evidence. "I know what I know," he said recently after previewing the movie. In 1947 Joyce was a 24-year-old announcer at Roswell radio station KGFL-AM and a stringer for United Press.

"Mac Brazel was frightened when he came in to talk to me at the station," he recalled. "From that moment on I was frightened, too. I'm still uncomfortable talking about it because I think I know what was there, and it makes me uneasy. My personal feeling is it was extraterrestrial, and I was told there were dead occupants at the crash site."

He declined to say who told him, maintaining a vow of silence he took many years ago.

Joyce, who is portrayed by an actor in the movie, said he was the person who first suggested that Brazel contact the military base in Roswell to report the debris field. "I believe Mac Brazel saw everything. I believe he saw the occupants of whatever it was that crashed. All I know is that when I drove up there to see for myself, I was detained and questioned by the military. They would not allow me into the crash area."

In 1950, three years after the crash, Joyce was working at a radio station in Lubbock, Texas, when he received a strange visit from an FBI agent. The agent had a terse message for him: "He told me I had better not talk about the incident in Roswell," Joyce said.

"Seems like they were going through an awful lot of trouble on account of a weather balloon."



YOU HAD TO be there! William Willard points to an unidentified flying object on his television screen. Willard video taped five unfamiliar objects in the sky on the evening of June 18, but he is still having trouble getting his friends at work to believe him. (T-J photo by Cindra Ellen Kilgore)

Willard man captures UFO on video; but few believe him

By Cindra Ellen Kilgore
T-J Staff Writer

If there really are UFO's then why are more not reported? The answer to this question may lie in what happened to William Willard.

Willard and his wife, Debra, were sitting in the side yard of their house at 225 Central Ave., Willard at 9 p.m. June 18. It was a hot day, and that is why the Willards and their daughter, Kristin, 12, were outside where it was somewhat cooler.

According to Mrs. Willard, she and her family, and some neighbor children all saw something in the sky. She said the "something" came out of the southeast and made a loop, curving back towards the southwest.

"It intrigued me because of the way it never changed," she added. "It was just different. It never lost its formation."

Mrs. Willard said there was more than one object in the sky. She and her husband described what they saw as being an oval shape with another oval shape trailing it. Over the first oval shape there was an arch of three smaller round objects.

"We watched it maybe 10 to 15 minutes before it went completely out of sight," said Mrs. Willard.

Luckily Mr. Willard owns a video camera and was able to video tape the objects. Because of Mr. Willard's excitement over seeing the objects, the tape turned out a bit shaky, but all of the objects can be seen moving across the sky.

The objects were a brown color, and the Willards said there was no

noise and no lights. The objects were seen while it was still light outside.

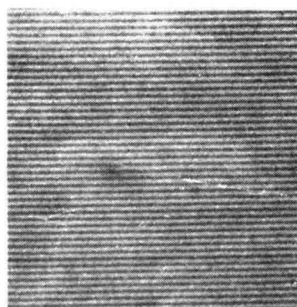
The whole incident might have ended there, but out of curiosity Mr. Willard decided to call the Willard police to find out if anyone else in town had seen anything. He said the police told him no one else had reported seeing any objects in the sky.

"I just wanted to know what it was," he said.

Mrs. Willard added, "I thought there has to be some explanation. I have no idea what it would have been."

Then Mr. Willard, who works full-time as a production controller with the National Guard at Camp Perry in Port Clinton, told some of his friends at work what he had seen. That is when his troubles began.

In his window where he receives items, his co-workers hung a sign



JUST A BLOB on a video tape or a UFO? William Willard would like to know what he saw on June 18.

that reads, "UFO's report here." A statue of an alien has also been placed on his window at work, according to Mrs. Willard, who said that when she calls her husband, she can hear his co-workers making "space" noises in the background.

Finally, Mr. Willard took the video tape to work with him and showed his skeptical co-workers what he had seen.

"They said it's something, but they didn't know what it is either," said Willard.

Willard still describes himself as being, "well razed at work."

Still, Willard said, "It doesn't bother me to tell it, because I actually saw it."

Dennis Blondin, a meteorologist from the National Weather Service in Mansfield said they release weather balloons at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Blondin said he does not believe a weather balloon would drift all the way to Willard. He added that only one balloon is released at a time.

"That doesn't sound like anything we would have released," he said of the number of objects seen in the sky.

He added that the other nearest National Weather Services are in Dayton, Detroit, Mich. and Peoria, Ill.

A source with the Federal Aviation Administration at Mansfield Laum Airport Tower, said that records of voice recorder tapes (conversations between traffic control and pilots) are only kept for 15 days, so he could not verify that any aircraft was in the Willard area the evening of June 18.

KEYAY DAVIDSON

DOWN TO A SCIENCE

SKEPTICS CORNER: I've been awfully mean to the UFO buffs lately. I've teased them for their goofball ideas and unverifiable claims, and done so with relish — it's as easy as shooting demented ducks in a barrel. In response, UFOlogists from Fresno to France have jammed my mailbox with angry letters that either denounce my bigoted views or accuse me of being in cahoots with the CIA. Maybe they're right; maybe I've been unfair to them. So recently, I resolved to write at least one column that describes the UFO fans' latest activities coolly and objectively, without resorting to ridicule.

My opportunity came the other day, when the latest copy of "Boardwatch" arrived in the



mail (along with the usual missives from steaming UFOlogists, psychics and crea-

tionists). This excellent monthly, based in Littleton, Colo., reports what's happening in the world of computer bulletin boards, or BBSes (and with admirable objectivity, considering how strange some BBSes are). The July issue describes a Gilroy-based BBS, called "U.F.O. BBS," which anyone with a computer modem and phone can use. Just dial (408) 847-7910; there's no membership fee. The BBS contains files on some 2,300 UFO sightings.

How does BBS system operator Phil Intravia decide which sightings to include in the files? "I leave an open mind on the whole thing," Intravia says, "but if (a UFO report is) absolutely absurd, I delete it."

Information that evidently wasn't too "absurd" to make the BBS includes data on "human body parts found in wrecked alien crafts, a whole string of CIA and government secret operations and (their) code names, nine alien craft in disguised hangars in Nevada, and even a live alien named EBE, for Extraterrestrial Biological Entity, who was a chlorophyll-based life form, much like a plant, (who) died in 1952." Boardwatch says. "Browsers will also notice a plethora of files (with names) such as: 'Alien Beacons Found in Statue of Liberty,' 'Three U.F.O. Aliens are Found on Mt. Everest,' 'Space Aliens Build Military Base on Moon,' 'I was Raped by a Space Alien,' and ... 'Space Aliens Hang Out at Nevada Bar.'"

See? I can do it. Not one word of ridicule. Just quotes.

EXAMINER, San Francisco, CA - July 15, 1994

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Aug. 3, 1994

Project Awareness Presents Annual Gulf Breeze UFO Conference

Sponsors Schedule International Panel of Speakers

Over 650 UFO enthusiasts and researchers from 25 states and several foreign countries are expected at the Second Annual Gulf Breeze UFO Conference to be held October 14-16 at the Pensacola Grand Hotel in Pensacola, Florida.

The conference, sponsored by Project Awareness of Gulf Breeze, is

open to everyone interested in learning more about the world's UFO happenings. Speakers are Dr. Leo Sprinkle, Ph.D. Psychologist from Wyoming; Dr. Richard Boylan, Sacramento, Ph.D. Psychologist; Dr. Arthur Horn, former Yale professor; Robert Dean, retired Army Command Sergeant Major from Tucson; Linda

Howe, three time Emmy winning producer; Budd Hopkins, New York City author of the bestselling book and CBS mini-series, "Intruders"; Kay Wilson, an Oregon abductee; Jenny Randles, a Manchester, England author of 30 books; Forest Crawford, Illinois physicist; Marc Davenport, Columbus, MS engineer

and four New England men known as The Allagash Four recounting their highly documented abduction in the Allagash Wilderness of Maine. Bruce and Anne Morrison of Pensacola will be giving a complete update of the Gulf Breeze and Pensacola UFO scene.

The three full days of lectures, classes and videos will feature such diverse aspects of the UFO phenomenon as crop circles, abductions, time travel, U. S. Military and UFOs in-

volvement, government cover-up, ancient astronauts, interstellar and inter-dimensional reality, telepathy, clairvoyance, UFO investigative techniques, spiritual components, and reports from several abductees on their personal UFO experiences.

The public is cordially invited. To get a brochure with complete conference information, contact: Project Awareness, P. O. Box 730, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562; or call (904) 432-8888 - 24 hours.

'Roswell' capitalizes on interest in UFOs

By David Bianculli
New York Daily News

The success of Fox's *The X-Files*, a series built upon a deft mixture of the paranormal and paranoia, has sparked a renewed interest in UFOs — and Sunday night, a Showtime movie aims to take full advantage of that interest and momentum.

Actually, *Roswell* is based on a book that predates *The X-Files* by several years: *UFO*

TELEVISION REVIEW

Roswell, 7 tonight, Showtime.

Crash at Roswell, by Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt. Its tone, content, look and music, though, all appear to embrace, if not echo, the *X-Files* mood and message.

The plot is about a New Mexico farmer who complains to the local sheriff that his ranch has been littered with mysterious wreckage — wreckage quickly and officially identified as not of this Earth. Close to the same location, there are rumors of bodies being found — again, not of this Earth — including one that, shockingly, may have survived the impact.

As the plot thickens, so does the government cover-up: Detaining witnesses, gathering evidence, thwarting the efforts of other investigators and whisking away all physical proof to a top-secret federal facility. You couldn't describe a more typical *X-Files* plot if you tried.

Except that, according to the well-researched book, these events are alleged to have occurred in real life, in July 1947 — the so-called "summer of flying saucers," when a succession of sightings was reported here and abroad. The



Kelvin Jones photo

Kyle MacLachlan portrays the Army investigator whose UFO findings were discredited and who returns to investigate again in *Roswell*.

secret facilities allegedly exist, too, and Larry King will report live in October from the outskirts of one such site in TNT's *The UFO Cover-Up: Live From Area 51-A*.

The book sticks to the testimony and facts, examining public records and private accounts in detail that is indeed persuasive. Inexplicably, however, Showtime's *Roswell* takes the self-

defeating approach that facts alone are not enough, and invents an entire subplot and structure merely to tell the story in a more "dramatic" way.

Thus, we have *Twin Peaks*' Kyle MacLachlan not only portraying Jesse Marcel — the Army officer who initially examined the wreckage and verified its extraterrestrial origins — in 1947, but portraying him 30 years later, as well, when he turns detective to uncover the true story behind his quickly quashed discovery. Conversations are condensed or fabricated.

Mr. Marcel, according to the authors of the book, is a man used as a pawn by higher-ups who set him up for ridicule by having his UFO discovery dismissed as a foil-covered weather balloon. In essence, the newly created element of Arthur Kopit's teleplay not only hands Mr. Marcel the mystery but asks him to solve it — making him his own one-man *Kolchak: The Night Stalker*.

None of this was necessary, though, because the story is challenging enough on its own merits. Producer-director Jeremy Kagan and his special-effects crew may fall down when it comes to a convincing re-creation of the materials and their mysterious properties, but the alien beings visible in *Roswell* are, so to speak, worlds beyond the usual extraterrestrials presented in other movies of this genre.

Mr. MacLachlan's performance, as both the past and present Mr. Marcel, is quite good, and Peter MacNicol, Martin Sheen, Charles Martin Smith and Dwight Yoakam add nice touches to the mix. *Roswell* is a good TV movie, and a good story — so good it should have been tampered with a little less.

Alvin man sees unearthly lights in night sky over Dickinson

By CHRIS WILLIAMS
The Daily News

DICKINSON — An Alvin man said he saw two lights flash across the night sky near FM 646 and State Highway 3 before they shot up into the stars. The man would not call the lights UFOs, but said, "I know there is nothing on this Earth that moves like that."

DICKINSON

He said the lights changed colors from white to blue, orange and purple as they moved away at 11 p.m. Friday. The man asked not to be identified. No other witnesses could be found Monday. The display lasted 20 minutes, he said.

The lights started about 100 yards from the ground and then began to climb. He said the lights were not reflected search lights or helicopters. Fifty or 60 people stood outside their cars along the road watching the lights, he said. One couple said "Are you seeing this too?" Apparently none called police in Dick-

inson or League City or the Galveston County Sheriff's Department. Those agencies had no reports of unusual lights in the sky Friday night. The National Weather Service, which operates a huge weather radar about a mile from the sightings, reported nothing unusual. Ben Thomason, operations officer at

the Coast Guard Air Station at Ellington Field in Houston, said the lights could not have been Coast Guard helicopters. Asked if Coast Guard personnel saw anything matching the Alvin man's description, Thomason said, "This is the first time in 22 years that anyone has given me a UFO story."

Local Man Believes in UFOs, Alien Visitors

By GEOFF MALEMAN
Staff Writer

CULVER CITY — Michael Riley says unidentified flying objects are only unidentified because the government refuses to reveal what it knows about visitors from other planets.

The 52-year-old Culver City resident is an organizer for Operation Right to Know, a 200-member national group trying to convince the government to make public its involvement with UFOs.

"The evidence of some degree of contact with UFOs is profound," he said. "But it is easy for the media to deal with this with the disdain encouraged by the federal government.... This is the greatest mystery of the 20th Century and the government is treating it as though it is an urban myth."

Riley said millions of sightings of inexplicable flying objects compounded with the government secrecy surrounding the alleged crash of a UFO near Roswell, N.M. in 1947 lends credence to the fact

that UFOs do exist and the government is involved in covering up its knowledge of life on other planets.

Earlier this year, Riley led a march on Sen. Barbara Boxer's office to convince her to support a government probe into the Roswell incident led by U.S. Rep. Steven Schiff of New Mexico.

That investigation, Riley said, has been blocked by Pentagon officials and he believes the government could be covering up a new energy source that would bankrupt oil companies and bring down the economy.

Energy system

"There could be some type of technology transfer going on," he said. "If [aliens] have found a way to travel at 1,800 miles per hour without making a sonic boom or leaving a vapor trail, they must be using a very, very advanced energy system."

He said such political heavyweights as George Bush and Lloyd Bentsen, who have made their fortunes by investing in oil, have led the coverup.

"They might have some vested interest in keeping that secret," he said.

Riley admitted that his views and those of Operation Right to Know are often ignored by the public, the media and the government as so much nonsense, but he said he continues to believe in UFOs.

"It's a bit like faith in God," he said. "You have to experience the phenomenon yourself or talk to someone who has. Anyone who is skeptical should challenge their skepticism with an open mind and talk to people who have had these experiences."

Riley said his only experience with UFOs was at the age of 13 when he saw three teardrop-shaped discs flying in the sky about a half mile away.

Flying objects

"They did a barrel roll, changed direction and flew away," he said. "This was the middle of the day. They weren't meteors. They weren't reflections. They were total-

ly inexplicable flying objects."

Movies and television shows have made UFOs fantasy, Riley said, adding that UFOs "have been something reputable journalists won't approach or research."

