

# UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

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LAKE COUNTRY ECHO, Pequot Lakes, MN - Jan. 19, 1995 CR: D. Caruso

## UFO enigma topic of radio series Local broadcaster researches mysteries of the skies

By LOUIS HOGLUND  
Echo Editor

Unidentified Flying Objects will be the subject of a multi-part series, produced by local broadcaster Dale Caruso.

The series, scheduled to air in late January on Breezy Point-based KLKS-FM, will "explore the possibilities that we are not alone in the universe, and that these visitors have not only invaded our skies, but have had mishaps resulting in wreckage and casualties that have been uncovered by our government," according to Caruso.

Researching the project took Caruso from Chicago to Indiana to Philadelphia, as he interviewed numerous subjects on the road, and by phone.

Caruso spent four hours in Indiana with

a pair of "abduction victims," who were the subject of the CBS mini series "Intruders."

"In interviewing these sisters, it reminded me of what animal biologists do-tagging," said Caruso in an interview. "The animals are tagged so the researchers can go back and see how they're doing later."

Through all his research into the UFO phenomenon, has Caruso reached any personal conclusions? Is he now a believer?

"Yes, probably, more than likely, they do exist," said Caruso. "Why not? Existence or non-existence is a strange thing. If you have no idea what a pencil is, does that mean it doesn't exist?"

Caruso believes there is "compelling enough evidence to conclude, yes, this is a

real phenomenon."

The series, set for Jan. 28-29, and February 4-5 and 11-12, will cover topics ranging from UFOs that have been observed by thousands, to the government's efforts to "cover up" incidents.

Caruso has produced several documentaries for KLKS, including a Bataan series and a 1950's retrospective. He is a winner of seven broadcast awards over the past two years, including Associated Press honors for documentary production. He has also been nominated for a Peabody award.

"One of the things that makes us such a marvelous species is our ego," said Caruso, commenting on the UFO phenomenon, and the frequent unwillingness to believe. "We feel there isn't anything we can't do. It

gives us the attitude that we are the end all and know all...Disbelief is often based on the fact that it is difficult for our ego to deal with the fact that there might be something we don't know."

"We really got to the point where we really thought we knew everything," continued Caruso. "But we're now learning we don't know a whole lot. Not just in space, but in our backyard. There's just a lot we don't know."

Part of the problem with the practice of science today, said Caruso, is that it is driven by publishing, tenure and academic routine--not by the basic desire to discover.

"More scientists should be willing to answer a question with 'I don't know,'" said Caruso. "'I don't know' is the basis for discovery."

VALLEY SENTINEL, Coquille, OR - Dec. 21, 1994

## Sentinel saves his marriage, (so he hopes)

By BRAD ROSS  
Editor

A Coquille man said he was thrilled when he read in his Sentinel that someone else had seen a bright light in the sky above the valley.

Dale Nugen said it took him off the hook!

He phoned The Sentinel Wednesday to say that after he had watched a bright light for nearly 45 minutes on his way home from work in the Bay Area, he had a tough time convincing his wife. "She thought I was crazy," Nugen told the newspaper's editor.

He cannot recall the date exactly although he remembers it was Monday or Tuesday night, Dec. 5 or Dec. 6 about 8:45 o'clock on his way driving home to Coquille he saw a mysterious light so bright overhead he pulled off the road and watched it. It did not move, and finally he drove away, but not before a passing motorist pulled alongside to see if he needed some roadside assistance.

When the woman got a look at what was drawing Nugen's attention in the late evening sky, he said, she said, "Oh my. What is that?"

Nugen said he saw the big light he called so much a bluish color -

- it was that bright -- at a spot just past Coaledo on the way south to Coquille as he drove from Coos Bay.

The article Nugen said helped convince his wife and nine-year-old daughter that he was not losing his mind ran on The Sentinel's front page the first two weeks in December. The article describes a mysterious and bright light above the valley floor, seen by an 81-year-old resident Archie Jacobsen, and then later by a couple living off Highway 42E at the base of Lampa Mountain.

John and Faye Fritz say they saw a ball of light that did not move and that hung in the sky usually between 8:30 and 9 at night.

Jacobsen's sighting was on Dec. 3 at about 6:30 a.m. and he describes the light as white and shaped like a round plate. The Fritzes said their ball of light was multi-colored.

The couple told The Sentinel what they saw did not move and hung in the air for such a long period of time, they finally retired for the night.

Nugen said he saw the light move only so slightly the second time he spied it about four days

DAILY SENTINEL, Rome, NY - Jan. 3, 1995 CR: K. Conroy

## UFO investigator pursues data on recent sightings

By ALEXIA HERBOWY

Keep your eyes to the skies.

Keith Conroy, an independent unidentified flying object investigator, will be researching the reports of unusual groups of lights seen near Rome and Point Rock two weeks ago.

So far, Conroy has received 10 calls about sightings from residents, some of which go back to mid-November. Calls included the Utica area as well.

Conroy said all descriptions are different. "In one case ... Wednesday at 5:45 p.m., two people saw what they described as RFA stadium lights in the air," he said about a Dec. 14 sighting. "They knew they weren't RFA stadium lights, but that was the closest they can compare them to."

Conroy quoted the witnesses as describing the lights flying "lower than an airplane should be." The object had three bright white lights in a row, Conroy said, which would change from a stationary position, to three green and three red lights with one white light blinking in sequence. As they drove closer to the object, Conroy said they saw it slowly move to the east.

later and at the same basic location.

Dr. Wilbur Cullers, an amateur astronomer for some 30 years, said he knows of no constellations or planet positions in this area of the sky at this time of the year.

If you've seen anything that resembles such a light at this time of the year, please give The Sentinel editor a call at 396-3191.

Makes you wonder could this be some magical star or just another helicopter or weather balloon gone astray?

Other sightings reported previously occurred about 11 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13 in Point Rock; 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14 in Stanwix; and two sightings on Friday, Dec. 16, at 4 a.m., which was taped, and one at 9 p.m. near Lake Delta.

Conroy said he had gotten in touch with the Black River Boulevard resident who videotaped the unusual light. After he viewed the tape, Conroy decided there was no useful or analyzable information but the resident's testimony is prompting an investigation.

He hopes to interview all three witnesses of that incident. The group has yet to discuss a meeting date.

Conroy said the tape contains an hour of material. "They also taped the contrails of high flying jets after the UFO," Conroy said. "The tape picked up a spot of light. But that's all there is, that doesn't tell me much."

The tape does lack a reference point, Conroy said, which could have determined the object's flight pattern. Conroy said they also needed to take the camera off of automatic focus.

He added that still photos, or video

tape turned off of auto focus and focused manually will enhance a tape. He encourages people to talk during the filming to explain what you are doing.

Those who try to film the object through a window should make sure that the window is open, or film the object outside.

Conroy added that the bright light on the tape moves around and changes shape, which can be associated with the action of the auto focus moving from the object in question, to other points in the sky.

Conroy also said the witness admitted some of the movement of the object was due to the unavoidable movement of the camcorder.

"There is one shape that is characteristic of a camera which is a circle with a dimple on the top and the bottom," an effect of the camera when auto focus is out of focus Conroy said.

"The tape doesn't reveal anything. There's no relevant information on the tape, but that doesn't mean the people did not see the UFO," Conroy said. He is also in the process of obtaining data on what bright stars were in the sky at that time.

"At this point, it warrants further investigation. I would like to speak to the other people," Conroy said adding that the resident's testimony and drawing of the object carried greater weight than the tape.

Conroy said that none of the sightings has been confirmed as a UFO but further testimony is being sought. Those wishing to contact him may write to UFO Investigator, P.O. Box 415, Barneveld, 13304.

Conroy uses his experience as an electrical engineer at the Naval Ship Research and Development Center in Annapolis, Rome Air Development Center and General Electric in Utica to research objects. He lectures on the subject and related scientific work in UFO related phenomena like alien abductions, animal mutilations and unexplainable crop formations.



Times Staff Photo/Kevan E. Mathis

**SOUP-** More than 50 people attended the SOUP (Scientific Organization (for) Unexplained Phenomena) meeting at North Arkansas Community/Technical College Saturday night. SOUP, which was originated in Harrison, is affiliated with MUFON (the Mutual UFO Network Inc.) based in Sequin, Texas. It was founded by people who say that their main purpose is to explore scientific information on UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects), animal mutilations, crop circles, alien abductions, etc., and to provide a support group for people who have experienced such occurrences. SOUP board members include Bill Wilcox, Dr. Patricia Patterson, John Hodges, Randy Snowden, Joe Puett, and Ricky Puett. Anyone interested in finding out more information about the group may call (501) 741-8696 or (501) 743-1742.

## 'What on Earth Is Going On?' Local UFO Group Asks

By Kevan E. Mathis  
Of the Times Staff

"What on earth is going on?" was the main question asked by an audience of about 50 people who attended the monthly SOUP meeting held Saturday night at North Arkansas Community/Technical College.

SOUP (Scientific Organization (for) Unexplained Phenomena) is a Harrison-formed group organized to investigate unusual phenomena such as UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects), human and animal mutilations, crop circles, alien abductions, and other phenomena.

SOUP, which is also affiliated with MUFON (the Mutual UFO Network, Inc.), based in Sequin, Texas, was formed for four primary purposes:

- The scientific exploration and collection of data associated

with UFOs.

- Public meetings to present information and news of UFOs.

- Provide support groups for persons having experiences involving UFOs.

- Publish a newsletter publication with the focus on unexplained phenomena news and local interests.

SOUP was founded by a group of Harrison citizens who are concerned about the lack of communication and information regarding UFOs and is intended to be a local clearinghouse for information.

SOUP, which held its first public meeting in November of 1994, has a diverse group of board members which include Bill Wilcox, a Harrison radio engineer/disc jockey; Dr. Patricia Patterson, a Harrison psychologist; John Hodges, an Alpena school teacher; Randy Snowden, a NACTC stu-

dent; and Joe and Ricky Puett.

Wilcox, who was the guest speaker at the NACTC meeting, said UFOs and other phenomena are more likely to happen in remote, rural areas of Arkansas.

"There are always some strange things going on in three areas, Osage, Marshall and Mount Judea," Wilcox said. "Maybe it's because it's so remote, dark, and less accessible than the more populated areas."

Wilcox noted that the *Harrison Daily Times* ran a front-page story about two Harrison women, Debbie Underwood and Joanne Wilson, who said they were apparently abducted a few miles west of Huntsville on Highway 68 traveling to the War Eagle Craft Show on Oct. 20, 1989.

Dr. Lynn Keeter and several other hunters in the area that morning said they witnessed the strange

glowing, red-orange light that same October morning at 5:40 a.m.

It was reported that Underwood took some pictures from within her truck of the event with her small Kodak 110 camera.

A married couple at the SOUP meeting said that they saw the pictures and that one of them appeared to show a dark black hand over the driver's window reaching down from the hood of the truck.

In the January SOUP newsletter, a report by John Lear, son of William Lear who developed the Lear Jet and an airline captain himself, reports, "The U.S. government has at least 25 to 100 alien bodies representing at least 15 different species in cryogenic storage."

Lear goes on to say that at least three of the aliens were captured alive, and that one of them is still living at the Nevada test site area S-4.

He said that the U.S. government has been in business with little gray aliens for many years. The deal, according to Lear, is that the U.S. government trade advanced technology to the aliens so they can abduct a certain amount of humans and animals for their needs.

Lear said that there are 78 different species of aliens here on earth on an infinite variety of missions with secret underground bases operating jointly between the U.S. government and the aliens.

Wilcox said that the "worst" type of aliens are the "grays" and the "insectoids," such as "Moth-Man, the lizard-people and Praying-Mantis Man."

"I know it may sound crazy to some people, but if anyone is having a problem with green men, colored lights, or any other unexplained phenomena, tell us about it. If you want us to, we will come out and investigate it," said Wilcox.

Some of the people in attendance at the SOUP meeting said they think that the U.S. government has been lying to Americans for many years about UFOs and alien abductions.

Many of the people agreed on the statement made by one man that he thought the new U.S. Air Force station recently installed near Everton is nothing more than an "alien-watch station."

One family who lives north of Harrison, and who wished to remain anonymous, said upon waking one morning recently they all received the same "five-dotted mark" on the same place on each of their right thumbs.

One member in the audience told the story of a local woman who was four months pregnant but woke up one morning and she was no longer carrying the baby. She said that she had apparently been abducted in the night by aliens and they took her baby.

Lawrence Willet of Mountain Home, who was at the SOUP meeting, said that he was the Flippin Airport manager from 1958-73 and also a charter airline pilot.

Willet, who said that he has witnessed "numerous" UFO sightings from the cockpit of his airplane, told of "the dead body of a cow which had apparently been picked up and dropped from the air by aliens since it was impaled with a metal fence post which was still rooted in the ground."

He said that no birds or other animals such as a coyote tried to eat the remains of the dead cow until it had been moved because of some "strange energy" that the carcass was emitting.

Some other people at the SOUP meeting told of animal mutilations in which the dead animals appeared to have had "laser surgery," whereby many of the animals' organs such as eyeballs, tongue, rectum, heart, kidney, liver, or reproductive organs were missing.

Hodges spoke of another person who had witnessed such an animal mutilation and said that he didn't think that it was the work of any cult because the surgery was performed so precisely that it showed no trace of cutting or tearing.

As a matter of fact, it appeared to him like it had been burned by some form of heat because the animal hair seemed blackened and scorched, he said.

Wilcox said that people may scoff at all of the evidence of alien activities if they want to but one thing is for sure. There are many people who all say that they have seen some very strange and unexplained phenomena and they all can't be wrong.

Anyone wanting to join SOUP or need further information may call (501) 741-8696 or (501) 741-5870.



Times Staff Photo/ Kevan E. Mathis

**SOUP (Scientific Organization (for) Unexplained Phenomena)** met Saturday at North Arkansas Community/Technical College in Harrison to answer questions from an audience of about 50 people about their experiences with UFO's, alien abductions, animal mutilations and other phenomena. SOUP board members are (from left to right), Bill Wilcox, Dr. Patricia Patterson, John Hodges, Randy Snowden, and (not pictured) Joe Puett and Ricky Puett. Anyone wanting to join the organization or want further information may call 741-8696 or 743-1742.



# UFO (group) sighted in Triad

Those who gathered for a Greensboro MUFON-NC Inc. meeting Sunday had one thing in common — a keen interest in UFOs.

BY MILLICENT ROTHROCK  
Staff Writer

At twilight on Nov. 26 of last year, a Greensboro resident looked up from his back porch to see an object alien to anything he had ever seen before or since.

There, floating in the Triad sky was a dark, almost black, elongated ... thing. For 30 minutes he watched the Unidentified Flying Object move across the sky and suddenly shoot downward "like lightning," over and over again. He grabbed his binoculars to get a closer look, but they didn't help.

Without warning, a brilliant green light flashed in the middle of the cylindrical object, splitting it in two. Unfortunately, storm clouds moved into the area at the same time, blocking the witness's view of the now broken object.

There you have it. The latest UFO sighting in Greensboro.

Who you gonna call?

MUFON! The Mutual UFO Network.

Nick Summers, a member of MUFON of North Carolina Inc., was sent to investigate the resident's claim of a UFO sighting. Summers found the witness to be matter-of-fact and unemotional about his experience. In other words, credible.

Such was Summers' report Sunday during MUFON-NC Inc.'s 22nd quarterly meeting, held in the UNCG Faculty Center. About 40 individuals from throughout the state landed for the meeting — some were simply interested in UFOs, others were "experiencers," those who have actually seen a UFO.

Some at the meeting claim not only to have seen a UFO, but also to have come into contact with alien beings. Because of skepticism surrounding UFOs, most of the experiencers would not talk on the record. Several worried how their careers would be affected if news of their close encounters became public.

"I see these meetings as being the same as AA meetings — people want to talk about their experiences, but don't want their names known," said one member who says he has memories concerning UFOs dating back to when he was 5 years old. "It would be a major, major risk if the news ever got out. Although at some point, I'll probably come out of the closet."

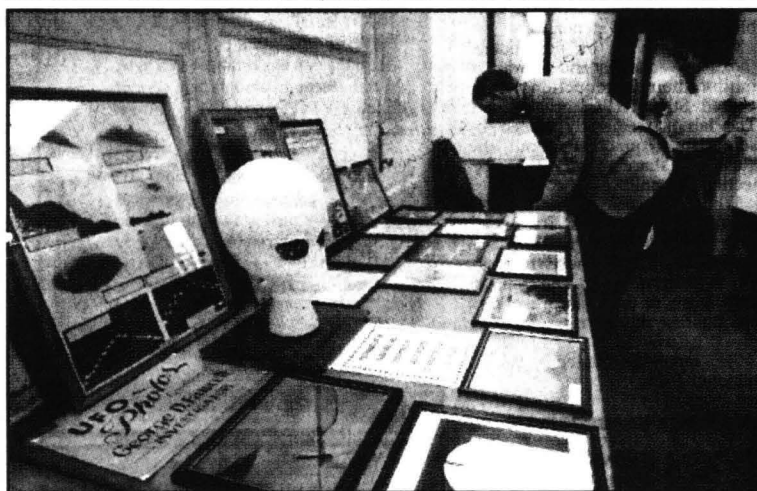
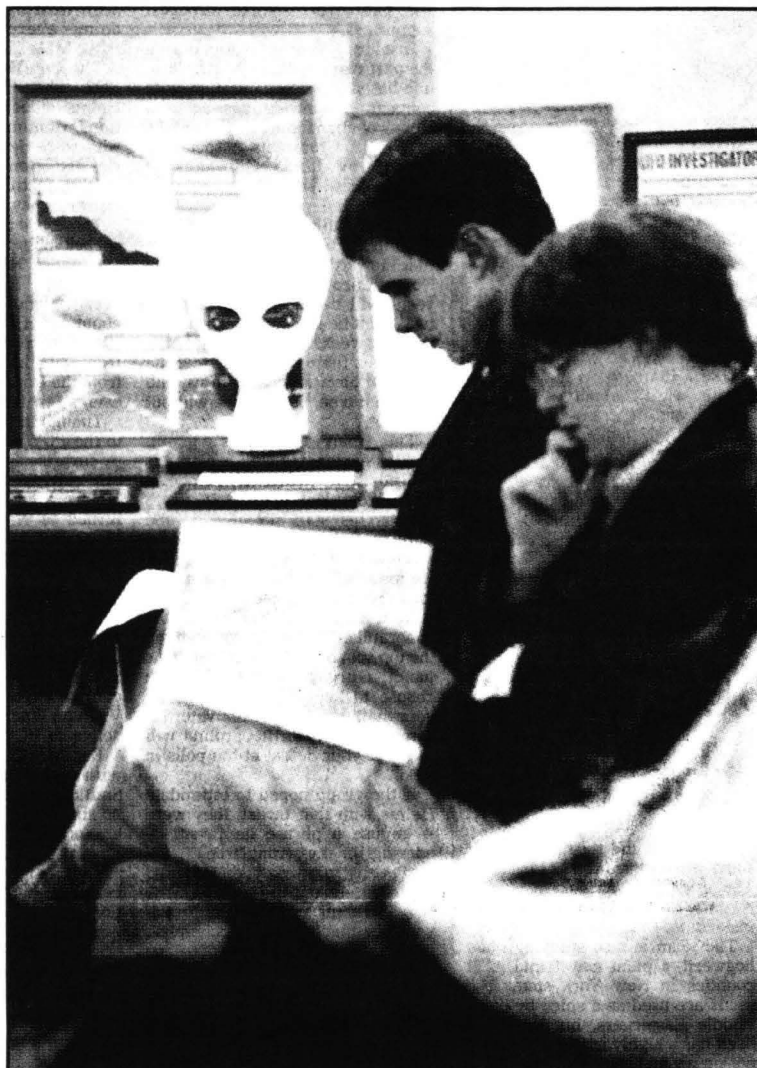
Ellie Thrush of Hendersonville drove almost four hours to attend her first meeting. She's been interested in UFOs for more than 17 years and was excited to learn about the group.

"I haven't seen a UFO, but sure wish I had," she said.

Thrush's interest in the subject began when she worked with defense-industry scientists in California.

"I knew scientists who were convinced that the government is holding back information about UFOs. Since they had degrees and were so capable, I took notice. They weren't crackpots."

During the meeting, recent sightings near Salisbury, Kannapolis, Harnett County and Lake Norman were discussed.



Top, participants of MUFON-NC Inc.'s 22nd quarterly meeting study at a discussion on alien life forms and spacecraft at UNCG Sunday. In the background is a model of a widely described alien. Above, participants have an opportunity to look at photographs, drawings and stories of UFOs and alien life forms on display during the conference. Some present at the meeting claim not only to have seen a UFO, but also to have come into contact with alien beings.

A drawing of citizens fleeing the arrival of flying saucers is on display at the UFO conference at the UNCG Faculty Center.

Scott Hoffmann  
News & Record



MUFON member George D. Fawcett has studied UFO sightings for about 50 years. While showing his collection of photographs concerning UFOs, he said that the majority of UFOs are disc-shaped or saucer-shaped. Other shapes include cigar-, crescent- and Saturn-shaped (with rings around it).

Recent advances in photography will complicate UFO verifications because it will be more difficult to determine if photographs have been doctored, said Fawcett, who displayed a photograph of a UFO dating back to 1942.

Although they are not keen on revealing their identities, MUFON members know they are not alone.

"Believers outnumber skeptics two to one," said one member. "It's just a silent majority type of situation. People don't want to admit they believe in UFOs."

And those who do admit it need to keep a sense of humor, longtime believer Fawcett advises.

"It's good to have a sense of humor. If I didn't have a sense of humor 50 years ago, where would I be today?"

Greensboro will host a MUFON International symposium July 5-7, 1996, in the Koury Convention Center.

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK

Jan. 16, 1995

CR: J. & L. Nicholson

## NORTH SLOPE

### MYSTERY LIGHTS BURNING BRIGHT ON NORTH SLOPE

WAINWRIGHT — People in Barrow weren't the only ones seeing strange lights in the sky on New Year's Day.

Wainwright spotted them, too.

The lights appeared in the sky above the Arctic Ocean from about midnight until 4 a.m. on New Year's Day. After some head-scratching, and after the North Slope Borough search and rescue department launched an airplane to check them out, officials in Barrow decided that instead of UFOs, they were seeing reflections from the lights of Wainwright and the Distant Early Warning station.

People in Wainwright concluded they were watching reflections of lights in Atkasuk.

