

# UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

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## UFO investigators will be sighted soon

Group wants inquiries treated as a real science

By Mike Archbold  
Special to the Journal American

Forty-eight years ago, at 2:59 on a sunny Tuesday afternoon above Mount Rainier, Kenneth Arnold became the father of modern-day UFO sightings.

What he said he saw on that day, June 24, 1947, and how he described it, helped coin the phrase "flying saucer."

Arnold's account of that experience when he was 32 made him world-famous, said his daughter, Kim, but it also turned him into a recluse person for the rest of his life. He was investigated by the government and poked fun at by the media.

But many believed him then, and more do now.

Next month at the SeaTac Red Lion Inn, as many as 1,000 true believers from around the world will gather for the annual symposium of the 26-year-old Mutual UFO Network Inc. (MUFON). The worldwide organization bills itself as a "global organization dedicated to the scientific investigation of UFO sightings and related phenomena."

No wackos need apply. Membership is by invitation. According to symposium director Marilyn Henry Childs of Seattle, MUFON members are mostly professional scientists, engineers and researchers in some 45 fields, from physics and medicine to communications and photo analysis. Most have advanced degrees, added Childs, who is a professional astronomer and an adjunct professor at Seattle Pacific University.

"We are a serious group," Childs



Marilyn Henry Childs, who is spearheading this year's gathering of UFO believers, holds several magazines about such sightings.

said. "We are strictly into scientific investigation."

Thirteen speakers will try to make a case for treating UFO investigations as a real science. They will outline the latest research on a variety of UFO-related phenomena, including alien abductions, animal mutilations and sightings. One of the speakers, Katharine Wilson from Portland, Ore., will talk about her claim of having been abducted. All presentations are open to the public at \$15 per session.

Childs said the Red Lion Inn is a fitting site. The mountain where Arnold claimed he saw UFOs will be visible from the hotel, weather permitting.

Arnold, who died in 1984, would be among friends.

### What Arnold saw

Kim Arnold, who lives in Meridian, Idaho, does not plan to

attend the symposium. But she already has heard first-hand the story that helped frame UFO discussions.

Her father was flying his airplane from Chehalis to Yakima past Mount Rainier that fateful day, she recalled. He planned to spend an hour searching for the wreck of a C-46 that had crashed into the mountain a year before with 32 men aboard.

He told her that while he was making a turn over Mineral, Wash., at an altitude of about 9,200 feet, a tremendous flash of light lit up his single-engine craft, followed by a second flash of light like a reflection off a highly polished wing.

Then, far to the left toward Mount Baker, he said he observed a formation of very bright objects coming south, close to the tops of the mountains, at a great speed. He thought they were jets until he noticed they had no tails.

He described nine boomerang-shaped objects in a line at least five miles long and traveling at more than 1,200 miles per hour. The objects emitted bright blue flashes from their skin, he told his daughter, and pulsed like a heartbeat. The sighting lasted about three minutes before the lights disappeared upward over Mount Adams.

### 'Like a saucer'

To a group of reporters later he described the craft's forward movement like a speedboat on water, and that they flew "like a saucer would if you flipped it across the water." In 1952, he co-wrote a book now out of print called "The Coming of the Saucers."

Where did he think they came from? Kim Arnold said her father never thought they were spacecrafts from another planet. "He believed that they were alive rather than machines," she said. "They were some kind of living entity ..."

She said her father truly believed that he was allowed to see into another dimension, and that he considered the sighting "as a spiritual experience."

Joe Lewells, a MUFON consultant and a presenter at the symposium, probably wouldn't disagree with Arnold's interpretation. Other dimensions and parallel universes interest the Texas businessman. His symposium topic is, "Over the Rainbow: Quantum Physics Discovers the Holographic Universe."

Like Arnold, Lewells knows that claiming to have seen a UFO or talking about one is risky.

"Let's face it," he said, "there is still a curtain of ridicule imposed on this topic by society, by government, by the media, by the scientific communities. It really is the forbidden science."

