

# UFO

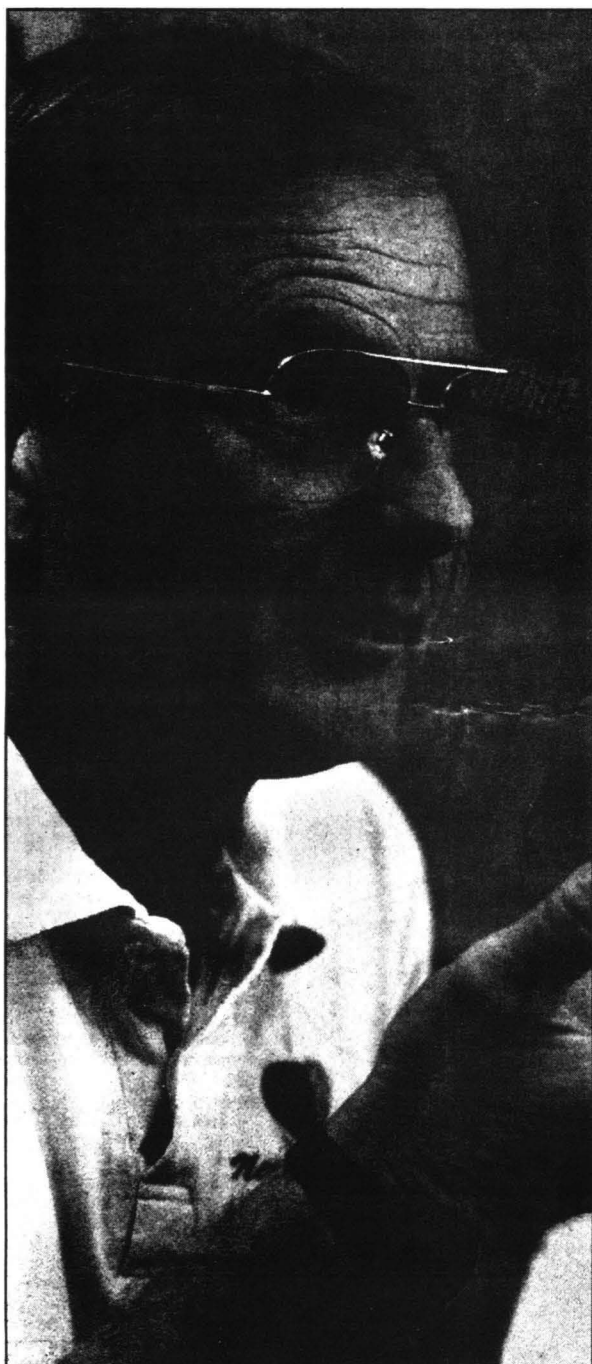
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## UFO coverup: 'Lay the cards on the table'



John Goeckermann says we don't know whole UFO story.

TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

By Gordon Gregory  
of the Daily Courier

**O**f course John Goeckermann doesn't know for sure that intelligent life once existed on Mars and the moon, but information he has gleaned from books, newspapers and radio talk shows has stirred his interest.

"I am merely fascinated by anomalous occurrence," he says. Such as?

Well, how about those strange crop patterns that have, um, cropped up around the world, including one found just weeks ago in the Portland area, or the fact that some probes to Mars and the moon have failed?

That's suspicious.

And what about the pyramids and that strange mountainous mug on Mars?

"It's just plain interesting. Don't you find it in-ter-est-ing? I find that in-ter-est-ing," Goeckermann says in a speech pattern emphasizing sincerity.

Well, it is interesting to thousands of people who hear and read some of the same information as Goeckermann. Many people, including scientists and government officials, have long wondered if intelligent life does or did inhabit other parts of our solar system. And this year UFO organizations are pushing to have the government declassify all of its UFO files in an effort to set the issue to rest.

A petition called the Roswell Declaration is being circulated on computer bulletin boards and by hand that calls for an executive order declassifying all government UFO information.

The declaration was started by a Fairfax, Calif., airline pilot and is being publicized by groups such as the Mutual UFO Network of Seguin, Texas.

Walt Andrus, international director of MUFON, said about 2,000 people have signed the petition so far and he expects many thousands more will endorse it before year's end. The petitions will be turned over to congressmen around the country who will be asked to pressure President

Clinton for the executive order.

"We feel it's time the government quit lying about the UFO situation and lay the cards on the table. People are willing to listen," Andrus said in a morning telephone interview.

He said the "UFO coverup" started in 1947 when an alien craft crashed near Roswell, N.M.

"On July 4 or 8, it's hard to say for sure, the debris was found and, supposedly, four little bodies were recovered from a crash area," Andrus said.

He said the government at first acknowledged that it recovered much of the aircraft material, but then quickly changed the story, saying it was from a

pled, but bent," he said of the Barbury Castle find.

"There isn't a theory that can cover the phenomena," he said.

If human technology can't account for the work, then, perhaps . . .

"Do you know how it's done? If we can't do it, who can?" he asks.

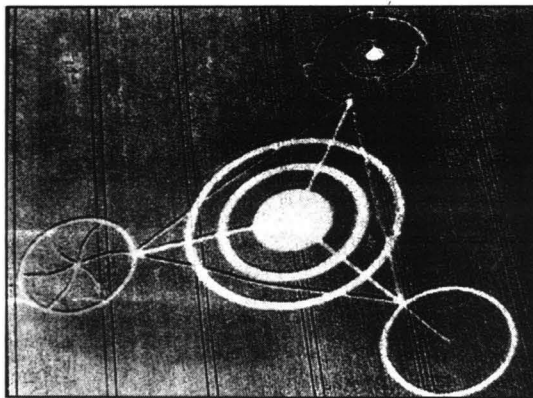
The structures on Mars and the moon are equally intriguing to Goeckermann.

He said photographs taken by NASA show a series of structures on Mars that include a mile-long, mask-shaped mountain and pyramidal formations.

Goeckermann has seen reproductions of those photographs in a

book written by UFO researcher Richard C. Hoagland. "The Monuments of Mars: A City on the Edge of Forever," details the evidence, including mathematical calculations, and the reasoning that leads many to conclude the red planet had been civilized at one time.

He also says there are NASA photos of what could be ancient remains of glass buildings up to several miles tall on the moon. And the destruction of



Barbury Castle "crop glyph" found in Central England.

weather balloon.

And from then on, the government has steadfastly refused to acknowledge there is any possibility of intelligent, extraterrestrial life, he said.

That means that organizations like MUFON and people like Goeckermann must look for clues where they can.

**W**hich is where the crop patterns and Mars and moon observations come in.

Goeckermann said there doesn't appear to be any earthly way to create some of the geometric designs found in fields in several countries. In particular, he cites one found in a wheat field 12 miles west of Portland in June, and a 300-foot long pattern discovered near Barbury Castle, England, in July 1991.

"It is absolutely geometrically precise. Crisp as a tattoo, and with the wheat stocks not tram-

a moon probe in the late 1970s could have been caused by a collision with one of those glass skyscrapers, he said.

There's also the unexplained failure of a Mars probe recently. That, he said, could mean the probe found something that would support theories that intelligent life once existed there and the government wanted to bury it.

Goeckermann, an unemployed bus driver, suspects the government tries to cover up the information — even by interfering with press coverage — to spare people the trauma of having their beliefs overturned.

"It definitely makes people uncomfortable," he said.

Not everybody, of course.

People like Goeckermann are fascinated by the possibilities.

"I've always been a curious sort, just watching the world go by and seeing interesting things occur," he said. "You just wonder about it."

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Aug. 31, 1994

## UFO'S Come Home Again

By Patti Weatherford

UFO activity has not ceased in the Gulf Breeze area. Several sightings have been reported in the Naval Live Oaks area this summer and Saturday night was no exception. Called in to the Hotline, was a sighting by a man, who reported seeing a large unidentifiable craft enveloped in a "plasma-like cloud" at around 11:20 p.m. This was in the vicinity of the

eastern Naval Live Oak area. More details will hopefully be available later.

A couple of weeks ago, a Pennsylvania tourist reported seeing a "huge" dark object floating over the trees at Shoreline Park. This occurred at around 6 p.m. so I guess you don't have to stay up half the night to see a UFO.

If anyone else witnessed these events, please call the Hotline - 438-3261. Confidentiality upon request.

For those of you who would rather look for UFO's on TV, word has it that on September 18, Unsolved Mysteries will feature a reenactment of the abduction of four men, commonly referred to as the Allegash

Abductions. Also, Larry King is to televise a show on UFO's from Nevada's "Area 51", which is a "secret" base involved in the testing of new aircraft technology. Some hypothesize that some of this technology was gained from reverse engineering of retrieved UFO's. Should be interesting, so tune in if you can.

DAILY COURIER, Grants Pass, OR - Aug. 17, 1994

## Police

A resident in the 700 block of Bailey Drive called the Sheriff's Office at 2:49 a.m. today and reported that he had seen about 30 flying objects in the sky near Mount Baldy. He swore he had not been drinking. A deputy sheriff reported that while he was unable to locate any UFOs, he saw several shooting stars.

# UFO sighters not alone

## 'Contactees' form support groups

By Andy Ostmeyer  
Globe Staff Writer

Four of every five leads that investigator Sam Uptegrove gets end as wild goose chases. It's that fifth lead, however, that consumes his time, making all dead ends worthwhile.

Uptegrove is a self-identified chief investigator and editor of a monthly newsletter called *Amateur Ufology News*. Unidentified flying objects are his passion, and have been since he had an unexplained sighting in 1960, when he was 8.

"We are being visited by one or more races from somewhere else," he says. "That's what I believe."

Uptegrove, Lockwood, is not alone. Interest is growing in UFOs and related phenomena. Consider:

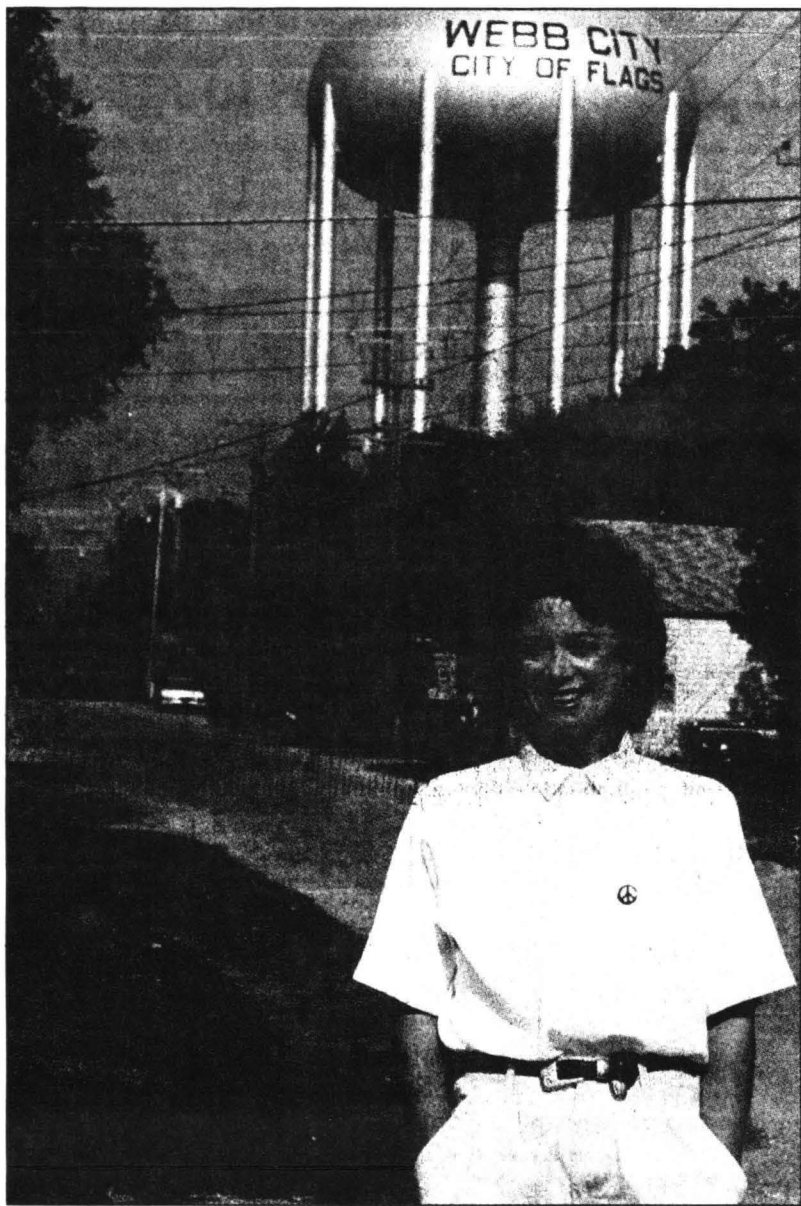
- The respected science magazine *Omni* is running a six-part series asking questions about a U.S. government cover-up of information relating to UFOs. The magazine also claims that 26 astronauts have had unexplained sightings.
- John Mack, a Harvard psychiatrist and Pulitzer-prize winning biographer published a book titled "Abduction," containing first-person accounts of space-alien abductions.
- Every spring and fall, people across the country gravitate to annual UFO conferences in Eureka Springs, Ark., and Springfield. Uptegrove is scheduled to speak at the Springfield meeting in September.

Scientists and others dismiss their stories as explainable events. The sightings are nothing more than weather balloons, clouds or flights of fancy. The contacts are nothing more than sleep hallucinations.

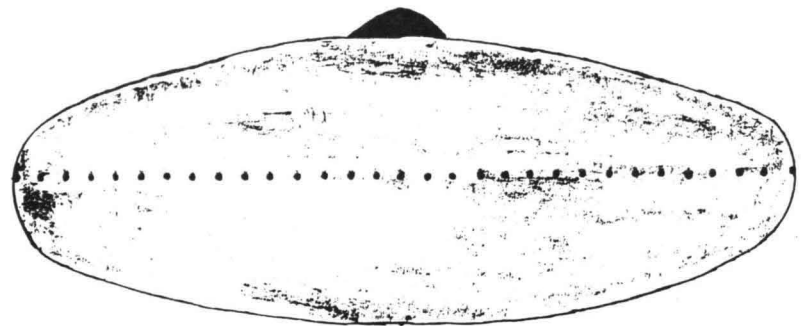
That's not good enough for some of these UFO believers.

"I know what I saw," says one contactee, Paula Watson, a Mount Vernon woman who has appeared in video documentaries and books.

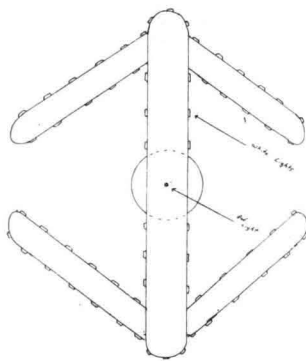
— Robert Jastrow,



"We're just like you, only we've seen UFOs," says Kathy Dooley, of Webb City, who claims to have had contact with aliens.



This sketch of a UFO was made by a McDonald County witness after a sighting on Aug. 27, 1993. It was provided by Sam Uptegrove, editor of *Amateur Ufology News*.



This sketch of a UFO was made by a Lawrence County witness after a sighting on Dec. 1, 1993. It was provided by Sam Uptegrove, editor of *Amateur Ufology News*.

"Why should the Earth — an undistinguished speck of planetary matter — be the only body in the heavens to bear life? It is more reasonable to assume that man is not alone in the universe."

NASA has spent millions on its SETI program, using radio telescopes to monitor millions of wavelength channels, hoping to detect some form of communication. So far, the intergalactic telephone calls have gone unanswered.

### Contact

The idea that U.S. government agencies would spend millions to contact life in the universe strikes Paula Watson as absurd.

The Mount Vernon woman claims to have seen, and to have had contact with beings from other planets. She has appeared at UFO conferences and in video documentaries.

She admits that others have thought she was crazy, and at times she says she has questioned her own sanity, but she is now convinced her experiences are real.

"I know what I saw," says Ms. Watson, of Mount Vernon. "I know I saw something that is real. I know I'm not crazy either."

"We're just like you, only we've seen UFOs," says Kathy Dooley, of Webb City, who also claims to have had contact.

Some of the crafts she saw were triangular, others were discs and others were bell-shaped.

"I have seen one ship that was square on the bottom and triangular (pyramid) on top. I couldn't even estimate the size. I can't tell you how large it was."

Some of the experiences she remembers consciously, and others are "discovered and researched under hypnosis."

"People aren't going to believe," she says, "but I really don't care. I know what I saw."

She recently formed *Oasis*, a support group for "contactees" and those who have UFO experiences. She says she has a half-dozen in her group, and others who have expressed interest in joining.

Ms. Watson says her contacts started more than a decade ago, near Greenfield, after her husband reported strange lights in the sky and they went to investigate.

### 'Silver beings'

"There were silver beings. They were about 3½-foot tall, with egg-shaped heads, long, thin arms and no nose."

They were examining a cow. Suddenly the cow and the aliens floated up and disappeared.

Neither woman knows specifically why they were chosen. Both say the beings have a message about the future of Earth that sounds more like Greenpeace than little green men.

"They are hoping a catastrophe can be avoided," adds Ms. Dooley. "But they have no intent of interfering or upsetting the balance of what humans want to do on this planet."

(continued on page 3) 2

In Southwest Missouri, a support group is organizing for "contactees," and a Springfield group is forming to investigate what it identifies as a "backlog of UFO sightings and related incidents in the Ozarks . . ."

Interest "very definitely is growing," says Uptegrove. "A lot of it is due to a tremendous increase in sightings all over the world and in the Ozarks. The Ozarks has definitely experienced an increase in the last few years."

### 'Tail to tail'

Between 75 and 85 percent of all calls that Uptegrove gets turn out to have explanations. They are explained by weather balloons, atmospheric phenomena and even identifiable aircraft. Some are not as easily explained, he says, including one that occurred last December.

According to Uptegrove, a rural Lawrence County man and his two children were crossing the yard toward their car when they sighted a large group of white lights arranged in a distinctive pattern, with a red light in the center. It was twice the size of any jumbo jet, moving slowly overhead.

Efforts to contact the man were unsuccessful.

"It looked like two swept-wing jets if you had clipped their tails and glued them together tail-to-tail. The overall configuration was diamond shaped," Uptegrove says.

"A second gentleman — they didn't know each other — drew an exact same sketch."

### 'And all related phenomena'

Springfield resident Dennis Mount recently formed the Ozarks Area Research Group, dedicated to

the study of ufology and "all related phenomena."

"We're just concerned citizens all interested in the subject of ufology," he says of the group's 50 dues-paying members.

Mount, who says he is a trained hypnotherapist, says some of his patients have had "unexplained bruises, needle marks and puncture wounds."

"I have had a number of people come in and talk about abduction experiences."

His group's backlog of unexplained occurrences includes crop circles, animal mutilations and sightings.

He says his group recently began investigating six new crop circles in Southwest Missouri, including Anderson and Pineville, although he says he promised the owner of the land he wouldn't disclose the location.

"People have seen metallic objects hovering, lights hovering, and triangular-shaped objects before the stealth bomber was ever released," Mount says.

### 'Man is not alone'

Before dismissing these stories out of hand as the mind games of crackpots and kooks, consider those who are among believers in extra-terrestrial life.

They include Robert Jastrow, former chairman of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies, first chairman of NASA's Lunar Exploration Committee and a member of the Board of Governors for the National Space Society.

Jastrow puts the number of planets in the galaxy capable of sustaining life at 100,000, and in his book "Red Giants and White Dwarfs," he writes that the idea of UFOs "is scientifically sound."



### Sleep paralysis?

Some professionals, such as David Hufford, a professor of medical humanities and behavioral science at Penn State University College of Medicine, use the phrase "sleep paralysis" to explain alleged abduction reports.

It is the physical state between sleep and wakefulness, where the mind may be awake but the body is still shut down, and it sometimes causes people to hallucinate.

Both women say some of their experiences have occurred when they were fully awake, and that they have had bruises and other marks that make them think it was real.

"We've woken up with marks and bruises, and scoops, where little samples were taken out — bits of tissue," says Ms. Watson.

"I don't have any horror stories of being surgically altered. I have had extremely positive experiences," says Ms. Dooley.

Despite the skeptics and the criticism, these two women say it doesn't matter if others believe.

"People are going to have to realize that we are not the only living things in the universe," says Ms. Watson. "Contact is going to be frequent. I always tell people, 'We are not alone.'"

# Researcher's book may explain UFOs

Erika Dudding  
Record Staff Writer

**It's a bird! It's a plane! It's an extraterrestrial traveler!**

Or maybe not.

Sure, said Dennis McGhee, UFO researcher, the object might be an alien spacecraft — but he claims his new book shows proof that many of the objects seen are not vehicles from another planet, but are in truth secret, high-tech, aviation projects.

McGhee of Norfolk, Va. claims in his book titled "Pieces of the UFO Puzzle," that the mystery behind many of the strange crafts seen can be solved by visiting the U.S. Patent Office in Arlington, Va.

His interest in unidentified flying objects began back in 1957, when he was 10 years old and "saw seven round things fly out of a cloud, circle it, then disappear back into it," McGhee said.

Two years later, he first heard the term UFO on the radio when a reporter told of a large, glowing, cigar-shaped object which had landed on a Texas highway.

From that point on, McGhee said, he started collecting all the information he could about UFOs. His collection has grown extensively over the years.