Atmospheric conditions at the top of the world often create interesting images, like when ice appears to be floating above the ocean. That kind of mirage is known as a fata morgana, named for the evil sorceress of Arthurian legend.

Even if the New Year's lights weren't the work of extraterrestrials, some puzzling reports remain unexplained.

Alaska Island Air pilot Jerry Jordan reported that on New Year's Eve, he saw a bright light flash past his plane at a time when there were no other aircraft in the area.

But, Jordan said, that's not all that unusual.

"I've seen some strange things," he said.

— Dimitra Lavrakas  
The Arctic Sounder

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - Dec. 11, 1994

## Midway sightings videos available

The Midway Sightings-Unclassified Footage now in release on video cassette has won what is considered to be the Oscar Award of UFO Videos, according to a recent press release.

The award show that was recently held in Mesquite, Nev., was part of the 4th annual UFO Congress Convention with UFO videos and speakers from all over the world, presenting information and footage of UFOs and other phenomena.

The Midway Sightings have recently gotten international interest through Jose Escamilla's efforts in getting the sightings recognized throughout the world. The coverage has extended into Europe with the recent interest from the BBC, which will feature the Midway Sightings on a telecast that will air Dec. 17.

Jose Escamilla is planning to produce more videos from the many hours of raw footage that have been compiled at Midway, including "the year in

review," which is a compilation of clips from March 5, 1994 through Dec. 31, 1994; "Rods," a video about the strange cigar-shaped objects that are appearing everywhere, and other videos for 1995.

Becky Escamilla is setting up a Midway Sightings museum for the public to attend at Midway and Manuel Escamilla has captured some exclusive video of UFOs in the past few weeks including a "V" formation of 32 dome shaped

UFOs, an extreme close-up of what appears to be a panel or side of a UFO that appeared in 1/60th of a second, and a close-up of an object that travels above the trees that could be the size of a 90 foot trailer house.

While at the convention, Jose met with a large variety of media and other UFO related television producers and broadcasters.

He has been invited to Rome, Italy, Germany, Mexico and New York to lecture about

the sightings and to show the footage to the masses. People who are coming to Roswell and to Midway in the next few weeks are a group from Mexico to compare footage with the Midway Sightings. Researchers from England, Italy and Germany are planning to arrive here in January.

"The Midway Sightings-Unclassified Footage" video is available for rental at Plaza Movie Center and will be available at Hastings for the Christmas holiday.

# Did you see something odd in the night sky?

## MUFON's curious

• By Leigh Wolfe-Dawson  
Chief reporter

She doesn't want her name used. She doesn't want her identity known. She isn't seeking publicity. She doesn't want attention. She wasn't hallucinating. She hadn't been drinking or using drugs. She isn't taking medication. She isn't a kook. She hadn't really given much thought to the subject of unidentified flying objects (UFOs), but was that what this Perry resident saw in the night sky?

It happened Wednesday, Dec. 7, between 10 and 10:15 p.m. It lasted approximately 2½ minutes. She was in her car driving south on Highway 144. She looked out the car windshield and its color caught her attention. She first saw it approximately 200 feet north of 330th Street. She then continued to follow it south for approximately 1½ miles when she came

upon a yellow or tan house and an open field. North of the field and south of the house, it expanded three to four times the size it was when she first saw it, then, in a blink, it disappeared.

According to the woman, it appeared to be an orange object hanging in the air. In the night sky, it was a ball just hanging there. It had light that was contained within the structure. It was luminous but had no projective qualities. There wasn't a beam and it wasn't shiny. It began as a crescent shape, similar to a boat, then it got smaller and seemed to display a different shape, then it went back to its original shape. It expanded at the field into a nut shape, similar to a walnut, then became slightly fuzzy, turned two or three shades of orange and then blinked away,

leaving nothing there to be seen. She was facing southwest the entire time, looking approximately 30 degrees up from the horizon into the open field.

Not sure what to think of what she saw, but awestruck by it, she called a friend in St. Louis, Mo., who then contacted the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), an international organization formed in 1969 which now consists of more than 5,000 academic and scientific people dedicated to the scientific and serious study of UFOs. On Sunday, three MUFON investigators came to Perry to try to answer the question of what the woman saw.

The investigators interviewed the woman for four hours. They found her account to be consistent and found her to be credible

and honest.

The investigators contacted the Perry Municipal Airport. Nothing there. They also contacted the National Guard. The guard wasn't flying at that time. It wasn't a plane. It wasn't a blimp. It wasn't a flare. It wasn't a spotlight. There wasn't any type of reflective source. It wasn't lightening. The investigators studied the moon's position and its phase on that date, the wind speed, wind direction, temperature and weather. According to the National Weather Service, the night of Dec. 7 had cloud cover at 1,000 feet. The investigators studied every possible factor that could lead to an answer. The answer is no explainable answer. What the woman saw is unexplained.

"Everything that could explain it has been dredged up. We have left no stone uncovered," said Beverly Trout, MUFON state section director. "We can draw conclusions based on what it isn't, instead of what it is. It is like love. It is easier to define what it isn't."

The investigators want to know if anyone else saw anything or if has had a similar sighting. The organization urges people to come forward and stresses identity will be kept in the strictest confidence. Names are not revealed to anyone but the investigators. The organization welcomes any reports, even those that happened years ago. The telephone number for MUFON is (515)967-6323.

It is interesting to note, when the investigators were parked at the side of the road on 330th Street looking for answers, a man in a car pulled up behind them to inquire if they were having car trouble. The group shared with the man, from Perry, what they were doing and he shared that he saw a UFO 25 years ago. He saw two jets flying with an object in between them. The object took off and left the jets behind. Shortly after that man shared his story, another man, from Rippey, who also had pulled his car off to the side of the road to inquire if the investigators were having car trouble, shared a story of his parent's seeing an UFO, doing a cartwheel across the sky, as they drove across the California desert.

In yet another situation, while the investigators were in Perry, they happened to meet a Perry woman who had a similar experience 15 years ago. She was in a car with three people driving about one-half mile north of 330th Street, looking left, which is east, and at the fence post level, approximately 1,200 feet from them, they saw an orange, self-contained object hovering low. The object disappeared three to four seconds later but all three people in the car witnessed it. "Both accounts are similar," Trout said. "What do the similarities mean? Who knows. But it is something to take notice of and to keep in mind. MUFON wants to learn from these sightings."

All the data the investigators gathered will be written into a report and sent to the organization's regional director, Dr. John (Jack) Kasher at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Kasher, a physics and astronomy professor, will scientifically evaluate the report, possibly offering suggestions of areas to further explore. All information is then entered into a nationwide database and studied.

"A teeny, tiny fraction, less than one percent, of sightings are reported," Trout said. "People are shocked about what they've seen and they don't know what to make of it. People are so reluctant to report it. They don't want to risk the factor of ridicule, "It would be nice if someone would call and say, 'I hung an orange ball up in the air,'" Trout said. "But at the present time, it is an unidentified flying object."

## What would you do if you saw a UFO over Estacada?

CLACKAMAS CO. NEWS, Estacada, OR - Nov. 2, 1994

A reader last week told me that while listening to KEX Wednesday morning, he heard host Bill Gallagher laughing about a brief item in the CCN about a woman who claimed to have seen a UFO a couple of weeks ago. A reader in Gresham had called in, and once again, Estacada was in the news.

The media have a hard time with UFO flaps, because they usually force reporters to go against that instinct that tells them to not trust people.

I haven't gone UFO crazy, but I have always been interested in the phenomena. Frankly, asking someone if they believe in UFOs strikes me as a pretty naive question.

Of course they exist. The question really is, what are they?

Even if you throw out all the weird airplanes, military craft, weather balloons, and other explainable stuff, you're still left with hundreds of real UFOs, which means only that something was flying and that it could not be identified. Lots of people have seen some pretty weird stuff, from ordinary folk to trained pilots and observers. So the question, again, is what are they?

A friend and I were talking about this the other day over coffee, and of course the alien thing came up. He



Bates & Pieces  
**David  
Bates**

suggested that if the intelligent life forms that operate these odd things were to make themselves known -- completely known -- it would cause a worldwide panic.

I disagreed, arguing that the idea of UFOs has become so ingrained in popular culture that the introduction of any alien presence to us simple earthlings -- like a flying saucer on the White House lawn (which would of course represent yet another breach of security at the executive branch) would not be nearly as frightening as it sounds.

It's fun stuff. There are plenty of nuts who have come up with all sorts of crazy theories about UFOs, but there are a handful of serious UFO researchers who are doing work that journalists and scientists should be doing openly without fear of ridicule.

OMNI, one of the country's more

progressive science periodicals, has spent most of the year publishing a fine series of articles on the subject. The magazine has established a new, formal research group for a sort of ongoing UFO summit. Hopefully it will be taken seriously.

I had another call last week from a gentleman who says that there has been a lot of UFO activity over Goat Mountain for the last two months. He said the objects are visible mostly during the day, and that they may be distinguished from airplanes by the fact that "they don't have wings."

We don't plan to be doing any special issues on UFOs any time soon, but of course we're interested in hearing any stories. If you want a sighting seriously investigated, call the Center for UFO Studies at 1-312-271-3611. It's long distance, but leave a message and they'll call back.

## UFOs sighted in Delta villages

TUNDRA DRUMS, Bethel, AK - Jan. 8, 1995

By Abie Tinker  
and John Active

The Tundra Drums

Several unidentified flying objects were sighted in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta recently.

Mark Springer and a friend in Hooper Bay were fetching water when Springer saw a silver and gold colored sphere streak across the sky -- then disappear.

It was a clear, calm, day in the Bering Sea village about 130 miles west of Bethel when the pair made their sighting.

"It went straight and level like a magnesium flare leaving a vapor trail behind it -- like fire works," Springer said.

He immediately tried reporting his sighting to the National

Weather Service office in Bethel but discovered they were closed. Springer then called the Alaska State Troopers and reported what he saw to Trooper Ted Norris.

Springer said Norris told him that 15 other Hooper

Bay residents had reported seeing something in the sky that day also.

About that time 135 miles away in Kasigluk Sophie Guest, an elder from the village of Akiuk, (old Kasigluk) went across to Akula (the new village) to make a phone call.

Exenia Jackson, Guest's daughter says she suddenly

heard her mother exclaim, "ala-i!", a Yup'ik remark indicative of surprise and wonderment.

Jackson went to her mother standing at the window but didn't

see anything. Her mother excitedly told her of a bright blue ball streaking across the sky with sparks trailing behind it like fire-works sparklers.

Guest said it disappeared behind the Akula airport.

Later when her son took her back home on his snow machine in that general direction they didn't find anything out of the ordinary.

These latest reports come on the heels of UFO sightings in the neighboring Bristol Bay area in October.

Incidentally, if you happen to see a UFO and want to report it you can call the National Unidentified Flying Object Reporting Center in Seattle, Washington, at 1-206-722-3000.



# Make huge Nevada base invisible? Air Force to try

By Tom Philp  
Bee Staff Writer

The military appears to be within days of shrouding one of its worst-kept secrets, a much-publicized Air Force facility in Nevada that officially doesn't exist.

Two mountain peaks that provide a distant vista of the base may soon be off-limits to the public. Yet the attempt by the Air Force to ban access to the vistas hasn't stopped aviation buffs, UFO believers and even the Russians from viewing and photographing the phantom base.

"The publicity is what created my business," said Glenn Campbell, a 35-year-old resident of rural Nevada who has subsisted in part by selling \$15 guides to the mountain vistas.

The vistas in question - White Sides Mountain and Freedom Ridge - are next to the giant Nellis Air Force Range north of Las Vegas and are now controlled by the Bureau of Land Management.

others have said they can see some airstrips and lots of buildings about 10 miles away.

Whatever is down there has put Campbell's home of Rachel, Nev., on the map.

One tabloid has proclaimed that the town bar - renamed the A'Le'Inn - attracts visitors from outer space. The bar definitely attracted talk show host Larry King, who beamed a UFO-theme cable television from a spot near Rachel.

And Campbell, a one-time software engineer from Boston, has become a full-time, self-described "military gadfly."

On the Internet, where he distributes electronic updates, he is known as "Psychorat." Through the mail, he said he has sold between 2,000 and 3,000 copies of his \$15 guide to viewing the base.

The 35-year-old Campbell, who is single, lives in a mobile home trailer and conducts his "Psychorat" computer activities from another next door.

"I've repackaged this as an issue of government ac-

The Air Force in 1993 requested that it be given control of nearly 4,000 acres of the mountains. After a formal consideration process, the BLM in November gave its tentative approval.

Barring any change of mind, the BLM could make the decision final within days or a few weeks, said Curtis Tucker, an area land manager for the agency.

It's unclear precisely what the Air Force is doing on its complex of airstrips and buildings on the part of the Nellis base known as Groom Range.

"Some specific activities and operations conducted on that range, both past and present, remain classified and cannot be discussed," said Lt. Col Mike Gannon, a spokesman for the Air Force.

The most conventional explanation is that the base is one of the places where the Air Force has tested various top-secret aircraft and has trained the pilots.

countability," said Campbell, who now downplays the UFO theories because, after two years of surveillance, he has yet to see one.

If the Air Force needs these mountain peaks for national security, "the burden of proof is on the agency," he said. "It has presented no case whatsoever."

Lt. Col. Gannon said the Air Force needs the mountain peaks "to protect the technological edge of the U.S. military capabilities and to enhance effective military operations and training."

The BLM apparently agrees.

Public viewing of military activities (which has often included illegal photography of range activities) has "increased during the past few years, necessitating the diversion, postponement, or cancellation of missions to prevent a compromise of national security," said an agency statement.

If nothing else, the debate over the mountains has demonstrated the power of the Internet and of one UFO story.

The least conventional explanation is literally out of this world.

In 1989, a Las Vegas man said that he once worked at the base and helped to conduct tests on alien spaceships that the Air Force obtained through a cooperative arrangement with the non-earthly beings.

"I've seen some strange things in the sky, but nothing that would lead me to believe that we're dealing with things from another planet," said Tucker.

"In my mind, there's human beings behind what is going on."

There is no doubt that something is down there.

Popular Science Magazine, for example, splashed on its cover an aerial photograph of the base that was reportedly shot by a Russian satellite in 1988.

Campbell, meanwhile, has escorted in the past two years an estimated 100 media organizations to the tops of the BLM mountains. Sure enough, he and

Before the UFO stories first surfaced in 1989, the mountain peaks posed no threat to national security because virtually nobody bothered to climb them, said Tucker of the BLM.

"Now there's a jeep trail up there," said Tucker, "Tweaking the military giant is something that (Campbell) has enjoyed doing." Because of the Internet, "he seems to be able to communicate from his remote location on an international level."

If the Air Force manages to take over the mountains, Campbell said that his fight will be a "smashing success."

He plans an "End-of-the-World" party on the ridge just before it becomes off limits. And then he plans to keep watching from nearby Tikaboo Peak, another BLM vista that will remain publicly accessible.

From Tikaboo, "you can see the base plain as day," he said. All that is needed, he says, "is a better telescope."

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - Dec. 4, 1994

## Two new videotapes offer UFO evidence

Sylvie D. Nelson

Record Staff Writer

The Roswell UFO Museum has a new item in its gift shop which could make the perfect Christmas gift for that special Unidentified Flying Objects enthusiast.

It's a videotape aimed at proving a recently published Air Force report that the alleged 1947 alien crash outside Roswell was not a UFO but rather, a balloon designed to monitor Soviet nuclear activity.

"I felt the report was so biased and unfair (because of) the evidence it didn't report," said Paul Davids, the videotape's executive producer. "There needed to be a strong reply to it."

And the reply to what Davids said is a government cover-up, is indeed strong.

The second of the two videotapes, titled "Reply to the Air Force Report on the Roswell Incident," features a taped conversation of Brig. Gen. Exon, the base commander of Wright Patterson AFB in 1965, who confirmed Roswell was the site of an extra-terrestrial craft crash with alien bodies on board, said Davids from his home in Los Angeles.

"With the testimony, I feel the Air Force shouldn't get away with the cover-up," he said.

The 59-minute videotape also features the original 1947 radio broadcast aired on the American Broadcasting Corp. (ABC) airwaves.

The first videotape, Davids said, is a collection of publicity the case has gotten on television over the past year and a half. It is titled "Down in Roswell."

It features media coverage of television programs such as Good Morning America, Good Day L.A., Premiere Story, 48 Hours, and Entertainment Tonight.

A California blues writer even wrote and performed a song, "Down in Roswell," on the first videotape.

"It's a very strong song about the Roswell case," Davids said.

The videotapes are presently on sale at the Roswell UFO Museum, at the corner of Fourth and Main streets, and will be delivered to the UFO Enigma Museum on North Main Street next week, Davids said.

Prices are:

■ "Down in Roswell," \$33.95

■ "Reply to the Air Force Report on the Roswell Incident," \$33.95

■ Both videotapes, \$58.95

The prices include shipping and handling.

## Mysterious black helicopters jangle nerves in N. Arizona

By Charles Kelly  
The Arizona Republic

Dark helicopters are fluttering above northern Arizona, their rotor blades wup-wupping the air and jiggling the nerves of loyal Americans who suspect the choppers are up to no good.

Though evidence is scant, some link the copters - which have been seen in other parts of the United States as well - to a sinister New World Order in which foreign troops would help the federal government bring Americans under the control of an international government.

"These helicopters are going to be used to control us," said a former Camp Verde resident who showed videotapes of the copters taken in the Cornville area on the condition he not be identified.

Not everyone takes such an extreme view. Some who have seen the copters simply don't know what to make of them. Some have different theories.

Lyle Vann of Paulden, a UFO and sasquatch researcher, said he's heard that black helicopters have been used to terrorize UFO researchers and people who have been abducted by UFOs.

"I think they're eyeballing me and a couple of other folks out here that are into this subject (UFOs)," Vann said.

The copters appear to be unmarked, Vann said, and they hover at very low altitudes to inspect people on the ground or to follow vehicles down the highway. The dark-suited, black-helmeted and goggled crew members seem unfriendly, even "robotlike."

Vann, who said he first began to notice the copters as early as 1988, has nicknamed them Blackbirds. He's seen tabloid accounts that call them "Hell Copters."

Tom Strawn, who hosts a political TV talk show in Prescott and writes a column for *The Courier* newspaper there, said the copters have been reported all over the northern part of the state, particularly in the areas of Camp Verde and Cottonwood.

Strawn said he saw four of the helicopters on the ground in a fenced-off U.S. Forest Service area north of the Prescott airport last October.

Jon Schumate, Forest Service law-enforcement officer in charge of Prescott National Forest, said he doesn't know of any copters in that area in October.

However, Schumate said, U.S. Army soldiers and Marines were walking the forest looking for marijuana crops in August and September, and a U.S. Air Force Blackhawk helicopter was transporting the troops in August.

Government officials say they suspect the copters simply are military or law-enforcement aircraft on training, transport or drug-fighting missions.

Many military helicopters are dark-colored and may look black from a distance, officials say. They also may appear to be unmarked because their markings are dull.

Col. Bruce Bodin, who is in charge of aviation for the Arizona National Guard, said Guard helicopters seldom operate in the area of the sightings but that aircraft going to or from other states regularly do.

"This is a military corridor for aircraft," he said. "To me, it wouldn't seem unusual to see them flying around."

An unsettling rumor about the helicopters is that some of them are foreign or are transporting foreign troops.

Vann, the Paulden researcher, said he took a photo of what he described as a "Russian-style" helicopter in the sky just north of his ranch last May.

This ties in with reports by right-wing watchdogs that Russian military and U.N. vehicles have been spotted in Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, Pennsylvania and Mississippi, which some say is evidence that the forces of the New World Order are on the march.

Maj. Michael McKinney, a spokesman for the U.S. Army in the Pentagon, said that some of the military-vehicle sightings are valid but that the worries are misplaced.

Russian equipment is used in this country for training U.S. military forces, McKinney said, and small numbers of Russian troops have occasionally come on military visits.

And foreign troops have trained on U.S. soil, he said, such as Canadian troops that in recent years were given permission to train at a National Guard post in northern Michigan.

But no sinister plot is under way, McKinney said, adding that it's hard to figure why some people believe it is.

McKinney's position is backed up by an article by William F. Jasper in the Oct. 31, 1994, issue of *The New American*, a magazine published by the John Birch Society, an anti-Communist group.

The magazine says the helicopter stories are bunk.

"(None) of the ... alarmists we are aware of has produced a shred of credible documentation to substantiate their shocking tales," said Jasper, a senior editor at *The New American*.

Such assertions don't melt the uneasiness of some who have seen the dark helicopters.

These witnesses have the nagging feeling that they aren't being told everything, that this is a bit of business that remains unresolved.

Vann is one of the skeptics.

"This is a very touchy subject," he said. "I don't have all the answers."

# A U.F.O.. or Is There an Explanation?

By ALBERT J. PARISI

PATERSON

ON Oct. 30, Robert F. Coar says, the lights he saw in the night sky were not stars — and the experience has haunted his dreams and waking moments ever since. What he saw, he says, was an unidentified flying object that passed over his Fifth Avenue neighborhood here pursued by helicopters.

"I couldn't believe what I was seeing, but there it was, this thing about the size of a tractor-trailer, shaped like a shoe box with pulsating red and orange lights," said Mr. Coar, 35, a self-employed sign painter and mural artist. "It was about 100 feet up, about level with an old smokestack back there."

Mr. Coar reported his sighting to a neighbor, Debbie Bodensky, an office manager for a cemetery, and she sent him packing. "How could I believe something so loony as that?" she said.

Ten minutes later, driving with a relative to a local shop, "we saw it, exactly as Bob described," she said. "It had these big orange and yellow lights, and it didn't make a sound."

Mr. Coar's account is not unique. George A. Filer of Medford, the state director of the Mutual U.F.O. Network, an international research group based in Seguin, Tex., said that since 1990 New Jersey has averaged at least 12 U.F.O. sightings a year that warranted the group's investigation. Mr. Coar's sighting is one of them.

"The reports vary and many times involve multiple witnesses," said Mr. Filer, a sales manager with a local utilities auditing company and a former United States Air Force intelligence officer. "Many sightings can be explained away relatively easily. What could be an air-



Chris Maynard for The New York Times

A U.F.O. "about the size of a tractor-trailer" passed over Fifth Avenue and East 12th Street in Paterson, said Robert F. Coar, at the site with paintings he made of the sighting.

craft, a hoax or a natural phenomenon such as a light reflection or even an unusual cloud formation — this sort of thing we have answers for."