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach,  
FL - June 7, 1995

## UFO

### Veteran Skywatcher has Daylight Sighting on I-10

By Carole Baker

Driving west on I-10 at 3:30 p.m., on Monday, May 22nd, Bruce Morrison and his wife Anne and a friend were returning to Pensacola from the Project Awareness Conference in Tampa. Nearing the end of a long drive, Anne and her friend were dozing while Bruce drove.

They were just crossing the Blackwater River bridge when Bruce noticed what he initially thought to be a plane in the sky ahead and to the northwest. "It was at about a thirty degree angle from the road," Bruce stated. The object looked huge and appeared about an inch and a half above the tree line ahead. At arm's length the object was between two and three inches long. "It was just sitting there at about a forty-five degree angle. It was long, thin and dark gray and it had a little knob at the bottom end. Not a tail fin, but a little knob," Bruce reported. His first impression was that it was a plane taking off. "But the thing stayed perfectly still! I watched it for thirty to forty-five seconds....I kept thinking-it's got to climb! It's got to move! But it didn't move. It sat solid in one place and instead of going up like a plane should have, it just sat there!"

Trying to get Anne and their friend to look, Bruce lost sight of the object as they drove past some trees. "Look over there, and when we get by these trees, you'll see it!" Bruce told his wife and friend excitedly. But, to their disappointment, when they cleared the trees, the object was no longer visible in the sky. Bruce watched several planes climbing and moving, no matter how fast or slow the car was travelling.

Bruce Morrison is an extremely reliable witness, having been involved with UFO's and related phenomena for almost ten years. He and his wife, Anne have investigated numerous sightings as well as witnessing many personally. They have been featured in several television shows about UFO's, most recently in a documentary on The Learning Channel. They are regular skywatchers at Shoreline Park and well known throughout the UFO community.

If you witness an unusual object or light in the sky, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. Keep Looking Up!

## UFO was probably just electrical arc

REPUBLIC, Fairfield, CA - June 16, 1995

By Rowena Lugtu-Shaddox  
of the Daily Republic

FAIRFIELD — A bright and mysterious round light reported by a Fairfield woman earlier this week may not be the "X-Files" adventure some initially thought it to be.

The woman and her husband spotted the object just before 10 p.m. Sunday as they drove on Interstate 680 near Red Top.

She described the object as a perfect round circle with big clouds of purple and blue around it. It rose up and there were three spurts of flashes.

Steve Moreno, a field investigator for the Mutual UFO Network, has come up with an explanation, he said.

Nearby residents who also spotted the beacon that night pointed Moreno to a possible source on a private road about a half-mile from Green Valley Road, Moreno said.

He found two 35-foot power poles with burn marks that would indicate that an electrical arc occurred. This happens when power lines touch each other, causing a snapping noise and illumination.

"If the wind was blowing or there were birds on the lines that took off and the lines touched each other, there would be an arc," a Fresno representative from Pacific Gas & Electric Co. said Thursday. "We get a lot of calls of lines arcing. It could very well have been what people witnessed."

UFO buffs have predicted an active summer for sightings in Solano County.

Since September 1994, numerous people in Fairfield have reported bright streaking lights and orange points of light to the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, said Peter B. Davenport, the center's director.

But UFO sightings are nothing new to Solano County.

Some reports go as far back as the 1960s.

Take the town of Rio Vista. In May of 1964, some residents there reported seeing "a strangely persistent craft" to then Solano County Deputy Sheriff John Cruz of Fairfield, according to Frank Edwards, author of

### "Flying Saucers — Serious Business."

Residents described the object as torpedo- or dirigible-shaped, about three to five feet in diameter and 12-15 feet long.

Witnesses told the deputy it glowed a warm red and moved silently, Edwards said.

Cruz told the San Francisco Chronicle he took a look for himself on Sept. 22, 1965. Residents said the object appeared near a water tower about five miles from town.

That night, about 300 to 400 people stood in the dark on a hilltop near the tower and saw the object, Edwards said. The cigar-shaped object glowed red, hovered, then moved slowly about 200 feet from the top of the water tower.

Witnesses told the deputy that boys with a .22-caliber rifles shot at the object one night and the bullets made a metallic "twang" that caused the object to flare up bright red for a second, Edwards said.