McGhee said he was an avid believer that the UFOs seen were from another planet until he began researching a man

named Agnew Hunter Bahnson.

Bahnson was an inventor and manufacturer of machinery in the textile and other related industries.

McGhee said Bahnson also wrote the fictional novel "The Stars Are Too High" about a German scientist who defected to the United States after World War II with plans for a device that could "neutralize" gravity.

According to McGhee, Bahnson said in his book that the scientist, along with the help of a rich industrialist, created a circular flying craft called the Argonaut. They also built a hangar under a small mountain in the southern Nevada desert as their home base.

McGhee claimed this is similar to the rumors of "Area 51" in the Nevada desert.

John Price, executive director of the Outta Limits UFO Enigma Museum in Roswell, said Area 51 is a site about 150 miles out of Las Vegas where the government conducts secret military tests.

Price said much work on the development of the Stealth aircrafts took place there.

McGhee said Bahnson was involved in "gravity" research, organizing the Institute of Field Physics at the University of North Carolina in 1956 for the specific study of gravity and field physics.

In January 1957, McGhee said, Bahnson, along with 42 other leading physicists, gathered to study at the Second International Conference on Gravitation.

According to McGhee, Bahnson said, "We have found a way, not perhaps to neutralize gravity ... but to put it to work for us."

In 1958, after theoretical and experimental research in high-voltage ionization problems, said McGhee, he developed an electrical thrust-producing device. Copies of the patent for this device, along with further advanced models, can be found in McGhee's book.

McGhee said he located the patents by stumbling on a patent filing number for the electrical thrust-producing device in a brief history about the author in the back of Bahnson's book.

He said he went on a "paper chase" at the U.S. Patent Office, where McGhee finally located the patent and began to read about what he claimed was "a most amazing piece of hardware."

The basic concept of the craft was that electricity would be sent from another source to an antenna attached to a grid that ionizes air, causing a downward thrust, McGhee said. By re-directing the air, the craft can turn and spin.

Other patents were found

for crafts with similar concepts; some shaped like round, flat disks, some triangular, some hexagonal, some "cigar-shaped," as well as many other designs, said McGhee.

According to one patent document, number 3,120,363, which describes a disk-shaped flying apparatus, "Flying craft covering a horizontal area of several thousand square feet and containing their own power supplies will be particularly well adapted for industrial and military applications requiring hovering devices."

But if the government has developed these crafts, why isn't benefitting from this technology?

McGhee said he believes the government is keeping the technology a secret because it is a perfect weapon.

"You can operate it from a long distance away, it is silent so that it could get relatively close to the target without being detected and nobody knows they exist," McGhee said.

Many UFO sightings have been seen during wartime, "including in Saudi Arabia during Desert Storm," McGhee said.

Price said he believes the technology exists, and several other people have come to the museum in the past claiming they have seen or have information about such government projects.

## Backers hope 'UFO Month' to put Roswell on map

Erika Dudding  
Record Staff Writer

In July of 1947 — 47 years ago — the famous Roswell Incident became an international issue, and Roswell Mayor Tom Jennings has issued a proclamation declaring July is "UFO Awareness Month."

John Price of the Outta Limits UFO Enigma Museum said that it is very timely, because it was around this time of the year the UFO sightings were reported.

The Outta Limits museum has not planned anything special for the month, but the museum is sponsoring Jose

Escamilla's UFO research at Midway, N.M.

Ruth May, Roswell city clerk, said that a proclamation has been requested before.

Michael Fisher, KSFX news director, said a "UFO Day" was declared on July 10, 1991, but he said a day was not enough.

With a whole month dedicated to UFOs, Roswell will not be "married" to just one day to hold the festival.

"It is too bad we could not have planned something for this weekend, because the timing would have been perfect," said Fisher.

Fisher said the idea of a UFO month has been "kicked

around" for awhile, but there had been no substantial support.

"It is almost like people are embarrassed about the incident — that we are just kooks that believe in UFOs," Fisher said.

All over New Mexico, cities have celebrations that put them on the map, said Fisher. Deming has the Duck Races, Las Cruces has the Whole Enchilada Fiesta and Albuquerque has the Balloon Fiesta.

"We have the Gus Macker's 3-on-3 Basketball tournament, but we need something that can attract a broader

audience," said Fisher.

Fisher said he is starting a committee to organize a celebration to commemorate the Roswell Incident.

"Why not capitalize on it?" Fisher said.

Sara Whiting of the visitors bureau; Carla Marley, Roswell Mall manager, and others have shown interest to organize the committee, Fisher said.

Walter Haut, president of the International UFO Museum and Research Center board, said he believes by promoting a UFO festival, "We can attract people to our fair little city."

Planning for next years

event is not under way, but ideas are starting to brew, said Haut.

Haut said in the 20 months the museum has been open, 29,000 people have visited the center. According to the museum's guest book, the ratio of out-of-town visitors to in-town visitors is 7-to-1.

Sometime in mid-August, there will be a world press conference on the Midway sightings, Jose Escamilla said. The videotaped coverage will be incorporated into a series.

Escamilla said that series is called "Ice Films — Unclassified" and will be hosted by various celebrities.

## Aliens blamed for theft

*Man literate in UFO lore suggests alien explanation for canola heist.*

Until recently, no new explanations have surfaced in regards to the strange canola crop theft near Steptoe that made state-wide news in mid-June.

The Whitman County Sheriff's office has been treating the vandalism as a felony case, but work on the investigation "is at a standstill," said Sergeant Don Anderson.

"We have run completely out of leads. There are no suspects, no leads," he said.

However, a resident of Pateros

wrote a letter to Wayne Olsen, an Intermountain Canola Co. agronomist, informing Olsen of his answer to the mystery.

It was aliens.

The *Capital Press*, an agricultural paper, printed portions of the letter in its July 8 edition.

He advised IMC that he studies the "aerial phenomena, coined as UFO lore, which has to do with said beings from other worlds, dimensions, crafts and their motives."

The man explained that "contrary to the official position of the U.S. Military, and the official knowledge stance of the administrative U.S. Government, there are intelligent life forms on other worlds."

He went on to explain that the reason beings from another planet may find it necessary to steal from Earth is because "conditions for productive food stuffs, i.e. a harvestable crop, are not all they should be on planets in this universe other than Earth."

Therefore, "they may need crops to borrow from from time to time, as climatic conditions on their planets do not meet the prime requisite to crossbreed their plants for a

superior hybrid."

He believes levitation devices were the means by which the aliens were able to take the crop without leaving any tracks. Some forms of aliens have such a device which attaches to the waist and negates the effect of gravity. These devices would enable the aliens to "hover" above the site, similar to a bee, without ever touching the ground.

With a large group working together, the harvest could be done in a very short amount of time, he explained.

He suggests that further investigation be conducted since large saucer craft use counterrotating electromagnetic rings in order to attain levitation. This would leave a magnetic signature that could be read by a gauss-flux meter, "which can be secured at any good science lab."

He also suggests burying a video camera housed in an iron slab that can view the field if thefts such as this one continue.

Caution should be exercised if people should come across an off-world entity while harvesting, and they should not try to discharge any

type of weapon at the aliens.

"It might be best to call both the sheriff and the Air Force immediately if secular of your crop is desired."

The man also pointed out that, "in all probability, not all off-world life forms are so destitute that they must resort to thievery in order to obtain their necessary foods to make ends meet."

He closes his letter saying, "I hope the given information can be of help in the vigilance against theft and to help you understand any probable motive of any off-world agency in the act of trying to gain nutritional substance via theft."

In the story in the *Capital Press*, IMC regional production manager Mike Dunlap is quoted as saying that the man's explanation is "not high on our list of probable causes."

Olsen, the man to whom the letter was addressed, declined to comment on the alien explanation, but he did give a technical update on the results of the clipping. "10 of the 13 lines that were manicured for us will come back and yield the campestris line that was taken," he said.

Steptoe resident Bud Harvey had his own opinion of the alien explanation and the true culprits of the canola heist.

"I think the aliens may have been in the 16 to 17-year-old class," he said.



Kurt Ellison

Watsonville resident Anne DeSoto, a member of Santa Cruz CE-4, attempts to describe her experience as a victim of alien abduction.

## Self-help group supports victims of alien abduction

By FAITH RAIDER  
STAFF WRITER

FOR YEARS people have joined self-help groups to come to terms with alcoholism, overeating and co-dependency. Now a Santa Cruz "abductee's anonymous" group offers relief for men and women plagued by alien abductions.

The Santa Cruz CE-4 (close encounters of the fourth kind) support group was created in February by two local "ufologists," or UFO enthusiasts.

Details vary, but many of the group's members tell similar stories. They are visited at night by gray aliens that float through the walls and take them to waiting spaceships, said Merriam Kathaleen, a Santa Cruz-based hypnotherapist who coordinates the support group. She said the abductees are made to undergo medical experiments before being returned to their homes.

Anne DeSoto, a Watsonville resident who joined the group several months ago, said talking about her experiences is helpful after years of abductions — and of being viewed with skepticism by others.

"It's the only place where you can sit and talk like a normal person," she said.

Like many of the growing number of people reporting abductions, DeSoto, 39, said hypnotherapy has helped solved the mysteries of her three UFO sightings and other "alienating" experiences.

Her most dramatic sighting was one night several years ago on Beach Road near San Andreas Road. She described a huge round spaceship hovering at eight feet that left a "huge puddle of orange light on the ground."

During therapy sessions she has also remembered abductions, during which she gave blood, urine and skin samples to aliens. Once their ministrations left her free of her chronic arthritis pain the next morning, she said.

Although the group's eight members are dead serious on the subject of alternate forms of life, they have begun to sell T-shirts with various humorous sayings that describe their troubling experiences. Each shirt sports a bulb-headed, bug-eyed being — a composite drawing of the aliens the members have seen in their dreams or re-created in hypnotherapy sessions.

new to otherworldly topics.

"If you are not familiar with the subject, how can you accept that there are these gray beings who float through the wall?" she asked. "It's not something we were taught as children."

But the recent spate of attention paid to abductions and UFOs has made Kathaleen and her colleague Ron Lampi, another "ufologist," hopeful that the controversial phenomenon is becoming more widely accepted.

"Is the public coming to accept the reality of UFOs and the alien presence?" Lampi wondered aloud last Thursday in front of the nearly 30 attendees of the Santa Cruz

**'It's the only place where you can sit and talk like a normal person.'**

— Anne DeSoto

"I was abducted by aliens and all I got was this T-shirt," reads one self-referential shirt. Others are more descriptive of the abduction experience.

The motif "Alien abduction, for the missing time of your life" refers to the fact that many abductees say they can't account for missing hours they spend with the aliens.

Another slogan, "Deadbeat Dad," plays off the term for fathers who do not support their children once they have them, said DeSoto. Because aliens fool around with genetic research, she said, the ironic T-shirt is "like a wanted poster in the post office."

Kathaleen said coming up with the slogans was a form of therapy for the abductees as well as a way to describe the experiences to others who are

UFO Study Group, a venture associated with the support group that he and Kathaleen co-facilitate. For most of the assembled men and women, the answer to his question appeared to be "yes."

They pointed to the emergence of TV shows such as "The X-files" and "Encounters" and to recent developments in scientific research and academia. Prominent on their list is the interest in the recently published book "Abductions" and in its author, Harvard University psychiatrist John Mack.

Mack has made numerous appearances on talk shows to defend the veracity of the 13 first-person abduction experiences he describes in his book. Like other hypnotherapists, Mack's



methods have been called into question by critics who point out that clients under hypnosis are highly suggestible.

Besides enthusiasm, the most notable characteristic of the study-group participants, most of whom were old enough to be young adults during the rebellious 1960s, was a disenchantment with the U.S. government.

A discussion about the government's complicity in hiding information about aliens from the public bounced from outright conspiracy theory to more vague but no less passionate convictions that the government is lying to the American people.

"I think the government covers up because it's a reality they can't control," said a 28-year-old Santa Cruz resident who declined to give his name. "It threatens the social order."

He said he attended the study group because he was interested in the subject, regardless of how "unpolitically correct" it might be.

Other participants had more personal reasons for attending.

Pamela Zahnzinger, 41, said she attended the monthly meetings because she had experienced encounters with alien spacecraft and beings all her life.

Another Santa Cruz resident said his interest had been piqued by seeing a brilliant light he thought was a UFO travel at high speed, make an abrupt turn, then disappear.

WHITE MOUNTAIN INDEPENDENT,  
Show Low, AZ - June 28, 1994

## Show Low woman gathering info on UFO sightings

Tom Patrick  
The Independent

SHOW LOW — If you have ever seen an unidentified flying object (UFO) or believe you have had contact with extra-terrestrial life forms (E.T.L.s), Linda Biafore of Show Low would like to hear your story.

Biafore has recently moved to the Show Low area where she continues to collect information about UFO contacts for *UFO Perceptions*, a magazine based in Tennessee.

Biafore said she has several reasons for doing the research, but one of the main reasons is that she has been abducted by E.T.L.s throughout her life, and she is seeking to understand why she and others like her are being abducted.

"I have got to find out what's going on," she said. "That's why I do this."

Biafore said she has been abducted by E.T.L.s off and on since she was a small child growing up in San Diego. They continued when she moved to the area of Lake Elsinore, Calif., which is known by UFO enthusiasts as a "hot bed" of UFO activity.

She said she kept her silence about what was happening to her for years because she feared being ridiculed by others. But, she added keeping it to herself would have driven her crazy, so now she is telling her story, and helping others tell theirs.

So far interviewing other people about their experiences has not helped her answer all of her questions but it has helped form her belief that the reason UFO abductions and contacts are taking place is genetics.

She said much of the information she has gathered as well as her own experiences have led her to believe that E.T.L.s who abduct humans are conducting experiments involving the humans' genetic make-up.

The E.T.L.s who are making contact with humans also seem to be following several family lines from generation to generation, Biafore said.

For instance, Biafore has been able to trace UFO contacts in her family all the way back to her great grandmother, who was contacted by E.T.L.s in the mid-1800's.

She said many of the people she has talked to have shared similar experiences in their family histories.

"They (the E.T.L.s) have a purpose," she said.

However, she added that she has not been able to determine what that purpose is.

In the course of gathering her information for *UFO Perceptions*, Biafore also has learned that for whatever reason, more people are being abducted now than before.

"I think that it's escalating," she said.

Biafore added that more people also are willing to talk about their experiences than ever before which is helping to show how widespread such experiences are.

"For whatever reason the time is right, it's coming out," she said.

Biafore said she is aware that many people are skeptical about the existence of E.T.L.s and their contact with humans but as for her, she has seen enough to know they are real.

"No one can tell me that they're not here," she said. "I know they're here."

Anyone who believes they have seen a UFO or been contacted by E.T.L.s is encouraged to write Biafore at P.O. Box 301, Show Low, AZ, 85901.



# Aliens Attempt to Save Earth!

## ABDUCTION

Human Encounters With Aliens  
By John Mack, M.D.  
(Scribner's: \$22; 432 pp.)

Reviewed by Susan Dewan

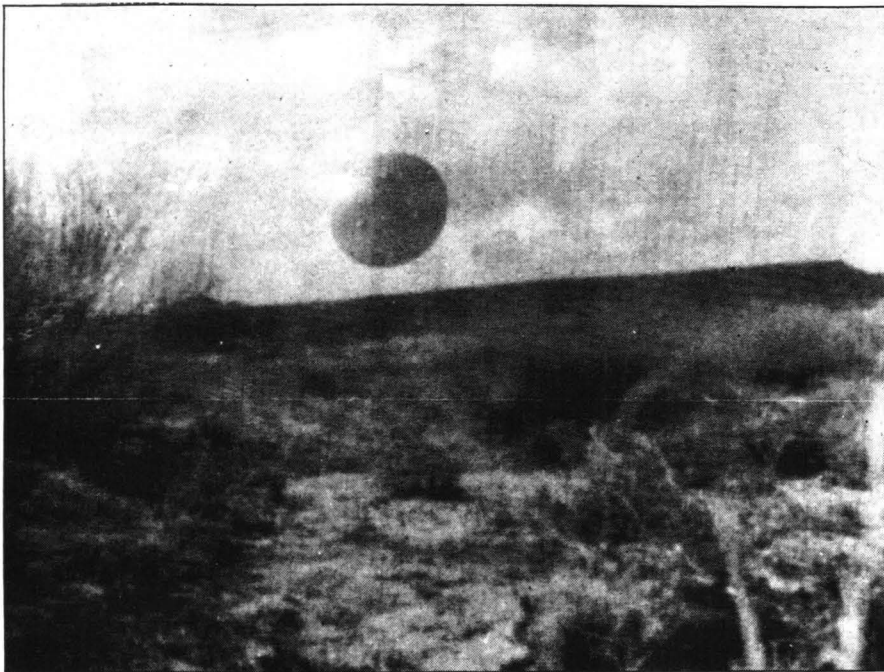
This book is not fiction. It is not quite fact. It belongs to a category we do not possess in literature—works about the unknown or the unknowable. "Abduction" is a thoughtful documentation of the cases of 13 men and women who have come to John E. Mack, a Harvard psychiatrist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author (for his biography of T.E. Lawrence, "A Prince of Our Disorder") seeking to gain access to their own memories and integrate these memories into their daily lives and relationships. These are people who have experienced abductions by alien beings. Often these incidents began in early childhood; in a few cases, experiences predate physical birth as we know it.

Mack has carefully and consciously built on the work of UFO and abduction researchers such as Budd Hopkins and Jacques Valles, who have been working in this field for many years.

This provocative work should not be judged in a debate over whether UFOs and their alien crews are "real." In every case described by Dr. Mack there are concrete physical findings that follow abductions, ranging from UFO sightings in the community, burned earth where the ships have landed, unexplained or missed pregnancies, a variety of physical lesions and also the recovery of tiny objects from the bodies of the abductees.

But much more important than the endless debate over whether UFOs are real is Mack's focus on the similarities in what people say

Susan Dewan is a free-lance writer.



A 1952 photograph (by George J. Stock) in Air Force files shows what is ostensibly a UFO over a field in Passaic, N.J.

they learned from their abduction. There is a central message that emerges in every case. It is not a message that is unique to alien beings. The messenger may be strange, having gray skin, large heads and huge dark almond-shaped eyes, but the message can be heard all over the world. Let me put this simply. We are being told by the aliens that we are a species run amok. Our greed and destructiveness have taken us to the brink of destroying ourselves and our planet. According to Dr. Mack, virtually every abductee receives information about the destruction of the earth's ecosystem and feels

compelled to do something about it. Some receive this information in childhood and others as part of the growing trust in their alien/human relationships.

Why would intelligent life from other planets or dimensions care if we destroy ourselves? Perhaps it is as one of the abductees said: "If you take one part of the tapestry and put a hole in it, or you rend it, you wreck the parts that are next to it." If one part of the universe can be harmed by another, can there also be a self-correcting mechanism as well? This would be similar to what some biologists and the environmentally attuned call

"Gaia" in regards to the functioning of the planet Earth. Could it be the same in the universe as well?

This book is a challenge to any reader. It raises questions about

how we live on this planet and with each other that the Western mind and culture will not be able to ignore for too much longer. It also raises questions about the nature of reality; of time, space, energy and the true nature of humanness. It opens the door to a very serious redefinition of life as we know it.

This evening I caught the tail end of the news on a local station. Recent findings show that the residues from pesticides and herbicides found on fruits and vegetables can't all be washed or peeled off. What does this have to do with aliens you might wonder? I guess I just have a hard time viewing intelligence as alien, especially when it presents me with another view of what I know to be true.

The physical laws we know are coming up short. The U.S. government-funded program, SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) operates on the assumption that extraterrestrial intelligence could be found by sending radio waves into space. As philosopher Terence McKenna has suggested, "To search expectantly for a radio signal from an extraterrestrial source is probably as culture-bound a presumption as to search the galaxy for a good Italian restaurant."

"Abduction" is also available abridged on audiocassette, read by Josef Sommer (Simon & Schuster Audio, two cassettes, \$17).

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - July 13, 1994

## Escamilla dreaming of UFO theme park

Sylvie D. Nelson

Record Staff Writer

Planning a vacation to Florida or California?

In a few years, there may be no need for Roswellites to go to faraway places, spend hundreds of dollars and come home with tacky T-shirts.

Instead, they will be able to stay in town and enjoy big attractions—keeping all those tourist dollars at home.

That's if Jose Escamilla has anything to do with it.

Escamilla, a local filmmaker, plans to open a 110-acre Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) and dinosaur theme park in the Roswell area.

"It would be a special-effect theme park," he said.

UFOs have been Escamilla's passion since March, when he began witnessing and videotaping them in Midway.

The theme park project is only in the preliminary stage, because funding is his first priority.

To help raise the \$3 million needed to lay the groundwork for the UFO theme park, Escamilla approached a California-based company specializing in raising funds for entertainment-oriented businesses, such as movies or casinos.

"That (funding) will be done by marketing the tapes (that Escamilla recorded)," Raysar Entertainment President Dave Watson said recently in a telephone interview.

Watson said footage of various Midway UFO sightings could be released to national chains of video-rental stores, as one means of raising funds. Fund raisers also could solicit investors.

"I have oral commitments," said Watson, adding he will not require investors to sign contracts until he has oral commitments for the total amount needed.

The long-term plan calls for sound stages to be built and used for filming movies.