"But millions of people have seen these crafts or whatever they are," said Riley, stressing that UFO believers are not the oddballs the media has made them out to be. "These are quite sane, solid citizens who have seen something quite inexplicable."

Uninterested in those who do not believe his story, Riley said Operation Right to Know's chief purpose is to organize those who do believe.

"I'm not concerned about nonbelievers as much as the believers who don't do anything," he said. "They are allowing the situation to perpetuate itself. If information that belongs to the public is allowed to be held within some core group within the government, it keeps all of us from progressing on a broad scale."

UFO conference attracts believers, skeptics

■ Meeting updates participants on extraterrestrial research

By Rebecca Thatcher
American-Statesman Staff

Karla Turner has felt alone and frightened many times since 1988, when she says she first realized that her family was being persecuted by extraterrestrial creatures.

In her 1992 book, *Into the Fringe*, Turner described a nightmarish series of encounters, body markings and bizarre dreams that eventually forced her to leave her home in Denton and move to rural Arkansas. Turner, who has a doctorate in English, gave up teaching and began spending all her time researching encounters between humans and suspected aliens.

"I was more and more getting into it, and it got to the point where I had to make a choice, and there was no choice," she said.

Turner was among hundreds of kindred spirits at a conference Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Austin. About 600 people attended the annual meeting of the Mutual UFO Network to hear Turner and 13 other

speakers discuss research on topics ranging from unidentified flying objects in the former Soviet Union to UFOs and religion.

The conference, which continues today, drew dozens of vendors who were selling books, videotapes and space alien "memorabilia." Each participant received a souvenir slide of a spaceship to wear with an identification badge.

"We have some people who are absolute believers, and we have some people who are objective, skeptical scientists," said conference spokesman Joe Juliano of Smithville. "We have some people who have seen the Ishtar craft."

(continued on page 9)



Staff photo by Ralph Barrera

Karla Turner, who says experiences with strange creatures forced her to move, was among speakers Saturday at the Mutual UFO Network conference in Austin.

and for them it's beyond a shadow of a doubt."

The key conflict among conference-goers is whether extraterrestrial beings intend to help or harm humans. Turner is so suspicious of the alleged aliens' intentions that she was a little concerned that her speech, in which she sharply questioned the theory that aliens want to help humans, may have offended what she called the "space brother" faction.

"There are horrible divisive scenarios. It's like holy war sometimes," Turner said, as she signed copies of *Into the Fringe* and her new book, *Taken: Inside the Alien-Human Abduction Agenda*. "I figured after they heard me, I won't be invited back."

But the debate over space aliens' possible intentions did not completely overshadow the debate about whether aliens even exist. That question led to an altercation after Friday afternoon's pre-conference press briefing.

Robert Dean, a retired U.S. Army command sergeant major, spoke about a highly classified report on UFOs he had seen while working at North Atlantic Treaty Organization offices in Europe in the early 1960s.

Philip Klass, a UFO debunker who lives in Washington, D.C., and writes for aviation magazines, questioned Dean's story, and the exchange quickly became hostile.

When a reporter asked Klass about the exchange, Klass called Dean "a liar and a con man." Dean's wife, Cecilia Dean, heard the comment and became upset. "He can say he doesn't believe him. He can't call him a liar," she said.

Klass and Cecilia Dean began arguing about Robert Dean's comments, and Klass hit her on the nose with his pen. Klass quickly apologized, but the men agreed they had a longstanding conflict.

"This subject generates this kind of emotion," said Robert Dean, 65, of Tucson, Ariz.

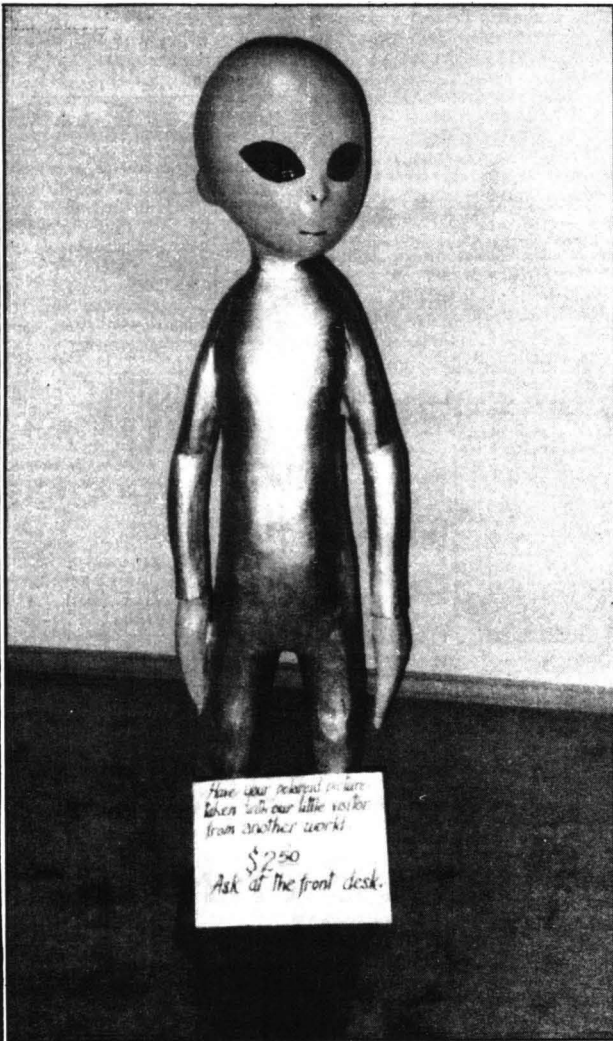
Klass said he would love to write a story about a real alien spaceship, but "in 28 years I have never found a case that I cannot (explain) in prosaic and earthly terms."

Dean said NATO officials wrote an in-depth report about space-ships because mysterious, high-flying metallic objects almost provoked a confrontation between NATO and the Soviet Union in the early 1960s.

Only 15 copies of the report were printed, but Dean — who at the time did not believe in UFOs — managed to read it. "It changed my life," he said. "It convinced me not only that it (the UFO phenomenon) is real but also that the implications are much greater than we realize."

Dean acknowledged violating an oath he took not to divulge military secrets but said that he only does it on the UFO issue and that he felt compelled to speak out.

"This is too important," he said. "The American people have a right to know."



At the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell, N.M., visitors have their photo taken with an amiable alien.

City visited by odd craft home to UFO museum

By LAURA BERGHEIM of King Features

Driving into Roswell, N.M., you half expect to find E.T. eateries, alien appliance stores and UFO used car lots.

After all, this was home to a legendary UFO event — the "Roswell Incident" — in early July 1947. Yet the quiet town is oddly devoid of such extraterrestrial trappings.

If you drive up Main Street, you'll discover the International UFO Museum and Research Center, a mecca for aficionados of alien lore in search of the truth, or at least some good souvenirs.

Not many folks are left in Roswell who were there at the time of the incident, but two men who played key roles — Walter Haut, then a public information officer with a nearby Army base, and Glenn Dennis, who worked in a mortuary — are still around. In 1992, they opened the museum.

So, what's in a UFO museum? Not actual unidentified flying objects, of course (at least, not yet). Instead, the collection consists of photographs, accounts, studies and news stories, all neatly arranged on exhibition stands. Videotapes, books and other reference materials can be used in study rooms. The only extraterrestrial is a little silver mannequin with which visitors can pose for photographs.

Haut, the museum's president, says UFO hunters come looking for the story behind the mystery. He gladly retells it.

Something bright fell out of the sky one summer night in 1947 and landed in the desert, where a rancher spotted it and called the authorities. After the Army recovered the



INTERNATIONAL UFO MUSEUM AND RESEARCH CENTER

■ ADDRESS: 400 N. Main St., Roswell, N.M. 88202; (505) 625-9495

■ HOURS: 1 to 5 p.m. daily

■ ADMISSION: free, but donations are accepted

debris, Haut says, he was told to prepare a news release stating that a flying saucer had been found.

As the story began to leak out, it was rumored that dead aliens were found inside the craft — and, according to Dennis, the Army asked the mortuary where he worked for advice on embalming bodies that had been in the desert. The Army also procured several child-size caskets from the funeral home.

Before Haut's report was released, however, higher-ups flew in to declare that the craft was merely a high-altitude weather balloon. The story soon faded from the front pages. Yet some witnesses, despite vows of secrecy, privately insisted that the desert debris looked nothing like the tattered balloon shown to reporters.

Because the Army's records of the incident remain classified, no evidence exists to prove or disprove the legend. For now, the museum offers the only public glimpse into one of the mysteries of this century.

UFO sighting reported

Women sometimes have a hard time believing the stories their boyfriends tell.

Consider, for example, Jenny Polk of Inverness, whose boyfriend Brian called her last Thursday night to say he saw strange, huge red lights in the sky over Dundee Road. She badgered and berated him about it for a couple of minutes, but then took his word for it, walked over to the window and looked out.

And then she saw it: huge red lights, hovering in place under the tree line, and making noise.

The lights dimmed slightly, and then sped off. The mysterious lights re-

appeared around midnight, when Jenny's mother was also a witness.

It was reported to the Barrington police last Thursday that these strange lights had been sighted in the skies over Barrington around midnight, at Dundee Road between Ela and Barrington Roads.

Three huge, bright red lights that moved vertically and very quickly. They disappeared and reappeared around midnight, according to the report.

"It was just very strange," said Polk. "We didn't say, oh, this is a UFO. It could have been anything. But it wasn't an everyday occurrence."

Since the Polks live in an O'Hare flight path, they are familiar with the airplane lights, and they are certain that's not what they saw.

Jenny stressed that the family does not believe in flying saucers, but what they saw was definitely alien, so to speak.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - July 20, 1994 UFO Researcher Steps Down From UFO Investigation Team

Bob Oeschler, well known researcher in UFO circles, announced his intention to retire from investigation work, at the monthly meeting of Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Sunday afternoon. He will retire September 1.

Oeschler of Edgewater, MD has visited Gulf Breeze 15 times and has had 24 sightings of unusual objects during those visits. He was a part of the team of investigators who came to Gulf Breeze when the Ed Walters story was revealed. Bob, a former mission specialist with NASA, said he had decided to devote more time to his family, and his latest research on the "Guardian Case in Canada," will be turned over to a private re-

search institute where his research will continue.

More than 200 individuals attended the Sunday meeting to hear Bob's review of his involvement in UFO issues for a number of years. The next MUFON meeting will be Sunday, August 14, at 2:30 p.m. at the South Santa Rosa Recreation Center on Shoreline Drive. The speaker will be Linda Cortile, who was abducted from her 12th story apartment in New York City.

MUFON meetings are open to the public. The admission charge for non-members is \$7.00 and for members is \$5.00. If you have information on a sighting, call 438-3261.

Midway becoming known for UFOs

Sylvie D. Nelson
Record Staff Writer

MIDWAY — Roswell has been known since 1947 for a purported alien spaceship crash, but the community of Midway now ranks number one in the world for UFO encounters, resident Jose Escamilla says.

The Escamilla family's video camera has been rolling between eight and 16 hours a day, recording as many Unidentified Flying Objects as possible, since

March 5. That's when they saw the first of dozens of UFOs.

"Five UFOs came out in broad daylight," said Jose's sister Becky.

Jose managed to tape the flying shapes for 16 minutes. "I knew exactly what I was seeing," he said.

The slow motion mode of the video camera helped find the UFOs, most of which were flying too fast for the human eye to see.

"We captured over 100 UFOs," said Becky. "Some

action gets picked up by the camera but not by the naked eye."

UFO researchers have estimated the speed of some of the flying objects at 2,000 miles per hour, she added. "There is no explanation as to why we don't hear them or how they can survive the G-force."

Already the sightings have attracted national attention. They were featured on the television program "Hard Copy" on May 6.

At 7 p.m. today, the Fox network will premiere a

new show titled "Encounters," dedicated solely to UFO encounters.

A 12-minute segment on UFO activity in Midway will feature footage recorded by the Escamillas.

To put public doubts at rest, they have sent some of their footage to UFO and video experts for analysis and authentication, some of whom have stated it's among the best UFO footage they've seen, said Becky.

Researchers are also expected to spend time in the area starting next week. Becky said they will pay the Escamillas a fee of \$1,500 a

day, including insurance, security and catering, to conduct studies at the site.

People who hope to witness a UFO over Midway can purchase tickets at the UFO Enigma Museum on South Main Street. The cost is \$4.50 for adults. Children under age 12 get in free.

"We encourage people to bring lawn chairs and binoculars," said Becky.

Still and video cameras are not allowed on the premises, unless a licensing fee has been paid. Pictures and postcards are available both at the museum and the Midway site.



Bo Poertner

ACROSS VOLUSIA

UFO hunter hasn't caught one yet

Everything you ever wanted to know about UFOs — except proof that they exist — is right at Don Pricer's fingertips.

A ufologist for more than three decades, Pricer, 47, of DeLand, has built a library of about 600 UFO books — all categorized and logged into his computer.

He taps a few keys and a summary of the 1947 case of private pilot Kenneth Arnold appears on the computer screen.

While on a search mission in his light airplane near Chehalis, Wash., Arnold saw nine shining objects in the distance flash across the sky in echelon formation. By timing the objects as they whisked between two mountain peaks, he calculated their speed at more than 1,600 miles per hour.

The case is considered the beginning of the "modern era" of UFO lore. A reporter on the case coined the phrase "flying saucers."

Pricer, an engineering draftsman with a fine arts degree, calls himself a "hunter-gatherer" of UFO information.

"Mainly, I'm just educating myself, but if other people want to participate and partake, that's fine," he said. "I'm happy to let people peruse the stacks."

He is a student, Pricer says, not a believer, even though in 1972 he sighted a UFO "like a ball of white light" tracking an airplane near a Washington, D.C., airport.

"Belief is right next door to faith. I stay away from belief," he says, cautioning against reaching conclusions without sufficient scientific evidence. "After all these years, I still haven't come to any hard, fast conclusions."

But he does have opinions about UFOs and extraterrestrials.

"The probability is very high that there are intelligent life forms on other planets," he says. "To assume that we're the only ones would be pretty arrogant and pretty stupid."

Although hard scientific evidence is limited, he says, convincing patterns appear in the anecdotal literature.

"This stuff is so strange that you begin to question your own world view," he says. "Do you really have a grasp on reality, or have you been wearing blinders all these years?"

"Something is happening. The closest I can come is the Tulpoid theory."

Pricer's Tulpoid theory is a mixture of Swiss psychologist Carl Jung's theory of a universal memory, called "collective unconscious," and a century of UFO sightings and alien abductions.

Tulpoid is taken from the Tibetan word "tulpa," he explained. "Tulpa to a Tibetan Buddhist monk is a materialized thought form. With enough concentration and training, you can create a tulpa, a temporary materialization of your thought."

"I'm thinking why not UFOs, the little gray guys that come and abduct you in the night?" he says. "If Jung is right about [collective unconscious], why wouldn't it be possible to create tulpas on a planetary scale?"

"It's a real convenient theory. It's a mystical kind of thing. You can stretch it to cover all the bumps and warts," he says. "It's no more outrageous than some of the other theories I've heard."