"But even this barrage did not deter the object from returning occasionally," Edwards said.

# Author risks ridicule to chronicle UFO mysteries

By STEPHANIE SCHOROW

**F**unny, C.D.B. Bryan doesn't look like a loony. The gangly, bespectacled journalist who wrote the best seller "Friendly Fire" has also penned books on the National Geographic Society and the National Air and Space Museum.

But now Bryan has written a serious book

about UFOs. About people who say they have been beamed aboard alien craft, subjected to examinations that would make a gynecologist blush and returned to Earth without so much as a thank-you note.

Bryan takes these people very seriously. And that's the kind of attitude that has put Harvard psychiatrist John Mack on the hot seat for his research on alleged abductees.

"There was a certain amount of risk in my

writing about this," said the author of "Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind: Alien Abductions, UFOs, and the Conference at MIT" (\$25, Alfred A. Knopf). "But I could diminish my risk by not taking a stand. And I don't know any stand I could take. I don't know what's going on. I don't think anybody does."

"But depending on the agenda of the investi-

that it was hard to believe they could make up such stuff.

Bryan doesn't swallow the stories hook, line and zinger. He dismisses photographic evidence — if Tom Hanks can meet JFK in the White House in "Forrest Gump," what good is a grainy photo? He noted the lack of physical evidence; as one academic noted, no one's ever found a tailpipe from an alien craft. Bryan sees his role only as a recorder of data, in particular, the preponderance of abduction accounts with strikingly similar details that date back five to 10 years, before alien abduction became fodder for best sellers, TV shows and HMO advertisements.

"I don't know what's going on. But I do come away with the feeling that something is going on," said Bryan, who has never seen a UFO himself. "That this is something that should be investigated. This is not the Bermuda Triangle. This isn't even the Loch Ness monster."

*Reporter's note: OK, I'm in trouble now. Bryan's not promoting any obviously crackpot agenda, he just says we should investigate this stuff. And I'm quoting him. Will I get bumped to the Weekly World News?*

Still, isn't just putting one's name below the words UFO on a book jacket inviting ridicule?

"Yeah, yeah," Bryan admitted. And then with a wicked grin that transformed his serious pose into one of impish glee, he uttered a two-word expression that, in less profane translation, means: To heck with critics.

"I'm too old, too battered. I'm an old-fashioned journalist," he said. In other words, he calls 'em as he sees 'em.

"One of the abductees in Illinois called me while I was writing the book and said one of her aliens told me they were going to get in touch with me in October. I thought, what a terrific time for them to show up."

"Of course, they didn't."

## EDITORIAL

### What's happening over at the CIA?

**Y**ou wouldn't have seen it unless you were awake and stargazing, but in the wee hours on Sunday a strange craft zipped through the heavens on a course that took it by Tysons Corner, over the CIA's headquarters at Langley and down the Potomac River toward Great Falls. Like all extraterrestrial craft, it was gone in the blink of an eye, but don't tell the eyewitnesses they didn't see anything. They did. And they're scared.

Not surprisingly, the news services gave Sunday morning's alien visitation the token three-line squib for the wrap-ups, but that did not diminish the effect of this alien craft on County residents. The switchboards at police headquarters were jammed with callers, while a special detail of Army Rangers swooped in by Apache helicopter to man The Company's ramparts at Dolley Madison Boulevard. The description of the UFO is not unfamiliar.

"Well, all I know is what I saw," one newspaper carrier on morning rounds told a reporter. "I was driving up Dolley Madison when I saw this tube-shaped object — you know, sort of like a cigar — sail right over the CIA. It had lots of lights, shot what appeared to be a search light down on the grounds, then was gone. And I mean gone, man. All you could see a second later were the lights heading toward the river."

A hotel worker in Tysons fainted when the UFO stopped to hover near the 20th floor of her hotel. Two lovebirds canoodling at Turkey Run said they not only heard the deafening roar of a jet but also felt an intense, momentary blast of megahertz as the noise faded in the distance. Something, or some being, flew over McLean and Great Falls Sunday morning, that much is for sure.