The group's 150 New Jersey researchers discount up to 90 percent of reported sightings, Mr. Filer said, adding: "It's that 10 percent that is the most intriguing for us. That's where our detective work and resources come together."

For each U.F.O. sighting called to the group's attention, he said, 100 go unreported because "no one wants to be labeled as a nut."

In the case of Mr. Coar's sighting, Paterson police officials acknowledged receiving dozens of phone calls that evening reporting odd activities in the sky, but they say this had nothing to do with U.F.O.'s. On that night, two small helicopters dispatched from the state National

Guard worked in conjunction with police on an anti-drug mission.

The flight, which lasted nearly five hours, resulted in about 60 drug-related arrests on Oct. 30. Reports of U.F.O. sightings that night, Police Chief Richard Munsey said, are the result of "overactive imaginations."

New Jersey ranks 14th in the nation in overall U.F.O. investigations

with some 38 between 1987 and 1993. Indiana and Florida are tied for first place with 283 investigations each in the same period. According to the Mutual U.F.O. Network, the higher numbers reflect expanded reporting networks in both those states. In the last four years, New Jersey members have received some 225 reports of sightings.

Mr. Filer is the host of a weekly two-hour program on WWAC entitled "Investigations — U.F.O.," broadcast on a UHF channel from Atlantic City.

One of the most dramatic sightings occurred in South Bound Brook last March 16 when a woman, driving with her two grown daughters, stopped at a traffic light on Queens Bridge above the Raritan River. They reported seeing a U.F.O. with flashing multicolored lights hovering at window level above the river.

It was so close, Mr. Filer said, "they could have hit it with a rock." The family was "terrified," he said, and reported the incident to the police. Later, he said, the family learned from a friend who was listening to a police scanner that a report was broadcast advising officers to "keep an eye out for flying saucers" and that anyone spotting it "should give it a speeding ticket."

The police explanation of his experience has not satisfied Mr. Coar. "I know what I saw, and there was more to it than what the police are saying," he said.

Ms. Bodensky agrees. She said she and her companion had driven to within 100 feet of the object and observed it for several minutes. "We just knew that it wasn't a helicopter," she said.

Mr. Coar says the incident has changed his life in ways he could never have predicted. The frustration of getting people to believe him, for example, has continued. "I still hope others will come around and talk about what they saw, what I saw," he said.

And he cited another long-lasting effect: "For me, there has always been something appealing about the night, something mystifying about the stars. But after that night, the stars, to me at least, will have a quality of fear."

Recent sighting reports and field investigations carried out by New Jersey members of the research organization have ranged from mundane to "downright bizarre," said Peter A. Jordan of Clark, the director for Union County. Mr. Jordan, who holds a master's degree in psychology from the New School for Social Research in Manhattan and a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from Drew University in Mad-

## Low-Keyed Prof Believes in UFOs

The Detroit News

DETROIT — Ronald Westrum is a believer.

And he says he's not alone. In fact, he claims to be in some very high-level company.

"The government has known for years that we are being visited by aliens, and that is one of the first things they probably tell the president when he takes over the Oval Office," said Westrum.

"But if Bill Clinton got up and said we've been tracking this for 50 years and it's real, it's very powerful and we don't have any weapons that will work on it, well, it would not be a very smart thing to do, politically."

This is not the ranting of some wild-eyed street prophet hustling for change outside a Detroit eatery.

In fact, there is nothing remotely wild about Westrum, a low-key professor of sociology at rather unradical Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. Dressed in conservative gray wool slacks, a crisply pressed oxford cloth shirt and tasteful tie, he looks to be someone more comfortable around CEOs, not UFOs.

But over the past two decades, Westrum and a select group of academics have been poring over reams of data, taking surveys and interviewing hundreds of people from around the globe.

Their conclusion: Something or someone is abducting people from their homes, and chances are good they are not from our neck of the galactic woods.

Granted, there is nothing new about that. The media have exploited this pop cultural phenomenon for years. But Westrum said most of the coverage has been anecdotal, often sensational. It's time, he says, for mainstream science to start taking this seriously.

"I certainly don't want to believe we are being taken away in the middle of the night," said Westrum, who for the record has never seen a UFO or claimed to

have been abducted. "I really wish abduction cases would go away, because I've simply run out of explanations."

In other words, there is no good reason why so many otherwise normal people — folks with jobs, families and a solid grip on reality — claim they have been guinea pigs for alien experimentation.

Yet getting the scientific community to address the phenomena, let alone study it seriously, has been almost out of the question.

"Here's an area where you have lots and lots of data, yet it's really difficult to get the external scientific community involved," complained Westrum, a 49-year-old graduate of both Harvard and the University of Chicago. "You are looking at a case of obvious bias."

Westrum touts a 1992 Roper Survey funded by a wealthy UFO enthusiast, which found about one in 50 Americans randomly polled had experienced "symptoms" of an abduction. Those include floating through the air, waking up paralyzed with a strange being by the bed or experiencing chunks of missing time.

"That's a very, very disturbing thing," Westrum said, stating the obvious. "These are not psychopaths and they are not publicity seekers."

Detractors (and there are many) say men like Westrum prey upon impressionable, often vulnerable, people to prove their misguided theories.

"It's just absolute nonsense," blurted Robert Baker, a professor emeritus at the University of Kentucky and an expert on folklore. "It is hokey and false ... Frankly, it is analogous to believing in angels."

It seems that each time a society advances, so too do its myths and legends, Baker said.

Baker said common sense — not scientific bias — rules out the idea that humanoid creatures are visiting Earth, let alone plucking people from their beds.

## Down-to-Earth Answers Or No Answers at All

By ALBERT J. PARISI

SOME of New Jersey's sightings of unidentified flying objects have turned out to have quite down-to-earth explanations.

Peter A. Jordan of Clark, the Union County director of the Mutual U.F.O. Network, an international research group, cited reports in 1976 of strange lights and claims of extraterrestrial visitations along an abandoned railroad line in Long Valley, just outside Hackettstown.

"We were getting sighting reports of amber lights that swung like a pendulum above or to the side of the tracks," he said, adding that some local residents referred to the mysterious occurrence as "the spook lights."

"There was a local legend," he said, "that told of a railway engineer who was hit by a train and killed at that spot. His ghost was said to appear on occasion to warn others of impending danger, and immediately following the sightings, the ground would invariably rumble."

Seismic studies of the area revealed that an underground fault ran through the area leading up to the tracks. Since it sat on a bed of gravel and quartz crystals, Mr. Jordan said, "we were able to determine that under the right kind of environmental conditions, seismic activity, hardly perceptible, created a plasma gas which took the form of the amber light."

The iron rails nearby acted as an electromagnetic conductor. When the rails were later ripped up by Conrail crews, the phenomenon ceased.

Other cases are harder to explain.

In June 1988 a woman driving her friend's 7-year-old daughter from a birthday party along a perimeter road of the Wanakee Reservoir reported being followed for nearly four miles by a low-flying object that skimmed the trees, said George A. Filer of Medford, the state director of the Mutual U.F.O. Network.

The network's field report notes that at one point the woman stopped her car and the object, bobbing and weaving and emitting a blue light, also stopped.

"The child with her became upset and nearly hysterical," said Mr. Filer, explaining that the woman resumed her journey until reaching her friend's home. "She herded the child into the house, at which point both she and the child's mother witnessed the object zoom off back in the direction of the reservoir."

The women drove back to the spot of the "up-close sighting" and reported watching as the glowing object descended into the water until it was well out of sight, Mr. Filer said.

There were no additional witnesses, and both women, fearing ridicule, asked for anonymity and requested that the incident not be publicized by the Mutual U.F.O. Network.

After watching for several minutes, 'we knew it wasn't a helicopter.'

son, lectures on the paranormal at Fordham, Drew and other universities in the area.

Mr. Jordan says some U.F.O. activity can be tied into paranormal phenomena traditionally labeled as hauntings or poltergeist activity. His research has led him to believe that people who report sightings and U.F.O. abductions are often telepathic, have a history of repressed memory or have suffered child abuse or sexual abuse in their formative years.

"All too often, we have seen examples of this in our investigations," Mr. Jordan said. "We can't explain why, not entirely, but it is more than a random pattern."



## THE UNKNOWN



Tribune/Steve Hanks

Li F. Wong sits in her home office at Winchester where she researches local UFO sightings.

## UFOs: Tabloid fodder or documented truth?

Winchester woman is searching for answers

By Nicole Peradotto  
of the Tribune

When Li F. Wong tells people she investigates unexplained phenomena, about 85 percent react positively.

The remainder, she said, "leave the room."

The Winchester resident is state section director of MUFON, or Mutual UFO Network, an international non-profit corporation based in Seguin, Texas, and founded 29 years ago to research unidentified flying objects.

The laminated photo ID tag clipped to Wong's turtleneck reads field investigator. She investigates "aerial anomalies" in Nez Perce, Clearwater, Idaho and Lewis counties.

Her field is outer space.

"We have researchers from all over the world," said Wong, a real estate appraiser who has been volunteering for MUFON in north central Idaho for about a year.

Wong's latest investigation centers around a report called into MUFON's North Central Idaho hotline of an immense glowing orange object spotted Oct. 24 over Culelesac.

The man who called the hotline said he saw it for about two minutes. Wong has located a second witness, but she won't disclose names because MUFON protects witnesses' confidentiality.

The sighting occurred one day after a Clarkston man reported to the Nez Perce County Sheriff's Department that two cows and a calf had been mutilated near Winchester. The cows' tongues and vital organs were removed, Wong said.

While cattle mutilation is often attributed to cult activity, MUFON researchers look at it from a different angle.

"The UFO community feels that there is a relationship between some animal mutilations and UFOs," said Daren Lannigan of Caldwell, MUFON's assistant director for Idaho. "What I'm talking about is where these animals are found drained of blood, with no tracks or other signs of struggle around them."

Often the animal's lower jaw is stripped of flesh and the uterus, sexual organs and rectum are removed with "laser-like precision," Lannigan said.

Wong, one of 22 MUFON members living in Idaho, is in

the preliminary stage of her investigation, which includes talking to witnesses, posting the MUFON hotline and performing the surveying technique known as triangulation to better determine the object's size.

She has been a believer in extraterrestrial life since a close encounter 31 years ago.

Wong was then 16, recently married, and attending a fireworks display in Bakersfield, Calif. After the show, she said, five UFOs appeared to her and a group of people, including some firefighters working at the show. The UFOs "made maneuvers that would not be possible at that time," like instantaneous, 90-degree turns.

"We all just 'oohed' and 'aahed' and were totally stunned. Then I stood up and said, 'What are we going to do?' And everyone laughed at me. They had to live in that town. They were fire officials drinking beer — I wasn't — and they're going to say they saw something in the sky in Bakersfield, California, in 1963? Not."

For a while, Wong tried to forget what she saw. "Needless to say, I didn't spend a lot of time looking up. But everywhere I went something would pop up." Since Bakersfield, Wong said she has had four more "profound" UFO experiences, among them seeing water from the Clackamas River being sucked up into a metallic disk hovering 20 feet above the river in 1973. Four years later in Bonners Ferry, she and two other people were engulfed in a pink light during daylight hours.

Lannigan, a grocery store supervisor, has a data base of 60 Idaho sightings reported to MUFON, its forerunner organization or in local newspapers since 1947. Among them:

- On July 4, 1947, four crew members of a United Airlines plane reported seeing five objects in the sky ahead of them for about 10 minutes over Emmett. A U.S. Air Force investigating team determined the sighting was ordinary aircraft, balloons, birds or an illusion. The same year in Twin Falls, about 60 picnickers saw three

formations of more than 35 objects flying overhead, which was never explained.

- In August 1953, three U.S. Air Force jets were allegedly sent to intercept a UFO near Moscow. The disc-shaped, metallic-looking object plunged down near the jet fighters and then flew away. The pilots estimated that it was traveling 2,000 miles per hour.

- In December 1975, a Latah County Sheriff's deputy reported to MUFON that he saw a UFO northeast of Moscow about three to five miles in the sky. The object, which hovered silently in the sky for about 30 minutes before vanishing, was bright red and then changed to blue, yellow and white.

- In April of this year, Post Falls resident Guy Johnson videotaped mysterious lights hovering over the city. Several residents reported seeing the lights, including members of the Post Falls Police Department. The white, red, blue, gold and green lights flash on and off and, when observed through binoculars, look as if they're attached to something, according to an Associated Press story.

About 90 percent of the sightings can be explained, Lannigan said. They are either astronomical occurrences — stars or mete-

ors, for example — or conventional aircraft. The remaining 10 percent, however, cannot.

Although her vocational degree is in business, Wong has studied parapsychology — the study of telepathy, clairvoyance and other phenomena unexplainable by known natural laws — in Portland and at the University of California at Los Angeles.

While living in Portland she began gathering data about people who report being abducted by aliens to determine whether they share the common bond of empathy. A high level of empathic response, Wong said, means that one person responds to another's emotions.

Her own level is so high, she said, that when a person near her is suffering from a headache, her eyes begin to water.

Wong would like to start a support group for people who report having been abducted by aliens.

"I don't deal with all this on an emotional level, because that just gets in the way," she said. "You can't research something thoroughly and let your emotions interfere."

To move extraterrestrial life from the domain of the National Enquirer and the movie screen to a place where the vast majority of the public takes it seriously

will take more than time, Wong said.

Like many in the UFO community, Wong believes the U.S. government is concealing information about the crash of an aircraft in Roswell, N.M., during an electrical storm in 1947. The U.S. Army investigating team told the public it was nothing more than a torn weather balloon, said MUFON's international director, Walter Andrus.

But Andrus said many witnesses saw something other than a weather balloon, and the coroner there can testify that the investigators ordered four child-size caskets the night of the crash.

"Where has all this information about lasers and the rest of it come from? Where did all the technology come from since the 1940s?" Wong said. "We've been here thousands of years, so how come in the past 50 or so years we've gone from riding horses to exploring other planets? We just suddenly got smart?"

"There are a lot of people who don't want to deal with change, and that's OK," she said. "But there are people who want to research this."

"Let's face it," she said. "We're making a mess of this planet. Maybe someone's knocking on the door and trying to help."

## Senior State Trooper Has "Close Encounter" On Buckhannon Mt.

West Virginia State Police Senior Trooper Joseph M. Menendez was uninjured in an accident on Buckhannon Mountain Friday, December 30, while responding to an alleged UFO sighting.

Trooper Menendez, who is stationed with the Weston Detachment, was responding to a 911 dispatch call at the time of the accident.

The call to 911 came from a Buckhannon resident who thought he had spotted a UFO close to his house and had called the 911 center to request a police officer.

Roy McKisic of Buckhannon made the call after he and his son, Mark, had returned from the Wal-Mart store.

"It was a big object," said McKisic, "and we could see four different colored lights."

McKisic said he saw blue, green, red, and yellow lights emanating from the object.

He said several other people also witnessed the object, and that, in one instance, a camcorder was used to film the object as it hovered in the sky.

"We watched it for a while," said Eunice McKisic, "and then my son Mark said he was going to call the state police."

After that, the McKisics said, they witnessed a smaller, yellowish object being released from the larger one.

"It came down, moved over the trees and down the embankment before it returned to the tree tops," said Mrs. McKisic. "And that's where it stayed until I went to bed."

The call came into the 911 center at 9:29 p.m., reporting the sighting of a UFO and requesting a policeman to investigate.

The call was transferred to Shinnston because no local officers were available at the time to take the call. The Shinnston State Police dispatched Trooper Menendez to Buckhannon Mountain Road.

When asked about the call he was responding to, Menendez termed it "a suspicious vehicle complaint."

The McKisics saw the trooper's vehicle pass the house and saw it stop at the crest of the mountain, where they thought the trooper was watching the object. Later, they discovered that he had been in an accident.

Menendez was headed south on Buckhannon Mountain Road in his

police cruiser, a 1992 Chevrolet Caprice, when he rounded the curve at the crest of the road.

At that point, he encountered a second vehicle coming in the opposite direction, and a sideswipe collision occurred.

Cory M. Fisher, 19, of Buckhannon, was driving the second vehicle, a 1978 Ford truck.

Sergeant Jeff Swagger of the Sutton Detachment of the West Virginia State Police investigated the accident.

"The accident was unavoidable," said Sergeant Swagger, who was called at 10 p.m. to investigate the accident.

Swagger cited bad road conditions as the cause behind the accident.

Trooper Menendez said, "The fact is that the other driver was more on my side."

Fisher was uninjured in the accident.

Trooper Menendez's cruiser sustained an estimated \$4,000 damage, while the Fisher-driven vehicle sustained \$500 in damage.

The McKisics noted that, since the accident, no police official had attempted to contact them about the sighting.

DEMOCRAT, Weston, WV

Jan. 11, 1995 CR: B. Teets



WILL YURMAN staff photographer

**Close encounters** Martha Wheat, who has spotted UFOs four times, at her apartment in Henrietta.

## Woman recalls weird sky sightings

Martha Wheat's stories are bogging, should you entertain extra-terrestrial thoughts.



JIM ORR

ORDINARY PEOPLE

Otherwise, this is going to sound really bizarre. Martha sights UFOs. She never has heard a sound, never seen any lights or windows. Her encounters have involved shiny, oval blurs hovering over public places in broad daylight.

There was a Jewish temple on Elmwood Avenue. The McDonald's on Mt. Hope Avenue. The Connecticut Turnpike. A beach on Florida's gulf coast.

Martha, who lives in a Henrietta apartment with her musician husband and two cats, maintains that the government is covering up what she believes.

Others joke openly about what she believes.

"I use the word intimidating," Martha admits. "When people laugh or giggle, it intimidates me not to talk about it, unless I talk with someone else who has experienced it. It's not something I go around talking about. I was hesitant to even do this. There's a lot of controversy about this, needless to say."

Martha, 51, never saw a UFO while growing up as a Callahan in a farm house in Avon, Livingston County. She never saw one while she was going to Livonia High. She says she never saw one until her 36th year.

"I find it scary, and I don't care if I never see another one again," she says. "I certainly wouldn't go looking for them."

For the record, Martha, a bookkeeper, says she doesn't do drugs. And she says she didn't suffer head injuries when a drunken driver hit her years ago near Genesee, leaving her permanently on crutches.

And Martha lives with a "scary" mystery. She can't account for two hours during one encounter.

### The first time

The retired Air Force officer, perhaps in his late 60s, let Martha and her husband, Brad, peer through his binoculars. What they saw were twin objects in the distant sky, both shiny, oval and copper in color.

"We said, 'Geez, do you have any idea what they are?' His response was, 'They definitely are not ours. Nothing we have can hover for that length of time. I don't know what they are.'"

It was 1979, about 5 p.m. on a sunny day. Martha and Brad were living in Clearwater, Fla. They had been strolling on a nearby beach and saw about 40 or 50 people looking up over the Gulf of Mexico.

"Sometimes they (the UFOs) would hover a little to the left, then a little to the right," says

Martha. "For several hours they had just been hovering. I'm quoting what the man said."

### The second time

Martha and Brad and her sister, Georgia Kayviankif, were driving back to Rochester on the Connecticut Turnpike after a trip to Rhode Island.

As Martha recalls, the trio saw two objects whisking alongside their car. Once again, the objects were oval. This time they were black.

It was July 1989. For a time, Martha blocked the episode out of her mind. It was, she says, traumatic.

"I was the first one who saw anything," Martha begins. "I said, 'Oh, my God, look at those!' ... I was driving about 65 mph, and they were keeping up with me. They stayed parallel with us on the right shoulder of road."

"I remember saying to Brad, 'What are they? I'm scared.' He said, 'I don't know, but why don't you pull over?' So, I stopped the car. Personally, that's all I remember."

"This is going to sound really weird and far out: When we got home, it took us 10 hours. Normally, the trip takes about 8 hours. There was no other incident where we stopped, except maybe one time to get gas or go to the bathroom."

### The third time

Martha and her late aunt, Vera Barber, went through the drive-thru at the McDonald's on Mt. Hope and ordered two small pizzas with everything on them. Martha parked the car facing the trees behind the restaurant, and they settled back to eat lunch.

It must have been August or September in 1993, Martha thinks. "All of a sudden, we both saw this object," she says. "It was blueish and green metallic in color, and oval. You know, it went by so fast. It was very low, just over the top of the trees."

My aunt turned to me and said, 'Oh, my gosh, Martha, did you see that?' I said, 'Yes, I did.' She said, 'What do you think it was?' I said, 'I have no idea.'"

### The fourth time

This time, Martha reported it. Brighton police received the call at 9:11 a.m. on Dec. 5.

She had just pulled her Mitsubishi compact car into the parking lot at Temple B'rith Kodesh, on Elmwood Avenue, where she has been keeping books for 10 years.

"I saw this object," Martha tells. "It was going very slowly over the parking lot in the back. I would say its height from the ground was tree level. It was a good size, about four times the size of my car."

It was raining, but Martha says she rolled down her window and got a good glimpse from maybe 100 feet away. The oval saucer appeared to have four pods sticking out on poles. It looked to be silver and metallic.

"It was moving very slowly, in a rolling motion forward," she says.

"I was very curious. I had never seen anything like it before."

It slowly left Martha's sight, gliding just above home rooftops and toward South Clinton Avenue.

The Brighton police department received no other calls like Martha's. A police dispatcher called the Federal Aviation Administration, which reported that no such objects appeared on radar that morning.

As far as Martha knows, few people see what she sees. She wonders.

"I kind of think that maybe there might be a possibility that people who are open-minded can have an opportunity to experience this," she says.

"If it is a craft from another planet, and other creatures or beings are on it, and they've figured out a way to come to this world, maybe they can be selective and have the capability to become visible whenever they want to."

"Maybe they can do that. I don't know if I believe that. I'm trying to rationalize. Why is it me? Why haven't other people have had these kind of experiences?" □

Jim Orr takes comments and story ideas at (716) 258-2602 or 55 Exchange Blvd., Rochester, N.Y. 14614.

GUIDE, Jackson Hole, WY - Sept. 21, 1994

## E.T., Phone Hoback

By ALISE RUDIO  
Guide reporter

A national hotline for unidentified flying objects received three phone calls on Sunday night reporting strange lights in the sky near Hoback Junction.

Six adults in the Hoback area said they witnessed red, white and green lights in a cluster formation racing across the sky, according to Peter Davenport, director of the Seattle-based National UFO Reporting Center.

Davenport said the center's hotline for UFO sightings has been flooded with calls from the Intermountain Region this week.