The money generated would help gather more funds for the theme park.

"We're going to build a suburban neighborhood, a complete hands-down Western town, a mountainscape with ravines and cliffs, a little South American village, a water tank inside a studio—this way you could film the ocean in New Mexico," said Escamilla.

Once funds are in place, the theme park will be able to take shape, but that, Walton said, will not happen for some years, possibly 10.

Sara Whiting, director of convention and tourism bureau at the Roswell Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the idea of a theme park in the region.

"Museums welcome many tourists who come from all over the country," she said. "This would give people other things to do in the region."

"Anything to bring tourism to the region is a positive thing," said Hubert Quintana, Chaves County manager.

NEW MEXICAN, Santa Fe, NM - Aug. 27, 1994 CR: D. Perkins

## Space Science Center gives way to UFOs

By ZACK VAN EYCK  
The New Mexican

His Space Science Center is now closed, but Felipe Cabeza de Vaca is still open to the idea that humans are not the only intelligent life in the universe.

Cabeza de Vaca, whose non-profit St. Francis Drive museum served the public for nearly 15 years, said Friday he will focus his future work solely on UFOs.

Eventually, he hopes to open a new facility in Santa Fe dedicated entirely to collecting and spreading information about unidentified aircraft and related phenomena.

"It's the most suppressed field on this planet," the 54-year-old Santa Fe native said of UFO studies. "I intend to continue my research in this field to liberate this knowledge which will serve a cross-section of all inhabitants of the many universes."

He also has tried to make Santa Fe a better place by getting elected into office, but has yet to succeed. He has run for City Council 11 times, including last fall, and has made one run at mayor.

He has never accepted a dime in contributions. Cabeza de Vaca, who grows garlic and onions but makes his living as a plumber, said he will likely run for office

primarily in UFOs, he said.

That has been the experience of the founders of the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell, where more than 33,000 have visited since it opened in October 1992.

UFO phenomena "is what is happening the most and what (the public) knows the least about," Cabeza de Vaca said. "When I started the Space Science Center, you couldn't find a picture of the moon here. Now there's a lot of (space science) material all over Santa Fe, so I don't see a need for it."

He sent an entire room full of materials back to NASA in June—just about everything except a classified film that he says shows footage of UFOs taken by astronauts on NASA missions.

Cabeza de Vaca closed the center later for reasons he is not comfortable talking about, although he hinted that the cost of rent might have been a factor. He is now busy remodeling his home. Soon, he said, he will begin looking for an affordable loca-

tion for his new venture.

Cabeza de Vaca is convinced that beings from another planet are not only visiting earth but may be planning to stay. "The government, whoever that is," is aware of the visitations but is engaged in a massive cover-up to conceal what it knows, he said.

"These people are coming from a dying star," he said. "It's what we're going to be faced with later on when that happens in this solar system."

He believes the aliens, who he calls "grays," are responsible for a rash of cattle mutilations across the globe, including in New Mexico.

The mutilation mystery is one of many puzzles to which Cabeza de Vaca said he will continue to seek answers.

"There are an average of 70,000 reported UFO sightings yearly" throughout the world, he said. "I've seen takeoffs and I've seen fly-bys. The only thing I really need to see now is when there's a landing or a very close sighting."

again.

His Space Science Center, which closed Aug. 4, housed films, video tapes, books, catalogs and other information from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

It also contained a vast collection of materials on UFOs and extraterrestrials, which Cabeza de Vaca now keeps in storage. The center was open to anyone, at just about any time, free of charge.

Suzanne Martinez, a retired special education teacher for Santa Fe Public Schools, said many teachers took their classes to the Space Science Center each year.

"We were interested basically in the science end of it," she said. "It's going to be missed."

When he first started the museum, Cabeza de Vaca said, there was tremendous interest in NASA and the products of its scientific research. In the last six or seven years, however, about 90 percent of the people who visited the center expressed interest



Tribune photo by David Klobucar

Harvard psychiatrist John E. Mack wasn't prepared for what he found when he began to talk with people who claimed to have been abducted by aliens.

# Are aliens already here?

By Lynn Van Matre  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Harvard's  
controversial  
John Mack  
thinks he may  
have the  
answer

**F**ive years ago, when a colleague asked Harvard psychiatrist John E. Mack if he wanted to meet Budd Hopkins, Mack replied, "Who's he?" Told that Hopkins was a New York artist known for his work with people who claimed to have been abducted by aliens and hustled aboard UFOs, Mack swiftly came to a professional conclusion.

"I assumed that either there must be something the matter with Budd Hopkins or that Hopkins was encountering a new form of mental illness," Mack recalls. "I wasn't prepared for what I found."

What Mack found when he finally met Hopkins was something so personally compelling that the veteran psychiatrist plunged into the field of abduction research himself. Over the next three years, as word of his interest in the abduction phenomenon spread, nearly 100 self-proclaimed abductees (or "experiencers") would contact Mack at his office at Harvard

University's Cambridge Hospital.

The stories varied, but many abductees told of being taken from their homes by big-eyed extraterrestrials and borne aboard space ships; there, sperm or ova samples were extracted from their bodies as part of an ongoing earthling-alien hybrid breeding program.

After taking what he describes as thorough psychiatric histories of the subjects, Mack concluded that they were "solid people, of sound mind" and told several colleagues that he believed "something important" was going on.

It wasn't the first time the psychiatrist had flirted with what some might consider fringe fields or taken an alternative approach. The Center for Psychology and Social Change, the nonprofit research organization Mack founded in 1983, often funds projects that combine psychology with ecological or ethnic issues outside the psychiatric mainstream.

"He's never been afraid to take a stand or follow his intu-

ition, even if it might subject him to criticism," says Douglas Jacobs, an assistant professor of psychiatry at Harvard who has known and admired Mack professionally since 1975. "His whole career has been about blazing trails."

But for many of Mack's fellow psychiatrists, the abductee-by-aliens study was just too bizarre. Dismissing abductees' claims as preposterous, colleagues respectfully cautioned him about pursuing the project.

"The difference between courage and foolhardiness is often subtle," Mack admits. "After a while, though, I reached the point where there seemed to be more to lose in terms of my own sense of integrity by keeping my mouth shut than I could lose by describing what I was finding."

Last month, Scribners published Mack's "Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens," featuring 13 in-depth case histories drawn from his research. And now a lot of people assume there must be

possibly a parallel universe.

"I'm not convinced that when the abductees are brought aboard ships to see hybrid beings, however real that may be to them experientially, this is really occurring in physical reality as we know it," he says. "But does that mean that it's not really happening? I don't think you can conclude that. I think it might simply be inviting us to open up our way of knowing to other kinds of evidence. I want people to look at this and ask questions."

Philip J. Klass, publisher of the Washington, D.C.-based publication *Skeptics UFO Newsletter* and a longtime UFO debunker, can come up with plenty of them.

"If you assume that we do have extraterrestrial visitors who are engaging in crossbreeding and that they are very advanced, why don't they abduct Olympic athletes?" Klass asks. "And why is it that not one person who claims to have been aboard a flying saucer has ever brought back a paper clip or cigarette lighter or some other souvenir?"

## Just attention seekers?

Klass, a contributing editor for *Aviation Week & Space Technology* magazine, has spent 28 years investigating UFO cases. He maintains that he has yet to find what he considers "a single, credible case that cannot be explained in prosaic terms."

As Klass sees it, most abductees simply crave attention.

"Certainly, 99 percent of them are not, underline *not*, crazy," he says. "When one is dealing with human behavior there is never just one explanation for anything, but in my opinion, a number of the people who report these tales seek attention. I have appeared with these people on a variety of TV talk shows, including Oprah Winfrey and Jerry Springer, and these are people who would never otherwise be invited to appear on a talk show. Their only reason for being there is that they can tell this story of UFO abduction."

But don't they risk being branded as wacky? "They are not ridiculed on the shows," says Klass, who observes that 'abductees' are often invited to appear as paid speakers at UFO conferences.

"There may be a few who are reluctant to go public, but many are not," adds Klass, who believes that the publicity accorded the phenomenon will cause countless suggestible people to believe that they, too, have been abducted. According to a highly controversial 1991 Roper poll, anywhere from several hundred thousand to several million Americans may have had abduction-related experiences.

"I think the abduction cult is a very dangerous one," Klass says. "I am suggesting that many, many more people will suffer. They will be afraid to go to sleep at night [lest they be abducted], and these fears will be passed on to their children."

The lack of physical evidence associated with alien abductions also arouses skepticism among some members of the UFO community.

Longtime UFO investigators Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, authors of the recently published "The Truth About the UFO Crash at Roswell" (Evans), are convinced that an extraterrestrial craft crashed near Roswell, N.M., in 1947; their book includes testimony from doctors, law enforcement officials and military personnel who claim they saw five alien bodies amid the wreckage. (Klass dismisses the Roswell crash, considered for decades to be the most famous and well-documented of all UFO episodes, as "a myth perpetuated by the media, mainly television.")

"If we are right, we have leaped the first hurdle for John Mack," says Randle. "We have proved that [extraterrestrials] can get here." But Schmitt and Randle have yet to be convinced that aliens are abducting earthlings for any reason whatsoever.

"The problem with abductions is that you are dealing in most cases with something that relies

something the matter with John Mack—or at least something seriously awry with the 64-year-old professor's professional judgment when it comes to alien activities.

"There are people who think he's an embarrassment to Harvard," that he's gone off the deep end," Jacobs acknowledges. "Many of my colleagues have rejected John Mack's research outright."

George Vaillant, a Harvard Medical School psychiatry professor who has known Mack for 25 years, provided a book jacket blurb for "Abduction" comparing it favorably to Frazer's "The Golden Bough." But he refuses to discuss his personal views on the validity of Mack's research or the professional risks Mack is taking.

Accepting a reporter's phone call "out of loyalty to John Mack," Vaillant would comment only, "Let me say this. [Abduction] is a very idealistic book that asks us to imagine a world or worlds better than the ones we have, and people who are idealistic take risks. The book is probably best understood as a metaphor."

Mack is hardly the first to write about alien abductions. A number of authors have chronicled the case of Betty and Barney Hill, an apparently stable New Hampshire couple who claimed to have been taken aboard a craft in the early 1960s by small, gray humanoids and subjected to sexual examinations. (The Hills' experiences later became the subject of a 1975 TV movie, "The UFO Incident.")

Budd Hopkins' "Missing Time," published in 1981, chronicled abduction claims involving missing time, body scars resulting from invasive alien medical procedures and small metallic implants purportedly inserted in victims' bodies as tracking devices; the follow-up, 1987's "Intruders," focused on sexual and reproduction-related episodes that have come to be associated with the abduction phenomenon. Whitley Strieber's "Communion" was a best-seller in 1987; and in 1992, Temple University historian and abduction researcher David Jacobs presented his findings in "Secret Life: First-hand Accounts of UFO Abduc-

tions."

## Impeccable credentials

But whatever his colleagues may think, Mack's credentials—in addition to being a Harvard psychiatry professor, he is the author of a Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of T.E. Lawrence—set him apart from the pack and lend a stamp of respectability to a topic generally relegated to tabloids. As a result, he has received mainstream news media coverage seldom accorded to just anybody who announces his belief in alien abductions, though Mack isn't crazy about invariably being described as a *believer*. He's even less crazy about an anonymous quote from a "friend" in a New York Times Magazine article that suggested Mack's UFO abduction "obsession" led to his recent separation from his wife after 34 years of marriage.

"Untrue, and a cheap shot," says Mack, in Chicago recently on a book promotion tour. "Our separation has nothing to do with this.

"You can make anyone look foolish, if that's your purpose, and I'm no exception," he adds. "But I guess what gets me most upset is getting pushed off in a category as a rigid believer. It's [presented as] 'This doctor believes in alien abductions.' That really isn't fair. I'm opening up an area that has some power to teach us something, an area that seems to have some implications for all of us, even though I don't know what it's about and where it's going. It's a mystery, and I want to stress my agnosticism."

"Yes, I take these peoples' stories seriously. Yes, I think that they are telling the truth. Now, does that mean that the whole thing is literally of our physical world and is going to conform to the requirements of proof of our classic western scientific methodology? Probably not. We need a more complicated ontology to grasp it."

The extraterrestrials, Mack theorizes, may be coming from some other dimension of reality—



## Air Force rejects alien aspect to 'Roswell Incident'

**PROBE:** Mysterious wreckage likely was part of a secret spy-surveillance balloon project, report says.

By JOHN DIAMOND  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A supposed alien spacecraft discovered near Roswell, N.M., 47 years ago likely was a secret Army Air Force balloon designed to monitor Soviet nuclear testing, the Air Force concluded Thursday.

The Air Force, in a report on the "Roswell Incident," said contrary claims in a wave of sensational books and television specials are "undocumented, taken out of context, self-serving or otherwise dubious."

The July 1947 discovery of wreckage on a ranch near Roswell has been at the center of longstanding disputes between UFO advocates and the govern-

ment over whether the Air Force has been hiding evidence about alien spacecraft discoveries.

The Air Force began its investigation earlier this year.

The material found near Roswell consisted of foil-wrapped fabric, wooden sticks, rubber pieces and small I-beams with strange markings on them. A local newspaper at the time reported: "Air Force Captures Flying Saucer On Ranch."

"The Air Force research did not locate or develop any information that the Roswell Incident was a UFO event," wrote Col. Richard Weaver, author of the report. "The most likely source of the wreckage ... was from Project Mogul balloon trains."

Project Mogul was a top-secret venture to develop balloons that would carry sensing devices aloft and alert the military of any

Soviet nuclear tests.

The Roswell Incident also occurred in the midst of the so-called UFO wave, the surge of interest in unidentified flying objects, presumably not from Earth. Shortly after the incident, officials in what was then the Army Air Force dismissed the flying-saucer speculation, saying the wreckage found near Roswell was a weather balloon.

Then in 1978, the supermarket tabloid National Inquirer reported that Maj. Jesse Marcel, the Army Air Force intelligence officer who brought in the wreckage, claimed he had discovered UFO debris.

A series of books followed, advancing the UFO theory and accusing the Air Force of a cover-up. The Robert Stack-hosted television show "Unsolved Mysteries" aired a recreation of

the Roswell Incident, and other television shows followed suit. According to the Air Force, a made-for-TV movie is in the works.

"From the rather benign description of the 'event' and the recovery of some material as described in the original newspaper accounts, the Roswell Incident has since grown to mythical, if not mystical, proportions," Weaver wrote.

Walter Haut, a volunteer at the UFO Museum at Roswell, a center devoted to gathering information on this and other incidents, rejected the Air Force conclusions.

"I feel very strongly about it," Haut said. Referring to those who made the original UFO claim, he said, "We're not talking about flaky people."

solely on the mind—recall of the subconscious through hypnotic regression, which is highly unreliable," says Schmitt, co-director of the Evanston-based Center for UFO Studies.

"With Roswell, we were able to prove the nuts and bolts to our satisfaction, because at least at one time there was something tangible and physical. The main problem with abductions is that there is nothing tangible. We need some good physical evidence. And through suggestibility and support group influence you perpetuate the idea that people have been abducted by aliens when that is not the case."

### Lacking a smoking gun

Mack readily admits that he would love to have a smoking gun.

"If someone did bring back an artifact, though, the debunkers would just argue over its pedigree," he says. "I'm not trying to prove this with physical evidence. I take the whole package. These abduction accounts are so congruent among healthy people, from all over the United States—people who are not in touch with each other, who have nothing to gain and everything to lose by telling their stories. The only thing I know that behaves like that is real experience, and I am going to continue to try to deepen my understanding."

Mack is pushing on with two new research projects, one comparing abductees with victims of traumatic psychological experiences and the other a study of UFO abductions worldwide.

"Obviously this isn't the best way to get ahead [professionally]," he muses. "But it's such a short time in this culture between when something is regarded as taboo and career-threatening and when it becomes acceptable."

"I worked on a study in the late 1970s and early 1980s about children's fears about nuclear war," Mack adds. "It was considered odd at first, but a few years later there were Ph.D. theses all over the place about children's reactions to the nuclear threat. My guess is that within three or four years there will be all kinds of Ph.D. theses about people who have abduction experiences."

## 'I think it might be alien'

Deputy, girl report UFO in sky

By CHRISTINE REICHERT  
Morning Journal Bureau Chief

**BERLIN HEIGHTS** — A Berlin Heights teen-ager said she was frightened when she saw an unidentified flying object with blinking lights hovering around her home for almost three hours before it finally disappeared early yesterday morning.

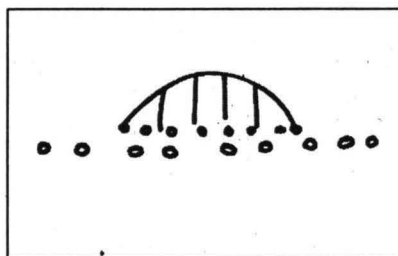
The girl said she also heard a loud wind-like noise, but didn't see any wind rustling the trees.

An Erie County sheriff's deputy was called to the home, and he, too, saw the mysterious lights.

**This was the latest in a long string of UFO sightings in Erie County in recent years, most centered near Perkins Township. The majority of the reports come in the summer.**

"It scared me," said Carmen Utter, 15, the daughter of Kerry and Bob Utter, 13106 Chapin Road, Berlin Heights.

Carmen said she first saw the UFO just before heading to bed about 10:30 p.m. Monday. She



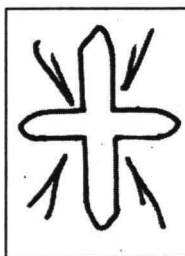
continued to see the object off and on until early yesterday morning.

"It was pretty big, bigger than an airplane; about the same size as a blimp," she said.

"I was looking out my window. I just thought it was a star moving. I went and saw lights going around — they were green, red and white. I was sitting watching for a while," Carmen said.

"I tried to get my mom and dad to look at it, but they wouldn't," she said. However, as the UFO continued to blink and hover and move, her family joined her and then reported the sighting to the Erie County Sheriff's Department.

Carmen said she took out her binoculars and watched the UFO for quite some time.



"I saw lights going around sparking on and off, and a long white thing — it was going around in circles," she said, adding it appeared to operate similar to a lighthouse beacon.

"It was there until 12:30 a.m. (yesterday). It was sitting in the sky, it wasn't moving or anything," Carmen said. "It seemed right across the road, above the trees."

At one time, she said the red and green lights stopped blinking and suddenly bright white lights formed a cross.

"I don't know if it was trying to communicate. I really don't know if it was alien. I think it might be alien," Carmen said.

At one point, Carmen said she and her father went outside and watched the object hover overhead.

"It was just sitting there. It wasn't moving. It was just sitting in the sky, like it was anxious for me to go to bed," Carmen said. "My dad was looking at it. When he was looking at it, all the lights went off and then it flew over our house really fast. The lights flickered back on when it was going over."

In addition to the Utter family seeing the object, the sheriff's deputy responding to the call saw the brightly lighted object. Deputy Jeff Hippley said it appeared to be stationary over the eastern end of Oxford Township, about 2 miles in the air, according to his report.

The deputy continued to periodically check on the object, which appeared to move due west "at a very, very, slow rate, before losing sight of it at 1:07 a.m. yesterday," according to the report.

Hippley said he doubts the object was from outer space.

"The only thing I could see was lights in the sky. It reminded me of a blimp," he said.

The deputy said he has taken a lot of good-natured joking from his co-workers.

"I knew that would happen, but my job is report what I see, and I could see lights, so I reported it," he said.

## Look up the UFO museum in Roswell



**LAURA BERGHEM**  
OFFBEAT U.S.A.

ROSWELL, N.M. — Driving into this town, you half expect to find ET 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.

But 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, a public-information officer with the area Army base at the time, and Glenn Dennis, who worked in a local 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 exhibit stands. Videotapes, books and other reference materials can be used in adjacent study rooms.

The only extraterrestrial is a little silver mannequin that visitors can pose with for photographs.

Mr. Haut, the museum's president, says UFO hunters come looking for the story behind the

mystery. He gladly retells it, in a far-off voice.

It began when something bright fell out of the sky one summer night in 1947 and landed in the desert, where an area rancher spotted it and called in the authorities. After the Army had recovered the debris, Mr. Haut says, he was told to prepare a press 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 Mr. 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-sized caskets from the funeral home.

Before Mr. Haut's report was officially released, however, higher-ups flew in to declare the craft was merely a high-altitude weather balloon. The story soon faded from the front pages. Yet some eyewitnesses, despite vows of secrecy, privately insisted the desert debris looked

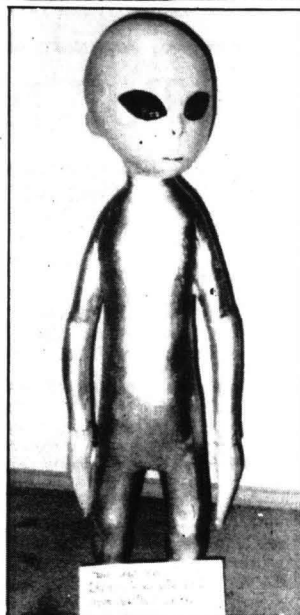
nothing like the tattered balloon shown to reporters.

Because the Army's records of the incident remain classified, no hard evidence exists to prove or disprove the legend. So, for now, the International UFO Museum offers the only public glimpse into one of the great mysteries of this century.