We may never discover the craft's origin, but we must learn what is going on at CIA that would make an alien ship stop to fix its investigatory ray upon our G-men and their benign reservation. Or is it all that benign? Thirty years ago, newspapers reported the crash of an alien craft in nearby Prince William, after which government agents supposedly took the bodies of its crew to Langley. It was much like the case in Roswell, N.M., where the government has yet to come clean about its fallen "weather balloon." Maybe the ETs in Sunday's UFO wanted to retrieve the remains of their galactic comrade(s), although one wonders what would now be left of the little green men, considering how many years they have been in the hands of the government's scientists. Many of NASA's top brains were drawn from the ranks of the Nazi hierarchy after World War II, and three decades was ample time for them to conduct their ghoulish "research" on our alien friends and dispose of their broken, lifeless bodies.

Of course, there are those who won't believe. But they will never believe, for they do not understand what is at stake, as do the victims of unjust ridicule. For them, this story will be the fantastic whopper it really is.

—R.C.K.

gator, they come up with quite different responses."

*Pause for a reporter's note: I had to write that knee-jerk self-defense first paragraph with the word "loony." I mean, after all, we're talking UFOs here. If I didn't poke fun at Bryan's research, what would my editor say? I'd get strange looks in the newsroom. The bartender could ban me from Foley's. Bryan's already got another book contract on the history of the Mayo Clinic; I gotta work here.*

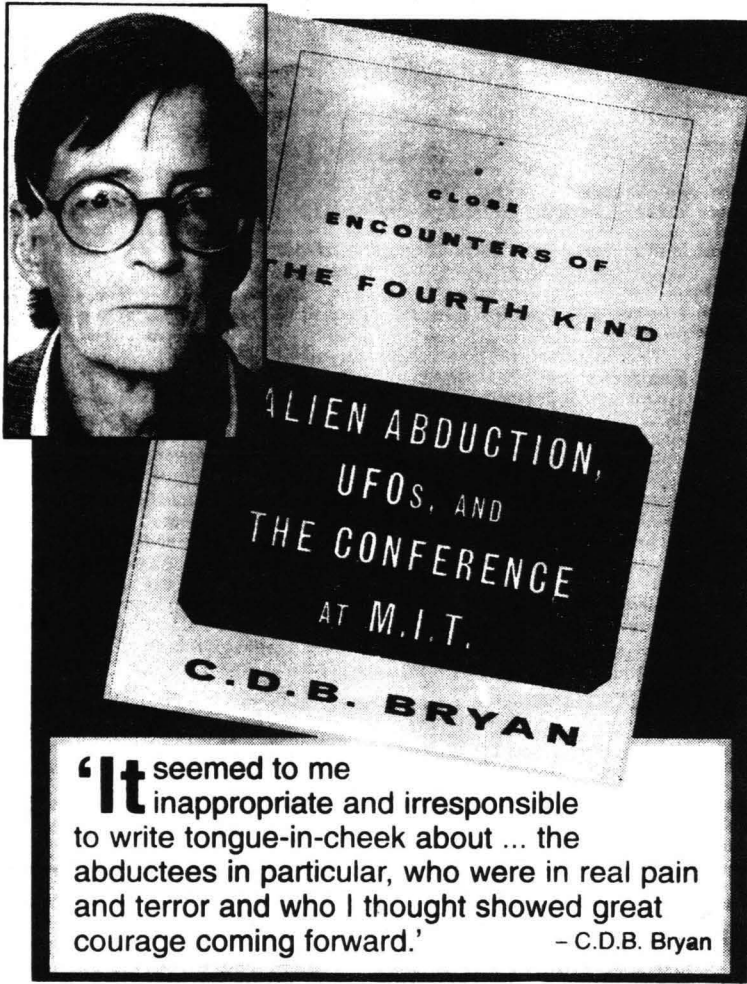
Bryan hadn't always intended to write a "serious" book. When he heard about a conference on UFO abductees at MIT — that "high church of technology" as Steward Brand called it — he pitched the New Yorker on a tongue-in-cheek story on wonks vs. wackos.

But at the 1992 conference, he met Harvard's Mack, physicist David E. Pritchard and, more important, the alleged abductees. A few were, admittedly, one sandwich short of a picnic. And yet ...