"Last night the phone was in melt down," he said on Monday.

Detailed descriptions of the Hoback sightings conformed to UFO reports from all over the western United States, Davenport said.

While Davenport's phone may be ringing off the hook, attempts to confirm the sightings with Hoback area residents received enthusiastic responses but no witnesses of extraterrestrial visitors.

"No, I didn't see anything," said George Stagg, who works at the Balsam Root General Store, "but I wish one would pick me up."

Stagg said he hadn't heard anything from customers about the night lights but was ready to head for the hills with a sign marking where he should be picked up.

"I'm ready to go," he said, adding that he'd first ask space travelers about taxes and health care.

Calls to the sheriff, the highway patrol, and area bars, homes, ranches, campgrounds, and outfitters all dug up a black hole as far as witnesses.

But there are plenty of believers.

"Absolutely there are life forms out there," said Walt Farmer, president of the local astronomy club. "There's hardly any other conclusion you could draw."

"To think that we are the only life form in the universe is pretty egocentric. But whether they have visited is another matter entirely."

Farmer said the it would be fairly mind boggling — like something out of Star Trek — if visitors from other galaxies could "zupe" here and "zupe" back.

HERALD, Brewster, WA - Dec. 8, 1994



## Another flying saucer?

Cloud or flying saucer? Guadalupe C. Martinez's picture of a 'cloud' appeared in the Quad City Herald issue of November 24, 1994.

Ada Jensen, Brewster, stopped by the QCH Friday, December 2, 1994, bringing pictures she had taken of the same 'cloud'. She agreed with Martinez's statement "the only cloud in the area at that time."

Monday morning the QCH staff

were comparing the 'cloud pictures', the article in the paper, and the information Ada had written on the back of her pictures - interesting.

Martinez's letter said "one late afternoon in August." Ada's notes state July 10, 1994, 8:30 Evening."

Was it a cloud? Was it the same day? Or what? One thing is for sure, the pictures look alike - like a flying saucer.



# Sierra sightings investigated by UFO group

By Michael T. Jarvis  
for The Review-Herald

More than 100 people have reported seeing strange lights in the Eastern Sierra sky recently, according to a group that investigates unexplained phenomena.

Jeffrey Nelson, co-founder of the Unexplained Phenomena Investigations (UPI) in Kirkland, Wash., said his organization has received more than 100 calls from points throughout the Eastern Sierra, including Lee Vining, the Mono Basin, Benton, Crowley

Lake and June Lake, and from Bishop and the Coyote Valley to Lone Pine in Inyo County.

"There are some pretty dramatic cases from this area," Nelson said in a telephone interview. "We're getting more calls than we anticipated. They're still coming in."

Late in September, the UPI ran an advertisement in the classified section of *The Review-Herald* and the *Inyo Register*.

The ad asked for any "witnesses" who had seen any "anomalous" or unusual lights appearing in the area. Nelson said the ads have

run in newspapers across the country and that many of the Eastern Sierra "sightings" seem to be very similar to the crafts spotted in other parts of the country.

Nelson's group is a privately-funded foundation that finds a "lack of objectivity" with most UFO investigators and organizations.

"We try to throw away preconceived notions," he said. "We welcome healthy skepticism. We're not UFO buffs. We noticed something was happening."

In addition to Nelson, the UPI

includes a retired NASA scientist, a nurse and a sociologist. The group is privately funded and Nelson would not discuss how or where it receives its funding.

The typical caller to the UPI line is "much more legitimate" than typical UFO reports, according to Nelson.

"Most (calls) that we have received, these people have never contacted anyone about what they have seen and have really no interest in the sightings."

Officials at UPI will not disclose

or describe what its callers have reportedly sighted. They fear that others will call in with false reports.

The goal of the UPI is to prove statistically that the people who are seeing anomalous lights on both coasts of the country are not hallucinating but sharing a common experience.

On the East Coast, Nelson reports that several people have seen what appear to be Stealth bombers "hovering with no sound." Many of the calls have come from upstate New York and Michigan.

Although many of the callers have reported multiple sightings within 15 miles of most U.S. Air Force bases, Nelson insists that the crafts are "not military."

Nevertheless, one of the areas with a number of sightings in the Eastern Sierra, Coyote Valley, has a high-altitude runway that the military uses for helicopter practice landings.

What exactly are the anomalous lights that many are spotting in the Eastern Sierra? Nelson and the UPI hope that anyone who sees or has seen anything unusual in the sky will call his group at (206) 889-9228.

NEWS, Lima, OH - Jan. 7, 1995 CR: J. Timmerman

## Eastern Allen skies shine mysteriously with unknown light

By STEPHEN HUBA  
The Lima News

A curved ring of lights seen by a husband and wife near Waynesfield. An object larger than the moon witnessed by a lone driver at the Hardin-Allen County line.

Just what in heaven's name is going on?

John P. Timmerman would like to know.

"I don't know what we're dealing with here yet," said Timmerman, a longtime UFO researcher and former Lima businessman.

Timmerman said he has taken "quite a few reports" about unexplained phenomena since someone reported seeing an object in the eastern Allen

County sky Oct. 19, 1994.

"The reports have been from what I regard as credible individuals and who are not attempting to be a nuisance," the Lakeview man said.

Timmerman has been trying to find other witnesses to the Oct. 19 event. But in his effort to do so, he's been inundated with more reports of more strange occurrences in the heavens.

"I've had an unusual number of calls for this area. What they truly represent is hard to tell," he said. Some of the reports have "strange similarities."

Timmerman, 71, has been active in UFO research since the early 1950s. Today, he is vice

**"I'm getting an awful lot of reports of orange balls of light, white balls of light, strange configurations."**

**John P. Timmerman**  
UFO researcher

ings originate.

"So far, I haven't found anything to justify the report details. The explanation still eludes me," Timmerman said.

"The event that was reported earlier is still unresolved, partly due to the fact that there have been quite a number of other calls of interesting events south and east of Lima," he said. "People having seen unusual lighted and shadow-shaped objects. We're looking for ... reports to hopefully explain what people have been seeing."

The Oct. 19 report originated from the intersection of Reservoir and Hardin roads. A woman driving north at 4:30 a.m. told Timmerman she saw a large object in the sky, moving north to south.

Anyone with more information should call (513) 843-3834.

"I'd like to explain it," he said.

## Two saw something that 'made no sound'

By Michael T. Jarvis  
for the Review-Herald

It was late in August near Sadlebag Lake when two men saw something in the sky that would change their lives forever.

At about 4 p.m. on a crystal clear day, the two men, who work in Mammoth Lakes and want to remain anonymous, were returning from a day of fishing.

Taking a rest on a rock, the two looked up in the sky above Steelhead Lake. At first they thought they saw paper or garbage blowing high in the air. But the prevailing wind was moving in the opposite direction.

Pulling a pair of binoculars from a daypack, they spied the white, egg-shaped object at approximately 3,000 feet.

Both agree that the object had white probes or spikes at what they

believed to be the back of the object. After about 10 seconds, the spikes retracted.

The object moved freely, as if it were bouncing on air, but was definitely propelled. They say it left the area by moving against the prevailing wind.

A few minutes later, two military jets flew in the opposite direction over the western side of the Sierra.

When asked if the egg-shaped object might be a military craft or device, one of the men said, "It ain't from Earth. It defied the laws of physics and made no sound."

The two men now bring cameras and binoculars with them on fishing trips and hikes. They do not want their names revealed because of the potential for ridicule. They want to prove that they saw something.

## Radio

### UFO phenomenon topic of Dale Caruso's program

BREEZY POINT — KLKS Radio at Breezy Point (104.3 FM) on Jan. 28 will debut a short series of in-depth reports by Dale Caruso on the phenomenon of unidentified flying objects: "Watch the Skies — The UFO Enigma."

Caruso traveled to new Mexico, Chicago and Indiana as well as the Twin Cities to interview several experts and persons allegedly involved in sightings and/or alien abductions.

The series, which runs at 3 p.m. for one hour on Jan. 28, Feb. 4 and Feb. 11, will be repeated on Sundays, Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and Feb. 12 at 7 p.m.

The reports explore the possibility that we are not alone in the universe, said Caruso. Visitors may have not only invaded our skies but may also have had mishaps resulting in wreckage and casualties that have been recovered by our government.

The series will also delve into another area that has been linked to the UFO phenomenon: the systematic abduction of humans by crews of these strange craft for purposes that are not clear.

Topics covered in the series include:

— Unidentified objects that have traveled our skies and have been observed by thousands of witnesses. The series chronicles some of the more notable sight-

ings.

— Government harassment, regulation of the release of information to the public and the dissemination of misinformation concerning the UFO phenomenon.

— On July 4, 1947 near Roswell, N.M., a craft crash-landed and launched one of the greatest mysteries of all time. A young man and woman discovered the crash site, then a group of archaeologists and finally the military. The great cover-up began.

— Over 30 years, so-called UFO abduction experiences have been reported, and this series brings the listener into a world of encounters of the fourth kind — alien abduction, including subjection to physical examination. Some people have been taken more than once in a pattern plaguing them since youth. Debbie Jordan and Kathy Mitchell, central characters in the Bud Hopkins book "Intruders, the Incredible Visitation at Copley Woods," are interviewed by Caruso.

— From the lips of Betty Hill will come the story of the alleged abduction of her and husband Barney, and hear Travis Walton share his bizarre tale that was the basis for the recent movie "Fire in the Sky."

The series includes comment from researchers and scientists.

DAILY DISPATCH, Brainerd, MN - Jan. 12, 1995 CR: D. Caruso

president for public relations for the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies in Chicago.

Timmerman, an amateur astronomer, lectures regularly on the scientific study of UFOs.

He said the most recent local reports, which number between 20 and 25 since October, are partly explained by astronomical phenomena.

"Venus has been quite bright and, for a portion of this time, was seen near the eastern horizon." The closer Venus is to the horizon, the brighter it appears, Timmerman said.

But other reports, some of which are accompanied by videotaped or photographed "evidence," are not as easily explained, he said.

"I've taken quite a few reports from other people since (Oct. 19), along the edge of Hardin County, Auglaize County and Logan County," Timmerman said. "For some reason or another, I'm getting an awful lot of reports of orange balls of light, white balls of light, strange configurations."

In addition to taking reports over the telephone, Timmerman sends out sighting report forms to callers and conducts personal interviews. He also visits the places where the alleged sight-

# Suits contest secrecy in the post-Cold War

**Plaintiffs charge negligence at base government says doesn't exist**

By Dan Freedman  
EXAMINER WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — They began as routine lawsuits against the U.S. government: complaints filed by the widow of an Air Force civilian worker and by six of his ex-colleagues at a Nevada installation.

But routine has turned to bizarre. The Pentagon's response has been to stonewall. The base in the Nevada desert, identified as Area 51 at Groom Lake, is not there — officially.

And while what goes on at the base may be secret, speculation about it is a cottage industry. A Groom Lake cult of sorts has grown up, attracting not only curiosity seekers but even believers in UFOs.

Groom Lake, 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, sits amid the vast federal nuclear test site in the Nevada desert. But it looms large in the controversy over the government's need for secrecy in the post-Cold War world and the public's right to be protected from unwanted consequences of Cold War-vintage secret operations.

The plaintiffs — the widow, Helen Frost, and six co-workers each identified only as "John Doe" — have enlisted George Washington University law Professor Jonathan Turley, who handles public-interest law cases, to prove that the workers' skin ailments were job-related.

One complaint charges that the plaintiffs suffered severe illnesses caused by the Air Force's illegal disposal of hazardous chemicals while developing "next-generation, experimental aircraft at the Groom Lake base." The second charges that the Environmental Protection Agency failed to enforce federal anti-pollution laws.

Frost's husband, Robert, died in 1989 at age 57, three years after rashes and dime-sized open sores appeared all over his body, accompanied by painful scaling, cracking and bleeding. For 10 years before his death, he had been a contract sheet metal worker at Groom Lake.

After he died, tests showed his body contained potentially lethal levels of dioxins and dibenzofurans, which were among the hazardous wastes emitted at the facility, the lawsuit alleges.

Whatever Groom Lake's secrecy requirements may be, Turley argues, the base should obey the law. "This case has much more to do with individual accountability than national security," he said. "We do not contest the need for secrecy in certain areas, but national security is in no way affected by these suits."

Asked to comment, the government's attorney, Lt. Col. Richard Sarver, said, "It would be wrong to address anything of substance."

Asked why such secrecy was necessary in the post-Cold War era, he replied: "There is an answer, but I can't give it to you. It's classified."



To pursue the case, Turley first must go through the metaphysical contortion of proving that Groom Lake in fact exists.

So far, the Air Force has acknowledged only that an "operating location" exists "near" the dry bed of Groom Lake, but activities there "remain classified and cannot be discussed." The EPA has said it cannot enforce the law at an installation that doesn't exist.

Groom Lake's activities are financed from the federal government's so-called "black" budget, \$22 billion or more used by the Pentagon, the CIA and the National Security Agency for super-secret weapons and technology development. Since the 1950s, the U-2 and the SR-71 spy planes and the F-117A "stealth" fighter-bomber have been developed at Groom Lake, according to military analysts.

Turley said he intended to introduce satellite photos from the archives of the former Soviet Union, and to call as witnesses an official in the Russian Embassy here and an expert in Soviet satellite reconnaissance.

Regardless of what's going on inside Groom Lake, plenty is going on around it.

Glenn Campbell, a 35-year-old ex-Boston computer whiz who proudly proclaims himself a "military irritant," has established the "Area 51 Research Center" in a mobile home in Rachel, Nev. (population: 100), 20 miles north of Groom Lake.

He publishes a wry "Area 51 Viewer's Guide" and a newsletter called the "Groom Lake Desert Rat." He leads tourists on "interceptor" missions to the top of "Freedom Ridge," a bluff overlooking the boxy buildings, blinking lights and 35,000-foot partly paved runway of the Groom Lake installation.

With telephoto lenses, radio scanners, maps, compasses and lawn chairs, the "interceptors" do their best to find out what the government is up to.

The UFO watchers have their own hangout, the Little A'le Inn, in nearby Rachel. Their guru, Bob Lazar, who makes frequent appearances on tabloid TV shows, claims he worked on disassembling captured alien spacecraft at Groom Lake in 1988 to uncover secrets of UFO technology.

# UFO buff takes it seriously

By John Vaughan  
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

LINCOLNTON, N.C.

After a decade of peace and quiet, UFOs and space aliens have been back in the news lately. And it does not surprise George Fawcett one bit. As far as he is concerned, they never went away. But for some reason public sightings come in waves or cycles: mostly every five or 10 years.

Fawcett, 65, would know about such things. He has been investigating UFOs and writing and speaking about them for 50 years. He has piles of interview material from people who claim they have met extraterrestrials. If he ever gets that chance himself, he will have his questions ready.

"I'd certainly want to know their ultimate intent in visiting the Earth," said Fawcett. "And I'd want to know what their attitude toward the Creator is. Are these people Christians? That's important to me."

He reflects for a few seconds. "Also, I'd like to ask them for a cure to cancer, pollution, famine and overpopulation. And if they have those answers, I'd want to know why they haven't given them to us before now."

As you see, UFOs are no joke to Fawcett. The former YMCA director, newspaper columnist and ad salesman wants the straight dope from these extraterrestrials who keep flitting about the planet, abducting folks, impregnating Earthwomen, collecting human hair, blood and sperm samples and levitating startled cows from their pastures.

He is raising the same questions lately raised on "Oprah," "Larry King Live," "Hard Copy" and "Unsolved Mysteries."

Some of this attention was sparked by the Air Force's September announcement that the famous 1947 UFO "crash" in Roswell, N.M., was only a balloon used to monitor Soviet nuclear tests. That explanation was met by universal contempt by space buffs, who say the Air Force was lying in 1947 and was lying again in September.

Fawcett shares this conviction. He refers UFO skeptics to death-bed confessions and other testimony from witnesses who saw alien bodies extracted from the Roswell "wreckage."

Fawcett was studying the comings and goings of extraterrestrials for three years before the New Mexico incident. In 1944, when he was a 15-year-old Boy Scout keeping scrapbooks about World War II, he ran across his first news item about a UFO. It described "mysterious silvery balls" seen by Allied pilots over Germany. That was three years before the term "flying saucer" was invented by the American press.

Since then Fawcett has never relaxed his efforts to determine who these worrisome visitors are

*"(At first) I thought UFOs were just an aviation phenomenon. Since then I've realized they encompass the historical, sociological, scientific, cultural, parapsychological, military and religious aspects of man."*

George Fawcett

and what they're up to.

He suspects they are trying to develop a hybrid race by impregnating women and then coming back after the births to spirit away the babies — or at least monitor their growth. It is true that quite a few American women believe they are being visited periodically by UFOnuts, who check on their hybrid offspring.

Until recently, abduction accounts were not respectable. Now they are. In suburban Los Angeles, a hypnotherapist named Yvonne Smith runs a group exclusively for people who think their sexual and reproductive behavior is being monitored by aliens.

But most Californians believe that, don't they?

In discussing his own attitude toward extraterrestrials, Fawcett said he is a "non-skeptic" rather than a "believer."

"I don't believe in them as a matter of faith, without proof. I believe on the basis of what we've learned about them through investigation."

In a half-century he has personally looked into 1,200 UFO sightings and encounters, of which 22 percent turned out to be "genuinely unexplained" — meaning they might have been the real thing.

During 20 years as a YMCA director in six states, and later as a textile worker in Lincolnton, he founded UFO study groups in five states. He is a former director of the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina and is now its public relations director.

Fawcett said he has written 100 research reports, examined 400 government documents on UFOs and lectured to hundreds of groups. His UFO library numbers 800 books, thousands of articles and dozens of taped interviews with UFO "contactees." His garage contains 34 file drawers crammed with 15,000 case studies, color slides and news clippings. It is fair to say that Fawcett is obsessed with UFOs.

"But it's a magnificent obses-

sion," he said. "When I first started, I thought UFOs were just an aviation phenomenon. Since then I've realized they encompass the historical, sociological, scientific, cultural, parapsychological, military and religious aspects of man."

He insists that unidentified flying objects are as commonplace as hard-shelled beetles in June. The national Mutual UFO Network, in Seguin, Texas, keeps hundreds of UFO reports. North Carolina, which ranks fourth nationwide in the number of sightings, reported 18 UFOs in 1993 alone.

People tell Fawcett unlikely tales all the time. He long ago ceased to consider them odd. Why should he? A 1991 Roper Poll found that one in 50 Americans — 3.7 million people — believe they may have had an abduction experience with space aliens.

Scientists and the military usually dismiss such claims, of course. Their attitude is exemplified in a remark last year by a California clinical psychologist named Terence Sanbek. He wondered why aliens never seek out responsible world leaders.

"To go to the nearest star is going to take years and years if you travel at the speed of light, which you can't," he said. "When you got there, would you talk to a drunken fisherman from Mississippi, or would you talk to a head of state? If you're that intelligent, you couldn't act that stupid."

Naturally, you are wondering if the aliens are benign or hostile. Both or either, said Fawcett. "Some of them lie, leave false calling cards and injure people; others tell the truth and help heal sick people. The duality of man is on a cosmic scale."

"I'd like to know if there have been other races that have reached a high level of technology, then blown themselves up. Will it happen again — to us?"

COUNTRY NEWS, Paso Robles, CA - Dec. 21, 1994

## Throwing some light on strange goings on in the night sky

Editor:

Re: The Twilight Zone Police Report.

I just want to verify at least the light those people saw.

**It was so bright that I thought somebody with a strong searchlight pointed at our window.**

Our bedroom window looks towards the north; we are located in

the hills, toward the northwest of Atascadero. It was approximately at that time that I saw the light low on the horizon, going very fast from west to east. It was going down.

It looks like a very very bright yellow bluish ball of fire. It was so bright that I thought somebody with a strong searchlight pointed at our window.

This is now the third time we saw it. (My wife saw it once.) It always occurred between 5 and 6 a.m.

Peter Schulz  
Atascadero





# Men search for explanations for strange lights

By CAROLINE MURRAY  
Star Reporter

Mike Powaschuk will not come straight out and say he saw an Unidentified Flying Object outside of Ross River over a week ago. But to suggest otherwise will just make him angry.

"It was not the Northern Lights, it was not the moon, and it was not a star!" the 36-year-old Ross River man said with firmness in his voice during an interview in Whitehorse this week.

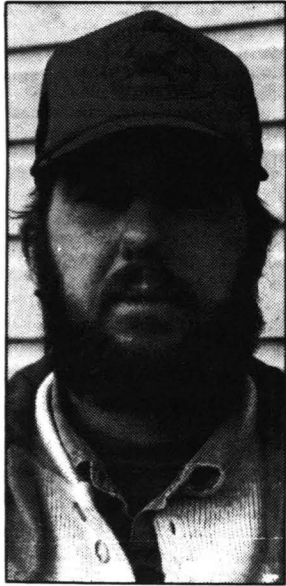
Powaschuk said he saw strange lights in the early-morning sky for several hours while at his Sheldon Lake cabin, about 125 kilometres northeast of Ross River, on Dec. 20.

As a trapper, he had just finished working on his line when he

observed the UFO.

"I saw these lights in the sky about 10 to 20 miles away," the community's volunteer fire chief recalled. "They were green, blue, red, and white."

The amateur photographer proceeded to take snapshots of the eerie lights with his camera equipment. He also began making notes and recording the bearings and elevations of the lights.



MIKE POWASCHUK  
Strange lights.

Powaschuk admits he had been drinking that night, but maintains he only had three to four ounces of rum over several hours.

The trapper said he tried to communicate with the spectacle of lights by flashing the SOS signal with his flashlight. He said he also placed a lantern and candle on his window-sill.

"I didn't hide underneath the blankets," said Powaschuk. "I wasn't scared."

After several hours, the illuminations disappeared, and Powaschuk reported his sighting to the Ross River RCMP.

Later that day, he visited the site where the lights originated, but said there was no indication anything had landed on the ground.

"My nickname is Mad Mike, and I've got quite a reputation as a hard-talking guy," he said, "but I swear on Jesus; it's true. I don't tell stories."

Powaschuk is not the first Ross River resident to observe far-out phenomena. Bill Carson said he saw a peculiar wonder himself about 10 to 12 years ago during late fall and early winter.

"They were glowing brights lights that moved slowly," Carson said.

Asked if he thought it had been a UFO, the non-believer replied, "No.

"I suspect they were some meteors," he said. "There had been quite a storm that night, with clouds, rains, and wind. The lights went from west to east. It seemed as though one had struck the mountains."