The museum lets you decide for yourself, but if you happen to leave Roswell at sunset, as the vast New Mexico horizon burns itself into the night, you can perhaps imagine a piece of that fiery sky breaking off and falling to Earth.

**Specifics:** To get to the International UFO Museum and Research Center (400 N. Main St., P.O. Box 2221, Roswell, N.M. 88202; 505-625-9495), take Highway 70/380 into Roswell; the museum is on North Main Street, just north of the highway as you enter town. It's open daily, 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are accepted.

King Features Syndicate Inc.



This amiable alien poses at the UFO museum.

Special to The News

*'Verified knowledge that we are not alone but being looked at by other intelligence — would it affect the way we lead our lives?'*

Roy Yates, Mutual UFO Network state section director for Fresno County



Kurt Hegre — The Fresno Bee

Out of space. Roy Yates of Fresno intently watches the night sky for clues to possible sightings of extraterrestrial vehicles.

## Hello? Is there anybody up there?

■ Group believes in existence of other life forms — it just can't prove it.

By Jim Steinberg  
The Fresno Bee

The sky searchers carried binoculars, beach chairs and a shared assurance that they were not crazy.

Members and friends of the Mutual UFO Network had either seen strange flying objects in Valley skies or talked to others who had. Now the MUFON sky watchers scanned the

starry night for further evidence.

They didn't think, they *knew* that they — and all Earthlings — were not alone. They sounded in turn scientific, religious, adventuresome.

Some would say goofy.

The MUFON expedition dedicated Tuesday and Wednesday nights to taking a long look and waiting for whatever or whoever might show up.

The MUFON party traveled up Kings Canyon Road, parked over

4,000 feet high in the Sierra along Highway 180 at a clearing called McKenzie Heliport — and waited.

Roy Yates, 64, MUFON's state section director for Fresno County, was there. A retired Marin County teacher, he pursued his quest from conviction despite never having observed an unidentified flying object.

Debra Flanders, 43, a MUFON spokeswoman and field investigator trainee, had two sightings in her resume.

Use their names, they said. They would brook whatever doubt, laughter or derision ensued.

Not so the third explorer, a self-employed Fresno professional, 35. His life changed upon seeing something very large hovering above Norseman Elementary School at Weldon and Maple avenues one Sunday night in May 1975. Publication of his name would "kill my business," he said.

He and his parents were watching "60 Minutes" on television, when he walked outside for cigarettes.

"This thing was hovering," he said. "It was huge, hovering over the school. I could have thrown a rock and hit it."

### 'I was not on drugs'

It was round, he said, like a saucer, with white lights around its perimeter and a turning light — similar to a disco sphere — spinning at its center.

"I was not on drugs, not drinking, nothing," he said. "It made no noise. I told my parents. My stepfather ran out with my mother, and they got a glimpse of the thing as it took off at the most incredible speed. It reached a point and just disappeared."

"I was soul-searching at the time of my experience," he said. "Looking for God."

MUFON investigates such reports, only a portion of which it verifies as being truly unidentified flying objects.

MUFON is a nonprofit international organization that announced in June that its Fresno branch was seeking more public reports.

Since then, Flanders said, she has received 160 reports from Valley people seeing things in the sky.

She has divided the reports into three categories represented by dots on a Valley map: orange for a light in the sky; green for a close object; and pink for a possible abduction.

### UFO exhibit

The Discovery Center in Fresno plans to exhibit maps, videos and other material from Saturday to Aug. 20, involving UFO sightings in the Valley.

Some reports come from law enforcement officers, including two from Manuel Amparano, 48, who is retired.

He reported seeing things while working with police departments in Orange Cove and Kerman.

He saw a red ball in 1973, spiraling down from the southeast toward the hills around Kings Canyon Road, he said recently. And at 3:32 a.m. on May 13, 1978, while on duty with Kerman police, he saw "a fireball, an oval thing hovering" above Del Norte and California avenues.

He was alone for the sighting, Amparano said, but people back at the Kerman police station told him later that his face had burned and blistered in the last several hours.

As many dots as appear on the MUFON map, no such luck blessed MUFON observers at the heliport. Flanders said that sightings from the area were frequent between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m.

### Celestial no-shows

Planes crossed the sky, lights shining from either wing tip. An occasional vehicle traveled along Highway 180, lights shining.

Shooting stars — meteorites — burned trails across the sky.

That was it.

After two nights of celestial no-shows, Yates told why any of this mattered.

"Verified knowledge that we are not alone but being looked at by other intelligence — would it affect the way we lead our lives?" he asked.

"For me personally it does. A certain segment of the population is less egotistical because we may realize that we may not be top dog anywhere at all."

STORIES  
OF THE  
SAN  
JOAQUIN



# Teen explains UFO, perhaps

## 1991 magazine article recalled

By Joseph J. Serwach  
Patriot-News

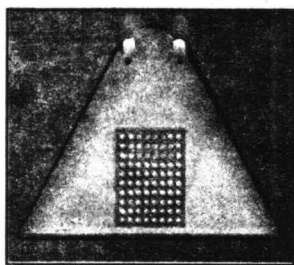
The unidentified flying object so many people saw over the skies of Dauphin County last week may have been identified, thanks to a smart 16-year-old with a good memory.

It could be a classified aircraft military analysts call "the big wing."

Several people saw a low-flying, slow-moving, triangular vehi-

cle with colored lights hovering last week. UFO specialists, military officials, area airport officials and witnesses couldn't offer an explanation.

But Joe Burda, a 16-year-old from New Cumberland, had an explanation. He read about the UFO sightings in Thursday's editions of The Patriot-News and recalled an article he had read called "America's New Secret Air-



**UP IN THE SKY** — For this artist's rendition, witnesses described the object seen locally.

craft" in the December 1991 issue of Popular Mechanics.

"I remembered reading about it, and when I read the paper I said, 'Wait a minute,'" Burda said.

Burda then looked through his back issues and found the article describing some of the experimental planes experts have sighted and linked to classified military projects that cost the government billions. The article described numerous sightings of "flying-wing triangles."

The article reported numerous observers had seen "a black, silent, boomerang-shaped vehicle that stretches between 600 and 800 feet across and performs circus-pony maneuvers at air speeds as low as 20 knots."

Dauphin County eyewitnesses offered a similar description, saying they saw a UFO that could have been a "strange looking plane" moving at speeds of about 15 mph late Tuesday night.

Popular Mechanics said in 1991 that over the previous two years, the vehicle it called "big wing" had "passed silently over city streets, empty desert and rural freeways. The craft moved so

slowly one observer said he could jog along with it."

Popular Mechanics also said "a pattern of seemingly random white lights on the vehicle's black underside provided 'constellation camouflage' against the starry sky." The magazine said such a craft could elude radar by "slowing to a crawl" and said such a plane could be used for either troop delivery or covert surveillance.

The Air Force has publicly said it has no aircraft matching the descriptions offered. But the magazine said the military has denied the existence of other aircraft while they were being developed, such as today's Stealth fighters, and said these sightings may "offer a preview of 21st-century air power."

Burda's mother, Cindy Anderson, said their home is filled with "Star Trek" fans. She initially teased him that the vehicle was "filled with Cardasians," a group of alien bad guys in the current "Star Trek" shows.

"He's into anything like that," Anderson said. "He reads his Popular Mechanics from cover to cover. He retains this stuff."

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - July 13, 1994

# Roswell UFO crash

## in news

SANTA FE — On April 20, CBS-TV anchor Dan Rather devoted his program "48 Hours" to the topic of UFOs.

As is always the case when such items are discussed, the 1947 crash near Roswell took center stage as the most verifiable evidence that the government knows much more about extraterrestrial matters than it

Mexico ranch on the morning of July 5, 1947.

Another group called the Fund for UFO Research has spent nearly \$100,000 over the past four years to support the Roswell case investigation. It is now conducting a grassroots effort to declassify all government information regarding UFOs or extraterrestrial intelligence.

The request is being made of President Clinton. Evidently presidential candidate Jimmy Carter promised during his 1976 campaign to issue such an executive order, but for some reason decided against it after getting into office.

The petition states in part: "If no information on Roswell, UFOs or extraterrestrial intelligence is being withheld, an executive order declassifying it would be a mere formality, as there would be nothing to disclose. The order would, however, have the positive effect of setting the record straight once and for all. If, on the other hand, the Roswell witnesses are telling the truth, it is not something to which a privileged few in the U.S. government should have exclusive rights."

The Roswell Incident also is the subject of a television documentary, a made-for-TV movie, four published books and a forthcoming novel. In addition pressure is building for congressional hearings on the cover-up.

All this talk of covering up the Roswell incident has caused others who like to believe such things to start the pot boiling.

The International UFO Library Magazine declares the Mars Observer probe is not

dead, as NASA announced, but is sending back pictures despite two attempts to sabotage the camera before the mission left. Supposedly the pictures, which the magazine says may soon be published, show anomalous land forms on Mars, referred to as "the Cydonia face and associated structures."

NBC news is said to have reported that the NASA-DOD Clementine mission, which recently left the moon, has been diverted to Mars instead of going to an asteroid as planned.

Former astronaut Gordon Cooper is said to be talking about "back-engineering alien craft" and the existence of mysterious geometric structures on the moon.

And no less an authority than Rush Limbaugh has reported that the Hubble telescope was never broken, but was being used instead to study extraterrestrial phenomena.

So if the president would come clean with what is stored in Defense Department files, similar to Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary's revelations of plutonium testing on humans, maybe the impetus of other fantastic stories would be lessened.

It also should please scientists such as astronomer Carl Sagan, who recently has been lamenting that we live at a time when more people believe in UFOs than know that the earth revolves around the sun.

But, then, the more rabid UFO believers know Sagan for what he really is: a disinformation agent of the federal government.

Hey, that's my idol you're talking about.

DAILY SENTINEL, Rome, NY - Aug. 19, 1994

# Mysterious circle leaves

## corn owners wondering

By KATHLEEN M. HALEY

TOWN OF VIENNA — Clayton and Midge Brockway couldn't believe the sight that awaited them in their corn field off Maple Flats Road last Sunday evening.

It wasn't dangerous and caused only minor damage to their crop but it's left them with a mystery.

The couple had picked some corn in the morning and left around 9:30 a.m. to go to a picnic, Mrs. Brockway said. They returned around 7 p.m. followed by friends who called the Brockways' attention to the corn field about 100 yards from their home, she added.

In the middle of the field, rows of 10-foot high corn laid squashed in counter-clockwise layers; a neat 50-foot circle. The circle resembles other mysterious depressions left in fields in England and in a Herkimer County oat field last year.

"Nobody could believe it," Mrs. Brockway said. "I've never seen anything like it," she added.

Neighbors told the Brockways there had been heavy winds around 2:30 p.m. but winds alone could not have made the impression since only a section of the field was affected, Mrs. Brockway said. "I think it was a tornado," she added.

Doubtful that a tornado could have caused the circle, National Weather Service meteorologist Jeff Waldstreicher said a tornado wouldn't have been stationary or made such a

round circle. A tornado would have had more of a spiral effect, he added.

Although he wouldn't rule out the possibility it could have been a tornado touchdown, Waldstreicher said it is "very, very unlikely."

"Mother Nature isn't usually that precise," Waldstreicher said.

Waldstreicher could not imagine what else — weather-wise — could have caused the depression. He noted, however, that a cold front stirring winds had passed through the region around midday but no tornadoes were reported.

"It had to be a tornado, or maybe it was a helicopter, or maybe it was some little green men," Mrs. Brockway said. Mrs. Brockway said she remembers hearing a helicopter before they left that morning but the depression is under some power lines.

To save the downed corn from meadow mice and moles, Mrs. Brockway and a friend propped up the stalks tepee-fashion and tied them together. Mrs. Brockway said the corn doesn't appear to be diseased and is edible. It's still "gorgeous corn," she added.

A similar occurrence happened in July of 1993 in southern Herkimer County where a series of circles connected by lines lay in an oat field off Route 28. Some blamed the patterns on violent winds but there was no determination of what had caused the depressions.

CR: K. Conroy



Jay Miller

Inside the Capitol

feels the public should be told. U.S. Rep. Steve Schiff, R-N.M., was on Rather's top-rated news show, along with seemingly-credible former military intelligence officers and Roswell residents who had a part in the 47-year old mystery. Schiff called the Defense Department's lack of response to requests for information "astounding" and concluded it apparently is "another government cover-up."

Since then a two-year-old organization called Operation Right to Know has staged demonstrations in Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., and Great Britain demanding the Pentagon release information about what the military recovered at the central New

HERALD-SUN, Durham, NC - July 30, 1994



The Herald-Sun/MIKE DIRKS

**UNBELIEVER:** Walter Grounds isn't buying the explanation for the mysterious ring in his yard.

# Experts offer earthy analysis

## of 8-foot 'fairy ring' on lawn

Fungus, mold probably left circle, say officials

By BILL STAGG  
The Herald-Sun

The experts have spoken, but Walter Grounds isn't in the mood to listen.

He still thinks the strange, 8-foot ring he found on his front lawn Thursday morning defies a logical explanation.

But Jim Groves says he has one.

Groves, one of two Durham Emergency Management officials who examined the ring Thursday, said Friday the ring is either slime mold, a "fairy ring" fungus, or a combination of both.

He said he reached that conclusion after consulting with officials of the Durham County Cooperative Extension Service.

He took them a sample of the greasy, sooty substance from Grounds' lawn. A description and pictures in a reference book matched, Groves said.

"It looks exactly like what we have," he said.

Dozens of people who read a Herald-Sun story Friday and called the newspaper agreed with the fungus/mold theory.

Groves said fungus and mold often grow in rings above the former root

systems of long-dead trees. He believes that explains the ring and dark, circular swath on Grounds' lawn.

Poppycock, Grounds declared. He said his neighbors have lived on Hudson Avenue more than 40 years and say no tree ever grew where the ring appeared.

Besides, Grounds said, the ring is oily and a fungus isn't. And how can you explain the ring's broad diameter?

"It's still a mystery as far as I'm concerned," he said.

# What twinkles in the night sky — little stars or big UFOs?

This was my second encounter with Bill Stillwell of Syracuse. I'll mention the first in a minute.

He met me at the front door of 310 Montgomery St., where he lives. We're in St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral downtown. Bill leads me through a church hall, and a kitchen, into a small room at the rear.

Bill's the cathedral sexton. He's lived and worked there 33 years.

The room's furnished with a long table and many chairs. The sexton's spread out several 8-by-10 photographs on the table. I move in for a close look.

I'm seeing stars: black sky dotted with hundreds of points of light.

"These are my pictures," Bill says, solemnly. "The pictures I told you about on the phone."

He'd called the week before.

That was our first conversation in 29 years. We'd talked about pictures then, too, in November 1965. Bill's an amateur photographer whose favorite subject is the sky over downtown.

"My hobby is photographing UFOs," he explained.

Yes, he continued, some of those points of light I saw on the enlarged prints of Bill's Polaroid snapshots are spacecraft. In fact, he's seen one close up.

Bill's recent phone call traveled me back in time. I remembered Nov. 9, 1966, the night the lights went out, the Great Northeast Blackout.

Experts blamed the failure on a broken relay in a hydro-electric plant in Ontario, Canada. Others thought it had something to do with fireballs seen in the sky before the blackout and the night it happened.



**DICK CASE**

Bill Stillwell's of the fireball school. We talked in 1966 because he wanted to share pictures he'd taken of odd lights above Syracuse from the third-floor window of his apartment in the cathedral.

The Herald-Journal published two of the pictures — they show a light in the sky Bill swore was not the moon — with a front-page story, "Flying fireball photo-

graphed" — Nov. 16, 1966. We included a picture of Bill with his telescope.

We were interested in the pictures back then because of the blackout and stories we were hearing from Bill, and others, about fireballs Nov. 9. One witness, Bob Walsh, deputy aviation commissioner, said he saw a flaming ball near the airport the night of the power failure.

Later, Bob took me for a flight in his airplane. We circled Hancock and vicinity, including the old DeWitt dump. One theory had the fireball rising from the landfill. We never figured out anything about that night, for sure.

Back in 1966, the sexton told us he'd seen fireballs 12 times since mid-August. Sometimes, the UFOs darted in and were gone; other times they "hang there for a couple of hours."

Bill said then he'd not reported his sightings because he was concerned about people's reactions. He did after he heard others saw what he saw.

When he called me last month, he said there were pictures and observations he'd not shared in 1966. He wanted to unload his history.

This is what he said: There are UFOs that appear to be twinkling stars. He showed them to me on his prints. They're not stars; they're saucers, according to Bill.

"Most of the time you can't see 'em unless you're lucky," Bill continued. "This is what comes to me. Maybe I'm wrong, but I don't think so."

Most of Bill's observations and pictures are from the 1960s. He turned over one of the images on the table, marked March 14, 1966, 11 p.m. western skies, "flying saucer over Syracuse, N.Y., also observer craft."

Bill pointed to a large point of haloed light in the left corner. That's a craft. The observer ship, he said, is that large blur in the far corner.

Bill's pictures are enlargements made from negatives made from Polaroid prints. They can't be faked, he insists. A professional who looked at that print said to me the haloed light could be a spot of dirt on the emulsion.

Years back, Bill said he stood on the rectory roof and saw twinkling stars become spacecrafts. Some were as close as the history museum across the street, and the Chimes Building.

Once, about six months after the blackout, "I had a real close encounter," he said.

"It was about 10 at night. I saw a light diving over by the Chimes Building. Then it got closer. It was a craft, gray-colored, with the port-holes glowing orange. I was dumbfounded. It was only 30 to 40 feet away."

Bill said the UFO came up to him, backed up and faded. He told me he was so affected he couldn't move. The object was very big.

"I felt like I was on a wharf standing next to the Queen Mary. It was a big steel wall," Bill said.

He claims he'd never given a thought to UFOs before the 1960s. Since then, he's backed off taking pictures and talking about his experiences. He knows most people are skeptical.

But after nearly 30 years, Bill's talking again and getting ready to take pictures. His wife just bought him a new Polaroid, with color film.

"They're up there," he said to me.

Why, a couple of weeks ago, the Stillwells were there in the cathedral when they heard a call on the police scanner, "UFO spotted," above Catherine Street.

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - Aug. 2, 1994

## Some worry about UFO talk

SANTA FE — U.S. Rep. Steve Schiff, R-N.M., and I both worry that we talk about UFOs too much.

It bothers Schiff because he got elected to Congress on his record as a no-nonsense district attorney — and he'd like to keep getting re-elected.

I worry about it because I fear that some space alien is going to get me for blowing his cover.



**Jay Miller**

Inside the Capitol

But we only talk about the UFO that may have crashed in the vicinity of Roswell with somewhere between three and five seemingly curious little people aboard. Ufologists appear to have put nearly all their eggs in this basket, so Schiff is now in demand as the member of Congress most involved in the search for the federal government's 47-year-old records about what caused all the commotion in Roswell and up the line to the Pentagon.

Schiff tries to discourage interviews on the subject by clarifying that he doesn't believe in UFOs, only in open government, and he thinks our government is being less than candid about something that probably doesn't merit such secrecy — especially after so many years.

But the interviews keep coming — most recently for TV's "Unsolved Mysteries." When CBS interviewed him for a June segment of Dan Rather's "48 Hours," Schiff teased that he had agreed to the interview so he could talk about his position on the crime bill.

Now that the General Accounting Office has reported to Schiff that it struck out on finding any record of any unusual occurrences at Roswell in early July of 1947, Schiff has suggested the GAO look for "Oh shoot" messages from that period.

Schiff, who has had much military experience, says messages are never discarded and that somewhere there must be a message from the Roswell Army Air Field explaining to military brass how the top bomber wing in the nation managed to confuse a weather balloon with a flying saucer.

In addition to much news coverage and several books about the Roswell incident, a made-for-TV movie will be premiered this month and a docu-novel will be coming soon.

But the most valuable piece of information yet on the Roswell event is a critical analysis of everything that has been revealed so far — along with some new information and a startling hypothesis about what may have happened.

Placitas resident Karl Pflock, a former deputy assistant secretary of defense and congressional staffer, has spent the past

two years conducting an independent inquiry into the Roswell events, working under a grant from the Fund for UFO Research.

Pflock's findings are published in a 189-page report titled "Roswell in Perspective." The report seeks to spell out what we know about the Roswell crash, as opposed to what we think we know. He challenges many of the assumptions that have permeated the case since the beginning and he raises serious questions about the credibility of most of the witnesses.

But after debunking much of what has been said and written about the event over the years, it turns out the truth may be even stranger than the fictions we have heard for so long.

I won't give away the intriguing final chapter. You may want to read it yourself. I couldn't put it down.

It's just a working hypothesis

at this point. There are still living reluctant witnesses to be tracked down and maybe even some documents to be uncovered. What Pflock thought would be a relatively short project he says now may last indefinitely.

This status report lays out the few facts we know — even the inconvenient ones. And drawing on his intelligence community experiences, Pflock offers his gut feelings about the key witnesses in the case — living and dead — and culls out the few he feels are providing the straight scoop.

If you are interested in seeing an objective account of the Roswell incident, with fantasy, exaggeration and fraud rooted out, "Roswell in Perspective" is in a class by itself. It is available for \$25, plus \$3 postage and handling, from the Fund for UFO Research, P.O. Box 277, Mount Ranier, Md. 20712.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Sept. 7, 1994

## Anthropologist To Speak

By Vicki Lyons

Dr. Arthur D. Horn, of Mt. Shasta, CA, will be one of the speakers featured at the Gulf Breeze UFO Conference October 14 - 16, at the Grand Hotel in Pensacola.