UFO literature has become so outrageous, Pricer says, that the



Argus photo by Chester Epperson Jr.

The mysterious circles found in a field near 185th Avenue and Highway 26 drew the curious during the weekend.

'Crop circle' formation draws hundreds to site

You've seen them in Omni magazine and on World News Tonight.

Now you can see them in the Tanasbourne area of Hillsboro.

A "crop circle" formation appeared in a wheat field just south of the Sunset Highway and west of 185th Avenue sometime last week.

By the weekend, it had attracted hundreds of local visitors and some from far away, including the national coordinator for The Center for CropCircle Studies. The Port Angeles, Wash., woman treated gawkers with spiritual reasons for the appearance of the geometrical mashings of the grain stalks, but she did not respond to a telephone message left for her.

Others have simpler explanations.

Lt. Jeff Boutwell of the Hillsboro Police Department didn't know who created the formation but guessed it was a more down-to-earth gag carried out after a recent television show about crop circles.

The curious parked their cars by the dozens along Sunset Highway and Evergreen Parkway, creating a traffic hazard, and then trampled the wheat to get to Washington County's newest tourist attraction—and the only one likely to become loaves of bread.

Boutwell said his department has dispatched reserve officers and Explorer Scouts to the scene to warn visitors that the formation is on private property. While they've escorted a number of people away, Boutwell did not know of any tickets written by Monday morning.

trend makes him suspicious.

"First we saw them in the sky, then they started landing," he said. Abductions followed and the stories keep getting weirder, even by the standards of ufologists.

UFOs now are mixed with New Age spirituality, says Pricer, who calls some of the new stuff "pure foo-foo."

While the growing outrageousness makes the scientist in Pricer suspicious, the student in him still tracks the patterns.

"If you keep an open mind over the years, it does start to fall in place."

TRIBUNE, Chicago, IL - July 29, 1994 CR: R. Boomer



Michael Hirsley
Religion writer

'UFO Cult' makes another landing

One night this week, 40 inquiring souls entered a University of Illinois at Chicago classroom; a flier outside the room billed the lecture-discussion as "UFOs, Space Aliens and Their Final Fight for Earth's Spoils."

Curiosity brought that audience face-to-face with the remnants of a nomadic community that aroused the media and law enforcement in the 1970s: Dubbed the "UFO Cult," the group blended spacecraft and spirituality under the offbeat charismatic leadership of a man and woman known variously as "The Two" and "Bo and Peep."

They said their souls were from a level above human, a kingdom higher than Earth. They said the "Kingdom of God" was a real place in the universe whose inhabitants have traveled by spacecraft as far back as 2,000 years ago, when one of them came to Earth as Jesus.

And they said there would soon be more spacecraft arriving to take deserving souls to that higher level. The story made it to the lips of TV's then-top journalist, Walter Cronkite, and thus to the ears and eyes of millions.

A flurry of harsh publicity followed—questioning the claims and cultlike regimen of the group and recounting how dozens of spouses or children had forsaken families, jobs and possessions to be-

come sheep of Bo and Peep. The two were identified as former Houston residents Marshall Herff Applewhite, a divorced college music professor, and Bonnie Lu Nettles, a nurse and married mother of four. They had cut all ties to those past lives.

As the media glare intensified, the group went underground. But 18 years later, as members appeared at three Chicago-area locations this week, one of their fliers declared: "We're Back."

In the college classroom, Evan, June, Matt, Oliver and Sawyer spent more than two hours explaining themselves. They said their male and female bodies are merely "vessels" infused with souls from the level above human.

In the classroom's motley mix of attire from suits and dresses to grunge and punk, the speakers and their aides had a distinctive look: Men and women alike wore slacks, and shirts buttoned tightly at the neck but not tucked in at the waist.

They said they've abandoned their old names, their families, their possessions and all forms of sexuality, relationships and addictions that had been part of their "human-mammalian" personal lives.

Amid lengthy rhetoric on everything from the Earth being a "hothouse garden" experiment created by the Kingdom of God to "Luciferians" who have dropped out of the kingdom but also use spacecraft in an ongoing campaign to tempt and confuse humans about good and evil, June uttered arguably the understatement of the session.

Leaving behind all earthly pleasures to follow them "is one of the hardest things you'll ever have to do," she said.

But she and the others said it must be done to prepare for a second chance to ascend into the Kingdom of God.

While they credit Jesus with affording humans their first such opportunity, their visions of Judgment Day, afterlife and the "Second Coming" bear scant further resemblance to religious teachings.

They believe those who are ready for the Kingdom of God will not die, but will be transported there by some form of

spacecraft. The rest of the garden of mankind will be plowed under, perhaps to start a new cycle.

And they believe that although the "vessel called Peep" has died, her partner, now in his 60s and called "Do," as in the musical tone, is keeping a low profile while gathering souls for the spacecraft.

The classroom audience remained silent throughout the five members' lengthy presentations. It was only after they popped in a videotape of "Do," who now looks a little and sounds a lot like TV's Mr. Rogers, that people began leaving.

Then, when questions were accepted from the audience, skepticism surfaced.

"Why is this all so vague?" one man asked. "I have no better idea of who you are than when I came in."

He asked whether the spacecraft to the higher level is a physical craft. The response—"Yes, but maybe we won't recognize it as such"—perpetuated the vagueness.

Another person asked what was "the next step" for anyone who decided to leave everything behind to follow this group. The response was that destinations differ for different people, so "we can't tell you exactly."

Rob Balch, a University of Montana sociologist, infiltrated the group for two months in 1975 and has continued his research by interviewing former members. He said he and a partner worked odd jobs and begged for money to keep traveling with the group among different camps. However, he said, the group's regimen has become much tighter, including a ritual in which members at camps are supposed to report to supervisors every 12 minutes.

"I don't think this is a dangerous cult. It is not in the mold of the Charles Manson family, Jim Jones' People's Temple or David Koresh's Branch Davidians," Balch said. "It does not have a violent history."

"But it can be dangerous from parents' perspective. Anybody who joins this group is going to drop out of sight."



On the horizon

By Jerry R. McCormack
Editor

They opened the doors, and they came ... to the screening of "Roswell," the new Showtime movie of the reported Friday, July 4, 1947, UFO crash near Roswell.

About 150 people — believers, skeptics and some who are just interested in Roswell and UFOs — attended the local screening last week of the movie in Mabee Lecture Hall in the Toles Learning Center at New Mexico Military Institute.

The screening was co-hosted by **Dennis Edwards** and Post-Newsweek Cable of Roswell and Showtime Networks Inc. of Los Angeles.

The movie, which stars **Kyle MacLachlan**, **Martin Sheen**, **Dwight Yoakam** and **Kim Greist**, is about the reported '47 UFO crash about 35 miles northwest of Roswell that the U.S. military acknowledged on July 8, denied on July 9 and sealed with a cloak of secrecy that's lasted 47 years.

The crash debris site reportedly is located about 65 northwest of Roswell (near Corona) and the crash impact site is located about 35 northwest of Roswell.

MacLachlan plays the role of Maj. **Jesse Marcel**, the military intelligence officer at Walker Army Air Field (later Walker Air Force Base), who identifies the wreckage as an alien spacecraft only to have his superiors deny it and thus becomes the scapegoat for the military "goof."

The dramatic story is told in flashbacks through the eyes of Marcel whose longtime quest is to learn the truth about the crash and to clear his name.

Sheen plays the role of **Townsend**, who offers new information to Marcel that possibly what happened at Roswell may have been only the beginning of something much deeper; Yoakam plays rancher **Mac Brazel**, who discovered the crash; and Greist plays Marcel's wife, **Vy**.

The reported crash is considered the most controversial of all the thousands of UFO reports in the past half century because it's the most witnessed (more than 350) and most documented.

The movie is scheduled to air at 9 p.m. today on Showtime and at four other times next month, also on Showtime: at 10:30 p.m. on Aug. 4; at 9 p.m. on Aug. 9; at 1:30 a.m. on Aug. 23; and at 2:45 a.m. on Aug. 28.

Among the out-of-town guests at the screening were **Paul Davids** of Los Angeles, executive producer of the movie and president of Pictorial Legends; **Paul Broucher** of Dallas, in sales and promotions with Showtime Networks Inc.; **Harvey Boyd** of Phoenix, Ariz., vice president of Post Newsweek Cable; **Ray Davenport** of Albuquerque, executive director of the N.M. Cable Television Association; and **Kevin Randle** and **Don Schmitt**, authors of the book titled, "The UFO Crash at Roswell," on which the movie is based, and a second book that's just come out and is titled, "The Truth About the UFO Crash at Roswell."

Among the local guests were Mayor **Tom Jennings**; state Sen. **Emmit Jennings**, R-Roswell; state Rep. **Barbara Casey**, D-Roswell;

Walter Haut and **Max Littell**, president and secretary-treasurer (respectively) of the board of directors of the International UFO Museum and Research Center at 400 N. Main St.; **Jud Roberts**, local radio station manager at the time and now retired;

John Price (executive director/curator), **Sharon Price** (secretary/treasurer) and **Clifford Stone** (director of research) of the Outa Limits UFO Enigma Museum at 6108 S. Main St.; and **Ralph Heick**, historian for the Roswell Army Air Field-Walker Air Force Base Association.

"I thought it was really exciting," Barbara said after the screening. "It's great for Roswell and for New Mexico. It really makes people think. It also raises a lot of questions and that's good too. I have a problem with the government hiding things from people, I believe everything should be open."

Walter and Jud are the only two people involved in the real-life scenario that unfolded in early July 1947 here who attended the screening. Their roles are played by actors **Matt Landers** and **David Selburg** (respectively).

Walter, now 72, was the Air Force first lieutenant who delivered the original press release to the local media announcing the Air Force's "capture" of a flying saucer.

Jud, now 83, was the station manager at KGFL Radio and, along with announcer **Frank Joyce**, now of Albuquerque, was responsible for breaking the story on the crash. Frank's role is played by **Bob Gunton**.

"I think the audience was awed by what they were seeing," Walter said about the movie. "They were entranced by it. "And, it's (publicity in general about the crash) great for business."

That's true. More than 31,400 people have visited the museum/center since it opened 21 months ago on Oct. 24, 1992. Some 80-100 people visit the facility daily and 85 percent of them are from out of town. The museum/center, which has free admission, is supported by membership fees and private donations.

"I was impressed with it," Jud said. "It was awfully interesting."

"It was very good," John said. "The only way they could have improved on it was if they had filmed it here instead of in Arizona and California. They stayed close to the story and the facts and left it open for a good sequel."

"I thought it was very good," **Shirley Barker**, a local retiree, said, "and to condense all that happened into a 1½-hour long movie, well, I was very surprised."

The quotes of the evening, however, were turned in by Yoakam, country and western singing star turned actor, in the movie itself.

The quotes came while military intelligence officers were interrogating Brazel under bright lights, screaming at him face to face and insisting that the debris that he had found was a

Fayetteville Group Studies UFOs, Unexplained Events

Rebecca Tucker
News UA Bureau

Belief in unidentified flying objects and contact with other forms of life is more prevalent than most people think, said Shirley Ricardi, director of a UFO research group based in Fayetteville.

The Society for Human and Aerial Phenomena was established in 1993. It now has about 75 members who believe they have seen UFOs, have had unexplained experiences or believe they may have been abducted.

The group investigates reported sightings and provides a support group for those who have experienced something they feel is not normal on Earth.

"We only deal with the concrete," Ricardi said.

Ricardi helped start the group after finding no others in the local area. After contacting "dozens" of local residents who supported the idea, the group was formed.

"The experiences I heard were staggering," Ricardi said.

Included in some of those reports are numerous abductions, unexplained happenings and dreams.

But the more visual reports being investigated by the group include cattle mutilations and disk imprints or rings in the area around Pea Ridge.

In August 1993, 13 of the rings appeared throughout the country. One occurred in Pea Ridge. The rings are possibly one of the better known

UFO phenomena that has been reported throughout the world. The group investigates such occurrences by taking samples of the soil or blades of grass. The blade's waxy coating is said to change within a part of a second because of extreme heat; but the blade does not die, explained Ricardi.

One of the most recent reports involves an incident near the Strickler community in which a hairy man-like creature was seen in February. The report, according to Ricardi, involved a man stabbing the creature, which in turn grabbed the man, apparently to keep from being stabbed. When two friends of the man appeared, the 9-foot-tall creature threw the man and ran off. It made no vocal sound and had a horrible odor. Both a hair sample and a blood sample of the creature are being analyzed.

These reports are not well known because people are cautious or even afraid to talk about what they see or experience for fear of not being taken seriously, Ricardi said.

Samples are analyzed by local people with scientific backgrounds or sent away to researchers who specialize in such research. Ricardi said she does not pretend to have the expertise to analyze samples, but handles reports and group business.

"We treat everybody with respect, and we do not laugh at anyone," Ricardi said. People who think they have been abducted are often very embarrassed. "They think they're crazy."

"I've had people call me who have had strange, strange experiences that cannot be explained," she said.

Of the 75 people on the group's mailing list, 48 percent report having had some type of experience.

"The real strange thing about these people is that 75 percent of this group feels they have been directed to come to Northwest Arkansas," Ricardi said. She believes she came here because of a vision in a dream she had.

Another similarity among members of such groups throughout the country is the belief that the beings commonly described as having large heads and black oval-shaped eyes are not aliens.

"We have a number of people who think the little dudes are guardian angels," she said.

"It's not really like counseling, but it is like a friend," Ricardi said of the group's support aspect. When someone contacts her, Ricardi said, she often just listens; and, through a series of questionnaires that were designed by psychiatrists, the experiences can often be revealed to the person. Ricardi added that the questions do not lead people but simply help open their minds to recall the experience and the series of events that it involved.

For more about the group, call 751-4287.

weather balloon and not a flying saucer.

Brazel, frazzled because of three days of isolation and intense bombardment of questions, shot back a couple of classic one-liners just moments apart, "... well how in the hell does a weather balloon affect our national security, huh?" and "... I don't get this, unless you all are expecting some sort of a surprise balloon attack?"

Each response drew laughter.

Hats off this week to Mayor Jennings for proclaiming July "UFO Awareness Month" in Roswell. It's been great.

So what's next?

Maybe, Walter and his brigade of volunteers at the museum/center will buy a bus (or get it donated) from Transportation Manufacturing Corp., set up its own "Moonbeam Trails" transit system for weekly tours out to the UFO crash site.

Maybe, Mayor Jennings will appoint a blue-ribbon committee of local residents to plan an extended celebration for the 50th anniversary of the crash in 1997.

Half of America may descend on Roswell on July 4, 1997, (which is on Friday) and ... the other half may be waiting to get in.

Many local folks believe they're coming, whether or not the museum/center has bus tours or whether or not the city has a celebration.

Maybe, Roswell should be ready.

UFO data compiled on CD-ROM disk

Teleport USA of Los Angeles and Japan are working in conjunction on a CD-ROM disk with information on Unidentified Flying Objects, said Clifford Stone, director of research at the Outa Limits UFO Enigma Museum in Roswell.