"It seemed to me to be inappropriate and irrespon-

sible to write tongue-in-cheek about some of these people, the abductees in particular, who were in real pain and terror and who I thought showed great courage in coming forward," he said.

Bryan examined the case of a woman levitated out of a Manhattan high-rise, an abduction witnessed by two security men, a U.N. official and a woman crossing the Brooklyn Bridge. He interviewed Carol and Alice, two "normal" women, who recount encounters with so many unlikely details — one alien wore a Stetson —



**"It seemed to me inappropriate and irresponsible to write tongue-in-cheek about ... the abductees in particular, who were in real pain and terror and who I thought showed great courage coming forward."**

— C.D.B. Bryan

## Letters

Dear Editor:

In May 1995, I received a short letter from Ed Walters of Gulf Breeze. Ed and his wife Frances wrote and published the 1990 book called The Gulf Breeze Sightings. In 1994, I wrote and published a soft-cover book called Gulf Breeze UFOs: Topographical Center of North America and South America. In my book, I suggested the theory that the seven years of the reports of the UFOs over Gulf Breeze (1987 to 1994) showed that Gulf Breeze represented the key site or the topographical center (on a Mercator flat map) of North America and South America. In his short letter, Ed Walters asked if I had done any

research on the positions of Gulf Breeze and the Great Pyramid in Egypt. In my 1994 book, I had showed how both the ancient Great Pyramid (circa 2600 B.C.) and Gulf Breeze rested on latitude 30 degrees North. Also, I discovered that on a half-section view of the Earth (as if the Earth represented an apple sliced in half) a straight line from the Great Pyramid to the North Pole was equal in length to a straight line from the North pole to the Earth's center and a third straight line from the Earth's center to the North Pole. This was an equilateral triangle. In the same way, a straight line from Gulf Breeze to the North Pole was equal in length to a straight line from the North Pole to

Earth's center and in turn the third line from the Earth's center to Gulf Breeze (or a similar equilateral triangle of the same size). This was on the half section view of the round planet Earth. In May 1995, I also discovered that a new and striking view can be made looking down on the North Pole from space. In this view (see accompanying drawings), the North Pole is in the center at latitude 90 degrees North with a center line extending to the South Pole on the other side of the world. The equator line represents latitude 0 degrees, and the ancient's Great Pyramid is located at latitude 30 degrees North and at longitude 87 degrees 13 minutes West. A third site on latitude 30 North is located at the Pacific site (half-section view on latitude 30 North circle). On this basis, the straight line from the Great Pyramid to Gulf Breeze is the same length as

the straight line from Gulf Breeze to the Pacific site. In turn, the straight line from the Great Pyramid to the Pacific site is almost length but seems to be about 60 miles shorter. In this case, the triangle A-C-E acts like an "arrow" pointing to the significant site of Gulf Breeze or where the UFOs have appeared between 1987 and 1995. By the way, the equatorial diameter of the round Earth equals 7,926 miles and the equatorial circumference equals 24,830 miles. In my opinion, the coming of the Gulf Breeze UFOs might have some relationship to the site as the topographical center of North America and South America and to the position of the ancient Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt and to the locations of the North Pole and South Pole and equator and Earth's center and to the triangle of "arrow" formed by the Great Pyramid, Gulf

Breeze, and Pacific sites on the measured patterns and lines of the planet Earth.

The reader may ask: If this is true, what does it all mean? The graphic measures and discoveries seem to show that the Gulf Breeze UFOs may have come because they are aware of the measured designs and patterns of the round planet Earth. Perhaps they are trying to give us a "graphic message" meant for our limited understanding or concerning ancient wisdom and knowledge that has been lost. As a researcher, I couldn't help but notice that in the Bible (Old Testament) both Isaiah 40:12,22 and Job 38:4-7 refer to the measures of the earth and the stretching of lines upon it by a Creator.