A Whitehorse man says he had a similar experience to Powaschuk's only days later while returning from Anchorage.

The man, who did not want his name published, said he saw bright lights in the sky while driving along the Alaska Highway, just past Haines Junction, at about 5 a.m. on Dec. 24.

"They flew in and out of the mountain tops," he said. "They stayed in the sky until I got to Whitehorse."

He stopped his car several times to further inspect the brilliant flash through his binoculars. He couldn't determine the shape of the lights.

The Whitehorse resident said he could still see the lights suspended over Whitehorse General Hospital at 7:15 a.m.

"They were brighter than airport lights. It was a weird experience. I couldn't and wouldn't guess what it was."

Chris Rutkowski is an astronomer in Manitoba conducting research in ufology (the study of UFOs). He said they release an annual report on UFO sightings in Canada.

"We get reports from everybody," he said in an interview from Winnipeg. "Including pilots, police, air traffic controllers. Many of the people are actually well-trained observers."

Sighting a UFO doesn't necessarily mean George Orwell's radio version of *The War of the Worlds* has taken life, nor does it necessarily mean believing in space aliens or Martians from outer space.

"All it means is a person has seen an object that can't be identified," said Rutkowski.

Although the astronomer said there were no UFO sightings in the Yukon in 1993-94, there were three reports in 1992, one in 1991, and one in 1990.

About 10 people spotted a triangular-shaped object with lights flying over Whitehorse in June 1992, he said. Similarly, another group of Whitehorse residents spotted a globe with blinking lights quickly crossing the valley. Both sightings remain unexplained, said Rutkowski.

There was a sighting of a bright fireball in Whitehorse on Feb. 28, 1991, and another one almost a year later involving a group of people observing rotating lights. But Rutkowski said the first case may have been a fireball, and the second an aircraft.

The national average of UFO sightings is 250, he said, with about three to five per cent of the cases go unexplained. Since they began compiling reported sightings about five years ago, the numbers show an increase.



Photo by MIKE POWASCHUK

Trapper Mike Powaschuk photographed these strange lights he saw in the early-morning hours of Dec. 20 while out at his Sheldon Lake cabin. The lights in the photo are actually doubled due to camera movement during a long exposure.

CR: T. Good  
Nov. 24, 1994  
England - Nottingham, Nottingham, England

# Going round in circles to find out the truth

COMPUTER programmer Mark Haywood is trying to crack the code of one of the 20th century's most baffling phenomena.

He aims to unravel the truth behind crop circles and UFO sightings in the area.

Some think he is mad. Others are withholding judgment.

But the 26-year-old, of West Bank Wynd, Mansfield, is determined nothing will deter him.

The investigator with the East Midlands branch of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies launched the Scientific UFO Research Association in April 1992.

"The more people who come forward, the more likely our chances of finding answers to this baffling phenomenon," he said.

Nottingham crop circle experts are now consulting an American professor for proof of the sightings in fields across the East Midlands. Dr W C Levenson, based at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is working on a formula to establish the validity of circles.

He hopes that his test will show conclusively whether a circle is a hoax or the real thing.

## Formations

Mark is sending samples of grass and sapling trees which formed a circle in Kirkby-in-Ashfield earlier this year.

That was one among about half a dozen formations across the region this summer.

There were also circles close to Strelley Village and Loughborough.

Branch convener Tony Caldicott said, at a branch meeting of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies in West Bridg-

ford, that some circles were a natural phenomenon despite the weight of evidence stacked against them.

"I'm convinced that there is something in them, although I am equally convinced that there are many hoaxes."

"It's almost inconceivable that so many people could go out in such a short period of time and create so many perfect designs."

After the meeting some members travelled to Robin Hood Hill at Oxtun to await a UFO that Mr Haywood claimed he saw last week while driving home to Mansfield.

A silver ball of light changed colour from orange to red and blue to green, he said.

Two days later he was told that three employees from Center Parcs saw balls of light hovering over their car outside the holiday resort.

Anyone with information about this sighting or others can contact him on 0623 632622.

CR: T. Good  
Dec. 9, 1994  
England - Colchester, Essex

# Call for the official facts on UFO reports

by SUE SPARKS

A UFO investigator is calling on local MPs to make top-level inquiries into numerous reports of mysterious sightings in and around Colchester last week.

Les Stacey, president of the Essex UFO Research Group, believes questions must be asked after he was swamped with calls from about 100 people who reported seeing a large, brightly-lit object

hovering in the sky on Monday last week.

The group's investigators have interviewed 20 people — the rest declined to give their names and addresses — about their sightings, in Colchester, Clacton, Thorpe, Wivenhoe and Witham. They are now collating their information which will be held on file.

Following last week's report of the sightings the Standard was contacted by two further observers — both of whom waited almost a week to speak out, mainly through fear of being ridiculed.

Mrs Patricia Arthey from Copford was finally persuaded by her family to report what she describes as "a giant stringray"

which moved slowly over the roof of her home on Monday at around 6pm, making the sound of a very smooth running car.

"I couldn't see any lights when it was directly overhead, but I watched it come towards me from over the fields and it had four big bright lights — like the headlights on a car — as if they were two lights on each wing of a plane."

Peter Hogg was in the garden of his home at Layer de la Haye on Tuesday at about 5.30pm with his five-year-old daughter Lisa-Marie, looking at some building work, when he first spotted what looked like two headlights coming towards him in the sky.

"I joked to my little girl that it must have been Father Christmas, but as it got closer I could see more and more lights," said Mr Hogg.

"It was a really unusual shape — like a stingray without a tail — and dead silent."

Initially the Ministry of Defence said there was "a very good chance" the sightings — from all over Colchester, Clacton, Thorpe, Wivenhoe and Witham — could have been of a helicopter, but a spokesman for the RAF at Wattisham airfield disagreed.

He said aircraft flying at below 500ft were required to book in with them, and none had.



► **SEEN THE LIGHT:** Alex Dibden and Mario Riolo, both 11, claim to have seen a UFO

A FRESH report of UFOS in Hampshire has followed last week's sightings — and they are now being linked to a new wave of crop circles.

The Riolo family say they saw a strange craft hovering over their car and flitting in and out of trees on a quiet road between Swanmore and Bishop's Waltham.

Their reports match up uncannily with reports highlighted in the Daily Echo last week.

First, grandmother Mary Emmett claimed to have seen something strange near her home at Lower Upham. Since then two more sets of witnesses have come forward saying they have seen UFOs in the same area.

"It looked like the bars on an electric fire," said one.

The Riolo family's descriptions have lent further credibility to the view that something strange is going on in deepest Hampshire.

The family were driving back from a day apple picking with a friend when they first

# UFOs and new wave of crop circles

Report by James Chapman

noticed the lights at about 9.30pm.

Mario Riolo, 11, was the first to spot the object and pointed it out to his friend, Alex Dibden.

"I said to Alex 'Look, a UFO'. At first he thought it was a plane. Then we realised that it was travelling too slowly for that. There were two white lights flashing underneath and four bars lit up on the top."

The object buzzed the car for about 10 minutes before shoot-

ing off at high speed. Then the family found a thick fog surround the car.

"It had been a clear, starry night but suddenly there was all this thick mist," said their mum, Sue Riolo. "It was a very strange experience."

Now crop circle experts are making a connection between the Hampshire lights and the circles of swirled crop that have been popping up this summer across the region.

Barbara Davies, secretary of the Centre for Crop Circle

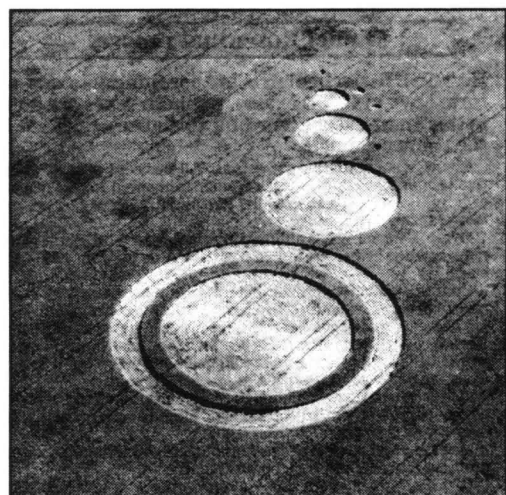
Studies, was perplexed by the latest reports.

"There was one curving trail of graded circles near Bishop's Waltham that was particularly impressive. More and more people are now connecting these lights with the circles."

The crop circle mystery appeared to have been solved in 1991 when two Southampton pensioners claimed to have been making the formations for over 10 years.

But the strange patterns continued to appear, even though the pair said they had stopped circle-faking.

■ If you have any information about UFOs call the newsdesk on Southampton 223188.



► **CEREAL KILLERS:** A Bishop's Waltham circle.

CHRISTCHURCH ADVERTISER, Poole, Dorset, England - Sept. 8, 1994 CR: T. Good

## Riddle of UFO that tracked a family

By David Haith

THE MYSTERY of a see-through multi-light UFO which stalked a Derbyshire family from Lulworth to Poole and then whizzed over to Swanage to puzzle a Yorkshire couple may have been solved.

The double sighting which began on Friday night, August 19, at around 9.30 pm and finished over the Purbecks an hour later was probably a pub's rooftop light show!

All eight witnesses agreed the circular UFO was over 100 feet wide, outlined by lights between which there was ...nothing!

"It was so strange because between the lights you could see the sky," said 41 year old Mrs Anthea Mee from Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

"That's exactly how it was as we saw it over Swanage," confirmed pensioner Mrs Heather Wheland and her husband Bart from Halifax.

Mrs Mee first saw the UFO when it moved across the front of their camper van as her husband Michael, 42, and their four sons

### 'Jellyfish' in sky was our light show, says pub

Andrew 15, John 13, William, 12, and George, 9, set off from Lulworth to Poole.

"I didn't really take much notice at first because I thought it was a fast moving cloud," she explained. "Then the boys noticed it and we watched it for half an hour as we drove to Poole. It seemed to be following us home."

Mrs Mee said: "It was about 100 feet above us. The white lights cast beams downwards and they spun one way and then the other - never spinning completely round. It was like an enormous flying saucer and yet we couldn't see anything solid between the lights. I'm convinced it was some sort of spaceship."

The phenomenon disappeared soon after they arrived at Beacon Hill Caravan Site and before discussing their sighting each family

member sat down and drew on old envelopes and serviettes what they'd seen.

The sketches all look similar including one in which the down-beams of light make the UFO appear like Stonehenge in the sky.

The Whelans witnessed the UFO over Priest Way Caravan Holiday Park at Swanage between 10.15 and 10.30 the same night.

Said Mrs Whelan: "The lights danced from side to side and the object bounced up and down. It looked like a giant jellyfish or a tiered wedding cake. It was quite eerie."

All the witnesses were reluctant to accept the light-show explanation mainly because they could see no beam projected upwards.

But Phil Wood, landlord of the Peveril Inn at Swanage which has the device called a 'space flower' on the roof, explained: "It is not a laser - so you don't see a beam. It's like when you shine a torch upwards - the beam's short but the light is picked up on low cloud."

The 'space flower' works by light shining on an inverted bowl on the same principle as the mirror balls in dance halls.

"The flower was switched on at exactly the times they had the sighting so I'm convinced that's what they saw," said Phil.

SUDBURY MERCURY, Suffolk, England  
Nov. 26, 1994 CR: T. Good

### High in the sky stories

SIGHTINGS of alien craft have continued in the Suffolk/Essex border village which sparked off the latest bout of UFO fever.

Angie Christie, the woman whose account of flashing lights in the sky above her home at Little Cornard hit the headlines earlier this month, says the phenomenon has continued.

And she says the most recent sighting, on Sunday night, of a "large delta-type craft" is the "most spectacular yet."

"I was coming back from Clacton on Sea with three friends when we saw this huge flying object with red, green, blue and white lights flashing

so brightly we could see its shape," she said.

On her return home to willowmere Park in Bures Road, her husband, Wallace, reported about 60 more sightings during the course of the evening.

As they stood outside their home, the large delta-type craft put in a second appearance. "It came straight for us - it was only flying at about 2,000 feet and as it passed overhead, a big white light flashed at us," she said.

"I like to think they decided that as we had taken such an interest they would come over and let us see what they looked like."

SOUTHERN DAILY ECHO, Southampton, England - Nov. 25, 1994 CR: T. Good

**Chandler's Ford:** A family claim they may have seen a UFO. The phenomenon consisted of a single central white light with others spinning around it, the whole moving from left to right. The eerie occurrence was reported by Chris Shannon, 14, who lives at Wellowbrook Close.



# 'We saw alien space craft over our homes'

## Then sea angler reports seeing strange 'orbs'

UFO FEVER has hit Suffolk with a vengeance after a group of people saw what they claim to be about a hundred alien craft hovering over their homes.

And their story is corroborated by a similar, albeit smaller-scale sighting, on the far side of Suffolk at Felixstowe pier.

While thousands across the county enjoyed firework displays over the weekend, residents of the Willowmere caravan park in Bures Road, Little Cornard, claim they were treated to a celestial spectacular with a difference.

"It was absolutely awesome," said Angie Christie. "I didn't know what I was looking at. I was very frightened to begin with and I certainly never expected in all my life to see anything like it."

Mrs Christie had taken her dog out for a walk at about 5.25 on Sunday evening when she saw what she describes as a pulsating object flying from west to east.

"I thought it was a funny-looking aircraft and I thought it strange that there should be no sound coming from such a big craft. Then I saw a second, smaller one coming towards it, flashing red and white. "Then we saw another sort with blue and green lights and glowing steadily over. They were everywhere."

Anxious to prove she was not hallucinating, Mrs Christie went to fetch her husband, Wallace, a former RAF chief technical adviser with 23 years' service behind him.

"We stood out there for two and a half hours. We called our neighbour down — he's an amateur astronomer and he told us he'd never seen anything like it in his life."

The Christies also called their daughter and son-in-law, Adele and Adam Hanks, of Mallard Way, Great Cornard, who came over with

By Rachel Jenkins  
East Anglian Daily Times

friends to witness the phenomenon.

"I would say there were about 100 of them off and on. Some would stop in mid air, some zig-zagged, and we saw one go on top of another, all at a height of between 5-8,000 feet.

"They seemed to be doing a sweep of the area. I came to the conclusion that they were looking for something. They certainly didn't seem to care whether we saw them or not."

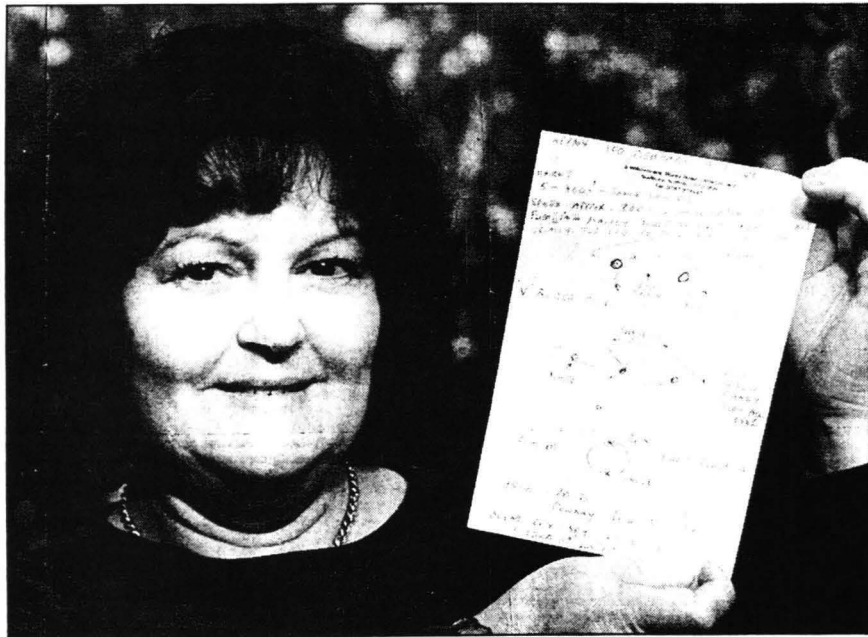
Neighbour Tom Wilkinson, who has been an amateur astronomer for more than 30 years, said what they had seen could not have been of this planet.

"They weren't going all that fast — they were mainly travelling west to east and when they got towards the horizon they bore round to the north."

### Fishing

Meanwhile David Goddard of Levington Lane, Bucklesham, was fishing off Felixstowe pier at about 6.20 pm when he saw three dully-glowing pinky-orange orbs coming from the Woodbridge direction at about 200mph.

All three stopped dead, then one headed off, followed closely by the other two and the trio zoomed out to sea in formation. The whole sighting lasted about 30 seconds.



● Angie Christie of Little Cornard with the drawings of the UFO sightings made by her husband Wallace.

SOUTH WALES ECHO, Cardiff, Wales  
Oct. 11, 1994 CR: T. Good

## Unexplained evidence

I AM writing about the current debate in the Echo about UFO's.

An enormous amount of unexplained evidence still exists which people would rather brush under the carpet. For instance in a genuine crop circle the plants are bent over (not broken or buckled) just above the ground. Also they are found way out from tractor lines with no tracks where people

could have walked.

Since 1991 UFO's have been filmed on a regular basis in Mexico where 1,000 items of footage have been shot. In an incident at Florida in March last year a UFO was filmed accelerating to more than 2,000 mph in under one tenth of a second.

CHRIS FOWLER

Witla Court Road,  
Rumney, Cardiff.

EVENING NEWS & STAR, Cumberland, England  
Nov. 4, 1994 CR: T. Good

## Something curious in Crosscanonby

Maryport Matters  
by Paul Williamson

SPECTRAL sightings and ghostly goings-on are chronicled in the Good Ghost Guide, a recent publication which follows the trail of phantoms and spectres in Cumbria.

One tale tells of runaway lovers who used the ferry between Skinburness and Gretna Green one stormy night and drowned.

Apparently you can still hear their screams during bad weather, unless of course the sound is merely low flying aircraft hurtling over Allonby.

Whether one believes such tales is, of course, entirely up to oneself and how imaginative, romantic, sceptical or open-minded you care to be.

I remain sceptical of such tales but recognise my duty to the reader to report at least vaguely believable stories on slow news days. To my mind UFO sightings and ghostly apparitions are some distance behind "Freddie Starr ate my Hamster" in the credibility stakes.

This week two keen fishermen came into the Times and Star office in Senhouse Street to report a sighting of an Unidentified Flying Object near Crosscanonby.

Whether you believe their tale or not depends entirely on you and your belief in life on Mars, but having no sleaze to write about today, here it is.

Kevin Graham, 37, and James McEwan, 17, who both live in McCarron Close, Maryport, were putting bait on their fishing lines at about 1.45am on Tuesday.

Finishing their task, they sat talking in a car parked next to the Crosscanonby salt pans on the coast between Maryport and Allonby.

"I noticed a bright light in the sky to the left of the car. It was too big and bright to be a star, and it was motionless," said Mr Graham.

"It was there for about 10 minutes. It just hung in the sky. It wasn't an aircraft, I would know because I was in the air force for six years."

"After it stayed motionless it started moving, going in a zig-zag motion towards the car. There was no noise or anything."

As it got closer, before disappearing behind the cliff-top moving towards Crosscanonby, at about 150 feet in the air they saw that it consisted of three lights rather than one, and had a rotating top.

Mr Graham, who claims to have seen UFOs in Germany and Skipton, said: "I was shaking when I drove home. I had to have a cup of tea when I got in the house."

"Whatever it was, I can't explain it. It seems such a crazy story, but we did see something we can't explain."

The human race has spent an awful lot of time and energy devoted to questioning whether life exists beyond our planet. If indeed it does, it's nice to know that alien life is responding to the efforts in West Cumbria to attract more tourists to the area.

## Watching for them looking at us...

I READ with interest your item in the Daily Echo concerning the UFO sighting over Waltham Chase.

I run the Southampton UFO Group and I must admit this was the first sighting in the area that I had heard of this year.

In the last edition of the newsletter that I edit, I published a recent sighting over Fareham. It was of a triangular object made up of three lights with a central light.

The South of England is not noted for UFO reports and as so far this year I have only been notified of five or six sightings. This may well be due to the fact that people do not know who to contact or are frightened of being ridiculed.

As stated above, I produce a monthly newsletter with a circulation of between 50-60 copies worldwide (America, Sweden and Germany to name a few countries). The group has now been in existence for five years and I have had an interest for about 15 years.

In 1995, there is to be a one day UFO conference to be held in Portsmouth, which I am helping to organise.

Readers may contact me about their sightings or anything else in this letter.

STEVE GERRARD, Southampton UFO Group, 25 Weston Grove Road, Woolston, Southampton, Hampshire, SO19 9EE.

## UFOs sighting mystery deepens

by SUE SPARKS  
REPORTS that supposed UFO sightings in the Colchester area could have been a helicopter have been dismissed by the RAF.

About 100 people reported a large, brightly-lit object hovering between rooftop level and up to 400ft over Colchester, Thorpe, Wivenhoe, Clacton and Witham between 5pm and 7.30pm on Monday.

Traffic in Colchester slowed down as drivers watched the unusual object floating low and calls kept coming in to Clacton and Colchester police stations, local newspapers and radio stations, while the phone line to the Essex UFO Research Group was red hot.

### CHANCE

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said there was a good chance the sightings could have been of an Army helicopter.

But Major Ian Davidson, of the RAF Wattisham airfield, dismissed the reports and said any aircraft in these areas wishing to fly below 500ft had to book in with them but said: "We have no record of any aircraft coming or going at that time."

Major Davidson said checks with the police and search and rescue operators revealed no-one knew of any activity on Monday.

SOUTHERN DAILY ECHO, Southampton, England  
Nov. 5, 1994 CR: T. Good

# Mystery of lights in the sky above city

A VETERAN UFO watcher says he got a shock when he looked up at the night sky over Southampton from his bedroom window.

Two mysterious balls of light were "clearly visible" as Mark Moore and Katie Gulliver watched from their home at Elmfield North, Millbrook.

The mystery sighting has coincided with two other "visits". One — described as a rotating circle of lights — was witnessed by four security guards at Southampton University. The other, a similar sighting, was made a few hours earlier by Beverley Petts, of Lordshill.

Paul Fuller, of Tavistock Close, Romsey, who is the editor of The New UFOlogist magazine, has contacted several airports, the police and the Ministry of Defence in his quest for an explanation of Mark and Katie's sighting.

The MoD says there were no unusual radar traces in the Southampton area that night, and adds: "We are content that UK national security has not been breached."