The CD-ROM disk, titled, "UFOs are Real," will contain the report the museum presented to Congress called, "Operation Blue Fly Research Project," along with other gathered material on UFOs, Stone said.

Stone said the report contained information that accused the intelligence community of lying to Congress. The report, presented to Congress November 19, 1993, did not try to convince Congress of the existence of UFO's, Stone said, but it did suggest that Congress hold hearings to find out if and why they were being cut out of the intelligence loop.

The CD-ROM will be produced on a trial basis (2,000-3,000) and is expected for release in Japan as early as September of 1994, said Trudy Nodohara, the associate producer at Teleport USA. Release in the United States is still pending.

Stone also said the Japanese government is providing funding to set up a space in the Outa Limits UFO Enigma Museum.

On Monday or Tuesday, Stone said, the British Broadcasting Company will be coming to Roswell to do an interview with Stone at his home.

Stone said the BBC will primarily be asking about Operation Blue Fly and "Project Moon Dust."



FOCUS

AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT ISSUES

By Tom Zytaruk
Staff Reporter



VISITORS FROM ABOVE

Surrey may well be the UFO-sighting capital of Canada. Reporter Tom Zytaruk talks to people who monitor UFOs and people who say they've come in contact with aliens.

Rosa and John Waidner were driving to a bingo game when they saw something that would rouse their imaginations and rock their lives.

Traveling north on King George Highway, near Bear Creek Park, the couple saw a sparkling blue light to the west. It was shortly after suppertime Oct. 31, 1974.

Rosa, now in her 70s, swears it was a UFO.

She remembers John slowing their station wagon to 25 mph while she struggled for a better look. Zigzagging, sometimes at 90-degrees, the 30-foot-long object followed the Waidners for a mile, dipping below the treeline. At one point it hung motionless about 200 feet from the ground.

Though it was Halloween night, Rosa is certain what she saw was not fireworks.

"You could not mistake it for anything else," she insists. "They flew very low, flew between the trees. I saw window frames. I would swear to it in court.

"It knocks you down and out," she said of her experience. "I couldn't think of anything else for weeks."

The Waidners' sighting came 14 days after David Knutson photographed a strange object in the sky above his Whalley home.

Knutson and the Waidners are not alone. Last year B.C. logged 51 per cent of all Canadian UFO sightings. And if Harrison is the Bigfoot capital of the world, Surrey may well be the UFO-sighting capital of Canada.

North Delta resident Graham Conway, 66, a student of "UFology" for 47 years, has carefully charted what he calls the "Surrey-Delta Corridor." Bounded roughly by Scott Road to the west, King George Highway to the east, Mud Bay to the south and the Fraser River to the north, this corridor appears to be a favored route for UFO travelers.

In the past two decades, about 30 sightings have been reported within that area, says Conway, a former police officer and retired high school teacher.

"The reports we keep getting in are all alongside, over or near the powerlines (there are a number of powerlines and hydro substations within the corridor)."

In 1992 a young woman claimed to have been abducted by "greys," or unknown beings, near the powerlines at Surrey Memorial Hospital. For some strange reason Jewish and Native Indian people seem to be the favored targets of alien abductors, says Conway.

Surrey and North Delta lie in Vancouver Airport's flight path, but Conway doesn't believe the UFO sightings are connected:



Graham Conway



CLOSE ENCOUNTER...Rosa Waidner holds photos that match her description of a UFO she saw flying over Surrey in 1974. It was one of more than 30 sightings reported in the Surrey-Delta corridor in the past two decades. LEAH S. BRIGGS/NOW

"These things aren't doing the sort of things airplanes do," he argues.

Last Sept. 10, several Newton residents reportedly saw a large disc-shaped craft with red strobe lights, hovering about 75 to 100 feet above a townhouse complex.

"I was awestruck," said Alison Watts. "I didn't know what to feel. It was unreal."

This month there have been two reported sightings of strange lights and triangular shaped objects over Newton and North Delta, said Steve Bucek, hotline coordinator for the Mutual UFO Network.

Shortly after 10 p.m. Friday, June 10, five young men were driving through Sunshine Hills in North Delta when the three in the back seat reportedly saw a triangular shaped object in the sky and noticed police cars patrolling the area. The Delta Police has no record of patrol cars being anywhere near there, said Cpl. Monte Macri.

Then at about 2:30 a.m. Monday, June 13, a couple living near 130th Street and 72nd Avenue were awakened by their baby crying. Looking up through a skylight in one of the rooms, they saw a collection of lights forming a circle in the sky. The wife

reportedly saw a triangular object.

"She was hysterical on the phone," Surrey RCMP Const. Mark Hepburn told a reporter. Her husband had videotaped the objects, said Hepburn, but when he played it for police "there was nothing there."

Still, the RCMP keeps all UFO reports on file. "You just never know," said Hepburn...

"I WAS ABDUCTED"

A North Delta woman, for fear of ridicule, agreed only to tell her bizarre story under condition of anonymity. Bonnie — not her real name — is a 44-year-old tilefitter who claims to have been abducted by grey beings when she lived close to powerlines, near Nordel Way.

In May 1990 'Bonnie', her daughter and her daughter's friend spent several nights watching a meteor shower. On the third night, Bonnie says they saw three large boomerang-shaped objects in the sky.

After that, says Bonnie, "We'd all gone into separate rooms to draw what we'd seen, to see if it was real."

The next day, Bonnie became "magnet-

ic," and could not touch a computer, television or radio without it failing. "I couldn't touch anything electrical," she said.

Often in the evenings, says Bonnie, her husband and his cousin would watch television, and it was the cousin's custom to leave at around 11 p.m. One day, within a week of seeing the boomerang objects, Bonnie spent the better part of the day gardening and then went to sleep without taking a shower, her feet still black with soil.

"I was laying there and all of a sudden I could see these little 'greys' coming into the room," she said. "All of a sudden I couldn't see. They put me to sleep, or whatever you want to call it, okay? Then I woke up at 1 a.m. and thought I'd had a weird dream that I walked up the wall. My daughter had also woke up, and she had dreamt she had spiders all over her.

"I was also in severe pain. Excruciating pain, as if I had been raped. It hurt so bad inside I was doubled over and crying.

When I went to the front room, my husband and his cousin were still sitting there and I said 'What are you doing here still?' They said, 'What time is it? It's not 11 p.m. yet, and I said 'It's 1 a.m. in the morning.' They had not even known."

Thinking she'd had a nightmare, she had a cigarette and coffee to calm down. Later, when she looked, she saw her bare footprint tracks, impossibly, on the wall.

She claims to have had other strange experiences.

"I'm not a UFO person. I didn't believe in UFOs coming down and abducting people, not a chance. I really stared at these suckers before I believed what I saw."

Bonnie says she does not take drugs, is only a social drinker and even went to a psychiatrist to get herself checked out. The psychiatrist found her to be normal, says Bonnie, "as a matter of fact, damn boring."

Bonnie claims to have been transported to some kind of craft and placed in a round, seamless and pearl-grey room, where an equally terrified man was also waiting.

She describes the beings who abducted her as very short with monkey-type eyes and big, deep black pupils. Their skin is a translucent pearly grey, she says.

"I was absolutely terrified," she recalls. "I don't like them at all. You're treated like a lab animal. And they do hurt you."

"It changes everything about your life," she says. "This has shattered my reality of what I think of God now. It shattered a lot of my beliefs. It shattered my belief in how safe we are, as a world. I no longer believe in the government. I don't trust them at all."



Bonnie

YORKSHIRE GAZETTE,
York, England - April
21, 1994 CR: T. Good

Drawing attention to UFO sightings

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

John Holman, of Ripon, will present evidence on UFO sightings, including some around Malton and Scarborough, to MPs at the same time as activists in the United States speak to officials at the Pentagon. He is trying to publicise the growing

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

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

His evidence includes more than 3,500 sightings of inexplicable objects in the sky

by pilots, as well as many more by people on the ground.

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

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

FALKIRK HERALD, Stirling, Scotland

Feb. 3, 1994 CR: T. Good

BBC in UFO probe

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

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

The businessman has now turned the video tape over to film experts at the BBC in Glasgow.

There have been several reports of UFOs in the Bonnybridge area. A Japanese film crew visited the town more than a year ago to interview dozens of people who claimed to have seen strange lights and aircraft.

FOCUS

Are there X-files?

Does the Canadian government have a special UFO squad? *The Now's* investigation started with the B.C. branch of CSIS (Canadian Security Intelligence Service), where an official told a reporter, "It's really not in the area of the types of things we deal with."

But just in case, we were directed to headquarters in Ottawa, where official Jorgen Kruger concurred CSIS isn't in the UFO business: "It's nowhere near our mandate," he said, "unless, of course, they land and become terrorists."

The National Archives cannot release files on UFOs without permission of the government department that filed them. The trick is to find that department. We tried the special investigation section for National Defence, and Transport Canada, with no luck.

We also tried the RCMP headquarters in Ottawa, but they didn't return our calls, and we hit a dead-end with the department of Industry, Science and Technology Canada. There was a glimmer of hope when Brian Goodyer, communications director for IST, put us on to Lynn Blenkhorn at the Canadian Space Agency in Montreal. But again, a dead end.

"No UFOs," Blenkhorn told *The Now*. "That's not our mandate — we're more technology oriented."

And then we hit pay dirt: The National Research Council in Ottawa, which brought us back to the National Archives. The NRC, it appears, is the end of the line for UFO reports collected by the RCMP and other departments. There have been about 4,000 reports filed since the early 1950s, said archivist Brien Brothman. Access information officer Lorraine Collette told us that for \$5 she could send us a package of all reports filed since January (Last year's are already ensconced between dusty shelves at the National Archives).

"We only collect them for a year," said Collette. "To send all the reports filed would be too laborious a task."

Why does the National Research Council collect reports of UFO sightings? "We investigate meteorite sightings," said Collette. Asked if the government investigates UFO sightings, she replied, "I don't know."

Asked if there are any restricted government documents on UFOs, she said, "Absolutely not."

THE LAST WORD: THE MEDIA

Is the media doing a good job covering UFO sightings?

No, says Michael Strainic, national director of the 500-member Mutual UFO Network.

"The media has been absolutely pathetic," he says, "going for cheap laughs."

Strainic is somewhat perturbed 60 Minutes has never done a UFO story. But in recent issues OMNI, a well-respected science magazine, has undertaken a close study of UFO phenomena.

As for the local media, editorial perspective ranges from slight interest to near indifference.

"We probably are a little more receptive (than in years past)," says Neil Graham, managing editor of the Vancouver Province newspaper. "Maybe a tiny bit. But there are so many sightings."

Susan Anthony, news assignment editor for CBC television, does not recall running a UFO story since she's been at the desk.

Scott Honeyman, managing editor of the Vancouver Sun newspaper, says the degree of seriousness applied to a report would correspond with the credibility of the Sun's sources.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER...

North Delta Ufologist Graham Conway holds up a portrait of a "grey" (or in this case, a "green") painted by a woman who claims to have been abducted by alien beings. Conway, 66, has been charting for 20 years what's known as the "Surrey-Delta corridor," — an area of concentrated UFO sightings. If Harrison is the world capital of Bigfoot sightings, Surrey and North Delta may well be the UFO-sighting capital of Canada.



CITIZEN, Prince George, B.C., Canada - July 13, 1994 CR: G. Conway

DID IT COME FROM OUTER SPACE?

by RUTH DUNLEY

LONDON, Ont. (CP) — It's not always a dark and stormy night. In fact, quite often it's on a day just like any other that people report seeing unidentified flying objects or extraterrestrials.

Hundreds of North Americans believe they have seen alien spacecraft or encountered beings from another planet. Many even claim they were abducted by space aliens, providing more grist for the supermarket tabloids.

It's a phenomenon that has split scientists and the public into two camps — believers and disbelievers.

Tom Theofanous documents dozens of UFO reports across Ontario every year as assistant director of the Mutual UFO Network in Toronto. The organiza-

tion has offices around the world and works with more than 1,000 consultants in researching mysterious sightings.

The subject is "starting to become treated as real science, a scientific enigma," he says, "which it always should have been."

Theofanous, who has never claimed to have seen a flying saucer or encountered aliens, says his office receives about 200 calls a year.

Of those reported sightings, 85 to 90 per cent can be explained by natural phenomena such as stars, planets and meteor showers. The rest have not been explained.

Forty per cent of the unexplained sightings, he says, are reports from people claiming to have met or been abducted by aliens.

"We know something is occurring to these people, but we don't know what," Theofanous says.

One of the most frustrating things for people who think they've seen alien spacecraft or been abducted is the disbelief they encounter from friends, family, the news media and the public.

Despite people's reluctance to step forward with UFO stories, a 1993 study by Nicholas Spanos, a late Carleton University professor, suggested that those who believe they have had a close encounter with aliens are just as intelligent and psychologically healthy as others.

Some, like musician Richard Cote of London, who claims he saw a spacecraft and may have been abducted in 1993, turn to the television show *Unsolved Mysteries* for help.

the mystery object hovered above her house.

"There were bright, white lights in the shape of an arrow-head. The lights kept dimming and returning to full strength.

Rational

"I rushed indoors to switch all the house lights off so that I could see this thing more clearly.

"The object was very high up, certainly well above passing jets which travel at about 30,000 feet. It appeared to be massive in size and was no way either an aircraft or a star formation.

"For the time I watched this thing, the lights flashed on and off intermittently. The lights shone incredibly brightly.

"The experience left me feeling unnerved. Goodness knows what it was. I'm not a crackpot and I always think there's a rational explanation for everything."

Mrs Martin, who claimed the strange shape was nowhere to be seen the following night, added: "It's the first time I've seen anything strange in the sky and I'd like someone with experience of these things to explain to me what I saw."

ADSCENE, Canterbury, Kent, England - Jan. 14, 1994 CR: T. Good

WHAT WAS THAT UFO?

by Matthew Presland

A UFO sighting has left a Whitstable woman baffled.

Stargazer Beryl Martin (right) could hardly believe her eyes when she peered into the night sky recently.

"I always spend a long time studying the stars at night," said Mrs Martin, of Clover Rise, Chestfield.

"What I saw one night last week amazed me - I'd like someone to explain exactly what it was."

Mrs Martin watched for more than 15 minutes as



Stargazer Beryl Martin asks: "What was it?"

NOW, Surrey, B.C.,

Canada - June 29, 1994 CR: G. Conway

TELEVISION Fox network drops in for UFO story

The Surrey-Delta UFO corridor has drawn international interest.

Last weekend a Fox Network film crew from Los Angeles interviewed Surrey UFO sighters for an episode of *Encounters*, a primetime television program investigating the paranormal. Producer Ruth Raffidi said the show will air sometime in July or August.

Just three days earlier *the Now* ran a special report on UFO sightings here over the past two decades, examining a rash of sightings near local powerlines and featuring an interview with a North Delta woman who claimed to have

been abducted by "greys," or aliens, near Nordel Way.

Bonnie — not her real name — said she has had several unexplainable nocturnal experiences with the greys.