Yours very truly,  
Kenneth Lloyd Larson



# Talkin' UFOs\

## Alleged Imnaha UFO sighting corroborated by other witnesses in television program

By Rick Swart  
and Barbara Kriley  
of the Chieftain

An alleged sighting of an unidentified flying object (UFO) reported in March by Diane and Bryan Baquet was corroborated by eight other witnesses last week during a telecast broadcast from the town of Imnaha.

The testimony of these witnesses was captured on video Tuesday by television KATU, the ABC affiliate in Portland, which sent a five-person crew to Imnaha to investigate the Baquets' claim.

About 50 people crammed into the Imnaha Store and Tavern to participate in KATU's "Town Hall" program, which also involved a studio audience in Portland. The T.V. station also conducted separate interviews for a series of news reports broadcast this week.

In addition to the Baquets, alleged UFO sightings and/or evidence of possible UFOs were reported by D.J. Januzzi, Don Swart, Jr., Trudy Jett, Norman and Arlene Lovell, Heather Tanzey, and Amanda and Jackie Hagan.

The Baquets claim to have watched a spectacular light show above their house along the lower Imnaha River for about an hour on March 26.

Trudy Jett, a United Parcel Service (UPS) driver from Joseph, says she witnessed a similar event about a week before Baquets reported their experience.

Jett told reporters that she was returning to Joseph from Imnaha in her new UPS truck when she noticed a bright red light in the rear view mirror. She said at first she thought it may have been the reflection of a tail light but upon closer inspection found that there were no red lights on the side of the truck that could be causing such a reflection.

"Then I realized it was, like, following me," she said, adding, "Then it turned from bright red into the most brilliant orange that I've ever seen."

Jett said the light then streaked away with lightning



Chieftain/Rick Swart

Liza McQuade directs the production of television station KATU's "Town Hall" program on unidentified flying objects (UFOs) last week at the Imnaha Store and Tavern. KATU's coverage was prompted by recent reports of alleged UFO sightings in the Imnaha

area. About 50 local area residents attended the telecast, including eight who were interviewed on camera by the KATU crew. The program was broadcast in Portland on Sunday, and additional interviews were included in subsequent newscasts this week.

speed.

"I am certain it was a UFO," Jett said. "No one on this earth can make something move as fast as a UFO."

Swart reported that he, too, saw strange lights above Little Sheep Creek Canyon on the way to Imnaha at approximately 4:30 a.m. on March 31. Swart, who was headed to Cow Creek to go fishing, said at first he thought he was seeing the morning star, but as the light grew brighter he stopped at the top of Sheep Creek hill and looked at the image through his binoculars.

"It looked like a helicopter, only with two tails and no ro-

tors," said Swart, who estimated that the image was about a mile away. He said he did not hear any sounds coming from the object.

"Whatever it was, it was something I couldn't explain," Swart said.

The following Wednesday Swart said he was driving north on Hwy. 3 between 8:30 and 9 p.m. when he noticed two dim lights behind him. He said when he was about a mile out of Enterprise he slowed down to 20 m.p.h. and turned around in his seat to take a better look and could see the lights maintaining a constant distance behind him.

Even when he sped up, the lights maintained their distance. Swart said he thought someone was "messing" with him, so he doubled back at the intersection of Hwy. 3 and Leep Road to see who it was. On the way back to town he never met a vehicle. By the time he reached the state gravel pit the lights were behind him again and followed him almost to the Enterprise city limits, then disappeared.

Amanda and Jackie Hagan said that about a month ago they were walking home — about a block north of Imnaha's Main Street — at dusk when they saw a big, bright pink light streak-

ing toward them from Joseph. The girls said there was no sound associated with the light, which turned from pink to purple to blue as it streaked over the canyon walls toward Hells Canyon.

Heather Tanzey reported that last fall she was staying with her grandparents, Ken and Pat Stein, at their place about six miles downstream from Imnaha when she saw "a saucer like thing, with blue, red, yellow and green lights going around on it."

The Lovells reported that three years ago they were on a flat above the Imnaha on their

It remained very large - the size of a quarter at arm's length covering most of the forest area from the tree tops to the ground.

After about 30 seconds, the light again changed and turned red. It slowly began to descend toward the ground, seemingly in a floating motion, gently rocking from side

to side. It seemed to settle and then blinked out completely.