**Dr. Arthur D. Horn**

Dr. Horn received his BA in Anthropology from the University of Colorado; his MA and Ph.D. in Biological Anthropology from Yale.

Dr. Horn spent several years in Africa studying monkey behavior. He taught Human Evolution and Primatology at Yale and was a Professor of Anthropology at Southwest Texas University and Colorado State University. He has received several fellowships and grants from Yale and the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Horn is currently an author residing in California. His new book, *Humanity's Extraterrestrial Origins* will be the subject of his talk at the October Conference.

He will address his documented findings that extraterrestrial beings have had some responsibility for our rapid cultural advances. This fascinating and perhaps controversial lecture will be at the very least intellectually stimulating and promises to challenge our minds.

For a free program guide and information call 904-432-8888 or write Project Awareness, P. O. Box 730, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561.

The conference is open to the public.

POST, New York, NY  
- July 13, 1994

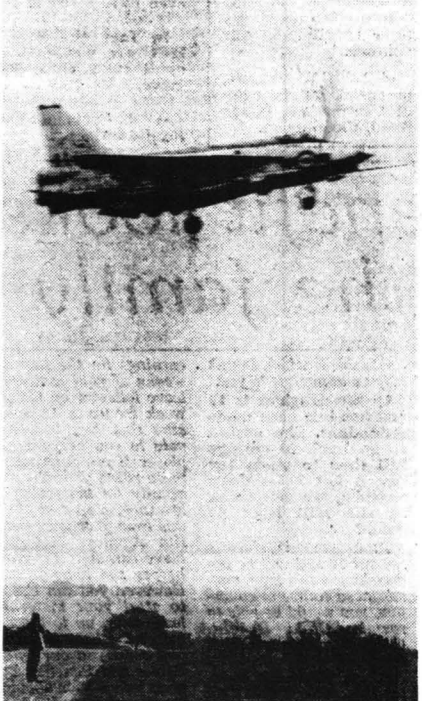
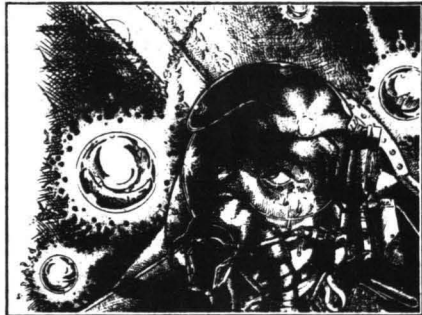
CR: B. Greenwood  
**UFO mystery**

The intrepid Larry King will spend an afternoon in October planted stubbornly in the desert near Rachel, Nev., for a live special on TNT that will investigate the activities of the Defense Department's super-secret Area 51, which some locals say is involved in top-secret government research of UFOs. "The UFO Coverup: Live from Area 51 — A TNT Larry King Special" is scheduled to air on Oct. 1, TNT said yesterday.





# Mystery of Foxtrot 94 leads a merry dance



Foxtrot 94, pictured coming into land at Binbrook some time before its last mysterious mission over the North Sea.

**D**ID a UFO 'buzz' a bombing range in North Lincolnshire almost 25 years ago? And was Foxtrot 94, the Binbrook Lightning which crashed in mysterious circumstances at around the same time, engaged in a major operation intended to get to the bottom of the UFO riddle once and for all?

These are just two of the intriguing possibilities suggested to the Evening Telegraph in new 'evidence' from the same man whose investigations into the loss of the Lightning we disclosed two years ago.

Now, he claims, fresh information has emerged of a year-long operation by the British and American air forces to finally solve the riddle of the UFOs pilots claim to have been seeing almost since the end of the last war.

The man, who wishes to keep his identity secret, has claimed he was one of the aircraft investigators sent to Binbrook in 1970 to examine the wreckage of an intact Lightning jet fighter recovered from the North Sea after a night-time ditching.

The story of that aircraft, XS894 of 5 Squadron, was told in the Evening Telegraph two years ago when our source provided us with what he claimed was the dramatic transcript of the final conversation between its American pilot and ground controllers.

Foxtrot 94, it was alleged, has been scrambled from Binbrook to intercept what was believed to be an unidentified aircraft over the North Sea. The pilot, who was on an exchange from the US Air Force, claimed to have seen a conical-shaped object in the sky accompanied by what he described as a "glowing soccer ball". He approached it and all contact was lost with him and his aircraft for a brief interval.

Minutes later, contact with him was regained. The pilot ap-

By PATRICK OTTER

peared to be disorientated and reported that none of his instruments were working. A Shackleton aircraft was sent to intercept and then, mysteriously, the Lightning pilot was ordered to ditch his aircraft in the North Sea, a difficult exercise at any time, at night almost an impossibility.

The Lightning was seen to go down off Flamborough Head but there was no sign of the pilot. When the aircraft was eventually recovered from the North Sea it was found, remarkably, to be virtually undamaged. The cockpit was closed...and empty. No trace was ever found of the pilot.

The aircraft was brought to Grimsby and then taken by road to Binbrook where, it is claimed, it was kept under shrouds and armed guards mounted round it.

**Aircraft investigators from Farnborough were allowed only a brief look at the Lightning before being ordered off the base.**

However, our informant claimed that he was puzzled when he saw that all the instruments had been removed and a different ejector seat fitted.

Two years ago, the story was largely dismissed by former Lightning pilots and RAF personnel. They maintained there was nothing secretive about the last operation of Foxtrot 94. It had merely been taking part in a routine night operation. It had been ordered to intercept the Shackleton at low level over the North Sea when, either through instrument failure or pilot error, the aircraft had simply flown into the sea. By a strange quirk of fortune the aircraft had hit the water at exactly the right attitude to stop it breaking up.

No one, however, came up with a satisfactory explanation about the fate of the pilot. It was suggested that he had, in fact, climbed out of the aircraft and had been washed away,

the canopy being forced shut by water pressure.

This didn't explain why the automatic beacons carried by all fighter pilots failed to work or, if they did, why they weren't picked up by the Shackleton or the Whirlwind helicopter scrambled from RAF Leconfield.

Nor was there any explanation about why, at the time of Foxtrot 94's alleged interception over the North Sea, there were reports up and down the coast of strange lights and sounds being heard out over the sea.

Since the Evening Telegraph's publication of the story, there has been worldwide interest in the fate of Foxtrot 94.

UFO magazines in Europe, America and Australia have all run the story and speculated about the "conical-shaped" object and the "glowing soccer balls".

Now, our original source has provided us with a lot more information about what he claims was going on over the North Sea in the early 1970s. Again, we have tried to verify the information but, again, it has proved impossible.

He has referred to a specific operation mounted in 1970-71 by the RAF and USAF but former airmen and Royal Observer Corps people we have spoken to say they have never heard of it. But that, in the circumstances, is no proof that it didn't take place.

The information we have received does contain some factual errors. A Phantom interceptor is referred to as an 'F-104' when every aircraft buff knows it was an F-4. Place names are misspelled and throughout UFOs appear to be accepted as an incontrovertible fact and not, as we believe, an unproven fantasy.

However, it makes fascinating reading and tomorrow we begin the story of the Donna Nook UFO.

As with Foxtrot 94, we make no claims about the accuracy of the information. But, fact or fantasy, you won't be able to put it down.

COURIER & ADVERTISER, Dundee, Scot land - Aug. 8, 1994 CR: T. Good

## Spinning UFO spotted by girls

AN UNIDENTIFIED spinning object sighted in the sky above Carnoustie last night has left aviation experts baffled.

Four Carnoustie school-girls say they sighted the dark, cylindrical object at 9 pm.

Kirsty McDonald (11) was the first to spot it. She said, "I saw a large dark disc with a light in the middle spinning over on itself."

The girls said the object made no noise and disappeared after five minutes when it got too high to see.

Another of the group, Mari Wishart said that although the girls were curious and followed the object as it headed east over Barry Buddon, they were also frightened.

"There was a dim light and streaks of light were coming out of the disc in lines as it spun," she added.

A spokesman for RAF Leuchars was unable to solve the mystery and said that no military aircraft were operating in the area last night as runways at the base are being re-surfaced.

The officer in charge of West Lomond Army Cadet Force battalion, who are training at Barry Buddon, said no helicopters had been in operation at the range and reported nothing unusual.

SCUNTHORPE EVENING TELEGRAPH, Lincs., England - Aug. 8, 1994 CR: T. Good

## Riddle of the ring of corn

MYSTERY surrounds the appearance of a crop circle found in a corn field outside Garthorpe.

The circle is on land belonging to the Martinsons of Corner Farm in Garthorpe and is 25 yards away from the nearby road, close to a Dutch style barn.

The phenomenon has been creating interest from passers-by and speculation is mounting as to how it came to be there.

Some people believe that crop circles are created by whirlwinds and this can certainly be backed up by the recent storms which have occurred in the area.

On the other end of the scale it is believed that the circle is created by some sort of supernatural force such as lay-lines or by UFOs when they land on the earth.



CITIZEN, Milton Keynes, England - July 7, 1994 CR: T. Good

## What was that UFO?

AN Unidentified Football Omen in the night sky above Blatchley spelled trouble for the Irish soccer team.

Footy-fan Margaret Boylan spotted a strange craft above her friend's home in Forfar Drive on Friday - and thought at first it could be a good luck omen for

Report by CAROLYN WILSON

Jack's boys in America.

"We saw it pass overhead - it was shaped like a ship and had what looked like fairy lights on the front," said Margaret, aged 44, from New Bradwell.

"It was totally silent. We

weren't frightened, but I got the feeling someone was watching us."

The UFO didn't turn out to be a lucky talisman for Irish-born Margaret's favourite football team - they lost Monday's match against Holland 2-0.

Blatchley police say they had no other reports of unidentified spacecraft - and an airfield spokesman at Cranfield said no planes had been airborne during the early hours.

"I'd just like to know what it was I saw..." Margaret told the Citizen.

## A reserved space for those from outer space

By BEN HILLS,  
Tokyo, Monday

The extraterrestrial, says Minoru Takahashi, was a bit over a metre tall, wearing a golden space suit, and with glowing red eyes and ears like bread rolls.

It came for him one night in 1979, the first of dozens of visitations by the little gold men who have taken him for rides around the world in their flying saucers, communicating with him telepathically.

"I know the experience was real, but when I went public with it and did a TV interview, a lot of people said I had gone mad," says Mr Takahashi, the 52-year-old administrator manager of a beachside hotel near the town of Aji.

But a lot of people did not. Luckily for Mr Takahashi, he lives on a part of the planet where out-of-this-world experiences do not raise too many eyebrows.

If his UFO fan-club has its way, this remote little island will be the first place in the world to roll out the welcome mat for the flying saucers. They already have a site — an \$A8 million piece of land on a mountain-top donated by a club member — and are drawing up plans for a UFO embassy.

Shikoku, a mysterious island about the size of Tasmania, has a long association with the supernatural. Every little town has an annual festival designed to ensure a good rice harvest or a bumper catch of bonito.

And hundreds of locals — they include teachers, business people, a surveyor, the owner of a bookshop — believe they have seen evidence of alien intelligence: glowing golden balls, cigar-shaped flashes of light,



Welcoming site: Minoru Takahashi (left), and Hirokazu Morita at the proposed UFO embassy site.

saucers hovering over the mountainsides...

"Shikoku is a very strange place," acknowledges Kinichi Arai, a UFO observer for 40 years, who runs a UFO reference library of 3000 volumes near Tokyo's Gotanda railway station. "They have a lot of sightings down there... although maybe it is because they have lots more believers than anywhere else."

In contrast with its suspicions of terrestrial foreigners, Japan has always had a soft spot for gaijin from outer space. There are scores of fan-clubs with maybe 100,000 members publishing 40 regular newsletters, says Mr Arai.

Japanese stage annual international UFO conferences, write books... and, inevitably, cash in on the phenomenon. The mainland town of Hakuishi — which also has heaps of sightings — has pinball parlors shaped like flying saucers, and local merchants sell UFO rice-crackers, bean buns and telephone cards with an unearthly hologram effect.

Hirokazu Morita, an otherwise down-to-earth gardening contractor, saw his first one about 10 years ago. "I have a witness," he says, "my brother was there too."

"Just as dusk was falling, this great golden ball like a full moon came gliding towards us. We were terrified, we took off," he said. Later, his 75-year-old mother saw it hovering over their house: "Strange planes they make nowadays," she mused.

A few months ago, Mr Morita decided to donate the four-hectare farm to the UFO club — they erected a sign declaring it to be the site for a mission to outer space. "They are obviously vastly more technologically advanced than us — they have much to teach us, so we should welcome them, whoever they are," he said.

He is also — let's be honest about it — not entirely uninterested in the commercial possibilities. UFO T-shirts, key-rings, posters, perhaps a boxed lunch.

Unfortunately, Mr Morita and Mr Takahashi have failed to persuade

the local governments that it would be wise to spend up to \$3 million of terrestrial tax-payers' money on the embassy, a museum and accommodation for any visitors from space that may turn up.

So far, all they have to show is a 20-metre "flying saucer park" of concentric circles, ploughed out of some spare land next to the hotel. And a rough sketch of a two-storey circular glass structure: "We haven't done any detailed design because we don't know yet whether they require such things as lavatories," says Mr Takahashi.

Officialdom in Japan takes rather a dim view of these supernatural reports from the twilight zone of Shikoku. "We believe in most cases these people have sighted satellites, or are hallucinating," sniffed a spokesman for the Science and Technology Agency in Tokyo.

But the fans are not about to give up. They believe UFOs could be just the thing to perk up the stagnant economy, and put Shikoku on the intergalactic map.

## Mystery object seen in sky

A BLUBBERHOUSES resident was startled when he saw a metallic object speeding through the air. Walter Lupton, who lives at Bridge View Cottages, in the tiny hamlet, was sitting in his garden in the early evening on Saturday when his attention was drawn a passing aeroplane.

"It was whilst I was looking at the plane that I noticed a very bright silver metallic object which seemed to have sparkling bits falling from it. It was travelling from Menwith Hill towards Otley and seemed to dip down by Fewston Reservoir."

"It was about 18 inches long and circular and was travelling at a very fast speed. My wife was in the front room and I went in to tell her about it." Mr Lupton, 65, who is retired, said he had seen many shooting stars in the time he had been living at Blubberhouses but that was late at night when the sky was dark.

"This happened at 8.30pm when it was still light. At first I wondered whether it was something falling from the plane but then I realised it couldn't possibly be."

"I have never seen anything like this before but I never thought to report it to anyone," added Mr Lupton.

CR: T. Good

# Crop of York sightings alien to laws of nature

by Matt Lyons and  
Richard Drax

YORK is rapidly becoming the centre of supernatural phenomena and strange sightings.

Crop circles have appeared in a field near Copmanthorpe, while a salesman had a close encounter of the UFO kind in Woodthorpe — the most recent in a spate of sightings.

In the first incident, two perfectly-shaped crop circles, one 18 metres in diameter, the other about two metres, can be seen in a field owned by Askham Bryan College.

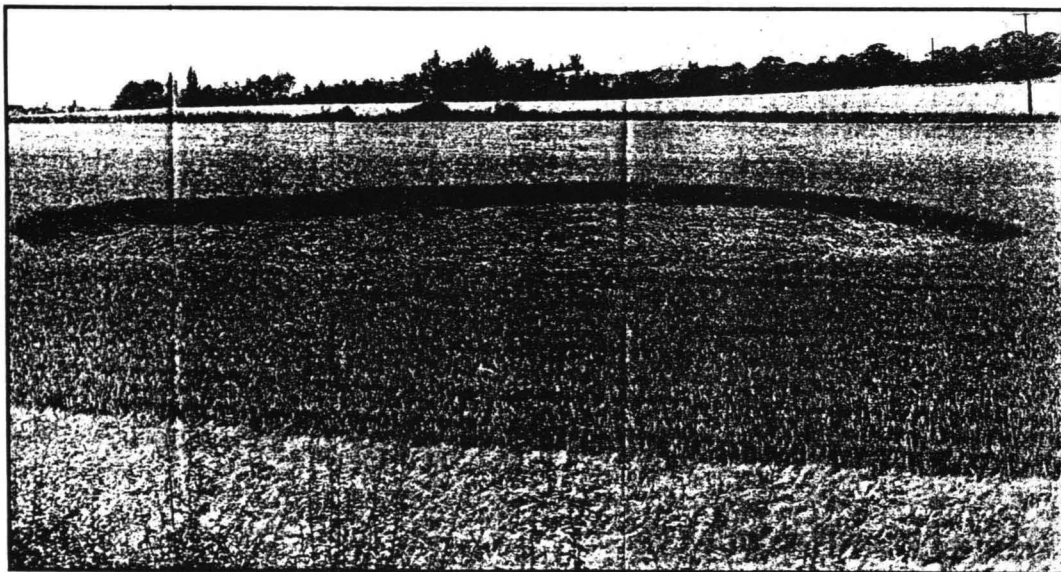
There is no evidence — such as marks in the ground — to indicate what laid the crops flat in a clockwise direction.

A spokesman for the college said they had noticed the circles during the weekend.

These circles continue to baffle scientists who believe they are not just the result of a random natural force.

In July 1992 a circle was discovered near Pickering, while another - 66ft in diameter - was found at Hambleton, near Selby.

The circles are not unique to Britain, with recorded occurrences in Canada, Japan,



Blowing in the wind: The corn circle seen from York's outer ring road near the Askham Richard roundabout

Germany, Russia, Australia and America.

In the second incident, a salesman, who preferred not to be named, spotted three bright

white lights high in the sky in the early hours of the morning.

"I knew they weren't a plane or helicopter or anything — the only thing they could have

been is a UFO."

The lights were circular and, although he watched them for about five minutes, there was no sign of movement.

"I watch documentaries about UFOs and things and I used to think these people are off their trolleys, but this has changed all that."



# Joe's close encounter to be seen on TV show

FILM footage of a UFO taken by a local man is to be featured in a TV programme.

Joe Callan, of Fyfe Road, Corby, used his camcorder to film the flying saucer-shaped object, which hovered above his home for about five minutes.

Mr Callan, his wife Margaret, and children Sean, Serena and Ebony, were in the garden when they spotted the UFO just before 7.45pm on Saturday, May 7.

Mr Callan, a Co-operative Insurance agent, rushed into his house to get the camcorder, while Mrs Callan and three-year-old Sean looked through binoculars.

The video recording, lasting more than four minutes, will be shown on the new LWT programme Schofield's Quest on Sunday, June 26.

Mr Callan said: "I noticed something in the sky and I assumed it was a microlight. It came from the north-west and flew into the wind."

"It was going very, very slowly. It had a silver top, which was round with bubbles. Underneath it was black and circular. There was no noise."

"It bobbed about and curved round as it moved. It then went on its side and shot off. It was a fantastic experience!"

Mr Callan said the experience did not worry him. He said: "I half expected to see something one day. It didn't worry me at all. Nothing

happened to the garden and the birds were still twittering away!"

"I am a very sceptical person, but I am not arrogant enough to believe we are the only intelligence in the universe."

Mr Callan called Corby man Ernie Still, who helped found NUFORC - the Northamptonshire UFO Research Centre. Mr Still informed the British UFO Research Association, which examined the film.

Mr Still said: "This is the first on film I've seen. I was very impressed, there's certainly something there."



Joe Callan ET picture: CJN37005.21

# Sky the limit for the mint with a hole

By John Smith

THE CAMERA, as we know, never lies, which is why it seems possible that aliens recently came close to breaking into a Scottish prison. The clinching evidence is that it's not the sort of thing anyone would try unless coming from another planet.

But, as with all good UFO stories, the mystery of whether or not a brightly-lit object, like a big mint with a hole in the middle, actually hovered over the perimeter fence at Glenochil, near Alloa, is likely to remain unexplained.

Ron Halliday, a ufologist, would dearly love to look at the evidence, but he won't get the chance. Whatever was recorded on a surveillance camera on the night of 15 May has been taped over.

The story began when staff were despatched to investigate what colleagues in the control room were viewing on a monitor screen, as a surveillance camera panned over part of the high mesh fence round Glenochil.

What they saw, according to a prison officer, was a small airborne object, moving backwards and forwards over the fence. "It was a bright white light with a big hole in the middle, like a giant Polo mint," he said.

Two officers, sent outside to investigate, could see nothing, while colleagues in the control room continued to view the object. The entire episode

lasted for around five minutes.

A Scottish Prison Service spokesman said that they had not seen anything, whether shaped like a giant mint or not, in the night sky. "The logical explanation is camera fault, and no other action was deemed necessary."

He said that video tapes for the surveillance cameras were on a loop system, with continual rerecording. A video was only kept if it showed an incident at the jail - "otherwise we'd be knee deep in tapes."

Mr Halliday, of Scottish Earth Mysteries Research, said he was deeply disappointed that the tape had not been kept.

"It is precisely the kind of evidence you would love to get hold of and scrutinise, and prove or disprove whether there was actually something there."

In recent years, he claimed, there had been a number of unexplained sightings of objects in the sky in the Alloa area. Those included disch-shaped objects and blue balls of light.

"But its so rare you ever get anything captured on video," he said wistfully. "Cameras can pick up strange phenomena undetected by the human eye."

Mr Halliday is to conduct an investigation and intends to speak to staff who were on duty that night.