Her bizarre story and others generated interest among *Now* readers.

North Delta Ufologist Graham Conway, who has studied the Surrey-Delta corridor for 20 years, notes most of the 30-odd sightings reported occurred near powerlines in an area bounded by Scott Road to the west, King George Highway to the east, Mud Bay to the south and the Fraser River to the north.

SCIENCE

Close encounters: Some stories from Ontario

by Canadian Press

LONDON, Ont. — Hundreds of North Americans believe they've seen alien spacecraft or encountered extraterrestrials. Here are stories of people who say they have had such close encounters:

■ There was nothing unusual about the weather on Oct. 18, 1993, when a London couple spotted what they believe was an extraterrestrial craft moving slowly over the city.

Richard Cote, 33, and Diane Cryer, 29, had just returned to their home a few blocks from downtown London about 8 p.m. when they saw a boomerang-shaped object moving across the sky.

Cote, a musician and model rocketry enthusiast, says the craft, with 12 orange lights at its base — searched the sky with a beam of white light from a height of 250 to 300 metres.

After Cote and Cryer lost sight of the object, he reported the sighting to London airport and Norad — the Canada-U.S. radar system that monitors all air traffic over the continent. But neither could tell him what he had seen.

Cote went to bed that night and did not awake until two days later — time enough, he says, to have been abducted by the crew of the strange craft.

When he awoke, he discovered two puncture marks on his arm and began to experience ringing in his ears, severe headaches and an intolerance of high-frequency sounds.

"My God, I'm not making this up," he insists. "When I look up at the stars, I'm scared."

■ A 43-year-old Sarnia, Ont., woman who says her son encountered aliens two years ago isn't scared of the sky.

She does, however, fear public reaction to the story. She asked that she not be identified.

Her son, she says, was abducted from his bed and returned with strange scratch marks that resembled cuts made by a knife.

"All I really remember is another light shining in my eyes and I saw a shadowy figure," said the 14-year-old boy.

The woman says his claims were never taken seriously by authorities.

"We all believe in God," says the woman, "but we definitely believe there is something else out there. Someone else."

Sightings near London, Ontario:

1954 — Two women reported separate sightings of "flying saucers" during the same week in November. One woman was hanging out her washing when she saw three objects "far bigger than a full moon" in the sky. The other said she saw "a silver bowl, upside-down, heading south."

1955 — An 18-year-old high school student said he and a group of others saw a "dark spinning object travelling west at a terrific rate of speed."

1966 — Six people reported seeing flying saucers in the sky on April 12.

1967 — On Oct. 12, two women and their children claimed to have

CR: G. Conway

been chased in their car by a UFO.

1975 — In March, a real estate agent in nearby Woodstock reported red and white lights in the sky and an oblong object that remained in sight for 10 minutes.

1977 — Seventy-six people in London phoned police to report 10 UFOs in the sky one night in April. It was later discovered that the objects, highway flares attached to weather balloons, were created by university students as a hoax.

1993 — Richard Cote and Diane Cryer claimed to have seen an alien spacecraft in the night sky.

TIMES, Derbyshire, England - Feb. 10, 1994 CR: T. Good

Couple highlights UFO riddle

Sightings of strange lights over Hardwick Wood have triggered off another north Derbyshire UFO mystery.

Jonathan and Charlotte Brown, of Meadowcroft, North Wingfield, are wondering if objects they have noticed for several months in the sky over the wood have also been spotted by other people.

Mr Brown said this week that he and his wife had seen the objects at various times after they had visited his parents' home in the wood.

He said the objects usually appeared on their own — appearing like little dots flashing red, blue and white, standing still and then darting about before disappearing.

But a few days ago they saw a strip of lights which were red and white and "like a pulsating beam."

"It was certainly very strange and pretty spooky. Whatever it was, we haven't got a clue, honestly," said Mr Brown, who added the objects were not aeroplanes.

FIELD OF SPECULATION



NICK BRANCACCIO/Windsor Star

BY DESIGN?: puzzling figures carved into a wheat field near Windsor, Ont., were first seen Tuesday

Strange patterns in a wheat field: alien design or sowing wild oats?

BLAIR CRAWFORD
Windsor Star

WINDSOR, Ont. — RANKSTERS or aliens? You be the judge. A bizarre pattern appeared in a 20-hectare wheat field farmed by the brothers Darwin and Gerry Wismer some time in the past week and was noticed by neighbor Jon Parks as he passed by Tuesday.

"I could see the wheat was down so I stopped to take a look. That's when I saw it was pushed down cleanly," Parks said.

Parks drove on and later called *The Windsor Star* to report the phenomenon. By Thursday afternoon a crowd had gathered at the site south of Highway 18 near here.

Parks and the Wismers surveyed the site that afternoon.

"I've never seen anything like it," said Parks, who has farmed in Malden Township since 1974. "If someone did this they went to an awful lot of trouble."

When local businessman Barry Purdie arrived with his 30-metre boom truck for an aerial view.

Things really got interesting. From the air the symmetry of the figure became apparent.

There's an awful lot of kids around with nothing to do.

BOB WOLLISON

"It's hard to believe that this was done by people," said Matt Parlette, who took a Polaroid camera aloft for a bird's eye view.

The Wismers toured the site briefly, shrugged, and declined to comment. Then they set off to get their combine. This was one crop circle that would have a short life span.

"Looks like we've lost a few bushels of wheat," said one.

The symbol was granted a reprieve a short time later when a moisture test showed the wheat was still too wet to harvest.

From the ground it is difficult to tell how the wheat was flattened. There was no evidence of a trail leading to the scene from a nearby concession road, no evidence of any vehicle or mechanical device, and no obvious footprints in the

dry, hard soil. (The trails visible in the accompanying aerial photograph were made by onlookers on Thursday afternoon.)

The figure is based on a central corridor, 2.5 metres wide and about 50 metres long. At each end are concentric circles, the largest about 15 metres in diameter. Several T-shaped figures are attached to the main figure and several more circular marks about two metres in diameter have been formed alongside.

When Acting Sgt. Bob Wollison of the Malden OPP arrived, his first concern was for the wheat trampled by onlookers visiting the site.

"Farmers don't like people knocking down their crops," he said.

After inspecting the site Wollison said he leans towards the mischievous teenagers theory.

"Now that Boblo Island (amusement park) is closed there's an awful lot of kids around with nothing to do," he said.

In the past 15 years similar crop circles have been found in more than 20 countries, including Canada. The most famous crop circles were found in England.

SouthernStar Network

EXAMINER, Huddersfield, England - Jan. 24, 1994 CR: T. Good

High-flying plan to study UFOs grounded

A HIGH-FLYING scheme to build a multi-million-pound centre for the study of Unidentified Flying Objects has been grounded.

West Yorkshire Euro-MP Dr Barry Seal joined a Socialist lobby group to get the proposal thrown out of the European parliament.

And the issue was removed from the parliament's meeting at the 11th hour.

"The scheme may have been of scientific interest but it would have also been an outrageous waste of millions of pounds," said Dr Seal.

The proposed centre would have been run by experts from the 12 member states.

"Such vast amounts of money should be ploughed into creating jobs for the unemployed rather than expecting them to look to the heavens for help."

"If the proposal had been accepted it would have made a laughing stock of the European parliament," added Dr Seal.

SHETLAND TIMES, Lerwick, England - April 8, 1994 CR: T. Good

Mysterious lights in the sky

Speculation has abounded since the numerous sightings of mysterious lights in the sky above the village of Hessdalen, north of Roros, during the early 1980s. Now scientists from nine countries have landed on this little mountain settlement to settle once and for all the mystery of the hitherto unexplained aerial illuminations. The investigations began with an event claimed to be the

first of its kind in the world — a UFO seminar held in Hessdalen's village hall. Delegates assumed that there was a natural explanation for the lights in the sky, and the central question was what was the source of energy behind the phenomenon? At the same time civil engineer Erling Strand of the Østfold Engineering College admitted they could not dismiss what he described as the most fantastic stories regarding the lights.

At least 200 sightings of the lights and cigar shaped objects were made mainly between 1981 and 1984, with some observations

since this time. On 27th January this year a father and son captured the phenomenon on videofilm. Scientific research confirms that the puzzling lights are concentrated on this village. While offering no definite answer to the riddle scientists appear to believe the secret lies in magnetism. Mr Strand is to lead the work in setting up an automatic observatory in Hessdalen, crammed with £200,000 worth of equipment.

The observatory will not be ready until next year but scientists hope it will, in time, solve the mystery of the lights. One of the

aims in gathering so many professionals together in the little village was to arrive at specifications as to the observatory's equipment. "The more fantastic the observations the more documentation is needed," explained Mr Strand, who said the frequency of the remarkable phenomena had made Hessdalen unique in the world. The Hessdaleks, of course, would agree.

Canadian UFO sightings show dramatic increase

Doctors reported radiation-like burns on one shocked witness

By DAVID BIRKAN

Those charmed by the possibility that other life forms in the cosmos are cruising planet earth got a boost recently.

Chris Rutkowski, an astronomer of the University of Manitoba, told an OISE audience that this country is not paying enough attention to the 500 UFO sightings reported in 1993 — twice as many as the year before.

"We have everything in sightings that the U.S. has, but we're more low key about it," says the stargazer, who says he devotes as much

SCIENCE

time to following up UFO reports in the Prairies and the U.S. Midwest as he does to astronomy.

According to his 1993 UFO survey, based on data submitted by 28 researchers across the country, truly unexplained sightings number 10.2 per cent of the total amount of sightings. The rest turn out to be stars, airplanes and planets.

The number of UFO reports in Canada has been increasing since 1981, he says, possibly in part because of increased public awareness of where to report UFOs.

More UFOs are reported in western Canada than in the east and the UFOs are generally white in colour, he says. Most are seen around 10 pm, reported in fall and winter, and have more than one witness.

Teen interest

He admits his colleagues think he's "nuts."

"But I don't claim to be doing anything special or eccentric. There's something going on out there. Whether it's physical or not, it's certainly an important psychological and sociological phenomenon that needs a lot more professional attention."

Rutkowski says he became interested in UFOs as a teenager in the mid-1970s, when mysterious red lights danced over Winnipeg almost every night for two summers in a row.

"People would line the road every



Those who track the mysteries of UFOs say Torontonians report most of 150 yearly sightings in Ontario.

evening waiting for the lights to come out — and they did, right on schedule."

Seen by thousands, those lights were never explained.

"The best-documented UFO encounter in North America is probably still the Steve Michalak case of 1967," says Rutkowski.

That happened near Falcon Lake, about 120 kilometres (75 miles) east of Winnipeg. Industrial worker Michalak was prospecting in the woods when what he described as a flying saucer landed in a clearing nearby. Michalak said it was approximately 11 metres (35 feet) in diameter and 3.5 metres (12 feet) high.

The steel-like shell of the hull melted his glove when he touched it, he recounted. The thing rotated so that what appeared to be a grid of exhaust ports turned to face his

chest and abdomen. A blast of hot air bowled him over and set his clothes on fire. As the thing took off, Michalak doused the flames, collected himself, and started to head back. Michalak, growing dizzy and nauseated, reported the occurrence to local RCMP.

Burned shirt

Corroborating his story were his burned shirt, melted glove, and the grid-like burn pattern on his abdomen. A round of doctors failed to diagnose the cause of his burns and persistent nausea. One physician speculated that Michalak had received a near-lethal dose of radiation.

Field investigators found a cleared circular area at the alleged landing sight and, says Rutkowski, some traces of radioactive silver. "But who even among the most ar-

dent UFO buffs, has ever read or heard of the Michalak case?"

In Canada, "we just don't care too much," said Rutkowski. No big bucks or glamour for UFO researchers here.

No government harassment either, he says. Friendly authorities nod as they take reports, which are ultimately filed and, as far as is publicly known, forgotten, in the National Research Council archives in Ottawa.

"We don't have the same paranoia about government as the Americans do," says Toronto's Tom Theofanous, assistant Ontario director of the nonprofit Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) and organizer of the lecture series at which Rutkowski spoke.

The burly man with a cherubic face spends evenings, nights and weekends compiling UFO reports

— interviewing witnesses, consulting police and airport authorities and referring self-proclaimed abductees for appropriate counselling.

Theofanous receives about 150 calls from Ontario per year, most of them local. Almost all of them turn out to be IFOs — identified flying objects like airplanes, helicopters, advertising balloons and planets.

"About a dozen sightings are really strange," he says. "They're unexplainable."

These fall into two types — lights projected onto the ground from who knows where, accompanied by ping, whooshing or air-brake sounds, or basketball-sized objects

shaped like bells, balls, triangles, circles or boomerangs, manoeuvring low to the ground in plain sight of witnesses.

The best example of unexplained lights, he says, took place in the Collins-Hillsdale area of Toronto on the night of July 20, 1991. A woman reading in bed after midnight was drawn to her window by what sounded like a tractor-trailer working its air brakes.

Instead of a big truck, she saw a circle of intense red lights shining through the tree in her yard and illuminating her front lawn. They and the peculiar noise disappeared, but not before her husband and, as a MUFON investigation later revealed, several other neighbours saw and heard the same things.

Police and Pearson airport author-

ities could provide no explanation. In October 1991, apartment residents in the Bloor-Jane area, drawn to their windows by a strange hissing outside, watched three glowing, basketball-sized spheres zipping and hovering between their building and Humber Park.

Balls split

"Finally, the balls split into two groups of three," says Theofanous. "Each group shot off in opposite directions." There has been no explanation to date.

Sightings are reported in just about every part of the city, he says seated in his small apartment crammed with books and videotapes on UFOs.

Part of his long hours — he works with his wife, Lise Theofanous —

are spent comforting shaken people who claim to have been abducted by UFO entities.

"Over the past five years, 60 to 70 men and women from all walks of life have reported their alleged abductions to us," he says. "For some, it happened recently, for others it was in the past. Some of them are very upset."

But a handful of cases totally baffle him — particularly those involving repeated UFO sightings, missing time, poltergeist activity and physical traces like anomalous cuts and bruises.

"We need the help of more professionals like psychiatrists, psychologists and pathologists," says Theofanous. "A rigorous scientific approach would do wonders. Who knows what new things we could learn?"

UFO video sparks new alien fears

VIDEO film evidence of a mushroom-shaped "spaceship" hovering over a town's rooftops is to be examined by UFO experts.

Night after night stunned residents have seen the silent, sparkling object spinning to and fro above their homes for up to an hour at a time. They are convinced they are being watched by aliens from outer space. And their claims are

By FIONA MAY

backed by the Earl of Kimberley, a member of the House of Lords all-party UFO study group.

The Earl's stately Hailstone House is only a short distance from Pineturst, Swindon, Wiltshire, where the sightings were recorded.

After hearing of the mystery craft he said: "There are other civilizations more advanced than ours."

Ray and Eleanor Baughn were the first to spot the flying mushroom two years ago. Since then, several neighbours have also seen it.

Disabled Ray, 49, who took the video film, is eager to hear what experts have to say after they've studied it.

He said: "When I look at it through

binoculars I can see pointed, leg-like objects jutting from both sides before it zooms off at great speed.