Mark said he and Katie

By Graham Langton

noticed two bright balls of light close together at 11.15 pm. After a few minutes they rose and passed quickly over the flats, making a "jet-like noise."

At nearby Southampton University, security guards are convinced they had a close encounter at 5am.

One of them described seeing "a circle of rays of light radiating from a dark core."

"At one point it was right above me. I called my boss on the radio."

His boss — the 47-year-old head of security at the university who cannot be identified — said: "It was extraordinary. We have been through every rational explanation and can come up with nothing."

# UFO mysteries all up in the air

WHAT is happening in the skies around Bedford and its surrounding area?

Since bringing you reports of UFO sightings in the county more witnesses have come forward. Today we bring you an update with our own version of the Bedfordshire X files

## X file 1

A 35-year-old man from Winchester Road in Bedford is still as puzzled as ever after his experience with a UFO one evening last summer while driving back to Bedford from Pavenham.

The man, who wishes to remain anonymous as he fears people will not take him seriously, takes up the story:

"Back in the summer I was a taxi driver and I was taking a fare to Pavenham when I saw a brilliant light in the sky.

"My customer said 'What on Earth is that?' I looked up again and saw rotating lights. They were like spotlights but far, far brighter."

After dropping the customer off he decided to go back and see if he could see the UFO again. He did.

"I tried to get in front of it so I could see it coming towards me.

"I eventually stopped. It was 30 to 40 feet in the air and totally silent. It was a sort of circular shape and very bright," added the father-of-two who says he first saw a UFO when he was 12 in the skies over Brickhill.

"When I got back to base I was told that it could have been a new type of machine which the RAF

by Jem Maidment

were using with Hercules. "But it couldn't have been, not the way it was flying. I'm definitely a believer in UFOs and simply cannot explain what I saw that night."

## X file 2

Joseph and Maria Scwieckz live in Iddlesleigh Road in Queen's Park. The Friday before last they were just getting preparing to go to bed when Hungarian Joseph was startled by a bright light object.

"It was about 10.40 at night and Maria was in another room. I looked out of the window and I saw the most brilliant light.

"What I saw was amazing. It was a circle of light that seemed to open and close. I called my wife."

Maria, who originally came from Italy and has lived in Bedford for over 35 years, came over and couldn't believe her eyes:

"It was incredible. The circle of light seemed to open and close. It seemed to be made of silver and pink light. And amazingly there was no noise."

"I wasn't really frightened, I just stood in awe of it."

## Strange sightings in the skies

Maria and Joseph watched for several minutes before they went to bed.

They woke up every hour and watched as the object gradually moved off in to the distance.

"We couldn't really sleep. The object finally disappeared just after 3am," added Joseph.

"Then, the next morning I was in our local post office when I heard other people talking about the object too. I promise you we are not crazy — we definitely saw something that needs a lot of explaining."

## X file 3

The Bedford Earth and Aerial Mystery Society say they have had several calls regarding lights on the night of Friday October 28.

"One lady called but wouldn't give her name, she was rather disturbed by it all and would like an explanation," said the society's Kenneth Parsons.

"It was late evening when the lady, who is a farmer in the area, saw flashing lights in the skies above the road going from Amptill towards Marston.

"She carried on driving but lost



• This map shows the recent sightings

sight of the lights. They then reappeared on the junction of the A421 Wood End turn."

The lady watched for several minutes before driving back to her farm where she found there was a lot of disturbance among the cattle.

"Apparently many of the cattle were acting very strangely — running around the field and making noises."

"She called us the next day and we are looking to find out what it was exactly."

The same night hairdresser Diane Cullip also saw lights at the same time — about 10.45pm — and still none the wiser as to what they were.

"I, along with a couple of colleagues, saw eight spinning lights in the skies that evening."

"We watched them for about three minutes before they disappeared," she said.

"They looked like concert lights, the same as at the Tina Turner concert four years ago at Woburn Abbey, but I don't know if there was a concert on."

"What I do know is that I saw some sort of lights in the sky."

## Unidentified

Local police say they have had no sightings reported but will "take anything we hear seriously and try to find out what it was that person has seen."

There has recently been other sightings of unidentified flying objects in Cardington Road, Bedford, the Embankment and Barkers Lane.

If you have seen anything or can explain what people have been seeing, write to *UFO, The Bedfordshire Times*, 66 High Street, Bedford, MK40 1NT.

CRAVEN HERALD, Skipton, England Nov. 11, 1994

## Out of this world encounters

A CLOSE encounter of a mysterious kind was experienced by Barnoldswick man Simon Whitehead on Friday evening.

Simon, 26, of Riding Close, was walking his dog when he saw a UFO moving silently overhead. In the absence of any logical explanation he believes what he saw may well have been evidence of alien visitors to our planet.

He has been interested in the subject of UFOs for some time, and subscribes to *UFO Magazine*. But he had never seen a UFO himself until Friday. It was about 5.30pm when he was walking in the field next to Silenight's Moss Shed, at Barnoldswick:

"I looked up and saw a very bright starlight type object moving towards me just below cloud level. At first I thought it might be an aircraft, but this was different. There was no noise from it at all and no strobe light like aircraft have. There was also a much smaller object, like a dull white orb, weaving about behind it. It was almost as if it was being towed."

Simon watched as the object turned in the direction of Earby and moved slowly away into cloud.

He contacted UFO expert and director of *UFO Magazine* Tony Dodd, of Grassington who wasn't surprised at Simon's account and says similar incidents are surprisingly common.

"I don't know of any natural phenomenon that could behave like that," said Simon. "I like to think that whatever it was, it wasn't man made."

But it wasn't the only strange sighting this weekend. His neighbour's sister was driving on the back road from Salterforth to Earby on Saturday when she saw two balls of white light shoot across the sky in front of her and go behind a house. She stopped the car and, although the objects had gone, the burglar alarm on the side of the house had been set off.

However, this "sighting" could have a more earthly explanation. Saturday was bonfire night and there were several fireworks displays in the area at the time.

But on Sunday Simon had his second strange experience. He was walking near Salterforth when he saw what looked like a large balloon. He moved to get a better view, taking his eye off the object for only a few seconds, but when he looked again it was gone.

"There was no way it could have disappeared so quick. I thought I was cracking up!"

No doubt there will be some others who share that thought, but how many of us sceptics have said "I'll believe it when I see it with my own eyes". Simon has — and he believes it.

CR: T. Good

# Close encounters prompt new probe into UFOs

UNIDENTIFIED Flying Objects have been spotted over Bedford and Cranfield.

Around ten triangular-shaped orange objects with white rings around them were observed flying over and around Cranfield Airfield two weeks ago, according to reports to a new society formed in Bedford to probe strange phenomena.

One witness, who was in the area driving with her Kempston-based boyfriend, said: "They were not aeroplanes and they were not helicopters. They certainly weren't like anything I have seen before."

She and her fellow witness have asked not to be identified. The observer, who works for a print firm in Buckingham, is afraid that she may be ridiculed. But she is convinced of the veracity of her sighting.

Each of the UFOs was around 20 feet long and flying about 200 metres above the ground. The couple's observations have been reported to a new society set-up to investigate unusual phenomena in Bedfordshire.

The Bedford Earth and Aerial Mystery Society (BEAMS) has amassed 14 members since its formation last month.

The society says in March a black object, shaped like a guitar plectrum, was seen over Bedford. It was just five feet in diameter.

by Graham Halpin

In January another UFO, looking like the top third of an egg, was seen above the Embankment in Bedford. It appeared to be made of one-way mirrors and what appeared to be a driver's cabin was in the middle.

BEAMS is particularly interested in evidence of Unidentified Flying Objects and its meetings involve discussions about members' sightings. The society also examines rare video footage of UFOs.

Kenneth Parsons and Charles Allen set up the club.

Mr Parsons said: "These are genuine phenomena that need studying."

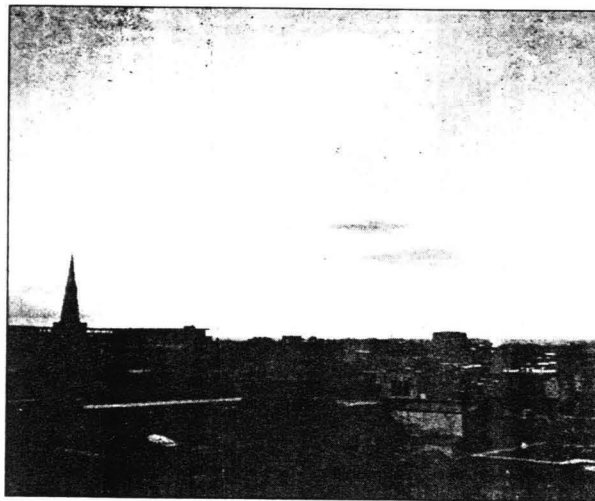
If you want to join them call Mr Parsons on Bedford 740641 or Mr Allen on Bedford 325180.

A spokesman at Cranfield Airfield said they had no official explanation for what had been witnessed and no reports from other observers.

"We've had no aliens running around!" she said.

Police in Bedford have had no reports about UFOs in the recent past.

• If you've seen anything drop us a line at The Bedfordshire Times, 66 High Street, Bedford, MK40 1NT, or call 217071.



• Our photographer Charlie Wooding produced this impression of how a UFO might look over Bedford.

## Strange events in the modern times of Bedfordshire

AMPTHILL: Slab of ice fell beside a girl and her mother in their garden — August 27, 1983.

BEDFORD: Humanoid witnessed near power station — February 1974.

Tiny frogs and spawn fell on a rainy day — June 1979.

CLOPHILL: Numerous sight-

ings of a large wild cat — 1993. 'Potton Puma' seen soon after in the early months of 1994.

Near DUNSTABLE: Ball lightning damaged barn, April 11, 1984.

EATON BRAY: Large black cat, possibly a panther, seen in undergrowth.

HEATH and REACH: Brown bear seen by three people, December 8, 1984.

HOCKLIFFE: Kangaroo spotted in mid April 1978.

LITTLE BARFORD: Crocodile seen in River Ouse, June 1970.

LUTON: Canteen staff at Skefco ball-bearing factory saw ghost in

kitchen; November 1972.

LUTON-TEBWORTH-TODDINGTON: Sightings of lion, June 1981.

SHEFFORD: John Whitworth claimed he had been contacted by a UFO entity; November 1956.

STANBRIDGE: Hitch-hiker disappeared after being picked up,

October 1979.

STUDHAM COMMON: Children saw a little blue man with a tall hat and beard, who disappeared, January 1967.

• Source, *Modern Mysteries of Britain - 100 Years of Strange Events*, by Janet and Colin Bord with updates from our files.

COLCHESTER EVENING GAZETTE, Essex, England - Nov. 11, 1994 CR: T. Good

# UFO spotted by soldier six times in a week

UFOs have been spotted in the skies over Colchester.

A triangular-shaped object with lights at each corner has been sighted six times in the past week by a local soldier.

His wife and a friend

have also claimed to have seen the mystery object.

All the sightings have taken place in the Army's Friday Woods area... at a time when there was no military firing practice at the scene.

"I was out with the dog when I saw what looked

like a smoke ring and then the object appeared," said the soldier, who declined to give his name.

The first sighting was last Monday, and since then he said the UFO had been seen on successive nights.

"I told my wife and when she came with me she saw it. A friend who is also in the Army saw it as well," he added.

The soldier said on one occasion, the object appeared after a loud bang and then disappeared.

"I didn't report it or call the paper. I was waiting to see if anyone else had told the paper about seeing things in the sky near the woods or Abberton reservoir," he added.

According to the Army, there was no military activity in the area at the

time of the sightings but a spokesman pointed out it was around the time fireworks were on sale.

"We did have a report of coloured lights over Wattisham a few days ago but nothing in this area," said a spokesman.



## Melksham 'close encounter' remains a mystery

A MELKSHAM man who was blinded by a bright light during the early hours of the morning could have been witness to a 'close encounter'.

Bruce Sawyer, who lives opposite the green in Roundponds, Melksham, was awoken in the early hours of Wednesday by what he described as 'an intense light' which lit the whole of his front facing bedroom.

Although still half asleep Mr Sawyer peered through his curtains but saw nothing.

However, the following morning when Mr Sawyer

again looked out of his window, a large flattened oval shape had appeared on the green opposite.

And only a couple of days later the grass within the oval outline was beginning to turn yellow and die.

Mr Sawyer, who was still in awe of events, said: "There is no explanation for it. I don't even know if the intense light which completely lit our

bedroom for just a few seconds has anything to do with the shape that appeared on the same night."

Ted Hitchens, who lives the other side of the green, confirmed that the oval had not been there on Tuesday afternoon.

"I haven't got a clue what it is or how it got here," said Mr Hitchens.

On closer inspection of the area, Mr Sawyer saw no grass cuttings to suggest that someone had cut the area. The grass was dying and the almost perfect oval was the same distance along its length from a fence at the back of gardens in Roundponds.

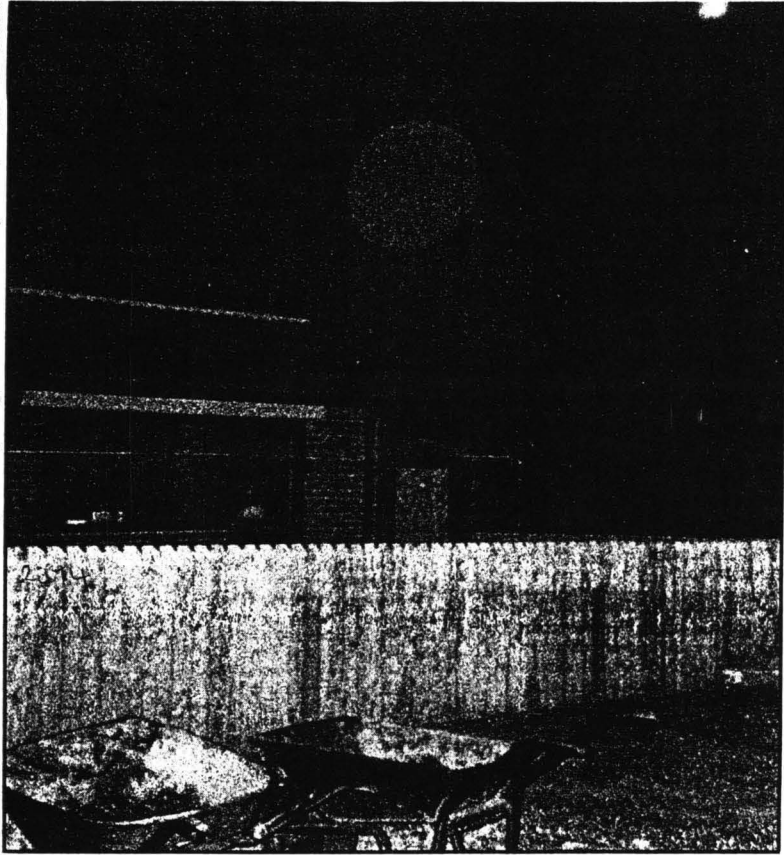
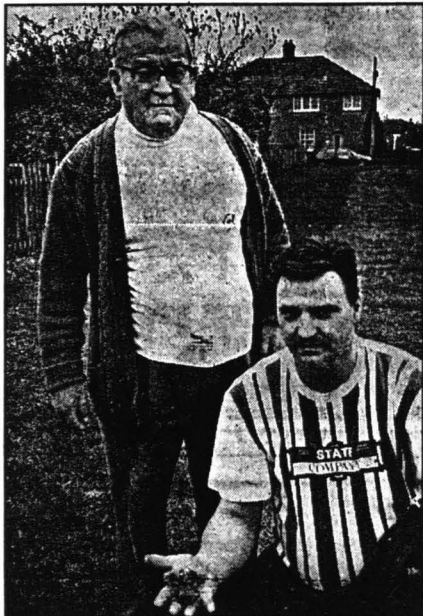
"It looks as if an oval marquee has been stood on the area for a good few days and has worn the grass," said Mr Sawyer.

Other neighbours, too, seemed perplexed by the appearance of the shape on the green.

But West Wiltshire District Council has come up with the answer to the shape, though not the disturbing light witnessed by Mr Sawyer.

A spokesman confirmed that weed killer had been used on the area in question as part of a planting programme currently in operation.

Pictured: Roundponds residents Ted Hitchens (standing) and Bruce Sawyer inspecting the area. 94483-DE6



Picture taken from the garden shows what appear to be red lights running from the object's centre

## Snapped—lights that may have been a UFO

by Gregg Eastale

IS this the UFO spotted over North Yorkshire?

Today we print the first picture of the strange lights seen in the skies around Selby over the weekend.

More than 50 callers have now telephoned The Yorkshire Evening Press claiming to have seen the UFO reported in yesterday's paper.

One explanation offered for

the sightings is the laser beams projected from the roof of the former Kilpin Country Club night spot at Howden.

This theory is weakened by the fact that the beams have been turned on every weekend for months - but this is the first time people have called in to claim a UFO sighting.

Callers included Martin Deacon, 28, of Grange Road,

Drax, whose wife Karen took the first shots of the strange lights in the sky.

The picture clearly shows the dome effect described by many callers. The cone-shaped object seems to contain a spiral of red lights running from the centre.

"I just looked up and thought, What the hell is that?" said Martin.

"I really can't find an explanation for it but I think it could be a UFO."

Eric Frood, of Glibberdyke, says he drove past the source of the lights on Saturday night at the former Kilpin Country Club, near Howden.

"There was something on top of the building sending lights out which stretched over York and Selby," he said.

The managers of the nightspot were unavailable for comment.

But Nora Thompson, of Selby, is convinced the lights did not come from a laser. "They were blue lights in an arc shape and appeared to be following us."

Were you at the club at Howden over the weekend, or do you have another explanation for the lights? If you have any information telephone Gregg Eastale on Selby 703580.

## UFO landing was kept secret, says ex-defence chief

A SERIES of chilling encounters with alien spacecraft have been covered up, claims Britain's former military top gun.

Lord Hill-Norton is convinced that the Defence Ministry is hiding the fact that a UFO landed in Britain.

The former Chief of the Defence Staff said: "The Ministry has doggedly denied that anything untoward happened and I simply don't believe them."

"Someone is sitting on information that should be in the public domain."

His claims centre on bizarre incidents at RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk, where American airmen claim to have seen UFOs.

The People has seen a top-secret report by American Lt Colonel Charles Halt which confirms sightings of UFOs "involving an

By DAVID JACK

intelligence which didn't originate on earth".

And former US military intelligence officer Clifford Stone claims that the USA, NATO and Russia have long exchanged details of similar incidents under the code name Operation Moondust.

His evidence is due to be screened on LWT's *Strange But True* programme this Friday.

It centres on the mysterious events of December 27, 1980, when radar operators at RAF Watton, near Norwich, picked up an unusual blip.

As RAF Phantom jets closed on the object, pilots reported seeing intense, bright lights in the sky.

Former radar operator Mal Scumrah said: "As the Phantoms got close the hovering object shot upwards at phenomenal speed - monitored at

more than 1,000mph."

At RAF Woodbridge, airman John Burroughs and sergeant Jim Penniston investigated a dazzling fire in nearby Rendlesham Forest.

"The air was filled with electricity and we saw an object about the size of a tank," said Penniston.

"It was triangular, moulded of black glass and had symbols on it. Suddenly it shot off faster than any aircraft I have ever observed."

Next night the object returned and base deputy commander Lt Col Halt went to investigate.

He said: "I couldn't believe what I was seeing. It looked like the rising sun with a black pulsating centre. It appeared to be dripping molten metal."

Halt's tape recordings and photographs were confiscated by visiting US defence officials and there was an information black-out.

## Aliens in Mount Road - claim

A HINCKLEY man who claims to have spotted two UFOs as he cycled home from work last week is eager to hear from anyone who may have experienced similar sightings.

The man, who does not wish to be named, first saw the objects last Friday as they hovered over the Mount Road area.

He claimed that they were circling and behaving oddly while reflecting sunlight and is certain that they were neither birds or aircraft.

The witness saw the objects later the same day at around 3.30pm over the Queen's Park area and is now eager to discover whether anyone else saw them.

He can be contacted via the Leicestershire UFO Study Group, who say that this is merely one of several sightings of late.

Mr David Porter and Mr Jeff Ellis are co-ordinating reports and the group can be contacted in confidence on Hinckley 614013 any evening between 7pm and 11pm.

CITIZEN, Fenland, England

Oct. 18, 1994 CR: T. Good

## U.F.O

(Unidentified Fenland Object)

WAS there a UFO over Fenland on Thursday night?

Story by SUE IRVING

Two Citizen readers living in Wisbech contacted our office to report something strange in the sky at about 9pm.

One woman said she heard a noise and then saw one round light turning in small circles in the sky towards Leverington.

The object set off car alarms and did not look like an aeroplane.

Another reader heard several loud noises in the sky at about 9.15pm but could not see anything. The noises went on and off and were much louder than an aeroplane or helicopter. Wisbech police said they had not received any reports of strange sightings that night.

STAR, York, England - Nov. 24, 1994 CR: T. Good

## Blue light shakes Evelyn

PENSIONER Evelyn Cook was shaking after she saw a blue light in the night sky over York.

Mrs Cook went to investigate when she was awakened in the early hours of the morning by a loud bang at her house near Heslington Road.

When she looked through the peephole in her front door she saw a blue light hanging over the building.

"There was a blue ball about as big as a football up in the sky," she said.

"The sky was dark and I thought, it can't be the moon because it's the wrong colour."

"I looked through my kitchen window and I saw the same thing."

"I was frightened - I went into my bedroom and I was shaking, I didn't know what to do."

She watched the object for at least ten minutes and it remained still the whole time at a considerable height, but below the cloud level.

Mrs Cook said she has never seen anything like it before.

"I read about UFOs and things in the paper, but I never thought I would see anything myself."

Her son, Kenneth, said he was keen to hear if anyone else had seen a similar spectacle between 1.30am and 2am last Thursday.

# A man in search of flying objects

**Joanna Pitman meets Timothy Good, who believes in aliens and makes a living trying to find one**

I'm trying not to look like a nutcase." Instead Timothy Good looks serious as the camera swoops in to hover menacingly a few inches from his chin, lens glinting in the corner of his vision like one of the flying saucers he spends his life pursuing.

Mr Good is one of our leading authorities on unidentified flying objects, an enthusiast turned professional, a writer of serious books, a lecturer and film consultant, a rather self-conscious specialist resolutely determined not to be identified with the anorak and Thermos-flask brigade. "Don't call me a ufologist. I'm a researcher," he says.