# Minister is true believer in UFOs

By Julius Strauss  
in Budapest

NEWS that Gyorgy Keleti, the newly appointed Hungarian Defence Minister, is keenly interested in unidentified flying objects and frequently contributes to a UFO magazine has raised eyebrows in Hungary.

Col Keleti is a member of the Socialist Party, which won national elections in May. His responsibilities include overseeing Hungary's participation in the Partnership for Peace programme in preparation for eventual Nato membership.

The 48-year-old colonel, trained as a radio operator, is a professional soldier with a long service record in the Hungarian army.

However, his hobby was not widely known at the time of his appointment.

Many of the UFO sightings he describes were compiled from reports by Hungarian soldiers.

He has written numerous articles on the subject, with titles such as "We don't stand a chance in a UFO invasion" and "They have identified Szolnok [a town in central Hungary]".

In one piece, Col Keleti describes a flying vehicle with lights that hovered before changing its shape and disappearing.

In another, he speaks of a light "10 times as bright as Venus" tracing the letter Z in the air.

Col Keleti is not the only Hungarian to be interested in UFOs. Sales of the magazine have soared since its launch five years ago and now stand at 35,000. Many Hungarian cities have UFO societies.

Asked if he believed in extra-terrestrial life, he said: "I believe that in this universe another intelligent culture must exist."

# MYSTERY OF UFO SIGHTINGS

STRANGE lights in the sky near Wellington Monument are causing excitement among UFO experts.

Reports of unidentified flying objects have been flooding in to Somerset UFO Group's headquarters near Taunton.

Last week, in one day alone, their director of investigations, Sue Hembury-Kellow received more than 30 phone calls from members of the public reporting sightings, most of them towards the Wellington end of the Blackdowns.

Some, she says, can be accounted for as mis-identification of the planet Venus, which is particular-

by Di Grabham

ly bright in the north-west sky at the moment.

But some reported sightings remain a mystery.

Most sightings seem to have taken place between 9.30pm and 11.30, but one Wellington man reported seeing a strange off-white deep frisbee-shaped object during the afternoon. It was hovering below cloud level, he says, but was definitely not a cloud, and was bigger than an aircraft.

A married couple who Ms Hembury-Kellow describes as being very credible witnesses have reported four or five sightings of a circular UFO with multi coloured "strobing" lights.

Similar sightings have been reported of the object travelling silently, but

quite fast, from Milverton towards Wellington. Witnesses insist it was not an aircraft.

One of the most spectacular sightings was reported by a woman driving from Taunton to Churchstanton at approximately 11.20pm, passing the police training centre at Cannons Grove.

She spotted a horseshoe-shaped object in the sky surrounded by a rainbow of flashing lights and slowly rotating at cloud level, she says.

She drove on to the village of Blagdon Hill where she stopped and turned her engine off. She watched as the object silently hovered at what she describes as being two church heights above the brow of the hill, before moving away towards Bridgwater.

"There have been so many independent witnesses reporting the same thing within Taunton Deane," said Sue.

"They're not lying - they can't all be inventing the same story. Something unusual is happening."

Sue says the increased activity could warrant setting up a sky watch where ufologists set up video cameras and equipment in a remote area for an all-night vigil in the hope of capturing further evidence on film.

Anyone who has spotted mystery objects can contact the Somerset UFO Research and Investigation Network, 24 hours of the day, on 0823 491068.



Tony Sheppard standing in the crop circle at Chirbury on Tuesday.

# Farmer baffled by mystery crop circle

A MYSTERIOUS crop circle has appeared in a field of corn near Welshpool.

Opinion is divided as to what causes the levelling of an area without the rest of the field being disturbed - explanations include UFOs, mini whirlwinds, and electro-magnetic forces as well as hoaxers.

Crop circles have been common in Wiltshire and other southern England counties but are rare in Mid Wales and the border.

One was found at Llan-gurig a few years ago and this week Tony Sheppard of Bryncaer, Chirbury, discovered another on land that he farms just outside the village.

"I found it this morning but it could have been there for a few days," said Tony on Tuesday.

"It's about eight or nine feet across with the corn all lying down in a clockwise direction," added Tony who thinks it very unlikely that hoaxers were responsible for this one.

# Circles crop up again

MYSTERIOUS crop circles which have appeared in Dacorum could be the latest attempts by a superior intelligence to make contact with earth, a local UFO expert has said.

The two concentric circles have appeared in a 35-acre wheatfield in Broadway Farm, at Bourne End and can be seen from the A41 bypass. Mrs Joan

Knowles, whose son David runs the farm, said the circles were "causing annoyance".

But Simon Shavelar, a member of the Hemel Hempstead branch of Associated Research, which investigates supernatural phenomena said: "We are looking at a possible atmospheric connection which could have been caused by a UFO."

He added that one of the circles could be a hoax by people trying to blur the message from the real one.

OUT OF THIS WORLD

THE number of people claiming to have been abducted by aliens has shown a sharp increase and the interest in unexplained sightings grows by the day. But are these kidnappings and UFO sightings real or just a simple flight of fantasy? Reporter PETER REEVE investigates.

# Phoning home from the final frontier



● ET — he's out there according to some

MIKE Oram never had any doubt about UFOs — even at the age of four.

"I first became interested in UFOs when I was just four years old," he said.

"I remember speaking to my mother and telling her that I didn't think she and my father were my real parents — but that my real parents were out in space."

But 43-year-old Mike is not your average UFO-spotter — the sort who sees strange lights in the sky.

He actually believes aliens are sending him telepathic messages from outer space.

And he is also convinced that he has been abducted by aliens on at least ten occasions.

He also believes aliens may have sent him to Earth to help mankind survive the potentially devastating effects of world pollution.

Mike, an unemployed postman living in Windermere, Cumbria, claims to have had about 50 close encounters with UFOs and their occupants.

He believes the aliens — or humanoids as he prefers to call them — get in touch with him through a form of telepathy.

"I hear this message in my head to go somewhere and there is invariably a spaceship in the sky when I get there."

## Buzzing

"It usually start with a buzzing in my head, which spreads over my whole body. Then I go into a sort of drugged state. You still have your consciousness but it seems to be removed from your body."

Two years ago he claims three aliens entered his bedroom and took him to their spaceship.

## Ten facts about UFOs

- 226 UFO cases have been reported to the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association this year;
- More than 60 "abductions" by aliens have been reported to the association since it was formed 30 years ago;
- About 99% of UFO cases are reported by the public, the rest by the military and airlines;
- Between 90 and 95% of cases are easily explained, but a small minority remain a complete mystery;
- The most popular locations for spotting UFOs include Warminster in Wiltshire, the Pennines, the Peak District, the Yorkshire Dales and Bonnybridge, near Falkirk, Scotland;
- Bright lights in the night sky are the most commonly reported phenomenon;
- Second to these are oval or rugby ball-shaped objects flying around;
- Puerto Rico is the most popular place to see UFOs, followed by the United States and Britain;
- Growing interest in UFOs has helped the British UFO Research Association double its membership to 1,000 in the past two years;
- The association has nearly 100 volunteers across Britain who investigate reported sightings and close encounters.

"These three humanoids appeared in tight-fitting silver suits. I have also seen them appear in green suits."

"They were all about 6ft 2in. They looked human but had these high cheekbones and slanted eyes. They were very, very attractive. Using a beam from the spaceship, I was transported through the closed window of my bedroom and into the spacecraft which was glowing a bright red."

But however hard he tries, Mike cannot remember what the aliens have told him after being returned to Earth.

"I believe the information they have given me has been stored in my subconsciousness and will be released when it is needed."

He is convinced the aliens are sending him messages about the long-term dangers of pollution and the destruction of the rain forests.

"There are perhaps thousands of people like me who have been sent to this planet with the purpose of helping humanity progress and survive," said Mike.

But Mike is not alone in his devout belief that aliens are visiting earth. Former Ferranti engineer Arthur Tomlinson, 62, is one of Britain's leading authorities on UFOs.

He has spent 45 years studying reported sightings of UFOs and speaking to people who have met aliens.

Arthur, of Bury, Lancs, reckons he has even had contact with aliens himself — so he is convinced people like Mike have not imagined their encounters.

## Hypnosis

As part of his research, Arthur listened to a man under hypnosis speak about his own "Close Encounter of the Third Kind."

The man remembered being beamed up into a spaceship while walking on Ilkley Moor in West Yorkshire on December 1, 1987.

Arthur said: "He described the aliens as 4ft tall, green, with large black slanted eyes and arms that came down below their knees. Their hands had three fingers like sausages."

"He remembered being shown pictures of pollution on Earth, and hearing these voices in his head saying 'Don't be afraid, we don't mean to harm you'."

"He was apparently taken up into space and remembered looking out of a window, seeing Earth below him, and thinking 'Heck, I don't want to be up here'."

"When he was returned to Ilkley Moor, he was able to get his camera and take a photograph of this green creature standing before him."

The number of reported "abductions" by UFOs has shown a sharp increase this year, according to the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association.

Out of the 60 incidents recorded over the past 30 years, a third have been reported since the start of this year.

## Willing

UFORA spokesman Philip Mantle said one explanation is that more people are willing to report their strange experiences.

"The stigma that used to be attached to UFOs is not as great as it used to be."

But sceptics still abound.

Dr Ian Crawford, research fellow in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at London's University College said there was no scientific evidence of alien life in our solar system.

But he did not discount the possibility of life elsewhere in the galaxy.

"What I do believe is that we will eventually have the technology to travel between the stars, so it would not be physically impossible for any aliens out there to visit Earth," he said.

But Dr Crawford dismisses out of hand claims that people have been "abducted" by aliens.

"I suspect these people are either fantasising or making the whole thing up for some reason."

"Scientists would need very solid evidence before they started believing such claims."

JOURNAL, Bristol, England

July 1, 1994 CR: T. Good

## Crop mystery

A FORMATION of crop circles mysteriously appeared in East Dundry over the weekend.

The circles were discovered by accident by SkyNet - British Network of UFO Investigation - and the Avon Crop Circle Research Centre as they were carrying out research in a neighbouring field.

According to UFO investigator, Lee Winterson, they are unusual in that they are well hidden.

"I won't commit myself to saying it's genuine, but if it was a hoax why wouldn't you put it in a place where everyone can see it?" said Mr Winterson.

"The complexity of it and the multiple layers of corn baffle me. Someone would have had to have taken a lot of time over it," he added.

Stuart Dike of the Research Centre claims the formation is between 150 and 200 feet wide and is one of the most unusual he has seen.

EVENING NEWS, Edinburgh, Scotland - July 1, 1994

## UFO MYSTERY

# Puzzle as craft hovers over field

A UFO expert is probing a daytime sighting over Lothian.

And Ron Halliday is appealing for witnesses after a lone cyclist spotted a strange object hovering above a field near Penicuik.

The chairman of Scottish Earth Mysteries Research has been given a detailed statement by a man — who does not want to be named — who saw a multi-coloured craft on the outskirts of the town at about 2pm on Sunday, June 18.

"This man got in touch with me and told me he had seen a strange triangular shaped object as he was out cycling," he said.

The witness said he saw the object hovering for several minutes over a field.

Mr Halliday said it was reasonably high up but he got a good view of it. He said it was a solid metallic object, red, white and blue. He ruled out obvious things, such as a plane, glider or kite.

"I really don't know what to make of it. I would certainly



RON HALLIDAY: Wants to hear of UFO sightings.

appreciate any reports from other people who may have seen something in the area at that particular time."

Any information to Ron Halliday on 0786 832480.

■ Mr Halliday attended a conference in Falkirk last night to discuss UFO sightings.

"The main purpose was to discuss reports of sightings in the Bonnybridge area," he said. "However there was discussion on other UFO reports."

"There has been some controversy about reports from the Bonnybridge area. But it is always worthwhile getting together to discuss sightings."

CR: T. Good

# Seeing is believing

UFOLOGISTS have long considered areas of east London and around the Essex border prime locations for UFO sightings.

The Barking-based London UFO Studies group is currently investigating the latest report of a saucer-shaped object over the area.

Schoolboy Stuart Halliday spotted the UFO at about 11.30pm on Thursday February 17.

"I was just about to go to bed when I noticed a dome-shaped object with bright orange or red lights underneath," said Stuart, 14, at his home in Walthamstow.

"At first I thought it was a shooting star but it appeared to be very near to my house — about 400 yards away and 300 feet in the air."

"I'd never seen anything like that in my life and it hung there for about three minutes before moving off very fast."

"It was totally silent and had bright lights coming from the edges. It was dark and dome shaped."

The incident is being investigated by Roy Lake, founder of London UFO Studies, who is calling on anyone else who saw the object to contact him.

Roy said a wide area of Epping Forest has a lengthy history of sightings and research into paranormal activity.

Cynics might suggest the Stapleford Abbots and North Weald airports, plus a police helicopter site at High Beach which could account for aerial activity.

But Roy is unbowed and says that in particular the Pole Hill and Barn Hill areas are known for paranormal activity because of a Ley Line crossing through there.

"Since the 60s when I became interested in paranormal phenomena some pretty strange things have occurred up there," said Roy.

"Two children were found drowned in a pond off Barn Hill and the area was immediately cordoned off by the army, for no apparent reason."

"And a double decker bus drove into the River Lea and on that occasion the Ministry of Defence came down and the whole thing was hushed up."

"We're interested in hearing from anyone who has seen any unusual aerial activity. Anyone interested in contacting us or joining the group should phone me on 081 594 4797."

'I'd never seen anything like it, it hung there for about three minutes before moving off fast'

## Newton Abbot in UFO mystery

STARS above! UFO fever has struck South Devon.

Alan and Jean Cole were enjoying a cuppa in the garden at their Newton Abbot home when they spotted a bright light in the sky.

The glittering object headed slowly north from the Torquay direction, stopped for a few minutes over the Shaldon area and then shot back the way it had come.

Jean, of Kingswell Road, Decoy, insists she wasn't dreaming — and says a drop of the strong stuff hadn't passed their lips all day.

## Glittering

She said: "It came over very slowly and stopped for four minutes. When it went back, my God, didn't it shoot! We couldn't make out a shape even with binoculars. It was like a star glittering in the sky."

Jean's daughter, who doesn't want to be identified, claims she too saw the mystery object at around 4pm last Friday — and wonders if anyone else did.

"We thought it was an aeroplane at first, with the sun glinting off it," she said.

"I don't drink, take drugs or magic mushrooms!"

HERALD EXPRESS, Torquay, Devon, England Aug. 4, 1994 CR: T. Good

CR: T. Good



# Object shaped like peardrop



THRILLED: Anita sketched the UFO which she saw just above the trees

Tim Stout  
Close encounter

A THRILLED Southend woman made a sketch of the UFO she spotted out her window.

And after her close encounter during a storm she hopes that lightning will strike twice because she trained a video camera on the sky.

UFO witness Anita Grant, 23, said: "It was definitely a machine. Was I frightened? No, I was excited more than anything."

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

Anita, who lives in Fortune Steps in Kursaal Way, Southend, had her sighting at 3.10am early on Saturday morning after going to bed after a spell of late-night TV.

Coincidentally, she had been watching *Dogs in Space* — no tale of canine cosmonauts, but a film about hippies.

When she saw it the UFO was 100 yards away, hovering above a large tree in nearby Arnold Avenue.

It was shaped like a teardrop, and was about the size of a small plane, with a black-grey hull, and it was glistening.

Astonished Anita watched the

thing for a minute and a half before it disappeared.

The Echo put Mr Roy Lake of the London UFO Studies group in touch with Anita.

He said: "There is no doubt that this was something we cannot explain as a natural phenomenon."

"I would be interested to hear from anyone else who saw this thing."

# Anita has late night encounter with UFO

"I believe it was a physical object and probably some kind of flying machine, though not a conventional one. However, that does not necessarily mean it was an extra terrestrial spacecraft."

Mr Lake stressed that the subject of UFOs was no laughing matter. Even in Russia and Japan, they were now being taken seriously.

He said: "Miss Grant seems a genuine, down to earth young lady. She has nothing to gain by making such a story, and probably a lot to lose."

Mr Lake urged anyone who sees a UFO to call other witnesses while it is still in view, and then report it as soon as possible.

He can be reached on 081 594 4797 after 6pm.

# Spacemen head for Hungary

THE EUROPEAN, London, England - Aug. 12, 1994 CR: T. Good

LITTLE green men from outer space look likely to supplant Serbs and Slovaks as the chief threat to Hungary if the writings of the country's newly elected defence minister are anything to go by.

Before Gyorgy Keleti was elected to his defence post this May he was renowned in the "alternative interest" magazine sector as an enthusiastic contributor to *UFO Magazin*. According to its editor, Sandor Pusztay, the minister won fame for his colourful talks on aliens on the national lecture circuit.

Keleti is clearly a man with an open mind when it comes to the nature of the material world. Describing one unidentified flying object sighting, he says that the UFO was "ten times as bright as Venus". He continues, evidently impressed: "It approached at an altitude of 350 metres and assumed indescribable shapes in its flight."

He concludes: "It is worth noting that the electricity company admitted that at the time this event took place there was a short power failure which could not be attributed to anything."

It is not only high-ranking Hungarians who are embracing UFOs as never before. The former communist nation now boasts three national magazines dealing with spacemen, New Age issues and the paranormal: *NTT* (Close Encounters of the Zero Kind), *Szines UFO* (UFOs in Colour) and *UFO Magazin*.

As proof of the popularity of alien invaders, editor Szucs says that *UFOs in Colour* has received 200 reports of spacemen being sighted in Hungary since the magazine was founded earlier this year.

According to experts, 30,000 space aliens, or the craft which carry them, have been spotted in Hungarian skies since 1942.

"People in poor countries like the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Russia are believers," said Szucs. "Poor



Szines UFO: 200 new sightings

people are more open to mystical things than the rich."

This appears to be especially true in the case of Hungary, where the UFO mania sometimes overlaps with other national trends — both religious and carnal.

According to *UFO Magazin's* Pusztay, some people in this Catholic country have reported seeing UFOs alongside visions of the Virgin Mary. Two other reports sent to Pusztay described incidents in which Hungarians — who believe that they are noted for their amorosness — had sex with their extra-terrestrial guests.

Other Hungarians, however, seem to have their feet planted more firmly on the ground. Imre Orszag, a spokesman for the National Civil Defence Department, has no fear whatsoever of things that go bump in the night. After consultation with his superiors he reported: "We don't have any special defence plan policy for UFOs."

John Nadler

# Mystery of the Orford 'UFO'

GUARDIAN, Warrington, England

July 22, 1994 CR: T. Good

COULD people from another planet be planning an invasion of Warrington?

Are alien eyes jealous of the town's great road and rail network, Rugby League team and breweries?

People in Orford enjoying the last rays of Friday's sun could be forgiven for thinking so after watching a strange object cruising across the sky.

Eyewitnesses have told of a dark, oval-shaped craft slowly moving away into the setting sun. One said: "I was sitting in the garden at about 9.30 when my neighbour suddenly pointed to sky and said 'What's that?'"

"When I looked I saw this strange

By GREG NIXON

thing in the sky — I have never seen anything like it before."

"When I got in work on Monday, somebody told me their wife had seen something similar about an hour earlier. I wasn't scared by it, but it was very odd."

Sale-based UFO expert Harry Harris said: "I have not heard anything about this so I cannot comment."

"I would need more information from the people involved and anyone else who may have seen something before trying to explain what it might be."

# MAN IN UFO PROBE TALKS

UFO enthusiasts are expected to flock to Manchester this week for a rare chance to hear one of the greatest authorities on flying saucers.

Col Charles Halt, a former American Air Force base commander will be in Britain to deliver lectures on UFOs and will recount his own experience of an unearthly encounter.

Col Halt, who retired in 1992 after 28 years service will be at the Friends Meeting House, in Manchester on Saturday to speak about what happened at RAF

By DAVE TOOMER

Woodbridge in Suffolk in December 1980.

The first incident was witnessed by two security police at the back gate of the base who saw what they thought was an aircraft crash in the nearby forest.

Three patrolmen investigated and reported seeing a strange glowing object, triangular in appearance which illuminated the entire forest with white light.

They said the object was either hovering or was on legs and had a pulsating red light on the top with a bank of blue lights underneath. It moved through the trees before disappearing.

Next day Col Halt checked the area with a team for radiation and found three depressions where the object was spotted.

Later that night Col Halt saw a red sun-like light through the trees which moved about and pulsed sending off star-like objects into the sky.

Col Halt's account was sent to the Ministry of Defence but when Ufologist Harry Harris researched the incident the MoD refused to comment on the sighting saying it had no defence significance.

But in a taped interview with Mr Harris, Col Halt said: "I became involved in UFO's as a non believer but I am now convinced we saw something beyond anything we can understand and was not built by any government on Earth."

Mr Harris, a solicitor based in Sale, Manchester, is sponsoring the lecture. He has been researching UFO sightings and close encounters of the third kind for several years.

He told the Evening News "I also began as a sceptic but I now think there is no doubt that we are being visited by extra-terrestrials and that it is being covered up."

Bolton and Leigh has had its own share of UFO mysteries with dozens of reported sightings over the last 20 years including a ball of light spotted over the Old Links Golf Course in 1991 and a sighting by two children in September last year.

There has also been mystery surrounding unexplained corn circles in the Lowton area near Leigh.