"I'm convinced it is from outer space. It is not a star, because it appears when there are no stars visible in the sky."

Community worker Tony Haines, 37, and his wife Tina also claim to have seen the "spaceship".

Tony said it had red, green and orange colours.

Another resident, father-of-four Cecil Vernon, said: "I have had one sighting and I feel certain there could be extra-terrestrial beings out there."

HERALD, Hinckley, England - April 7, 1994 CR: T. Good

Earl Shilton UFO

FLYING objects spotted hovering over Earl Shilton last week remain unidentified by Leicestershire UFO Study Group.

The disc-like objects, spotted on March 26, were seen by seven witnesses who said they "jerked around the sky" at fast speeds, hovering at times and producing a high-pitched noise which

changed in frequency. Witness George Hemmings said: "One object seemed to dance around the other one. I've never seen anything like this before - they definitely were not normal aircraft."

Looking up

A Mrs Heath of Hinckley also spotted the UFOs at around

4pm: "A lot of people were looking up into the sky. We were just coming back from shopping when we saw two saucer-like objects low in the sky."

"They were silver and making a high-pitched sound - we don't know quite what to make of it all," she said.

The objects finally headed towards Leicester at around

4.10pm, according to the study group who would like to hear from anyone else who can provide sighting information about the event.

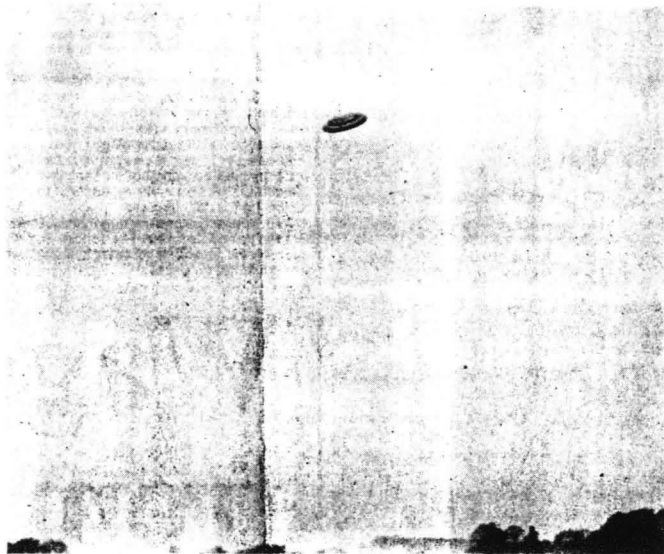
All information will be dealt with in confidence and the number to ring if you think you can help is Hinckley 614013.

Flying saucers or flights of fancy?

FEW subjects can provoke the kind of derision and ridicule that can face those who claim to have experienced a close encounter with something alien from outer space. And, let's face it, unidentified flying objects, strange lights in the sky and crop circles - the whole idea is a ridiculous one...or is it? Despite the aura of disbelief that surrounds the subject, just how confident can you be that such strange phenomena do not actually exist? Particularly when, according to expert Ron Halliday, of Scottish Earth Mysteries in Stirling, West Fife could be part of one of Britain's UFO hot-spots. "We seem to have an area which stretches from West Lothian across into the Fife area," he said. "That block, for some reason, seems to have a substantial amount of sightings." Reports of strange phenomena in Fife date back several years, with more recent cases including a 75-foot-wide crop circle at Limekilns in 1991 - one of the few to appear in Scotland and one for which no-one ever claimed responsibility. The River Forth has been a focus for sightings, with people claiming in 1989 to have seen an object flash

down from the sky and then plunge into the river. The following year a disc-shaped object with lights around it was seen hovering over the Forth Road Bridge by a person using binoculars. Other sightings across the region have included fast-moving lights, brightly-lit discs and one object shaped like a Christmas tree decoration, with reports filtering in from Kelly, Kincardine and Kinross as well as slightly further afield in Burntisland, Kinghorn and Kirkcaldy. West Fife's most recent UFO mystery came in February, when Rosyth artist Ian Macpherson saw a large frisbee-shaped object at Craigluscar Reservoir. He had gone to the reservoir to take photographs of its banks for a painting and on his way observed the object several hundred feet in the air. He was able to take a snapshot before it flew off, and Malcolm Robinson, of Strange Phenomena Investigations, said that it could prove to be one of the world's major UFO photograph cases. He has no doubt that Ian's testimony is genuine and the sighting will be dealt with extensively in a presentation he is giving at a major UFO conference in Falkirk Town Hall on 30th

■ The unidentified flying object which artist Ian Macpherson captured on camera in the skies above Craigluscar.



EXPERTS are still baffled by the sighting of a strange frisbee-shaped object high in the sky near Craigluscar Reservoir earlier this year by Rosyth man Ian Macpherson. But his close encounter is only one of the mysterious cases from Dunfermline District which remain unexplained.

June. However, the identity of the object has stumped experts. Mr Macpherson's pictures are being sent to Ground Saucer Watch in Phoenix, Arizona, so they can be examined in detail. The RAF also has a copy of the photographs, although it may be some time before a definitive result is received from their tests. Spokesman Nick Pope said they did not know what the object was and were keeping an open mind. Kenny Higgins, of the Scottish Research into UFOs Group, has not yet seen the photographs, but does have one testimony which ties in with the incident. Two days before, a car travelling near the area experienced a complete power failure for 10 minutes. There was no fault with the car and no reason for it to happen. Mr Higgins has not received

many other reports from West Fife, but said this did not necessarily mean that incidents were not taking place. "People maybe see things in the sky and say, 'What was that?' but never think to do anything about it," he said. "I suspect Fife is an area like that." People were reluctant to come forward if they felt they would be ridiculed by friends and relatives afterwards: "It takes a brave person to come forward and go public and say, 'I don't care what you think - I know what I saw'." Mr Robinson said that most UFO reports could be attributed to natural causes, but there was a small residue of five per cent which could not be accounted for and which demanded the utmost attention: "Clearly there is something very strange going on in

and being studied in the skies of Scotland and other countries." Whether this was extra-terrestrial, new military technology, or a new natural atmospheric phenomena was still open to question. Reports of alien abductions were particularly puzzling. There were three different types of UFO entities which had been sighted. Those who claim to have received extra-terrestrial visitations have described small grey beings, up to four feet tall, with a pear-shaped head, no lips and inky, almond-shaped eyes; reptilian-like creatures covered with scales; or tall, Scandinavian-like people. "It is a fascinating subject when you go into it and we are always keen to hear from people who can provide any information on their own particular sightings," he said. "We would like to hear from anyone in the Dunfermline area." Mr Higgins said that in America it was almost accepted that UFOs were real and there was overwhelming evidence of extra-terrestrial life. American research was way ahead in the understanding of what UFOs were.

One current theory in scientific circles is that the flying saucers were something from a future earth, reappearing through a window into the past. However, all this is dismissed by Edinburgh scientific writer Stuart Campbell, who claims to have found a universal theory which explains all UFO sightings. He believes that they can be attributed to the little-studied phenomena of atmospheric mirages, a theory he explains in his new book, "The UFO Mystery Solved." Although most reports themselves were genuine, people had actually seen these mirages rather than spacecraft. "I do not believe there is a case that cannot be explained," he said. Unsurprisingly, this all-encompassing theory has not found favour with UFOlogists, particularly his use of it to explain Scotland's most famous sighting, which occurred in Livingston in 1979. ■ If you have seen a UFO or other strange phenomenon, you can contact Malcolm Robinson at 41 The Vrae, Tullibody, Alloa, or Ron Halliday on (0786) 832480, in the strictest confidence.

WESTERN DAILY PRESS, Bristol, England - April 18, 1994 CR: T. Good

My UFO picture is the genuine article

A BLURRED photograph of a flying saucer was again at the centre of an international controversy last night, almost 30 years after it was first published. A fierce debate is raging on opposite sides of the world over whether the picture of the so-called Warminster Thing is genuine. Last week retired printer Roger Hooton confessed it was an elaborate hoax concocted with his friend Gordon Faulkner in a pub. The flying saucer, which became the focus of worldwide attention in 1965, was nothing more than a milk bottle top, cotton reel and button, he said.



But yesterday the Western Daily Press tracked down Mr Faulkner, who took the picture and he insisted it was genuine. "I am mystified because I have never known anyone called Hooton," said Mr Faulkner, who runs a microfilm centre in Staffordshire. "Although he may be coming clean about some picture of his own I maintain the photograph which I took was completely genuine. "It has always been regarded as one of the most amazing phenomena photographs ever taken." The photograph shot the west Wiltshire garrison town to fame after it was published in the weekly Wiltshire Journal in 1965. Thousands of UFO spotters descended on Cley Hill and Cradle Hill overlooking the town in the hopes of getting a glimpse at the paranormal.



But the Thing was unmasked on Saturday when Mr Hooton, aged 51, who now lives in Adelaide, Australia, admitted it was "a huge hoax which got out of hand." He says he dropped the hastily-made contraption in a field near the town and Mr Faulkner photographed it as it fell. But Mr Faulkner, aged 52, said: "I was living in Pound Street in Warminster and was in the back garden when I saw this object. "I grabbed my camera and took the photograph which later became known as the Warminster Thing. "It's bizarre for anyone to suggest that the photograph I took was in any way a hoax."

EVENING SENTINEL, Stoke-on-Trent, England - Feb. 5, 1994 CR: T. Good

Motorist spots UFO hovering over M6

AN Unidentified Flying Object was reported hovering over the M6 last night. A passing motorist noticed a brightly-lit object hovering in the sky between junctions 13 and 14 as he drove home to Alsager at around 9.15pm. Today a police spokesman said: "He telephoned us to report a UFO over the motorway. He said it was brightly-lit with red and blue lights underneath. "We do not believe it could have been a plane or our police helicopter so at this stage we are unable to account for it." Officers who investigated the sighting did not see anything out of the ordinary. The spokesman added: "We have not had any other sightings at this stage but we would be interested to hear from anybody who saw anything unusual."

YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS, York, England May 24, 1994 CR: T. Good

I spotted the UFO in York

YORK pensioner Nora Breeze claims to have seen the UFO which is reported to have flown across the city. Mrs Breeze, of Ambrose Street, was bringing in her washing at about 8pm last Wednesday when she saw the "pale yellow onion-shaped" object in the sky. "I thought it was a bit strange. It looked like a balloon but it had no basket or markings. It was stationary when I saw it." "I saw the article in the Evening Press at the weekend and thought I'd get in touch." Postman John Hunt, of Skeldergate, saw a mystery object fly over his houseboat around 8.40pm last Wednesday.

EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England - Feb. 5, 1994 CR: T. Good

Puzzled by UFO

Police in Stafford were left baffled after receiving a report of a UFO. A motorist reported seeing a flying object with red and blue bright lights near the M6 last night. The driver, from Alsager, Cheshire, said he did not think it was a plane. A police spokesman said: "We are not discounting the report but we have had no other reports of flying objects in this area. "We have done all of the usual checks and contacted local airfields, military establishments and checked our own helicopter was not up."

NORTH DEVON JOURNAL, Barnstaple, England - April 7, 1994

UFO probe after 'object' seen in sky

BRITISH UFO Research are investigating a strange sighting reported by a young Welcombe man in the early hours of the morning.

It was between 1am and 1.30am on Wednesday when the man, who does not wish to be named, driving home, saw a large round object "traversing the countryside."

He kept the object in view for about six to seven seconds and thought it might have been a helicopter, until it "disappeared at a very fast rate of knots out to sea."

The man reported his sighting to the police who passed the information to Honiton-based Douglas Cooper, who co-ordinates reports of such sightings on behalf of the national organisation.

"He estimated it to be about 60 feet above the road as it was hovering before it sped off," said Mr Cooper.

"We are particularly interested to know if anyone else saw the light, because there has been quite a lot of activity in the the North Devon area of late."

"It was 12 months to the day since an extensive sighting which, however, was completely different to this one."

Anyone with information can contact Mr Cooper on 0404-44863.

MAIL, Oxford, England March 11, 1994 CR: T. Good

Couple spark UFO riddle

A COUPLE have sparked a UFO hunt after spotting an 80ft-long mystery object in the sky near their Thame home.

Geoff Cunningham and his wife Jenny, of Hampden Avenue, claim they saw it near the Oxfordshire Golf Club at Moreton on the edge of the town.

Geoff said: "It was between 60ft and 80ft long, 25-30 ft high, with lights all round the middle and an orange glow coming from the middle."

"It moved off towards Beckley and eventually went down near Kidlington airfield."

No-one at the Oxfordshire Golf Club or Kidlington airfield had any knowledge of the object and no other sightings were reported to Thames Valley Police.

CR: T. Good

Friends tell of nightmare brush with UFO on Ilkley Moor

A TERRIFYING encounter with an unidentified flying object (UFO) on Ilkley Moor has reinforced its reputation as a place of mystery.

And an expert says the incident may herald attempts by aliens to abduct people in the Ilkley area.

It occurred last Thursday night at about 10.30pm when two young women, who wish to remain nameless for fear of ridicule, parked in a lay-by off Keighley Road for a chat.

One of them, a 19-year-old secretary,

saw two oblong white lights to the left of a bank of trees behind the site which overlooks Westwood Drive.

She pointed them out to her companion, an 18-year-old schoolfriend who is now a student.

Both thought they may have belonged to an aircraft. "It was in no rush to go anywhere. It was just hovering," said the secretary.

Green lights then appeared and the teenagers opened a window to see if they could hear anything.

But the phenomenon was silent and

then moved behind the trees and disappeared.

The friends continued talking for about 25 minutes. Suddenly a much larger formation of green and red lights appeared in the sky much closer to the car.

It was absolutely silent and seemed to have materialised from nowhere.

"It was big - there must have been about 15 to 20 green lights. It looked between a circle and diamond shape in a three-dimensional image the size of three or four cars," said the secretary.

By this time both teenagers were

petrified. "We were convinced they were after us," said the student.

Her friend added: "I was saying 'We're getting out of here, we're getting out of here!' It was like someone was telling me to say it."

But as they sped down Keighley Road an envelope of light suddenly engulfed the car. This lasted a couple of seconds and was then repeated.

"It was just my car, not the ground around it. For some reason I looked up and there were little lights sparkling on the inner lining of my car roof," said the

secretary. "I was shaking like a leaf and we were crying - I've never been so petrified before."

Police authorities have confirmed that no police helicopters were in the area at the time. And David Barclay, the Shipley author of UFOs: *The Final Answer?* said Ilkley Moor had a history of unexplained encounters.

He then warned that recent research by UFO experts suggested similar sightings were often followed by alien attempts to abduct humans.

ADVERTISER, Poole, England - Jan. 27, 1994 CR: T. Good

UFO man predicts aliens bombshell

FORMER UN Secretary General U Thant believed UFOs to be the biggest issue facing humanity.

Author and UFO researcher Palden Jenkins agrees with that view.

Palden (right), who will lecture on ETs and Planet Earth at the Wessex Research Group meeting tonight (Thursday), reckons the full truth of visiting aliens will hit the world like a cosmic bombshell some time during the next 10 years.