It is difficult to form a clear judgment on the nutcase notion on meeting this manifestly intelligent, articulate, well-read fellow who devotes half of his life to aliens and UFOs.

The case against him is that he is in a business in which nutters abound. As he readily admits, the minute he mentions his interest in UFOs, most people titter and turn smartly away. But remarkably large numbers, it appears, have a gullibility threshold low enough to accept tales of their sister's hairdresser's cousin's friend, who thinks she might have seen something one night.

Mr Good finds himself in the unfortunate position of being ridiculed by the former type and pestered by the latter. "There are thousands and thousands of sightings being reported all over the world all the time. In general, I find that roughly 90 per cent of these are explicable — they could be lasers, strobe lights or stars, and people mistake them because they are simply not

familiar with the night skies." It is the remaining 10 per cent of sightings which cannot be ruled out by such explanations that fascinate him — and the fascination outweighs the fear of ridicule. "People laugh, but I feel that I'm in good company because behind the scenes there is so much proven interest in UFOs in the Intelligence community."

This is the subject on which Mr Good is best. In his bestselling book *Above Top Secret*, which is to be reissued in revised form this summer, Mr Good examines declassified Intelligence papers from American, British and Russian sources which prove that the UFO enigma has occupied — and baffled — some of the keenest minds in government circles since the 1940s.

He has to be very sceptical himself, he says. "But given the body of evidence I have collected" — he sweeps an arm around a flat crammed with files labelled KGB and CIA — "I believe that UFOs are considered in official circles to be a serious security threat. I'm not saying we're being invaded, but I believe that UFOs have caused communications problems in military and civilian traffic, and have affected weapons systems."

He speaks in calm and measured tones, and has the cool appraisal of an academic. The credibility problem, how-

ever, remains. "We know that the Americans under Truman had a top-secret committee that was classified at a higher level than that covering the hydrogen bomb. I'm convinced that the Americans retrieved an alien vehicle and bodies in New Mexico in the 1940s."

"There have been hundreds of reported encounters with alleged aliens. I've met so many people who have everything to lose, who have convinced me of their alien encounters and their journeys inside spacecraft."

This is the point at which I start to lose the struggle to keep an open mind. Mr Good has devoted half of his professional life to researching and monitoring the possible existence of flying saucers and, as alien watchers go, his credentials are not bad. Since *Above Top Secret* he has written two more bestsellers, has lectured on the subject all over the world and in this country at the Oxford and Cambridge Union Societies, IBM, Shell, and the Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences, and has worked on the television documentary *UFO*, to be screened on ITV next Tuesday.

Mr Good himself has "had a sighting" four times, but only two of these continue to puzzle him. The most recent was in December 1980, when he was walking home and saw something in the dusk sky.

"I normally carry a cine camera and a normal camera

everywhere I go, just in case, but this time I had just popped out to the shops so I didn't have them. I sprinted home, but by the time I got there it had disappeared. I was absolutely livid. I have a telescopic camera permanently ready so I would have got a photo if I'd got back in time." The clenched jaw muscles bulge and those steady eyes flash momentarily — this lost opportunity evidently still rankles. "It's eternally frustrating missing sightings myself, and only ever getting second-hand accounts of alien encounters."

Mr Good sustains a second career as a violinist, until recently with the London Symphony Orchestra, and now engaged in session work. A few years ago he dragged his musical girlfriend (cynical but long-suffering on UFOs) to the desert in Nevada to stake out "Area 51", the US air base alleged to house alien craft and bodies, and which officially does not exist.

"We camped out by the perimeter fence for hours, but sadly we saw nothing." Hollywood's interest in aliens has increased awareness (and we can expect much more since the KGB has just begun selling off UFO files to film directors). But it is not, in Mr Good's opinion, very constructive.

"If a spacecraft were to land in Hyde Park, and extraterrestrial beings emerged and were interviewed on *News At Ten*, the public would probably dismiss it as a publicity stunt for a new Spielberg film."

● Network First: *UFO* is on ITV on January 10 at 10.40pm

## Ex-policeman reports UFO sighting

AN ex-policeman and his wife have reported seeing a mystery aircraft flying silently in the sky over Farnborough. And they are convinced it was not something from this world.

The UFO sighting happened on Sunday afternoon as Mr Peter Bos (62) and his wife Marilyn (60) were walking towards the BP petrol station at the junction of Prospect Avenue and Mayfield Avenue at about 4.45pm.

Mrs Bos said: I happened to look up and noticed a weird-looking object. I shouted out, 'It's a UFO!' "It was silent, had no lights and just moved along in the sky. It was like a glider but it was round, dark underneath and lightly coloured on top.

"It came from the direction of the Farnborough college and went straight over Mayfield School. "We stood there for about ten minutes as it carried on towards the M3, but we turned away for a second and it had just vanished."

### Scheduled

Mr Bos, who was a Rhodesian reserve policeman for 22 years, said: "I have always had an open mind about aliens, but perhaps they are out there."

The couple, who emigrated from Zimbabwe in 1992 and now live in Austen Road, Farnborough, say two young girls and a woman walking her dog also stopped to watch the object.

A spokeswoman for the Defence Research Agency, Farnborough, said there were no scheduled flights in the area at the time.

Mrs Bos said the UFO was quite low — about the height of a block of flats.

"I was not frightened, just a bit excited and curious," she said.

"It could not have been any kind of aircraft because although it was getting dark it did not have any lights on and it was a very odd shape."

The couple say they would be interested to hear from anyone else who saw the object.

ILKLEY GAZETTE, Yorkshire, England  
Nov. 17, 1994 CR: T. Good

## TV star's night on moor in search of UFOs

ILKLEY Moor's unidentified flying object (UFO) mysteries will be investigated on national television this weekend.

Philip Schofield, the host of ITV's Schofield's Quest, has already spent a midnight vigil on the town's famous landmark as part of Sunday's show.

Viewers will also be able to ring the programme's studio live with details of their own close encounters with extraterrestrial life forms.

### Sightings

The show, which will be networked nationally from 6.40pm-8.30pm, analyses the increased number of UFO sightings in Ilkley this year.

These include three separate accounts of multi-coloured

bright lights flashing over the edge of the moor on the same evening.

The town's UFO history also features a famous inconclusive picture from 1987 of a four-foot tall green figure with long arms and red eyes.

The photographer, an ex-policeman who has protected his identity, later claimed during hypnotic regression that he was lifted into the air by an invisible force and examined on board a space craft by more of the creatures.

Other recent cases include how three friends claimed they were led across streams and off a darkened moor by a bright white light the size of a football.

Viewers can contact the programme on Sunday by telephoning (071) 757700.

NEWS, Wetherby, England - Oct. 28, 1994 CR: T. Good

## We are not alone...

AN EGG shaped object loomed above the skyline and lit up the sky with flashing lights... No, this is not a scene out of a science fiction movie but Close Encounters of a Yorkshire kind.

While many people treat the idea of the supernatural with scorn, for some it is a serious explanation of strange sights they have seen.

And one person who takes sightings of the paranormal very seriously indeed is Andy Rayner, of Tadcaster. A former member of the UFO Network, Andy is setting up a UFO and Paranormal Group in the town and he is appealing for people interested in the unexplained and for those who think they have seen something they could not identify to join.

Andy became interested in UFOs after he saw a couple of mysterious sightings of lights in the sky. He is now an investigator for the British UFO Research Association and is called out to see phenomena all over the country. He assesses whether sightings are genuine or an elaborate hoax as some of the corn circles were a

few years ago.

And Mr Rayner dismisses the cynic's view that UFOs are a figment of the imagination: "People who come to us with accounts of their sightings come from all walks of life and they have got too much to lose by telling ridiculous tales," he said.

Another group defying the cynics is the UFO Network UK, based in Leeds, which claims to have photographic evidence of unidentified flying objects.

Using a camcorder members of the UFO Network taped a strange object hovering in the summer sky last June. "It had erratic movements, defying the laws of gravity. It hovered and then ejected bursts of light from its side," said the Network's Director of Investigations, Peter Cliffe.

Fired with enthusiasm after this last success the Network is planning to go out on a UFO sighting expedition next month to catch more conclusive evidence on camera.

Meanwhile, if you are interested in joining the Tadcaster UFO and Paranormal Group then contact Andy Rayner on (0937) 83 39 17.

HERALD SUN, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia - Jan. 19, 1995

## Close encounter

A BRITISH Airways jet had a close encounter with a fast-moving UFO, it has been claimed.

The British Civil Aviation Authority yesterday launched an inquiry into the incident after the pilots reported a brightly-lit triangular object hurtled towards them before veering off.

Air traffic control informed them there were no other planes in the area. Initially the pilots did not lodge a report for fear of being ridiculed.

The Boeing 737 — heading for Manchester from Milan on January 6 with 60 people on board — was flying over the Pennine Mountains when it was "buzzed" by the object.

CAA spokesman Chris Mason said suggestions the object was a UFO were "purely speculative".

Near-miss incidents often "turn out to be air balloons or small private aircraft", he said.

- SUE QUINN

HAMILTON PEOPLE, Motherwell, England Nov. 18, 1994 CR: T. Good

by Tricia Weir

A LARKHALL nurse thought she was going mad when she spotted a strange light in the sky on Monday morning.

Jacqueline McAteer, 32 who lives "near the centre" of the town believes she saw a UFO from her window as she was getting ready for work at 8am.

And she endured a great deal of kidding when she told colleagues at Pather Community Clinic, Wishaw, where she is Deputy Charge Nurse.

But her colleagues can stop laughing now because when Jacqueline told us her strange story we checked with an expert who said her experience could come "entirely under the classification UFO."

Jacqueline told The People: "It was about 8am and I looked out of the window. I saw a bright light in the sky. It was like looking at the sun.

"I thought at first it was a plane. It was like four neon strips together to form a diamond shape. I thought I was going nuts!

"It was definitely an object, a definite shape but it wasn't moving.

"It was above the clouds and it looked quite large. I kept looking, thinking it was an optical illusion, but clouds passed and it still looked the same."

Jacqueline had to leave for work so she could not say how long it was there.

We checked with expert Professor Archie Roy, Emeritus Professor of Physics and Astronomy at Glasgow University.

He said: "So many people have seen these objects it is impossible to say they are telling lies.

"Over the years I've come to the conclusion that it is a phenomenon and this would come entirely under the classification UFO.

"Some people mistake planets which can be very bright, but not what she describes.

"Of all the UFOs over the last 40 years, 93 per cent have been explained satisfactorily. That leaves an awful lot that is not explicable."

He said it could be an unlikely case for which science has no explanation or one it has not yet recognised.

He added: "It's a great big universe. Who knows? We might be of interest to other species. We can't dismiss it."





## Better exams sought in mutilations

► Ex-prosecutor offers help in solving mysterious cattle deaths.

BY ANDREW STINY  
JOURNAL CORRESPONDENT

TAOS — A new approach with more expertise is needed to properly investigate the recent spate of cattle mutilations in New Mexico, says a Taos attorney and former prosecutor.

Experienced, trained investigators in various fields should be summoned immediately to cattle mutilation sites and those sites should be preserved, attorney John Paternoster said.

"These cattle mutilations, animal mutilations should be investigated as a crime scene," Paternoster said. "No conclusions ought to be reached immediately or subsequent to the discovery of the scene, at all, unless and until there are a series of examinations that lead to hard, conclusive facts."

Paternoster, who was a prosecutor for nine years including 2½ years as head of the state attorney general's investigation division, believes more evidence may be overlooked than found at mutilation scenes.

Paternoster would either like to assemble a team of forensic experts to visit mutilation scenes and use set procedures for fact finding or at the least he would like to review evidence people submit, to refine investigative procedures.

Discussions with client Tom Reed, manager of the 3,800-acre Tres Ritos Ranch north of Questa, sparked the interest of Paternoster and his office manager Jett Loe.

"We felt that treating the animal mutilation scene as a homicide crime scene was a sufficiently fresh and exacting approach ...," Paternoster said.

By either going to the scene, or at least examining other reports "we could then determine what they (other investigators) did that was flawed, avoid the same mistakes and try to more specifically develop a line of inquiry that would lead us to results," he said.

He also said, "We're not going in assuming it's predators or that it's Satan worshipers or anything. We want to let the evidence available at the crime scene lead us in whatever direction it leads us."

He said he would contact the New Mexico Livestock Board with his suggestions. Funding for the type of investigation he suggests would hopefully come from grants or donations, he said.

"It's a serious problem," he said. "Speaking with ranchers in northern New Mexico, in most instances herds are not insured."

Reed had been to a mutilation seminar before one of his cows was found mutilated on the ranch last May. He supports Paternoster's efforts.

"I think it's a good idea," Reed said. "Anybody that comes up with a different viewpoint might stand a chance of finding something somebody else hasn't found."

In the May incident, an eyeball and the tongue were missing from the cow and a hole had been cut below the tail but the sex organs were there, Reed said. It appeared scavengers had been feeding on the animal, he said.

"Predators don't do the stuff we've been calling mutilations," Reed said. "I would maybe lean a little bit toward the cult thing," he offered as a possible explanation.

The state livestock board recently announced that some of their inspectors say the mutilations are not the work of predators. That assessment contradicts a yearlong, 1980 mutilation study by ex-FBI agent Kenneth Rommel done for the 1st Judicial District Attorney.

"After laboriously weighing and analyzing the evidence I have come to the conclusion that the vast

majority of mutilations are caused by predators and scavengers," Rommel states in his report.

Rommel when asked Monday in a phone interview about the contradiction of him saying it's predators and some inspectors recently saying it's not, said, "I think they're (the inspectors) crazy. I don't think they know what they are talking about."

"I felt I did a very thorough investigation. In my opinion nothing has changed," Rommel said. No causes of death were determined for the 15 mutilations he visited because there were few labs to do it then (1980) and dead cattle are hard to transport, Rommel said.

Rommel said his camera disproved stories of no blood, no clues or other physical evidence of scavengers being present at mutilations. When asked why a veterinarian didn't accompany him to the mutilation sites, he replied, "I did not need a vet."

Kevin McClellan, deputy director of the livestock board, couldn't reconcile the contradiction between the 1980 findings and the livestock board's recent predator announcement, saying he had not read the 1980 report.

"I don't know what all he (Rommel) looked at," McClellan said in a phone interview Monday, but he said he welcomed Paternoster's interest.



(Above) Tom Reed, manager of Tres Ritos Ranch, kneels beside the remains of a mutilated cow from last May. The ranch is north of Questa. (Right) The bones of the mutilated cow are still visible.

ANDREW STINY/JOURNAL

## Videotape records exam of mutilated carcass

TAOS — A videotape shot last May at the site of a mutilated cow investigation at the Tres Ritos Ranch near Questa provides documentation of that event.

Last week, ranch manager Tom Reed showed a Journal reporter the tape taken at the time livestock inspector Jerry Valerio examined the carcass on May 31, the day after the discovery.

During last week's viewing, Reed pointed out what he thought was the abnormal pinkish color of the cow's flesh and an exposed hip socket bone which he thought was an

abnormal green color.

On the tape a ranchhand can be heard describing a smell emanating from the animal's mouth as someone holds it open.

"Kind of like that old hydrochloric acid smell or battery acid smell," the ranchhand says.

On the tape a white substance can be seen on someone's fingertips after apparently touching the cow's flesh. The fingers are those of Valerio, who said at the time that he felt a burning sensation in them, according to Reed.

—Andrew Stiny



SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada  
Jan. 21, 1995 CR: G. Conway

### In Search of Big Foot

Malaysian army and police units joined with wildlife experts and jungle tribes to search for a hairy creature called "Big Foot," after trekkers stumbled upon fresh footprints. They combed thousands of square km of dense jungle surrounding Tanjung Piai in Johore state, where reports of the sighting were first received. Tension mounted when superstitious villagers feared that the fresh footprints could belong to another "Big Foot," despite government efforts to assure them that there is only one of the creatures.

Indonesian officials say the 2.5 metre-tall creature's fresh footprints measured about one-half metres long and display only four toes.

"Great, excellent," McClellan said when told of Paternoster's ideas, adding the board would accept help from anyone.

"We'll take all the help we can get ... our end result is to solve it, how we get there is open. Our bottom line is to get it solved," he said.

## Attacks on sheep 'work of aliens'

ALIENS could be behind recent savage attacks on sheep, claims a UFO researcher.

She believes extra-terrestrial "entities" may be conducting genetic research by taking organs from animals slaughtered on farms in Aberconwy last month.

Mrs Joan Amof, the co-ordinator for a Plymouth-based UFO research group, read about the unexplained attacks when a fellow-researcher sent her recent copies of the Weekly News.

And she believes they are linked to a spate of cases in the United States, Canada and now the UK in which domestic animals

have been found mutilated.

"In America, UFOs — and entities — have been seen in the areas where the attacks happened," claims Mrs Amof, who lives near Tavistock in Devon.

She adds that a Clwyd researcher claims to have seen a "bright light travelling slowly beneath cloud level" in the week of the most recent attack.

Last month, five sheep belonging to a Henrhyd farmer were found with throats and bellies cut.

That came just a week after an incident in which a farmer in Llanrhos Road discovered two sheep with their heads and forelegs missing, sparking fears of a satanic ritual.

CR: T. Good

# Using 'out of this world' research to try to solve mutilation mystery

By Rick Carpenter  
Editor

**D**avid Perkins searches hopelessly for a stick to use to peel back part of the skin of a dead cow on

Yellowstone Road as he tries to determine whether the cow has been mutilated in a manner similar to a rash of mutilations which have recently been reported in an area from Colorado Springs to Taos, New Mexico.

Unable to locate a stick in the landscape void of trees, Perkins uses his writing pen to try to get a better look inside the mouth of the cow. He discovers the tongue, lips and part of the jaw have been removed in a circular manner consistent with the more than 100 mutilations he has documented over the last 20 years.

Ever since he first started getting interested in researching the phenomenon of cattle mutilations in 1975 after finding one on a drive home to Libre late one night, Perkins has been fascinated with trying to solve the mystery behind the mutilations.

Since the first reported mutilation of "Snippy" the horse in the San Luis Valley in 1967, more than 8,000 cattle mutilations have been documented in North America and not a single case has been solved. Mutilations have also been reported on a wide spectrum of farm animals -- including horses, hogs, goats, rabbits, cats, dogs and even a buffalo as recent as last week.

Perkins, a Yale University graduate, found Libre while working on his master's thesis on the history of Utopian communities in America dating back to the 1700s. His thesis focused on the different living arrangements Americans had used over those years. He and his wife were traveling around the country researching different communities and landed in the Gardner area. He fell in love with Colorado and eventually moved here.

It was while working in the area as a free-lance journalist that the sociologist stumbled onto his first mutilated cow. Coincidentally, it was also the beginning of a peak period in mutilation activity in the San Luis Valley and within two years, Perkins was devoting as much of his research energy as possible to try to find the cause of the mutilations.

Actually, he says the term "mutilation" is misleading since most of the "classic" cases appear to be performed with a surgical instrument that appears to cut and cauterize at the same time, leaving no trace of blood.

Perkins said the "classic" cases usually involve at least some of the following characteristics: the animal is usually found dead for no apparent reason and died without a struggle, it has its sexual organs removed in a surgical manner, the udders or individual teats are removed as well as



**David Perkins examines a possible victim of cattle mutilation. For more information and a history of activity in the San Luis Valley, pick up the latest edition of "Spirit" magazine.**

other parts including an eye, an ear, the heart, the tongue, a patch of skin and/or a section of the lip or snout. In addition, the rectum is usually "cored out" and the blood has been completely drained. He said even when the cattle have been recently killed in a muddy field, no trace of footprints, automobile or other impressions are around the location. Judging from the fractures that have resulted, some of the mutilations appear to have been dropped from as high as 1,000 feet, he said.

The cow Perkins was looking at Monday had been struck and killed by an automobile a week earlier on Monday, Oct. 31, at about 6:30 p.m. When *The Signature* caught up with him on Yellowstone Road, a major link between Highways 160 and 69, he was trying to examine the snout area which had apparently been removed.

"It's not unusual for a cow to die of natural causes and then be mutilated," he explained. The circular snout cut was a little smaller than most classic cases, but like the others, the rectum had been "cored out." Pools of blood could still be seen inside the rectum area.

"If I saw this one with just that tail end like that, I'd say this one was inconclusive," he said. "I'd say this one is suspicious. That could possibly be some sort of predator action there (pointing at the cored rectum), but it's still a very clean, circular cut with a very smooth edge. It's unlikely that a predator would leave a wound like that."

"But the fact that the teeth are missing...I don't know of any predator who pulls the teeth out of a cow with a circular cut. It's not natural."

While he was examining the cow,

technological limits. At least that's what the government has been telling the public. Just in the last year, officials at Kirtland Air Force Base demonstrated a new type of field laser unit which could perform similar cuts.

"I was told that the technology to do something like that would weight a ton and that it would be impossible to be mobile with it," Perkins said. "For all we know, they could've had this for the last 20 years. Ironically, the technology seems to be just slightly beyond what we can duplicate."

There has been no known nuclear activity in Huerfano County, but Perkins suggested similar tests could be conducted for other chemicals that could have been released in the county at a time when the public wasn't aware.

Regardless, Perkins isn't sold on the government theory either.

"I honestly have no idea what is doing this," he said. "I really don't. Right off the bat, it seems beyond the capabilities of cults -- unless it's the most highly organized, funded and efficient cult --

District Wildlife Manager Lonnie Brown drove by on his way to another site and stopped to examine the cow. He said the cow did not have teeth where they appeared to be removed.

The cow was also missing its tongue, which could be attributed to predators who seek soft tissues, he said.

Still, Perkins wasn't willing to place the carcass in the "inconclusive" category. That's partly because the cow had been in the location for a week and other animals -- such as coyotes, mountain lions and bears -- have not feasted on the meat. He said for some reason predators usually seem to keep their distance from mutilated animals.

The Yellowstone Road case follows a week after Erminio Andreatta found three of his cattle mutilated just west of La Veta. Perkins, who splits time in Santa Fe and Libre, said the latest rash of mutilations have been reported in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado, leading him to believe the cases in Huerfano County are a part of that pattern.

In the last few months, about 100 mutilations have been reported between Taos and Colorado Springs, he said. The sudden renewal of activity has him jumping from location to location, almost on a daily basis.