The lecture will be held at the Friends Meeting House Manchester at 2pm and tickets are £4.50 available on the door or from Harry Harris by sending an SAE to 1st Floor, 384 Washway Road, Sale, Manchester.

# Riddle of lights in the sky . . .

**MYSTERY:** May Macleod has no explanation for the glowing shape she spotted from her Falkirk home.



A LOCAL woman claims to have seen a strange glowing object in the sky above Falkirk.

The unexplained sight hovered over the town three nights in a row, says 40-year-old May Macleod, a student nurse.

May has had to put up with some ribbing since telling friends and fellow students about the close encounter at her Gowan Avenue home.

But while she is unsure of what the object actually was, she stressed: "I'm certain I saw something."

She told The Falkirk Herald: "I looked outside and saw this shape. It was fluorescent lime green and was extremely bright and was radiating or pulsating."

"It was static and seemed to be sending out sparklers, like a firework, coming down from one side to ground level, and back up on the other side."

"Occasionally it tilted. It was quite low and looked to be near the high flats at the Barrs factory in Camelon."

She said it appeared at the same time on the next two nights.

"I had told a friend about it and on the second night I phoned her and gave her a running commentary — she was laughing and thought I was joking. She lives in Shieldhill, which is higher, and she couldn't see anything."

"The next night I phoned a friend in Polmont and he couldn't see anything either."

"I have no idea what it was. Someone at the college wondered if it was something planetary which was only visible at this time of year."

She says she has been the subject of jokes linking her with the spate of sightings in Bonnybridge. Those sightings have led to international media interest and a convention of UFO enthusiasts in Falkirk Town Hall.

But May said: "I don't buy newspapers and I don't have a television. I didn't go to the convention. I haven't been influenced by anything."

Earlier this month an American TV show contacted The Falkirk Herald for information about UFO sightings here. They are sending a film crew here later in the year.

DUNFERMLINE PRESS, Fife, Scotland - June 17, 1994 CR: T. Good

# No new phenomenon

Last week's article on UFO sightings in Dunfermline area, recalls to my mind an incident a long time ago, which, to me at least, proved that it is no new phenomenon.

In 1948-49, while home on leave, I was walking home from town. As you leave High Street and turn down New Row, a lovely view opens out to the Bridges and the Pentland Hills beyond. Only one bridge then. It also shows a wide area of sky.

The sky was clear. I think it was between 4.30pm and 6.30pm and August.

Movement caught my eye. Looking up, I saw to my amazement a large cylindrical, or rather a rocket-shaped object, travelling southwards on an almost parallel course to the rail bridge.

Being a seaman and used to estimating size and distance, I placed it as over 1500 feet up, but unlikely to be more than 2000 feet.

More importantly, I judged its size as probably equal to or exceeding dimensions of the QEII. I saw a row of portholes above the centre line of the side presented to me.

The speed was rather slow in relation to its size, as I wondered why or how it could stay up there. Noise was absent, yet there appeared to be a red exhaust (?) emission at the lower rear. Viewing time was some two minutes. At sea, I have often seen unexplained aerial movement, such as in the crystal-clear skies, of the Indian Ocean, yet nothing to equal this.

I have only mentioned this once to a person, who brought the subject up.

He said he had seen a report from RAF Turnhouse, now Edinburgh

Airport, by radar control officers of the same sighting.

I wish to remain anonymous, but attach my sworn affidavit to the editor. This may encourage others to do likewise, to avoid the fear of ridicule.

NAME AND ADDRESS  
SUPPLIED

Malcolm Robinson, of Strange Phenomena Investigations, who was quoted in last week's article, can be contacted at 41 The Braes, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire, FK10 2TT (tel: 0259 724033) - editor.

EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England - July 2, 1994 CR: T. Good

# Defence chiefs 'open-minded' on UFOs

The Government remains open-minded on some of the "strange things" which appear in the sky and defy explanation, Defence Minister Lord Cranborne has admitted in a letter made public today.

But he assured Tory MP Sir Teddy Taylor: "We are not aware of any evidence that would support existence of extra-terrestrial life —

and we are not covering up any information on this subject."

Sir Teddy, MP for Southend East, had sought information from the Ministry of Defence about increasing reports of "strange things in the sky".

Lord Cranborne told him: "Although the Ministry of Defence receives some reports of UFO sighting, our only concern is to establish whether or not there is evidence of any threat to the security of the United Kingdom."

"It is clear from the reports we receive that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky."

"We believe that explanations could be found for most of them, but do accept that there will always be a few sightings which appear to defy explanation. We are open-minded on these."

"We are aware of some of the more exotic stories that circulate about UFOs, but most of the reports that we get refer to little more than a vague light or shape in the sky," Lord Cranborne added.

DAILY NEWS, Durban, Natal, South Africa - July 28, 1994

# Strange flying object sighted around Durban

Daily News Reporter

THE sighting of a strange object that glowed and hummed in the night sky north of Durban is being investigated by local UFO watchers.

The UFO has caused ripples of excitement among experts as they believe the same object, might have been seen in the Johannesburg area only a few hours earlier.

The Durban sighting was by a local advertising executive, Mark Jerome, and his wife, Vijay.

They were relaxing at their home in Glenhills at 1.45am on Tuesday — after working late — when they noticed a strange object approaching.

"At first I thought it was an aircraft," said Mr Jerome. "Then I saw it was not. It was huge and round, and had orbiting red, white and green lights."

"It hovered above our house and then it made a zooming sound — an eerie sound, unlike any aircraft I ever heard — and shot away."

Mr Jerome said the top, domed half of the object rotated while the bottom part did not. He watched the object hover above his house.

His description was confirmed by Mrs Jerome. She said: "It was strange, almost frightening."

"I have never believed in UFOs and things like that, but now I know there is something strange out there."

Mr Jerome contacted Dimitri Galanakis, the local representative of Quest International, who do UFO investigations worldwide.

Mr Galanakis did a comprehensive series of checks to ensure that no aircraft or balloons were above Durban at that time.

"I believe this was a genuine sighting," he said.

Mr Galanakis appealed to anybody who saw the latest Durban UFO to telephone him at 370196.

# Why the alien doubters are still running round in circles

By Gareth Lewisham

THIS extraordinary crop circle and markings are some of the most elaborate seen in Wales.

The circle, spotted in a field at Magor, near Chepstow, in Gwent, displays scorch marks around its edges — something not seen before by experts.

But UFO expert Peter Hough last night dismissed the crop circle as an elaborate hoax timed to coincide with the first Crop Circle and UFO conference held in Wales.

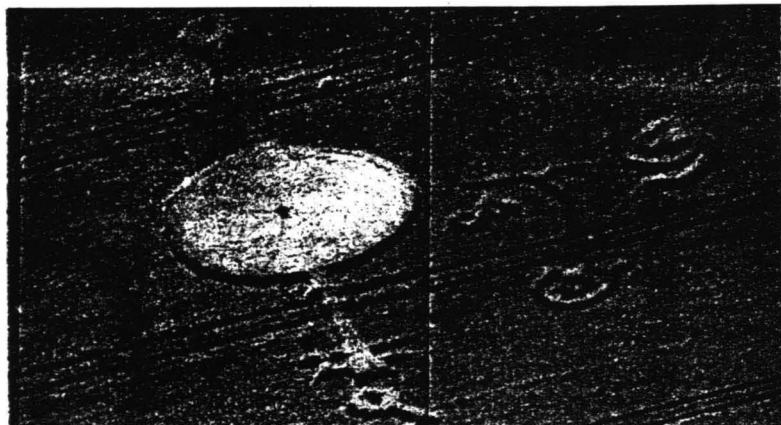
In the last month, however, there have been at least three new circles in Wales and helicopter pilot Ray Jones, who witnessed the patterns, believes there could be more.

"I've been flying around Wales for more than 20 years and I have never seen this many at one time," said Mr Jones, owner of an Abergavenny-based building firm.

The circles were seen by him in fields near Chepstow, Cardiff and on the Shropshire border.

"They are very baffling," said Mr Jones who has been interested in the phenomena since he first saw one five years ago.

But Mr Hough, author of The Complete Book of UFOs, believes it is an elaborate practical joke, saying the outbreak coincides with last week's conference in



**SCORCHING RIDDLE:** But the Magor corn circle could be another elaborate hoax

Cardiff, which examined the issue of alien visitors from outer space.

"The more elaborate patterns tend to be created by people trying to imitate the real circles, which are very simple," said Mr Hough. "I have never heard of scorch marks before, but that could be an attempt to make it look like burns from a spaceship."

However, it could be for real and I would test soil samples taken from the area."

Farmer William Jones, who noticed the circles in his fields the morning after a full moon, said: "I'm a cynic so I think someone made them, but they would have to be very clever and it would take hours. Scorch marks take some explaining. We certainly didn't hear or see anything."

LANCASHIRE EVENING POST, Preston, England

# Garden circles mystery

BY Jupiter! UFO investigators are set to probe mysterious twin crop circles at a Lancashire house whose appearance co-incided with the recent interplanetary collision.

The two circles, measuring five feet and eight feet in diameter, appeared out of the blue in the garden of Mike and Jeann Harding, in Hannel Lane, Walton-le-Dale, near Preston.

By cosmic co-incidence the baffling rings turned up as the last piece of comet Shoemaker Levy smashed into the planet Jupiter causing galactic explosions with the power of millions of nuclear warheads.

Now members of the Lancashire Aerial Phenomena Investigation Society are due to examine the evidence at the Harding's home.

A baffled Mr Harding said: "I have no idea where they came from but I don't think they are a prank."





## Cow mutilation mystery in Truchas



Kris Córdova, 10, covers his nose to block the stench of the dead cow in background.

Photos by Nick Sokoloff/The New Mexican

## Three cattle killed, butchered in night

By ZACK VAN EYCK  
The New Mexican

TRUCHAS — Three of his cows have been mutilated, their genitalia and udders removed, their bodies left to rot in a sun-baked field just west of here.

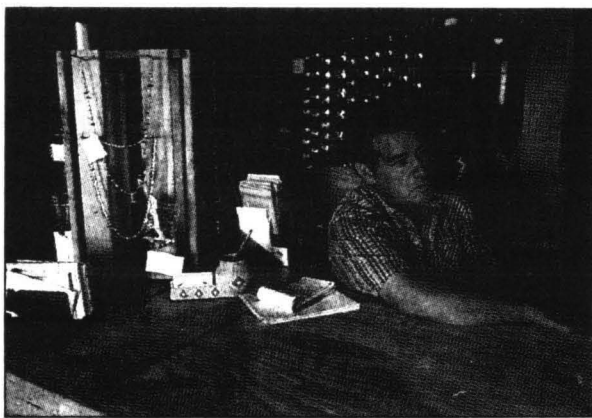
That's all Max Córdova knows for sure.

The rest is a mystery — one that can't be solved soon enough to satisfy Córdova, his brother, Alberto, and father, Alberto.

Together the men own a now-diminished herd of breeder cattle that chewed cud and grazed uneventfully on grant land off Llano de Abeyta Road for years.

And then something happened.

"A lot of people say they don't believe it," Max Córdova



Max Córdova sits in his store, the Los Siete Weaving Shop, in Truchas. He and members of his family owned the three mutilated cows.

said Monday. "I'd like to take everyone out to the cows and say, 'Why do I have these dead

cows with the sex organs missing?'"

The Córdova family discov-

ered the three bodies Friday morning. The udder and vagina of each cow had been removed, and the tongue of each was cut off at the root. The anuses of two animals had been removed. There was no blood or evidence of struggle.

"I've butchered a lot of cows and when you take the tongue out, you have to work at it," Max Córdova said, marveling at the apparent ease with which the tongues were extracted. "You could tell it wasn't predators because they always yank. It was a perfect cut. ... It was pretty gory."

The carcasses were mutilated in a manner consistent with about 30 other cases reported by nine Northern New Mexico ranchers in the past 16 months. A rash of cattle mutila-

where in the region, are unfortunate for more than one reason. He is concerned people might get hurt if ranchers are careless in trying to protect their cattle.

"What really scares me now is everybody who owns cows has rifles in their trucks and so many things can happen — and it can be justified — but what if something accidental happens?" he said.

Some people who have studied cattle mutilations, including Ken Rommel Jr., suggest they are the work of natural predators and scavengers. Others suggest lightning strikes, a secret government experiment, extraterrestrials or satanic cults are to blame for the strange killings.

"It's all a bunch of garbage," Rommel, who investigated 90 Northern New Mexico mutilation cases in 1980 through a grant from the First Judicial District attorney's office, said of the phenomenon. "I'm not saying there's not some nuts who will go out and do anything, but (the mutilations are actually due to) normal deaths of livestock, normal scavengers and predators, and a hell of a lot of creative writing on the part of the media."

Max Córdova believes it might have been a group of people, whether cultists or not, who killed his cows. Reports from residents along Llano de Abeyta Road give credence to his theory. He said three neighbors noticed a significant increase in vehicle traffic along the dead-end road between 2 a.m. and 3:30 a.m. Wednesday. Córdova believes that might have been when the mutilations occurred, based on the decomposition that had already taken place when the bodies were discovered Friday.

The Córdovas have taken steps to prevent further cattle deaths. They moved the remaining 20 cows about a mile from the mutilation sites, closer to the homes of several of Alberto and Cordelia Córdova's 10 children. The cows will have to be moved back eventually as the vegetation near the family's homes becomes depleted.

The Córdova family members plan to take turns keeping watch over the cattle on a 24-hour basis.

But they don't really know what they're looking for.

"UFOs? I personally find that hard to believe," Max Córdova said. "We need more facts."

He said some community members have not believed his story.

"You're skeptical and all the sudden it happens to you and you say, 'Hey!,'" he said. "One isolated case here and one isolated case there I could see, but here you have three cattle in the same place."

Rick Córdova can sympathize with his older brother. A year ago, he found one of his bull calves dead in the field about 500 yards from his house. When he picked it up, he noticed that the genitalia had been removed.

"Nobody believed me," he said. "Now when this happened, they said, 'I think you were right.'"

Max Córdova said the family also lost eight calves over the course of several weeks in April. Because the calves disappeared without a trace, he believes they were stolen.

Whatever the cause or motivation behind the mutilations, Max Córdova is worried the trend will not disappear. That's why he wants someone — a state official or a law enforcement officer — to examine his cows and document what took place.

tions also was reported in Northern New Mexico in the 1970s.

Max Córdova believes the cows might have died early Wednesday morning, when area residents reported hearing an increase in vehicular traffic along the dead-end Llano de Abeyta Road.

Monday afternoon, the dead cows remained in the thickly vegetated field where they fell, their bodies ravaged by ravens and other scavengers. The stench flooded the air as Alberto, his 40-year-old son, Rick, and several of the Córdova grandchildren visited the three mutilation sites, which sit about 400 feet from each other in an uneven triangular pattern.

As he walked through the field, 74-year-old Alberto mumbled that he might just get out of the ranching business altogether.

"I have a mind to sell everything and forget about it," he said. "It's too much trouble."

Other than the Córdova family, only a television news crew, a newspaper reporter and photographer, and a veterinarian from Española had visited the site by Monday evening. That fact was more than frustrating to Max Córdova, who said he called two state livestock inspectors on Friday and had not received a call or visit from either. He also contacted the Rio Arriba County Sheriff's Department, which also refused to come by, he said.

"It's very strange, I have to tell you," said Córdova, proprietor of the Los Siete Weaving Shop just south of Truchas. "I wish somebody would take this seriously."

It is a serious matter to the Córdovas. All three cows were believed to be pregnant. The

calves would have been sold next year to help the family make ends meet. Max Córdova said the cows were worth about \$2,250, including the potential value of the unborn calves — a major financial blow to the family.

"My dad is retired. He barely makes enough to stay afloat," he said. "We depend on our cattle to supplement our income ... and I really think nothing is being done about this."

Max, Alberto and Max's son David — the only family members who have handled the dead cows — reported feeling ill shortly after their initial contact with the cows. Max said he felt "achy" and said his son developed flu-like symptoms and had to come home early from work. He said his father was sick Sunday.

Gail Staehlin, an amateur vol-

unteer cattle mutilation investigator based in Albuquerque, said Monday that people who touch mutilated cows often experience ill effects. She said Eagle Nest rancher Eli Hronich put his hand into the mouth of one of his cows that had been mutilated and his thumb "felt like it was on fire for a week."

Staehlin also said Hronich discovered two more mutilated cattle on his ranch last week — one Monday and another Wednesday. Hronich has now lost 13 cattle in 16 months to the mutilation phenomenon, she said.

"This is a crime," Staehlin said. "It deals with cows, but it is a crime. I think whoever is doing this should be prosecuted to the fullest."

Max Córdova said last week's mutilations, combined with reports of similar mutilations else-

# Ice-block from space can be a real killer

Nick Meo

## Ice falls

ICE falls from the sky like the one that shattered a retired Billericay couple's roof earlier last week are rare.

In the period 1976 to 1993 there were 234 recorded incidents in the UK, although there could have been far more that were not witnessed.

Nobody in this country has ever been injured, but many cars and properties have been damaged by chunks of ice falling from the skies and there have been near misses.

The latter included a group of Essex golfers who got the shock of their lives when a lump whistled past them and dug out a new hole in the green they were playing on in 1980.

Most ice lumps come from aircraft. The phenomenon is sometimes caused by freak atmospheric conditions, although rarely resulting in large lumps.

Some authorities believe they are formed by electrical storms high up in the atmosphere.

Most intriguing of all is the theory that the ice lumps fall from outer space,

surviving fragments of ice comets like the one that recently struck Jupiter. Certainly there are plenty of records of quite large ice fragments falling to earth well before the invention of modern aircraft.

Contrary to popular myth, the ice is hardly ever formed from the contents of airplane toilets.

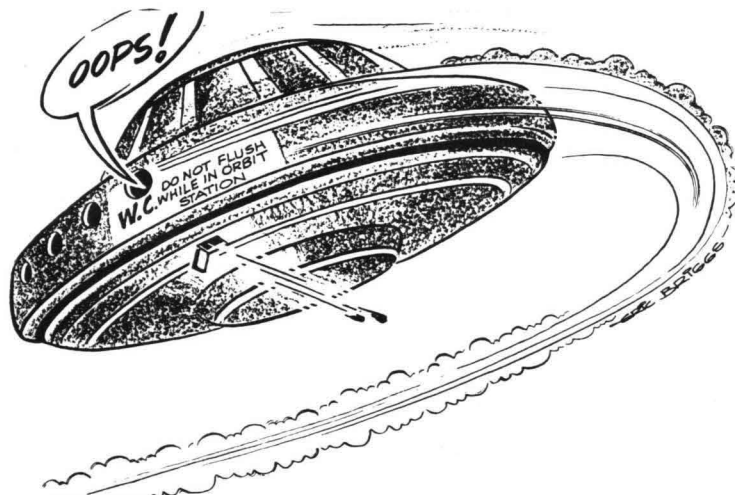
A Civil Aviation Authority spokesman said: "Planes are not like British Rail trains, they do not just flush out as they go along."

"It usually happens when water is dissipated from heated outlets. If these malfunction ice may build up at the point of dispersal and later break off in the slip stream."

Very occasionally a toilet may malfunction and discharge its contents, but he did not know of it happening to human waste.

Another realistic possibility is that ice builds up on the plane's fuselage and breaks off when it reaches a certain size, but again this is not common and modern aircraft have an anti-icing system designed to prevent it.

Those who suffer ice lumps landing on their properties have a difficult task ahead when they try to seek



FLYING ICE-BOX: Do the mysterious ice-falls come from space — debris of a passing comet or even a flying saucer?

compensation, if Chief Supt Mike Benning's story is typical.

An ice block from the sky caused £25 worth of damage to his roof in July 1993 and he set out to track down the airline responsible after the CAA advised him that he could claim from them if he could prove from the time of impact which aircraft was passing overhead.

But after nine months the top Southend policeman finally gave up the hunt and claimed off his household insurance.

He said: "It was the money that bothered me, it was the principle. Until you can positively prove it, there isn't anybody to claim against, and it is very difficult for a victim to tell which aircraft it came from."

With limited help from the CAA he managed to pin down four possible airlines which had planes overhead at the time of impact, three of which wrote back to insist checks proved they were not responsible and one of which, Istanbul Airlines, ignored his letters.

Chief Supt Benning said: "I wish this latest victim the best of luck, but if he has the same problems as I have he won't get the money."

He suggested the CAA should administer an automatic procedure to find the culprit and compensate the victim, which would be particularly badly needed if someone was injured or killed by falling ice.

Bob Rickard, founding editor of magazine Fortean Times, which describes itself as the journal of strange phenomena, said:

"It is too easy whenever a block of ice falls to say it is from an airplane."

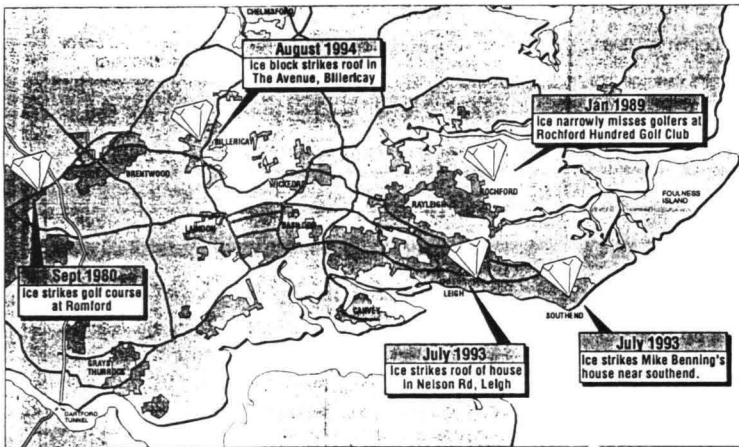
"Investigators often say it is from an airplane without actually doing an investigation."