"It will cause major psychological disturbance," warns Palden, whose talk is at 7.30 pm the Friends' Meeting House in Boscombe's Wharncliffe Road - admission £2.

Palden, editor of Gateway Books of Bath which has just published his book *The Only Planet of Choice*, claims as many as 40 different alien groups - some friendly, some malevolent - are flocking to our little world.

One disturbing reason given for all this attention is that Earth was long ago chosen for an evolutionary experiment - with humans as the guinea pigs.

Palden, 43, accepts that a lot of folk will dismiss his views as pure fantasy but argues that much hard evidence about UFOs is emerging every day, especially from America.

"And just in case it's correct - forewarned is forearmed," he suggests.

A UFO sighting in Wales when he was 22 sparked his interest in the phenomena.

"I and a friend saw four craft emerge from a mother ship," said father of three Palden, who lives in Glastonbury. "We watched them for half an hour."

His new book details 18 years work of psychic Phyllis Schlemmer, who claims to channel "the Council of Nine, a circle of universal beings living outside time and space".

It was these sessions, attended by the since deceased science fiction writer Gene Roddenberry, which are said to have inspired much of his Star Trek material.

Palden's "coming out" as an ET believer has the effect, he says, of encouraging others to talk of their UFO experiences.

So if you've been buzzed, abducted or even haunted by THEM, Boscombe tonight is the place to be.



BURTON DAILY MAIL, Staffs., England
May 4, 1994 CR: T. Good

A BURTONIAN'S DIARY



For 41 years Alf Moss was on the staff of the Burton Mail and was a familiar figure in the town on his bicycle. His daily Burtonian column was essential reading. His new column goes back to discover what changes, if any, there have been in the past 25 years. It remains essential reading!

UFOs light up the evening sky

The calendar appeared to have slipped a few years 25 years ago and I had to check the date of the *Burton Mail* when I started my researches into the past for I was convinced that 1984 instead of 1969 should have marked the occasion. It all started when a few people saw some strange bright lights in the darkened evening sky, and they all jumped to the conclusion that unidentified objects had found their way to Burton.

The drama began about 9.25pm on a bright evening in early summer of 1969 when two 13-year-old schoolboys were standing outside a Hall Road house at Rolleston when one of them suddenly shouted "UFO". On looking upwards they saw a bright light in the sky and that bright light was moving rapidly in the direction of Birmingham. The light was turquoise and emanated from a ball the size of the sun and, making no sound it moved directly across the sky and was visible for some four or five seconds.

Much to their disappointment there was no fiery tail trailing behind the object so they ruled out of their minds the idea of a comet - but that left a thorny question - what had they seen? Confirmation of the sighting came from Barton-under-Needwood from where a man reported that he was looking through the windows of a house in Dunstall Road when he saw the bright object flashing across the sky. At first he thought a full moon was going mad and he too listened in vain for any noise.

The following morning reports came in from far and wide of the visitation and police at Woodville and Swadlincote reported that they had been informed of the flying objects. I thought the explanation was coming from Wales where many acres of gorse had mysteriously been set on fire the previous night, but unfortunately the fire had broken out 15 minutes before the objects were seen heading toward that part of the country.

HINCKLEY TIMES, Leics., England
April 14, 1994 CR: T. Good

UFO sighted at Burbage

A SILENT flying object, which circles and hovers above the Burbage area, is the latest sighting to come to the attention of the Leicestershire UFO Study Group.

The object was last seen over the Sketchley Hill area on Sunday between 9pm and 9.30pm.

The craft, claims a spokesman for the group, displays bright red, blue and orange static lights and an extremely bright white flashing light.

It has, says the spokesman, been

seen to circle and hover for several minutes at a time at an extremely low height but can move off at a rapid rate of speed without a sound.

All witnesses have described the same thing and, says the study group, agree that whatever the object is, it is no ordinary aircraft or helicopter.

Group co-ordinator Mr Peter Gunn says that investigations into the reports are continuing. Mr Gunn can be contacted between 6pm and 9pm on Hinckley 614013.

SOMERSET CO. GAZETTE, Taunton, England
Jan. 14, 1994 CR: T. Good

Small pig or is it an apple tree

MY wife and I were very excited by last week's UFO correspondence.

As convinced sceptics on this subject, you can imagine our astonishment when, driving home from a late-night jolly in East Devon recently, we spotted an unusual group of lights, low in the northern sky, where no lights should have been.

On stopping the car, we got a good view of them, and now our incredulity was extreme;

a group of small, bright lights, twinkling red, blue and green like low-lying stars, but in a quarter where no such stars are to be seen, and moving slowly from east to west.

Their configuration - well, I can only say that they looked to me like nothing so much as the outline of a small pig, whereas my wife was reminded of an apple-tree in fruit.

Before we could really believe our eyes, they accelerated and disappeared at tremendous speed in the direction of Burlescombe.

Now a convinced UFO-spotter, I should be fascinated to know whether any other of your readers noted this extraordinary phenomenon, or can offer any rational explanation.

PHILIP STEVENS
Wiveliscombe.

NEWS & ADVERTISER, Todmorden, England - May 20, 1994 CR: T. Good

Alan's close encounter of the fundraising kind

FORMER policeman Alan Godfrey will give a public talk in Todmorden about his UFO experience 14 years ago for the first - and possibly last - time, to raise money for charity.

The event, organised by Todmorden Lions, is on Friday, May 27, and it is the first time he has given a public talk in his home town on one of its most mysterious happenings.

It will also be the subject of two more films - a "Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World" television documentary and a Paramount Pictures film called "Sittings".

Alan, who lives in Todmorden, made national news in November 1980 when it was revealed that while in his patrol car in Burnley Road, Todmorden, had seen a UFO.

Under video-taped hypnosis, with a senior police officer present, he described being taken aboard and examined by aliens - although consciously he remembers nothing about the incident.

With police officers on duty elsewhere in the Yorkshire/Lancashire

border areas also reporting a strange sighting, the case has since become one of the most detailed and evidential on record.

Since the mid-80s Alan has appeared on many television shows, including the James Whale Show in Britain and the Jackie Gleason Show in the U.S., and a number of films and television documentary programmes have also focused on it.

"The Lions' evening will be the first time I have done a full talk about the incident in Todmorden for members of the public. I was at a Lions' bingo night and the subject came up, so I offered my services for the night," said Alan.

"In the last eight weeks I have turned down a lot of requests from chat show type programmes for a number of television stations in Britain because they don't give you the time to tackle the subject properly. I don't do those type of shows anymore," he said.

It will include several videos, including one made by American producer Michael Grais and one filmed last September in the north west of England which appears to show a UFO very clearly indeed.

Recently he was interviewed by Granite Productions, a London company who are making a new series of the famous "Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World" programme for ITV and has also been contacted by the Hollywood-based Paramount Pictures who are interested in making an hour long film called "Sittings".

The company have a hand in making the "Star Trek" series.

Additionally, Alan still keeps in touch with Hollywood producer Michael Grais, of Victor and Grais Productions, who has worked with Oscar-winning director Steven Spielberg, maker of "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "Poltergeist" before his recent award-winning success "Schindler's List" and other box office smashes such as "Jurassic Park".

Mr Grais has written a script based on Alan's experiences which he hopes to turn into a full length film one day. He has already featured the story as one part of a UFO trilogy programme.

Tickets for the Lions' event are £2.50 and can be bought from Blazer's, Halifax Road, or booked by telephone 817055. For more details ring the same number.

Experts in UFO probe

UFO EXPERTS are investigating some close encounters after a spate of sightings in the Whitby area.

Researchers with the British UFO Association are being kept busy with reports of the sightings.

The Whitby Gazette reported last week that a Sleights woman saw three lights stationary over the village before they moved off to Blue Bank.

The next morning three men in Scarborough saw three lights moving over the town.

Strange lights have also been spotted over Ryedale and other parts of the North East.

"It really is quite exciting - there has not been this much activity for some time and the latest sighting have real potential," said a spokesman.

She added that the organisation will monitor the situation.

CR: T. Good

WHITBY GAZETTE, North Yorkshire, England - Feb. 4, 1994



ADAM PIKE RIESNER, *Free Press*

State park ranger Linde stands on the shores of Button Bay in Vergennes, where he believes he saw one of the creatures known collectively as Champ. Below, Champologist Dennis Hull is interviewed by Boston TV producer Art Donoghue.

CHAMP

REARS

Another summer brings another round of sightings, and another swarm of camera crews

IT'S HEAD

AGAIN

Champ Talk: DENNIS HULL, CO-FOUNDER OF CHAMP QUEST, WILL GIVE A TALK ABOUT LAKE CHAMPLAIN'S MYTHIC SEA MONSTER AT 8 P.M. JULY 9 AT BUTTON BAY STATE PARK, UNDER THE PICNIC SHELTER. ADMISSION IS \$1.50 FOR ADULTS AND \$1 FOR CHILDREN. INFORMATION: 475-2377.

By Molly Walsh
Free Press Staff Writer

It was the wake that made Linde Emerson stop and stare out at Lake Champlain's Button Bay.

This was not the wake a boat makes. It was slower, smoother, unlike any Emerson has ever seen. The park ranger was even more astonished by what he saw next.

First one brownish bump. Then another. Then a head connected to the bumpy, undulating spine of what Emerson is convinced was Champ, Lake Champlain's mysterious water monster.

"When that sucker popped up, by God, it was amazing," said Emerson, who has worked as a park ranger for nine years, the last two at Button Bay State Park.

The creature, which he estimates was 20 to 25 feet long, revealed itself for about 30 seconds and then slipped quietly back under the waters of Button Bay, a warm, shallow basin of Lake Champlain where bass, perch and other fish feed.

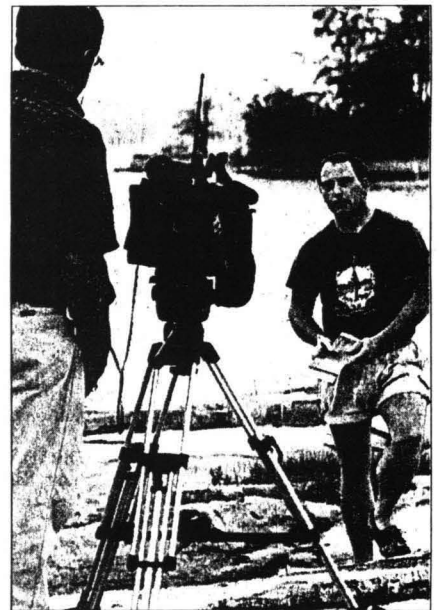
"He was just swimming," Emerson said. "The way I see it, he was going after a school of fish."

The June 15 sighting, if it was a sighting, is the latest turn in the century-old saga of Champ, Vermont's answer to the Loch Ness Monster. Monster, however, isn't a fair characterization.

Legend has it that Champ is a harmless, benevolent reptile whose ancestors have lived in Lake Champlain since a glacier carved it out 11,000 years ago.

In recent times, hundreds of people — boaters, picnickers, swimmers — claim they have seen Champ. Some took pictures of what they saw and some even wrote books.

But no one has ever caught Champ, and most scientists don't think the crea-



ture exists.

"I've never seen any credible evidence that there is a Champ creature," said George LaBar, a professor of natural resources at the University of Vermont. LaBar has studied Lake Champlain for 18 years.

Nonetheless, the myth endures.

So do the sightings of Champ, and not just at Centennial Field, where Champ cavorts as the mascot of the new Vermont Expos.

This summer five sightings of a lake creature, including whatever Emerson saw, have been reported to Dennis Hull, the Ferrisburgh carpenter who has become a sort of Champologist.

He says he has seen Champ and members of Champ's family 17 times in 20 years. The creatures are "pretty ugly," he said. "They look like a giant snapping turtle without the shell."

It was Hull's 1985 video of an alleged Champ that aired on the

Fox TV show "Sightings." And it was Hull who served as the \$100-a-day local expert for the Japanese TV crew that spent a futile week searching for Champ at Button Bay last summer.

He has since been invited to accompany the Japanese crew on

a search for monsters in Papua New Guinea (he declined) and to help out with their second hunt for Champ here later this summer (he'll do what he can.)

Hull will also play Champologist this summer for a BBC crew due at Button Bay July 14

and a crew from the Fox show "Encounters." Just this week he was filmed by Art Donoghue, a producer/photographer for WCVB-TV, the Boston ABC affiliate. The program will air on WCVB at 7:30 p.m. July 21.

Most days at dusk, you can

find the tanned, fit Hull standing on the shore of Lake Champlain at one of three sites — Button Bay, White's Bay and Kingsland Bay — where he has had the best luck seeing Champ.

He believes there could be up (continued on page 19)



ADAM PIKE RIESNER, Free Press

Button Bay has been fertile ground for Champ sightings. Dennis Hull of Ferrisburgh makes it his job to track them.

to 15 Champs, from babies to grandmothers, squirming around the lake. They are friendly — especially the females — and attracted to splashing water. "They're quite curious," he said.

After years of wondering exactly what Champ might be, Hull found his answer while thumbing through a children's book recently at Barnes and Noble. The book featured an illustration of a rep-

tile called the tanystropeus that predates dinosaurs and is thought by just about everyone except Hull to be extinct.

"From what I've seen and from witness descriptions, I had more or less figured out the habits of Champ," said Hull. "This creature fits the pattern."

Now all he wants is to catch a Champ, any Champ, and study it to confirm his theory. Then he

would release the creature unharmed, as both the New York and Vermont state legislatures have instructed. (So powerful is the myth, that just in case Champ ever gets caught, both states have resolutions protecting him.)

This spring and summer 12 people have reported a total of five sightings to Hull's non-profit organization, Champ Quest. The amazed witnesses saw one

Champ or another in Malletts Bay, Kellogg's Bay, Button Bay and just offshore from a lakeside McDonald's in Plattsburgh.

The witnesses are seeing something, but probably different things, said LaBar. It's not uncommon for lake sturgeon to grow up to six feet. Families of otter sometimes play follow the leader and from a distance might resemble the brown bumps that

are often described as Champ's spine. Muskrat, eels, logs and unusual waves might also be mistaken for Champ.

Photos don't prove the existence of Champ either, said LaBar. They can be doctored, as the Loch Ness photo hoax proved. And even if they aren't doctored, that doesn't mean they are Champ.

"What it appears to be isn't necessarily what it is," LaBar said.

Hull is not trying to convert the naysayers. "I don't blame them one bit," he said. "Until you see it you can't believe it."

In any case, there are so many Champ believers that Hull does not need to proselytize. A so-called baby champ is continually sighted at Button Bay State Park, said Laura Hollowell, park naturalist.

"People are seeing something. It's not just hysteria."

But she's not sure what they are seeing. And as Button Bay's reputation as a Champ feeding and breeding ground grows, Hollowell wishes the public would pay a little more attention to the documented wonders of the area.

Among them: button-shaped clay formations, ancient fossils and shipwrecks. "Lake Champlain is full of mysteries and intrigue," Hollowell said, "and Champ is only one of them."