Perkins' interest piqued after seeing his first mutilation. "I thought this was an interesting story," he said. "I thought it would be a good piece of investigative journalism so I gradually began collecting stuff by going to sheriffs' offices and reading newspaper files."

Eventually he tapped into a national network of investigators trying to solve the mystery. He became amazed at the

and if the cult exists that can do this, we're all in trouble.

"It even seems beyond the capabilities of the government to get away with this. Somewhere, sometime, someone would talk and the risk that the government could be tied to 10,000 livestock deaths -- and the ensuing lawsuits -- is hard to believe."

"That leaves us with extraterrestrial beings. But that solution is problematic, too. Where's the evidence for it at the sites?"

But if extraterrestrial beings do exist, Perkins said they may also be interested in collecting tissues to determine the affects of different by products in the environment on the food chain.

One of the problems to emerge from the mutilations has been that since none of the mutilations have been solved in 20 years, ranchers are now reluctant to report incidents.

"I've talked to a lot of ranchers who reported them in the early days but just said: 'The hell with it. Why should we bother? No one can do anything about it.

## FOCUS

scope of the problem. By 1977, two years after seeing his first, Perkins "got into it full time" by using his own money to travel throughout the country to view mutilations and interview people. He's now one of about a half-dozen serious researchers who documents the cattle mutilation cases.

"It doesn't really pay," he said, "it's just a matter of curiosity at this point."

Ten years after beginning his investigative research, Perkins said he became discouraged "because it just seemed we were never going to figure it out."

Three major lines of explanations for the mutilations have emerged over the years. The possibility of unidentified flying objects conducting research on the cattle have been floated ever since Snippy was disfigured and skinned from the neck up in 1967. In that case, the animal's last footprints were more than 100 feet from where it was discovered and the owners had reported strange lights hovering and flying around the area in the months prior to the mutilation.

The second explanation focuses on the military arm of the federal government. That's partly because of sightings of black, almost totally quiet, stealth type helicopters which have been reported in locations near the mutilations. Some people believe the government is trying to mislead the public by mutilating the cattle to make the public believe there are UFOs causing the mutilations.

A final explanation centers on some type of cult that uses the animal parts as some type of sacrifice.

"From the beginning, the first major theory was that it was Satanism, although with Snippy they immediately blamed it on the occupants of a UFO," Perkins said.

He said the media focused on the mutilations as cult related through the '70s, but "there's not much evidence to support it."

"After 8,000 of these -- and almost invariably there are no tracks around them whatsoever -- there has never been anyone caught."

The government became suspect after Perkins' research found a high correlation between where the cows were being mutilated and the proximity of those mutilations to environmental problem areas, such as nuclear waste or reactor sites.

He gives the example of a Minnesota nuclear power plant that began operation in 1973. Perkins found

No one has the slightest idea about it."

Some communities have even gathered nightly patrols to try to catch whomever or whatever it is in the act. Even in those cases it still happens and the patrol persons never see a thing. One community in Missouri that was having a lot of mutilation activity even designed T-shirts boasting to be "The Mutilation Capital of the West."

Perkins said he doesn't think people in the area should become alarmed because the mutilations have been occurring for 20 years and humans have never been the victims of whatever the predators are. Humans are the victims when they lose up to \$1,000 per cow.

"People around here seem to be pretty blasé about it," he said.

With more than 8,000 unsolved cattle mutilations in North America, Perkins, now 49, has pretty much resolved himself to identifying carcasses which are consistent with other mutilations. As he tries to solve the mystery, he says he's trying to keep an open mind and is not ruling out any of the possibilities.

immediately after the plant began operating, there were mutilations downstream from the power plant and from where the plant stored nuclear waste. Further research revealed an increase in mutilation activity in other areas around the country where nuclear activity was beginning to increase. "There seemed to be a cluster of mutilations around those areas, but it's a theory that's hard to prove," Perkins admits.

Why would the government -- or extraterrestrial beings for that matter -- be interested in the body tissues of animals near nuclear activity?

"The tissues they're taking would be perfect for testing radiation contamination," he said. "This is the type of food chain that is eating everything here. They could be focusing on it in a way that could be easily analyzed by taking samples of the tissues where the environmental contaminants would end up -- in the reproductive organs and other places."

Still, the cauterized cuts were beyond



# Believers Still Pursuing The Legend of Bigfoot

Alleged sightings spur 'Sasquatch' seekers

By Paul McHugh  
Chronicle Staff Writer

From the Tarzan of Edgar Rice Burroughs to Enkidu in the ancient poem, "Epic of Gilgamesh," a Wild Man has lurked at the fringe of the human mind. It's a big, hairy, muscular shape striding through shadows, somehow always just beyond reach of either hazy flickers of campfire glow, or the hard beam of a halogen spotlight.

The Pacific Northwest has its own venerable version. He's named Sasquatch by Salish native Americans, Bigfoot by the newcomers. For some, Bigfoot is a virtual personification of their fear of wilderness, and a reason to avoid the deep woods. For others, the effect is reversed. To gain one glimpse of this fabled creature, they sacrifice vast amounts of time and dollars, chasing rumors of Bigfoot into remote mountains with the same fervor that crusaders once pursued the Grail.

Tom Morris, 36, dwells in the latter category. From the outside, his home in Pleasant Hill looks typically suburban. A pickup in the driveway displays a business logo: "All-Season Underground Construction" — Morris is a ditch and drain contractor, though job assignments have grown scant of late. Only a sticker on the truck bumper ("I brake for Bigfoot") offers a clue that he's made this house headquarters for a nonprofit group with a staff of one: "Bigfoot Investigations."

An array of large abalone shells nailed to a back fence shows Morris is an outdoorsman no mean skill. Wildlife photographs nailed all over the walls of one interior room convey his current obsession. There are shots of bear and cougar. Also,

many portraits of the 6-to-8 foot, 500-to-800 pound, hirsute, apelike animal we call Bigfoot. Most of the latter are fantasy drawings or paintings. Yet some are actual still frames from a notorious 1967 sighting that got filmed. These images can be found in Morris' new, self-published book: "California's Bigfoot/Sasquatch."

"Doing construction jobs for income, that's a top priority," says Morris, a recently divorced father of two small children. "But I go for Bigfoot searches in the Sierra every couple weeks." Gear sits in boxes on his living room floor. There's a Rostov Cyclop, a Russian night-vision scope that Morris calls his pride-and-joy, a Nikkormat camera with a telephoto lens and remote trigger, mats of camouflage netting and a bottle of deer-hunters' "Scent-a-Way" for neutralizing human odor.

But Morris' most basic equipment — and his motivational fuel — are his files on Bigfoot sightings. In the Pacific Northwest, reports range back over centuries. Many tribes had different names for the hairy man of the woods: Sasquatch, Omah, Kala'itabigw, Bukwas, Selatiks. Supposedly, an article in 1790 described a "giant hairy man" captured by Canadian Indians and shipped to France for display. In 1811, explorer David Thompson found mysterious tracks in the Canadian Rockies that were 14 inches long and eight inches wide.

In the 20th Century, alleged sightings have grown more numerous. In 1924, a group of hairy "mountain devils" supposedly attacked miners near Mount St. Helens after a miner shot one. In 1960, a cast was made of a Bigfoot track near Bluff Creek, Calif. And in 1967, in the same area, 952 frames of 16mm film shot by



A still frame of the 16mm film shot in 1967 on Bluff Creek in Humboldt County shows a hairy, ape-like creature that may or may not be the fabled Bigfoot

hunter Roger Patterson show a tall, shaggy female moving away from the intruders, glancing back once, and disappearing into the woods. Her stride is graceful, her dimensions difficult for a human in any sort of disguise to mimic. One can observe breasts bouncing, slabs of muscle moving smoothly under black fur. The Patterson film has never been disproved or explained; it remains one of the strongest hints there just might be something real behind the legend.

Then there are the hoaxes. Leading researchers, including Morris, scoff at clumsy footage like the Ivan Marx film, "Legend of Bigfoot," and wince at episodes like the "Bigfoot abduction" of one Sherie Darvell of Redding in 1976. But even the hoaxes prove one thing: Bigfoot remains a powerful psychological phenomenon.

Morris got his start at age 17, when he found a long trail of inexplicable tracks on a snow-covered logging road near the Trinity Alps. For a while his interest waned, then last year some close friends he described as "skeptics" saw a biped that was large, hairy, not human and not a bear, at night outside Yosemite National Park. Fired by that, and a subsequent report from four bow hunters near the Carlson-Iceberg Wilderness, he began his quest in the central Sierra.

Morris frankly says he'd be happy to sell all his books, and crank up his Bigfoot Investigations to the level of Peter Byrne's Bigfoot Research Project. Byrne's group, based on Mount Hood, has three paid staffers, helicopters with infrared scanners on stand-by, and an extensive computer database on sightings — as well as a grant for three more years of searching.

For the record, that data suggests those wanting a glimpse of mankind's oldest doppelganger should go out in early dawn and late evening, concentrating on remote and dense forest areas between sea level and 10,000 feet of elevation. Stay quiet, unobtrusive, alert and aware.

Coincidentally, that's also a formula for viewing any large wildlife, a point not lost on Tom Morris. "Maybe I'm only trying to justify all my trips to the mountains by calling them research," Morris says. "I like wildlife, I like to see anything I can. The more I go, the more I'm amazed at how elusive all wildlife can be."

"I'm happy just to be up there, watching animals move around. I want to come back with the best pictures I can. The ultimate would be that shot of Bigfoot."

Note: To share information, call the Bigfoot Research Project at 800-BIGFOOT, or Bigfoot Investigations at 510-930-8123.

# More paranormal programming sighted in prime time

By Alan Bash  
USA TODAY

Ghosts on Fox, "sightings" in syndication, UFOs on a Larry King special. Something strange is going on.

Skeptics may dismiss this as coincidence. Conspiratorialists may say aliens have taken over our TV sets. But even the rational among us can't deny that TV is trying to shed more light these days on unexplained phenomena.

"There's a booming interest in this," says Dr. Will Miller, who comments on viewing habits for cable's Nick at Nite.

Miller should know about the boom. On Oct. 17, he begins hosting NBC's new daytime show, *The Other Side*, which will examine near-death experiences and other "things science can't explain."

But the crop of paranormal shows isn't limited to the daytime TV circus. Fox announced last week that *Encounters: The Hidden Truth*, a newsmagazine that examines crop circles, alien sightings and other tales is joining the schedule beginning Sunday at 7 p.m. ET/PT.

That's a tall order for the show, which had a limited run this summer and now goes up against CBS' powerhouse *60 Minutes* in an effort to keep Fox football viewers from switching channels.

Programmers aren't the only ones who see potential for such shows.

"In an era where the old traditional social systems have really begun to break at the seams," explains Syracuse University professor Robert Thompson, "these unexplained phenomenon programs give an appearance that maybe there are some other forces out there. And even in the scary cases, this is quite comforting."

*Encounters* isn't Fox's first attempt at a paranormal newsmag. A series of specials called *Sightings* aired on the network from 1991 to 1993.

This fall, *Sightings* has become an hour show in syndication, seen mostly on weekends in 85% of the country. Hosted by Tim White, who has moderated a PBS series



DARING DUO: Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny are FBI agents who take on strange cases in 'The X-Files.'

and CBS' *Nightwatch*, *Sightings* tackles topics such as a Kansas family that claims to be plagued by poltergeists.

Such topics have "moved off the supermarket tabloid front page and have now become material for prime-time programming," says *Encounters* host John Marshall, former newsmen at KNBC in Los Angeles. "This has become the subject of serious inquiry."

Maybe that's why Larry King last weekend devoted

one of his specials on cable's TNT to an alleged government coverup of UFOs at a military base in Rachel, Nev. Guests included Carl Sagan and Barry Goldwater.

"I didn't want to do the farmer out in the woods who said, 'They took me up,'" King says. "But some people I respect totally believe that there is life out there, and it's kind of pompous to say (definitively) there isn't."

The paranormal is just as popular as fodder for fictional TV. Fox's ratings growth this season has mostly been attributed to the success of its Friday night series *The X-Files*, about a duo who investigate strange goings-on.

In its first two outings this season, *X-Files* is averaging a 10.1 rating/18 share, more than 50% higher than last season's average. (Each ratings point equals 954,000 TV homes; share is the percentage of sets in use.)

Series creator Chris Carter, by the way, says he wasn't too happy about being paired with the reality-based *Encounters*, which was *X-Files'* lead-in this summer.

From Carter's perspective, *Encounters* sensationalized the paranormal and thus ruined the effect of his drama series. "I felt it made what we're doing seem silly."

Nor does Carter believe *X-Files* is tapping into a new interest. "We're just following in a long line" of shows such as *The Twilight Zone* and *The Outer Limits*.

But in perhaps the best indication that viewer interest is rekindling, cable's Showtime has ordered 44 new episodes of *Outer Limits* — the cable channel's largest ever commitment to a series before it has aired.

MGM will also syndicate the series in the fall of 1995. Thompson, who teaches television courses at Syracuse, says shows such as *Outer Limits* and *X-Files* are a natural fit for TV.

"If TV is, as so many claim it is, the replacement of the hearth, what better place to tell ghost stories than around the modern-day campfire?" he asks.

"I've sat in a darkened room with people watching *X-Files* and the TV glowing, and I could've sworn I was back in summer camp telling ghost stories again."

## Malaysians hunt for elusive 'Bigfoot'

KUALA LUMPUR — As the hunt for a massive hairy creature called "Bigfoot" entered its sixth day Thursday, Malaysian trekkers stumbled upon fresh footprints indicating they were close to its hideout, investigators said.

Army and police units, wildlife experts and jungle tribes joined the search dubbed "Operasi Kaki Besar" in Malay, or "Operation Bigfoot."

They combed several thousand square miles of dense jungle surrounding Tanjung Piai in Johore, the southernmost state of the Malaysian peninsula, where reports of sightings were first received.

The 8-foot-tall creature's fresh footprints, found in dense undergrowth, measure about 1½ feet long and display only four toes, investigators said. (Deutsche Presse Agentur)

## Search continues for 1,700 cattle

■ WAURIKA, Okla. — The search is on for 1,700 cattle a rancher reported missing from pastures west of Waurika. Rancher A.D. Richardson told authorities Sunday that 850 cows and 850 calves were missing. He said the cattle disappeared between Aug. 3 and Sunday. The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association in Fort Worth, is checking with sale barns in the surrounding counties, said investigator Larry Gray.

# Making a federal case out of cattle mutilations

by Tom Day

SANTA FE—Let's turn for a moment from the question that's on every voter's mind—Who's going to be our state auditor?—and consider the equally difficult political question of cattle mutilations.

Cattle mutilations have gotten a bad name in some quarters. One recent story in a northern New Mexico newspaper edition went so far as to call them "so-called mutilations."

It's no wonder, really. Some of the accounts of the—so-called?—mutilations are clearly zany. (If aliens from another galaxy have visited us, as some people want us to believe, they surely are nutritionally advanced enough to be checking out chicken or fish as well as beef.)

But other accounts, from ranchers for example, can't be dismissed out of hand. If mutilations exist—and if they do exist what causes them—are questions on the minds of plenty of people who don't believe in flying saucers.

Cattle mutilations have been in the political arena for years. Some 15 years ago, it was the district attorney for the counties of Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and Los Alamos who commissioned an investigation of mutilations.

Today, it is Sen. Pete Domenici, R-NM, who has asked the New Mexico Livestock Board for a report on the progress of its investigation into mutilations.

"I asked them to indicate to us in this report if they need any outside resources," Domenici said. "I am prepared to ask the

federal government to make available whatever resources are necessary."

The director of the state Livestock Board, John Wortman, has tried to distance himself from the more far-out discussions of mutilations, saying that "A couple of people who have made a big deal about it being a cult or a UFO. But we have no evidence that it's anything like that."

Wortman said inspections have shown that sex and other organs have been removed "cleanly and precisely, with very little blood" and that there are "no signs in the area of the carcass, no tracks of any kind."

Far-out descriptions of mutilations, it is true, are easy to come by. One Mora County man is reported to have seen several cows being pulled into the woods by an invisible power, according to a newspaper report.

The man said a gravitational pull seemed to be at work. Some sort of hum was said to have occurred at the same time.

A list of possible explanations given over the years was reported on the front page of one newspaper, including the following: Alien beings from outer space; chemical-biological warfare experiments conducted by the Soviet Union (if this is true, we need to revise our belief in the end of the Cold War); disease; environmentalists who was to reduce ranching on public lands; foreign students attending American universities; lightning; oil companies; secret government or military experiments.

When the mutilations, or so-called mutilations, were investigated years ago, the man doing the investigation was a former FBI agent, Ken Rommel. He concluded that the vast majority of mutilations are caused by predators and scavengers.

Rommel is a man who is confident about the conclusions he reaches. Asked recently about a report that some state livestock inspectors don't believe mutilations are the work of predators, the former G-Man replied, "I think they're crazy. I don't think they know what they are talking about."

Rommel said his camera disproved the stories that sites of mutilations didn't include any blood or other physical evidence. Asked by a reporter why he didn't take a veterinarian to mutilation sites, he said "I did not need a vet."

But now that the mutilation issue has arisen again, if the livestock board or some other reputable organization need federal help for an investigation, maybe Domenici could get it.

Such an investigation could forget the alien-being theories. If beings from other worlds want to get in touch with us, let them do so in a proper manner.

A federally-assisted investigation that tried to determine if mutilations are real, and if they are real what earthly causes might be behind them wouldn't be the dumbest thing the federal government ever spent money on. But that's another story.

## KAMLOOPS

### UFO buffs suspect aliens using lasers to kill cats

Canadian Press

The UFO types are baffled — cattle found dead with eyeballs missing and tongues excised, and cats found sliced in two with surgical precision.

There have been some recent cat kills in Kamloops, prompting an international UFO organization to wonder what is going on — or coming down.

Michael Strainic, Canadian director of the Mutual UFO Network, said Wednesday that descriptions of three mutilated cats found in Kamloops earlier this year sounded similar to those reported last year in Vancouver.

Cats in both cities were cut in half with one half missing, said Strainic.

"The cuts are precision," he said. "It's not a hack and slash."

Strainic concedes he has no evidence of UFO involvement, but he wonders just the same.

"We don't know if it's a UFO," said Strainic. "We don't know what UFOs are. They might be flying objects. They might not be. We assume UFOs are flying spacecraft, but maybe they are not."

Strainic said his knowledge of the six to seven cat cases in Vancouver and Kamloops suggested lasers had been used to cut the felines in half. The cuts were also bloodless, he said.

The cat mutilations remind him of the unexplained cattle mutilations that have occurred in North America in recent years, including in the Prairie provinces, he said.

Chris Rutkowski, an astronomer and self-described UFO investigator who works at the University of Manitoba, has received photos from Strainic of the mutilated cats.

"They're unusual but there's no evidence of UFOs at all," said Rutkowski, who has a similar explanation for the cattle mutilations. "They're weird but we don't know if they have anything to do with UFOs."

Poundkeepers in Kamloops and Vancouver also have theories, but they're not extraterrestrial.

"We believe it is an individual who is a little misinformed about how to deal with cats," Kamloops bylaw supervisor Mark LaPierre said tactfully.

"The cutting is quite precise and parts of the cats are always missing," he noted.

An official at the Vancouver SPCA explains it in carnivorous, down-to-earth terms.

"We believe [the cat mutilations] are from coyotes," he said. "They are fairly cleanly cut, but a knife would do a better job."

He said the cats have been sliced cleanly and their internal organs cleaned out — something coyotes are capable of.

"This is not to say I don't believe there are things [UFOs] out there, but I don't think they are doing anything to cats."

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK - Oct. 14, 1994 CR: J. &amp; L. Nicholson

## Vision of the Virgin

Pilgrims flock to Georgia to hear message

By KARYN SPELLMAN

The Associated Press

CONYERS, Ga. — Thousands of mud-coated pilgrims stood in a drizzling rain for hours Thursday to hear a message from the Virgin Mary.

About 23,500 pilgrims from around the world waited, praying aloud, listening to readings from scripture and waving white paper and white handkerchiefs as they sang "Ave Maria."

They gathered under umbrellas and tents to hear from Nancy Fowler, who says she communicates with the virgin on the 13th of each month when she appears on the ceiling of a room in Fowler's farmhouse.

"Our lady was radiant," Fowler said. "She wore a white veil and dress and

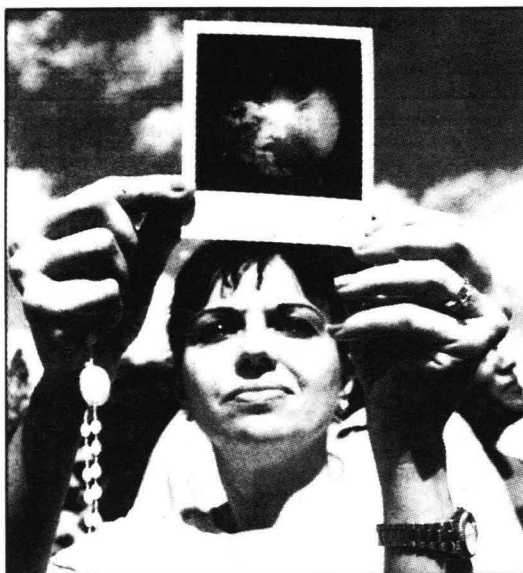
she was beautiful."

Meanwhile, in Hollywood, Fla., hundreds of pilgrims flocked to the home of Rosa Lopez, who also says the Virgin Mary speaks to her on the 13th of each month.

During a 90-minute recitation of the rosary — in Spanish and English — broadcast into the roped-off street over loudspeakers, the sun broke through the clouds.

Onlookers dropped to their knees and stared at the blazing sun. Some reported seeing crosses in the sky, others a silhouette of Mary.

Forty-five police officers and an ambulance were on hand. They treated a few members of the streetside congregation who were stricken with heat exhaustion.



HANS DERYK / The Associated Press

Irene Leon of Miami shows a photograph that believers claim shows the image of the Virgin Mary. Hundreds flocked Thursday to a house in suburban Hollywood, Fla., in hopes of seeing the apparition.

CR: G. Conway

## Climbs, with Wolves



Farmers in Russia's southwest Voronezh region were startled recently when they awakened to find a sheep grazing peacefully on top of a huge haystack. Since the high haystack's steep sides made it seemingly impossible for anything to have climbed it without help, they at first could not figure how such a thing had happened. The farmers finally concluded that a pack of wolves which had attacked their flock the night before scared the sheep into climbing to safety. It turned out to be one of few, very lucky, survivors.

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