"The big interest comes from the fact that there are a considerable number of reports from before the time of airplanes."

He espouses the theories of ice comet remnants from outer space or the products of electrical storms, and stresses that neither area has been thoroughly researched.

## ICE FACTS

- August 10 1994, blue ice block shatters hole five tiles wide on Douglas Venison's home in The Avenue, Billericay.
  - In August 1849 a huge block of ice 20 foot in diameter struck the ground in Ord, Scotland.
  - The biggest recorded hailstone to fall on the UK was one weighing between one and two kilograms in Manchester on April 2 1973.
  - Roughly two ice blocks a month strike Britain, mostly falling from aircraft.
  - In 1993 there were 25 reports of ice blocks falling from the sky in Britain, compared with 47 bits of aeroplanes.
  - Roughly two ice blocks a month strike Britain.
  - An ice block narrowly missed golfers at Romford in September 1980 when it fell out of a blue sky.
  - A lump 18 inches in circumference smashed into another green at Rochford Hundred's Golf Club in January 1989, plunging two feet down into the ground.
  - Southend Chief Supt Mike Benning had a large lump believed to be the frozen, unused contents of a chemical toilet smash through his roof in July last year.
  - Two weeks later Leigh pensioner Colin Lewis was startled when a large lump bounced off his roof, smashing tiles and landing in the garden.
  - A massive shower of huge hailstones killed 246 people in April 1880 at Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, Northern India.
  - Another hailstone shower killed 92 at Gopalganj, Bangladesh, in April 1986. The ice lumps weighed a kilogram each.
- Sources: the Civil Aviation Authority, The Guinness Book of Records, The Fortean Times



ESSEX STRIKES: Where block have fallen over recent years

Graphic by Tom Wilkins

## 11 percent of Taos residents hear hum

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — Eleven percent of Taos area residents who responded to a University of New Mexico survey say they hear the Taos hum, a researcher said Wednesday.

"Statistically, that's a large percentage," said Jim Kelly, an ear specialist with the UNM School of Medicine.

The surveys, part of a research project on the mysterious sound, went to 8,000 residents of Taos and neighboring communities this spring.

Kelly said 1,440, or 18 percent, of the surveys were returned, and 161 respondents said they "perceive what we classify as the hum."

They are primarily adults between the ages of 30 and 59, evenly divided between men and women, and most live in Taos or Rancho de Taos.

Most hear it frequently, which Kelly said means that a signal, either internal or external, is probably always present but only rises above back-

ground noise when it's quiet.

Hearers describe the hum as sounding like an idling diesel engine, and say it disturbs their sleep. Some hearers also complain of pressure on the ears, nose bleeds, dizziness and headaches.

"The vast majority have heard it for at least six months, many for more than two years," Kelly said in a statement issued by UNM. "When it starts, it doesn't go away."

It was first reported around Taos in 1991, but Kelly said Albuquerque residents have complained of a similar sound since 1989. Hum-hearers from other states have contacted the researchers.

A team of scientists and engineers last year set up instruments in Taos to try to identify the noise but had no success. Kelly then decided to try to figure out why some people hear it and some don't — and whether the phenomenon is a disorder of low-frequency hearing.

SANGRE DE CRISTO CHRONICLE, Angel Fire, NM - July 28, 1994

## EDITORIAL

### Mutilations deserve attention

You may see most of the coverage limited to tabloid-style publications and television shows. "Cattle Mutilations — are UFOs Responsible or is it a Satanic Cult?" the headlines may scream, but this is no laughing matter for the ranchers, many of them local, who have lost their livestock to these mysterious occurrences.

Several ranchers in Eagle Nest alone have lost cattle to these bizarre and unexplained mutilations — one of them lost 11 in one year — and ranchers all over the country are experiencing the same problem.

They're scared. They don't know who is responsible. And besides the more nebulous harm of fear, they have to deal with the all too real harm of financial loss.

And with a few exceptions, the media and investigative government agencies seem to stay respectfully away, perhaps because of the "tabloid" specter of these mutilations.

Why?

There is plenty of documented photographic and physical evidence. (Who knows how many cases go undocumented because of the fear of public ridicule.) Pathologists, veterinarians, ranchers, journalists and private citizens who are working to support these ranchers know and can talk about what they have seen if anyone cared to listen.

It's true — this is the kind of story conspiracy mongers and UFO watchers love. Regardless, we think it has real merit and it should be neglected no longer. ■



# Cattle Mutilations on Rise in Northern New Mexico

By Richard Benke  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EAGLE NEST, N.M. — Reports of mutilated cattle, suggestive of cases around the nation 20 years ago, are on the rise again in northern New Mexico.

In the past 16 months, nine ranchers reported 27 cattle mutilated, the largest number near Eagle Nest, ranchers and livestock inspectors say.

They repeat stories first heard in the early 1970s:

No animal tracks are found near the carcasses, no blood. Genitals have been removed, tongues sometimes cut off at their roots, anuses often cored out, one eye usually gone. Sometimes ears are missing. Incisions seem heat-cauterized.

Some people speculate that aliens may be responsible. Others blame poachers or natural predators.

State livestock inspector Jerry Valerio rules out coyotes, bears, birds, dogs and mountain lions.

"I'm not saying anything about UFOs," Valerio says. "I'm saying I don't know. But, by golly, if I could get a clue that I could go on, I will find out, even if it takes me a long time."

The Associated Press reported in 1985 that deputy sheriffs in Arkansas and Texas stalked out carcasses and saw birds carve wounds similar to those blamed on mutilators.

But Valerio says he and ranchers have watched mutilated carcasses and found that predators wouldn't

go near them.

State Livestock Bureau director John Wortman of Albuquerque says he's aware of the resurgence of mutilation reports.

"If there's somebody up there that's butchering livestock, that's who we want to go after," Wortman says.

Eagle Nest rancher Eli Hronich has suffered the lion's share — 11 cattle mutilated so precisely, he and Valerio insist, that it could not have been the work of predators.

"Some people are scared and say it's predators, but it is not predators," Valerio says.

Hronich, who runs 2,500 head here, says he's seen hundreds of cows dead on the range in 25 years of ranching, and "when you see a mutilation, you know what it is." The most recent death was July 24.

Reports include one other mutilation in Eagle Nest, eight in the Jemez Mountains, two in Questa, one in Taos, one in El Prado, one in Arroyo Seco and two in an area one livestock inspector wants left unidentified, pending completion of his investigation.

Rancher Kay Moore says she found a mutilated yearling steer in a pasture overlooking Eagle Nest Lake in August 1993.

"I have seen cattle killed by bear, and I've seen wildlife like deer killed by a mountain lion and coyotes. And they don't just leave them intact after they ate the anus out. They usually devour them," she says. "I think this is definitely human."

Motivation?

## Newspaper Calls for Inquiry

ANGEL FIRE, N.M. — The Sangre de Cristo Chronicle has called for a serious response to recent reports of cattle mutilations in northern New Mexico.

"Cattle Mutilations — are UFOs Responsible or is it a Satanic Cult?" the headlines may scream, but this is no laughing matter for the ranchers," the newspaper said in a July 28 editorial.

The weekly paper has been reporting on mutilations since May. The Associated Press has learned that 27 cattle have been reported mutilated in northern New Mexico since April 1993, including 12 in Eagle Nest.

Ranchers are scared, the Chronicle editorial says.

"They don't know who is responsible. And besides the more nebulous harm of fear, they have to deal with the all too real harm of financial loss."

There is plenty of documented photographic and physical evidence, the paper says, adding: "Who knows how many cases go undocumented because of the fear of public ridicule?"

The Chronicle acknowledges that the story is the sort that tends to attract "conspiracy mongers and UFO watchers."

"Regardless," the paper says, "we think it has real merit, and it should be neglected no longer."

"I have no idea. I think it's something nobody will ever know. I'd be amazed if we did find out."

Hronich says: "I think somebody does know, somewhere. That's what bothers me. ... It's somebody that's got some money and equipment. It's a sophisticated deal."

Too high-tech, too clean, he says,

for cultists.

UFOs?

"I wouldn't rule 'em out, wouldn't rule 'em in," he says.

Valerio, whose Taos-based area includes Eagle Nest, says many ranchers have clammed up about finding mutilations because previous reports went unheeded.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Aug. 1, 1994

## A tale of espionage, intrigue on the golf course

FAYETTEVILLE — Somewhere in a top-secret North Korean laboratory, government scientists temper their excitement with professional patience as they continue work on the newest formula for mass destruction, a formula they received only within the past week.

"With this," one says, a sly grin easing up toward his thick, black glasses, "we will rule the world!"

Don't worry, though. Surely the CIA and the KGB and Interpol and the British Secret Service already are on the case. One of them will save the world, and most of us may never hear or read anything about how they will do it. World leaders like to keep those things secret. But I may just have some insight into this plot for world domination.

Perhaps you missed the strange but true happening nine

UA SPORTS

Stephen Caldwell



days ago on Highlands Golf Course in Bella Vista. A group of five golfers from Oklahoma had just hit tee shots on the 14th hole when a black, two-man helicopter landed in the middle of the fairway. Someone got out of the helicopter and picked up the ball belonging to Randall Kent of Wetumka, Okla., then returned to the helicopter, which took him and the pilfered golf ball back into the sky.

"The whole thing was far-fetched, but it happened," said Lou Liss, Bella Vista's chief of police.

Police checked with the Federal Aviation Administration and with airports all over the region, and no one knew of a helicopter fitting the description.

"We have nothing to follow up on," Liss said. "It's not a prank. It was a serious thing."

Serious, indeed.

I made efforts over the weekend to contact the members in the fivesome, but I was unsuccessful. The police have their home phone numbers but would not give them to me. I checked directory information for Wetumka, Okla., but it had no listings for any of the players. No one in the pro shop knew the men or how to get in touch with them.

Coincidence or conspiracy?

TIMES, Los Angeles, CA - Sept. 3, 1994 CR: A. Snow

## Mass Hysteria Blamed in 'Fumes' Case

By TOM GORMAN  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

RIVERSIDE — The emergency room attendants who fell ill in February while treating a dying cancer patient in the so-called mystery fumes case probably succumbed to mass hysteria, the state Department of Health Services concluded in a report released Friday.

It is also plausible, state officials said, that a few hospital staff members were exposed to something that made them ill and that others reacted to the stressful situation. But if there was an exposure to something, its identity remains unknown, said Dr. Ana Maria Osorio, chief of the health department's division of environmental

and occupational disease control and co-author of the report.

"There doesn't seem to be a humongous big cloud of something that overwhelmed everybody," she said.

Dr. Julie Gorchynski, the Riverside General Hospital emergency room physician most seriously injured in the incident, bitterly contested the report. She complained that it was issued before all the facts surrounding the event have been analyzed. Gorchynski faces possible permanent bone damage to her knees that she blames on exposure to the fumes.

But epidemiology experts said that despite questions still surrounding an unidentified chemical discovered before the autopsy, they could find no culprit to explain

the bizarre episode that sent six emergency room workers to hospitals after being exposed to patient Gloria Ramirez.

Friday's report was the last, full-scale study by local and state agencies that have attempted to explain what happened Feb. 19. Each one was inconclusive.

According to the state's 15-page report, 11 people reported smelling an unusual odor after blood was drawn from Ramirez. After five collapsed and the emergency room was evacuated, a total of 23 people complained of at least one symptom — most commonly headache, dizziness and nausea, the state report said. More serious complaints included muscle spasms and breathing disruptions.

"Despite extensive epidemiolo-

gic, toxicologic and environmental investigations, the cause of the outbreak of symptoms among [emergency room] staff members ... remains unknown," the report concluded.

The Department of Health Services study was based on previously released scientific investigations and interviews with hospital staff.

"The findings from our and other investigations are most compatible with an outbreak of mass sociogenic illness, perhaps triggered by an odor," state doctors said.

The report defined mass sociogenic illness as "the occurrence in a group of people of physical symptoms suggesting an organic illness but resulting from anxiety or other psychological stresses."

Dr. Christopher Jobe of Loma

Linda University Medical Center, who is treating Gorchynski's knee problem, said Gorchynski was disabled by something other than mass hysteria. She has filed a \$6-million claim against the county.

"She had too many things go wrong with her to make it hysterical — bone necrosis, elevated liver and pancreatic enzymes, gastritis, hepatitis and unexplained crystals in her own blood that were seen by a doctor and a nurse at a different hospital," he said.

"I'm not sure we will know the answer, but we know that something organic happened," he said. "Besides, these are E.R. people — adrenaline junkies who wouldn't react hysterically. They're the wrong personality type."

# Hounded by the mystery Beast of Chiswick

A MYSTERIOUS creature with the body of a dog, the head of a kangaroo and the colouring of a grey squirrel is causing consternation in the streets of Chiswick.

The animal, locally dubbed the Beast of Chiswick, has been skulking through suburban gardens leaving a trail of savaged animals in its wake.

Nocturnal sightings of the Beast began two months ago and have covered an area of three square miles.

The strange creature was first spotted lurking at Pinkham Mansions in Stilehall Gardens.

Resident Mrs Angela Vallis said today: "It's a weird-looking thing. It's got the body of a dog but with a long thin tail, about 2ft long. It's got a strange pointed face, a bit like a kangaroo, and it's the colour of a grey squirrel."

by JUDITH KEELING

"Some people say they think it's got white spots but I've never seen any."

"It skulks around at night and it just stands and stares at you. When it realises it's been seen it runs away."

"We've got foxes around here and it's totally different from them. I was standing outside my house last week when I saw what I thought was a fox."

"But it has not got a fox's brush and it's completely the wrong colour for a fox."

Her neighbour, 24-year-old Karen McNolly, has also seen the elusive Beast, but believes its colouring was more like that of a lion or a squirrel.

Mrs McNolly, who has three children, said: "I was standing outside my house last week when I saw what I thought was a fox running in and out of the gardens."

"But as I got closer I saw the animal had a pointed face and the same colouring as a lion. It was quite short but but very scrawny looking."

A local paper has set up a telephone hotline for reported sightings of the creature. One

early-morning commuter in Wellesley Road reported finding his route to work strewn with the remains of disembowelled pigeons.

Other callers have seen the animal tearing open sacks of rubbish. Sightings of the creature have been running at the rate of two a week for the past month.

A mysterious animal has also been a frequent visitor to the Sisters of Verona convent in Chiswick Lane, where it regularly digs large holes and fouls the garden, but Sister Barbara MacDermott is convinced the culprit is a fox.

Other sceptics have tried to explain away the Beast by claiming it is a ferret, but believers say it is too big.

Those who have seen it do not believe it is an urban relative of the big cat-type beasts of Exmoor, Otmoor and Bodmin.

They believe they have seen a curious and individual crossbreed.

Mrs Vallis, who has seen the creature several times, said: "It's like a hybrid — as though a dog or a fox has mated with another animal."

## Saturday Review

# Truth can be selective for the skeptics who probe the paranormal

By GEOFF OLSON

Seattle was host recently to the annual conference of CSICOP (pronounced psi-cop), the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal. A large, influential skeptic's group, CSICOP chose Seattle for this year's conference in acknowledgement of the 47th anniversary of pilot Kenneth Arnold's report of UFOs in the Cascades.

Among the speakers at the conference were astronomer Carl Sagan, who believes all UFO reports are reducible to mundane causes, and Harvard professor of psychiatry John Mack, who was there to defend his

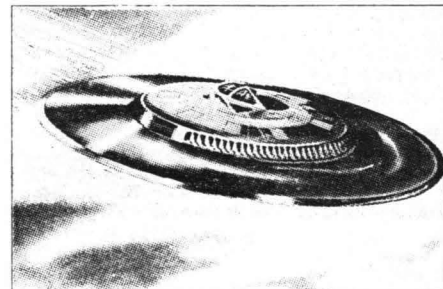
the audience. "How many people here believe in God?" she asked. To gradually building laughter, the CSICOP audience realized how homogenous its thinking was; among over 500 people no one raised their hands.

The woman's point, I think, was that there's as much a belief system among the so-called skeptics as there is among the "believers."

Atheism has no more a logical foundation than blind faith.

The response from the audience to her question strengthened an interpretation of my own about "skeptics." The idea of UFOs as physically real craft not from earth is particular anathema to CSICOP.

Any compelling physical evidence for



FORGET IT: UFOs don't figure at CSICOP

UFOs, studied by competent scientists such as Pierre Guerin or Jacques Vallee, has never been adequately addressed by CSICOP. The reason, I believe, is that the idea of a superior intelligence from the skies harkens back to the very

view that alien abductions constitute a genuine phenomenon. The theme of the conference was The Psychology of Belief.

CSICOP takes as its mandate the weeding out of pseudoscience and bunk from the garden of science. Many of CSICOP's targets, such as Uri Geller and spoon-bending, pretty much wither under their gaze.

Other targets — notably UFO reports — keep multiplying like toadstools, keeping the CSICOPers busy with their trowels. This is principally done through the organization's quarterly magazine, *The Skeptical Inquirer*, a kind of *Consumer Reports* of the mind.

The average CSICOP member is a professional in a science, or a science-related field: a pilot, an electrical engineer. The vast majority are older white males. In an audience of over 500, I could see very few ethnic faces, and fewer still that appeared under 40. There are some women in the ranks of CSICOP, but its pretty much an Old White Guys club.

And it's some club. V.S. Naipaul once wrote a book called *Among the Believers*. Well, I was among the disbelievers, big time. Whether it's the Kennedy Conspiracy, the Loch Ness monster or dowsing, CSICOP doesn't buy it. In fact, one of the group's co-founders left because he found more reflex naysaying among the members than actual skepticism.

What kind of person puts such an emotional premium on disbelief? CSICOPers often comment on people's misguided need to believe, whether its in elves or Elvis. However, in their distaste for psychoanalysis, that's bunk too. CSICOP members seem somewhat blind to their own motivations.

At one point in the conference, a woman claiming UFO experiences was at the podium. One of Dr. John Mack's patients, she began by asking for a show of hands from

thing that CSICOPers find most repellent: the concept of God.

The very reason some people uncritically accept UFOs is essentially the same reason others so uncritically reject them: for their archetypal, mythic baggage. God is dead, CSICOP has decided, and UFOs aren't doing so well either.

Are these mostly people who replaced one religion with another — science — and turned disbelief into a belief system in itself?

Worthwhile work is done by CSICOP. There are pseudo-sciences. And yes, science is under attack these days from these pseudosciences, and various ethereal, feel good, New Age philosophies.

But the ground has been gained by these beliefs by default: people see science in retreat from genuine anomalies that need study. And here's where CSICOP has done the most damage, in promoting this retreat.

We all have our cliques, our in-groups, both professionally and privately. But it is dangerous when any group is convinced it has The Truth.

The conference in Seattle lasted four days, and I have never attended any event where I heard as much smug, self-satisfied laughter. The laughter seemed more in the service of the egos gathered than of any actual science. If there was an official candy bar for the conference, it would have been Snickers.

In weeding out the garden of science, CSICOP may only end up digging rational inquiry into a deeper hole.

Geoff Olson is a Vancouver writer.

# Mysterious lines on plain in Australia baffle scientists

REUTERS

MELBOURNE, Australia — Straight lines across southern Australia's flat, featureless Nullarbor Plain that are invisible except by satellites are baffling scientists.

The parallel lines, which measure up to 250 miles long and are visible only during daylight using infrared equipment on satellites, were discovered three weeks ago, scientists said yesterday.

They said investigations show there are no known geological structures such as fault lines that could explain the images, consisting of several lines up to 9 miles wide and about 62 miles apart near the middle of the plain.

"They're strange for several reasons," Ian Barton, a senior physicist with the Commonwealth Scientific

and Industrial Research Organization atmospheric research division, said in an interview.

"They're definitely surface images because we've seen them on different days, of the same structure and shape," Barton said. He ruled out atmospheric explanations such as clouds.

"I can't envisage how they could be man-made," he said.

The most probable explanation is a different type of soil structure, vegetation or moisture pattern compared with the one surrounding earth, Barton said.

He said the infrared observations indicated that the earth of the lines is slightly cooler than surrounding land.

The Nullarbor Plain is a 104,000 square mile flat expanse of red sand and low bushes.

# Physicist claims comet killing life on Jupiter

There's life on Jupiter, and fragments of the the Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet pelting the planet are killing it, according to the Glendale physicist who hosts "Mysteries From Beyond the Other Dominion" on the Sci-Fi Channel cable network.

Dr. Franklin Ruehl, a Glendale resident of over 20 years, will talk about his theory during the 8:10 a.m. weather segment on this morning's "Good Day L.A." news program on Fox's Channel 11.

Dr. Ruehl has contended for 15 years that "an aerial sea of

life" occupies the Jovian planet's atmosphere. He has written articles on the subject and been interviewed by the National Enquirer regarding his theory.

He said evidence of organic matter and the planet's own output of energy — it produces 1.9 times more power than it gets from the sun — combines with lowered pressure in the atmosphere to allow for the production of elementary forms of life.