INDEPENDENT, London, England - June 16, 1994 CR: T. Good

The Fortean Times, purveyor of strange phenomena, hosts a 21st birthday convention this weekend. Serena Mackesy looks forward to it

Burning issues

A crematorium burns a human body in an hour and a half. Even so, the bones don't burn, and have to be ground in order to make that sandy stuff you get in urns.

When John Heymer, Gwent CID's Scenes of Crime Officer, was called to the home of one Henry Thomas in Ebbw Vale in 1980, the following scene greeted him: "Between the armchair and the hearth lay a considerable amount of ashes. At one extreme end of ash lay a pair of human feet clothed in socks and attached to portions of lower legs." Underneath the carpet on which the remains lay, the plastic floor tiles were undamaged; once washed, they showed no signs of anything having taken place on them at all!

John Heymer is convinced, in defiance of the scientific community, that spontaneous human combustion exists. He will be expounding his theories on Saturday at the University of London Union, when one of this country's finest publications, the Fortean Times, celebrates its 21st birthday with a conference, Unconvention 94.

The Fortean Times, the Journal of Strange Phenomena, is a magazine that inspires intense joy in its readers, a sizeable proportion of whom display few other recognisable signs of derangement. If you're familiar with Private Eye's "Funny Old World" section, the front section of the publication, before the meaty articles kick in, is a bit like a 20-page version of that. Gleaning from newspaper reports worldwide, the magazine reports on anything,

essentially, that is sufficiently weird or amusing: natural phenomena, religious stigmata, unknown fauna, coincidences, showers of frogs, obsessive behaviour. And, of course, there's Strange Deaths: did you hear that the chairman of Thames Water was found floating near Westminster Bridge in May last year? Or that Gerard Hommel, who had climbed Everest six times in the course of his life, died falling off a ladder?

Bob Rickard launched the FT with Paul Sieveking, "like many fanzines" in 1973. "It was bashed out on a typewriter, photocopied and sent out to friends and just grew from that." Their inspiration was the writings of Charles Fort, a New Yorker who believed that scientists merely argue personal philosophies and discard, suppress or explain away phenomena that don't fit these. He was one of the first proponents of UFO theory, and published four books between 1919 and 1932.

Rickard and Sieveking, who temper the lunacy of what they do with a beguiling dryness, decided to continue his work and provide a forum for other people's theories and yarns, however far-fetched. These range from sightings of extinct animals to, in their classified ads section a few months back, an announcement from a man that he had "proof that David Bowie is a space alien". Now the journal has a circulation of 30,000. Two years ago they did a deal with John Brown, the publisher who took Viz to superstardom — "in a way I think he probably saw in us the

same sort of iconoclasm" — and the rest, as they say, will be history. Or at least, history as seen by those who regard time as a sequential series of events and not, for instance, a spiral or a blob or an inverted torus.

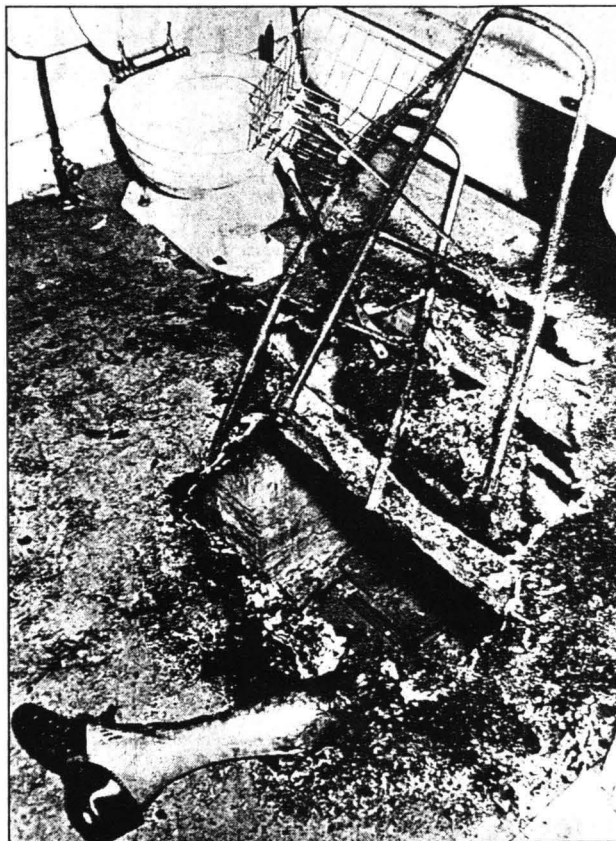
So, this weekend, roughly 1,000 people will converge on central London to hear talks and discussion on everything from shamanism to UFO abductions. It promises to be a riot.

Ralph Noyes will talk on psychic phenomena, spiritualist George Cranley will lecture on how mediums work, there will be a panel discussion on ghosts. On Sunday morning, one Doc Shiels will perform his play, Distant Humps, about the Loch Ness Monster, while on Saturday, Ian Rowland, of the Society of British sceptics, will stage a magic show.

Shoehorned into the midst of all this will be chat and updates on crop circles, urban folklore, cold fusion, cryptozoology, spinning discs, sea monsters, religious apparitions and ley lines: anything, basically, that most people don't believe in.

Sadly, however, Mary Seal, who was to give a talk on conspiracy theories, has pulled out. Maybe she thought it was a set-up.

□ Unconvention 94, 10.30am-6.30pm, 18 and 19 June, the University of London Union, Malet St, London W1, £15 day ticket, £20 weekend. Some tickets will be available on the door; call 0373 451777 to book in advance. The Fortean Times is available bi-monthly from many newsagents



All that remained of Dr John Irving Bentley Larry E Arnold / Fortean Library

NEWS, Lima, OH - July 4, 1994 CR: J. Timmerman

Search for pilot, plane goes on

DETROIT (AP) — James R. Hysong took off March 15, 1993, on a 20-minute flight to get his instructor's license. But the experienced pilot never arrived, never called for help and never used the plane's emergency devices.

And investigators have never found a trace of the 20-year-old's rented airplane or decisive evidence of the flight path Hysong took.

"We'll never stop looking for him," said his father, James W. Hysong, a vice president of Owens Illinois in Toledo, Ohio.

The younger Hysong was heading from Toledo Suburban Airport in a single-engine 1974 Piper Arrow for Jackson County's Reynolds Field.

Theories on his disappearance include a crash into Lake Michigan, nearly 100 miles west of his stated destination; suicide; and an orchestrated plan to vanish.

But Hysong's family doesn't believe any of them. His father keeps hoping his blue-eyed, black-haired son will walk through the door one day. And he fears that the plane crashed into an

area not yet searched.

Tom Trumbull, owner of Suburban Aviation, which rented the plane to Hysong, said it would be "ludicrous" to think Hysong intended to disappear.

A Federal Aviation Administration review of radar tapes covering all of southern Michigan led investigators to construct a flight path for Hysong that veered north and west of Jackson to Lake Michigan.

They could not positively identify the blips as Hysong's craft but believe he flew over Lake Michigan just south of Grand Haven. The blips then hooked back toward shore, still well above the water, and disappeared.

LRAFB's ghostly C-130 flies off

'Spooky' startled airmen with some bewitching quirks

BY SANDY DAVIS
Democrat-Gazette/Jacksonville Bureau

Officially, the C-130 Hercules aircraft is known by its tail number — LR-7771.

To the airmen at Little Rock Air Force Base, she's "Spooky, the Haunted Herky."

"There is definitely something going on with her," Master Sgt. Daniel Wassom of the 53rd Airlift Squadron said Friday.

Wassom, Staff Sgt. Leland Price and Tech. Sgt. Brian Dennis, all of the 53rd, which per-

forms maintenance on the C-130s, have had close encounters of the strange kind with Spooky.

They tell of chains rattling, doors opening and closing, lights coming on when there was no power, and even of apparitions.

They are convinced the plane is haunted. At the very least, the 34-year-old Spooky has personality.

"She is very picky about who works on her, who flies her and where she is at," Dennis says.

"She definitely prefers real world missions to being at her home station."

Spooky even demands that she be treated with good manners, the airmen say. "If you cuss her out, she won't fly for two or three days," Dennis says. "You can't get her in the air. You have to talk nice to her."

After 25 years of calling a parking spot at the Little Rock Air Force Base home, Spooky left July 1 to become part of a search-and-rescue squadron at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.

Spooky didn't take kindly to leaving Little Rock.

"She was mission-capable until they got here to pick her up," Dennis says. "But once they got here, Spooky started leaking; electrical parts started going out. It took them a few days to leave with her."

Naturally, Little Rock airmen told the Patrick Air Force Base crews about Spooky's colorful past.

"They said they didn't believe in ghosts," Dennis says.

"That's all right. They will, soon."

Rumor has it that Spooky became haunted during a tour of duty in Vietnam when a loadmaster was shot and killed by enemy fire.

Of course, the story is enhanced by Spooky's mission in Vietnam — it was a "casket carrier" ferrying soldiers' bodies to various bases before they were returned home.

Wassom recalls the apparition.

"It was dead," he says. "There was no power on it."

Wassom and Morano went with Spooky to the parking place to raise the plane's hydraulic pressure with a hand pump.

"I was standing in the right troop door," Wassom recalls. "I was looking around the inside and the outside of the plane. I glanced toward the front of the inside (of the cargo compartment), and this thing caught my eye."

"It was a smoky looking light. It moved from the left side of the aircraft to the right near an area where the crew enters the airplane. There are lights there. The lights came on."

"It was strange since we had no power. The smoky light disappeared. Maybe a second or two passed and it started moving back to the left side of the plane. It was stationary for a second or two, then it disappeared."

"I looked at my buddy and said, 'Did you see that?' He didn't say anything. I looked over at him and he was standing there with his mouth open. I asked him again and he nodded his head. It thought, 'All right, I have a witness.'"

Dennis, too, remembers a strange encounter with Spooky — during a deployment to Africa.

Spooky gave air crews no trouble until the aircraft's No. 4 engine needed replacing. "Spooky is a green camouflage plane and the only spare engine we had was gray," Dennis says.

All of the Air Force C-130s are being repainted gray. But Spooky hasn't received a new

paint job "because it hasn't been her turn," Dennis says.

Apparently, Spooky didn't like gray. As soon as the new engine was put in and tested, it blew up. In fact, the next two gray engines installed on Spooky also blew up.

"We waited two weeks for another engine and we got another gray one," Dennis says.

At the time, planes from Little Rock were leaving Africa. They were being replaced by C-130s from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas. Spooky was the last Little Rock plane in Kenya.

"We finally got it (the engine) and installed it. The engine ran fine until we got in the air," Dennis says.

"At about 10,000 feet, it started losing oil pressure. We flew it home like that. Once it got home, that engine blew up while they were doing some work on it."

"They put a green one in it,

and it never had an engine problem again." Another time in Africa, crew members were driving up in a truck toward a dark and empty Spooky.

"We were in front of the nose when the lights came on," Dennis says. "When we went in the plane, all of the switches were off."

Price's strange encounter with Spooky came during a preflight check.

"It had power on it," Price says. "I was walking around the back of the plane and the power shut off and came back on in about 10 seconds. There was no one else there but me. I was out there another hour. I went up in the cockpit and the autopilot had engaged by itself."

"I didn't tell anyone, because I thought they'd think I was crazy."

Now that Spooky is gone, all three men say they will miss the plane.

She has a way of growing on you, they say.



Jerry Coleman, left, and Mark O'Sullivan look over proofs of "Myth or Real" collector cards featuring the likes of Vegetable Man, the Werewolf, Mystery Kangaroo, Yeti and other unexplained phenomena. The Northwest suburban men started a company that distributes the cards. Daily Herald File Photo

Card collector finds that mystery can become a business reality

By KELLY WOMER
Daily Herald Correspondent

Call it an unexplained phenomenon, coincidence, luck or just an untapped business opportunity.

But when Jerry Coleman reorganized his son's collection of 10,000 sports trading cards, he stumbled on something that changed his life.

Last fall, Coleman was putting away a Michael Jordan card when a book written by his brother fell and knocked over another stack of collector cards on the shelf.

His brother's book wasn't just any book. It's titled, "Mysterious America," a chronicle of strange and unexplained phenomena from Bigfoot to sightings of UFOs.

The incident triggered an idea to combine Coleman's two hobbies: collecting sports trading cards for his two children and sharing his brother's fascination with the unknown.

A few months later, "Myth or Real" collector cards became a reality. Coleman formed the American Realist Company last December, and recently released the first set of cards.

"It just fell together and I said, 'That's it. This is what I'm going to do,'" said Coleman, who lives in Elk Grove Village.

He had been seeking a new business venture at the time.

Collectors can pick up cards on the werewolf, poltergeists, Mystery Kangaroo, Yeti, Vegetable Man, Komodo Dragon, monsters seen in movies, Peg-leg Bigfoot, or the Blue Phantom sedan that raced down Route 66 in 1952 shooting at other cars — never to be caught.

Each black and white card features a different story and mystery, some of which Coleman has investigated on his own.

The list includes the 1977 Lawn-dale Thunderbird incident in central Illinois. A 10-year-old boy was allegedly picked up and carried 35 feet by a huge condor-like bird. Coleman has interviewed the mother and several other witnesses.

The company's logo, which features the footprint of an ape with a disjointed big toe, came from Coleman's own discovery back in 1962. In Decatur, he found the footprint of the creature, sighted several times since the 1800s, and now referred to as a "Nape" or North American Ape, he said.

"I believe anything is possible, and the fascination lies in what is unexplained," Coleman said. "If there's no Bigfoot or Loch Ness Monster, so be it. We just hope to gather information about undiscovered things. Others can draw their own conclusions."

His brother, Loren Coleman, a researcher at the University of Southern Maine who has studied these mysterious cases for more than 30 years, wrote the stories and statistics on the back of each card and supplied some photos and illustrations.

Jerry Coleman's 6-year-old son, Nick, even drew a dinosaur for a card dedicated to future investigators of the unexplained.

The first 3,000 sets of cards are being printed with a gold trim and the next 3,000 will have a silver border, making them limited editions that appeal to the broader collector card market.

"A lot of people who collect cards see it as an investment," Jerry Coleman said. "We want to hit them and reach those interested in this subject."

Jerry Coleman and Mark O'Sullivan, who work together at an Elgin printing company, previously looked into running a franchise gas station, video store, convenience shop or McDonald's. They even thought about starting a nightclub.

But when Jerry Coleman came up with the idea for the collector cards, O'Sullivan jumped on board with financial backing and as vice president and secretary of American Realist Company.

Now Jerry Coleman's basement has become an office used to fill or-

ideas for future subjects. "It's satisfying to have an idea and make it a reality," he said. "This is a popular and fun thing, so we'll see what happens."

For information or to order the "Myth or Real" cards, write to American Realist Company, P.O. Box 95945, Hoffman Estates, 60195-0945

lecter card magazines and publications featuring unexplained phenomena. So far, they have received orders from England and from coast to coast, which they track by putting tacks on a United States map.

Jerry Coleman is already planning another set of cards and is asking collectors for stories, photos and