The light, when first appearing was at least 10 times brighter than the Park or Deer Point lights.

The mysterious object remains unidentified at this time. To report a sighting, call MUFON at 438-3261.

### Pentagon unveils pilotless aircraft

PALMDALE, Calif. — The Pentagon unveiled a \$10 million saucer-shaped reconnaissance plane it says will be able to detect a basketball on the ground from 45,000 feet high.

The pilotless plane, dubbed DarkStar, was shown recently at the Lockheed-Martin Skunk Works plant in Palmdale, Calif., where it was built. The craft has yet to be tested, but Air Force officials hailed it as the wave of the future.

The 15-foot plane has a wingspan of 69 feet and stands 5 feet high. It cruises at about 180 mph. It's designed to launch and land automatically, with a range of 500 miles and the ability to stay aloft for more than eight hours. Ground controllers would instruct the plane via satellite.

property at Indian Creek when they found two perfect circles, 2 1/2 feet wide and 25 feet in diameter. Norman Lovell said the grass in the circles looked like it had been eaten to the ground, although there were no livestock in the area at the time, and the grass eventually grew back.

"It looked round to me, so I measured it," Lovell said. "It was a perfect circle, and there were no cattle in there."

Januzzi said he saw what he believes was a UFO in broad daylight on his uncle's Imnaha ranch about 15 years ago. He said he was riding around on his motor scooter when he stopped at what the family referred to as Big Canyon, a few miles upriver from Imnaha. Near the bottom of the canyon he spotted a silvery craft hovering above the trees. A split second later, he said, the craft shot up over the canyon wall and disappeared. He said he was terrified by the experience and reported what he had seen to his relatives and other people at Imnaha but nobody believed him.

Fred Casady, a phone com-

pany technician from Enterprise, said he was working as a civilian at an American Air Defense Command installation near Coos Bay, Ore., during the '60s when UFOs were spotted frequently on the government's Sage radar system.

"A blip came on the screen, and as soon as our jets' radar hit them they took off at a right angle and went off the screen at about mock three," said Casady. "There was a lot of excitement and heavy security ... and they told us to keep quiet about it," he said.

Others who participated in the "Town Hall" segment included Peter Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, who said his organization often receives up to 50 alleged UFO sightings a day, Tom Hanna, NASA's Pacific Northwest representative, Dr. Eva Starmack, a Portland area psychologist who believes in UFOs, and Jim Doerter of Ashland, who claims to have witnessed a dramatic encounter with a UFO when he was working on a Forest Service lookout tower.

## UFO

### HUGE OBJECT SPOTTED AT SHORELINE PARK

By Vicki Lyons

On Friday, April 28th at about 9:30 p.m., I had been feeling extra tired from my hectic week and left the group of Shoreline Park skywatchers and walked to the end of the pier. I was enjoying the dark serenity and stood looking at the water and scanning the skies. Suddenly, I turned and looked behind me and saw a huge glowing white ball in the swamp area. From where I stood on the pier, it seemed to be halfway between the west end of Shoreline Park and Deer Point, and was clearly inside the swampy forest.

The light suddenly flared and subsided in brightness turning amber.

COURIER-JOURNAL, Louisville, KY  
June 12, 1995 CR: J. Stone

# Visitors From Outer Space

An evenhanded observer reports from the U.F.O. and alien-abduction front.

## CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE FOURTH KIND

Alien Abduction, UFOs, and the Conference at M.I.T.  
By C. D. B. Bryan.  
476 pp. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. \$25.

By Dean Koontz

IN 1966, John G. Fuller published "The Interrupted Journey," Barney and Betty Hill's story of their 1961 abduction by alien beings, the first modern claim of such an encounter. By 1992, so many abductions had been reported that a conference was held that June at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to assess, in the words of the letter announcing the gathering, "the findings of various investigators studying people who report experiences of abductions by aliens, and the related issues of this phenomenon." C. D. B. Bryan, a novelist and the author of "Friendly Fire," a nonfiction work about the impact of Vietnam on one American family, attended the conference, intrigued that this two-headed-chicken story had become a subject for serious exploration.

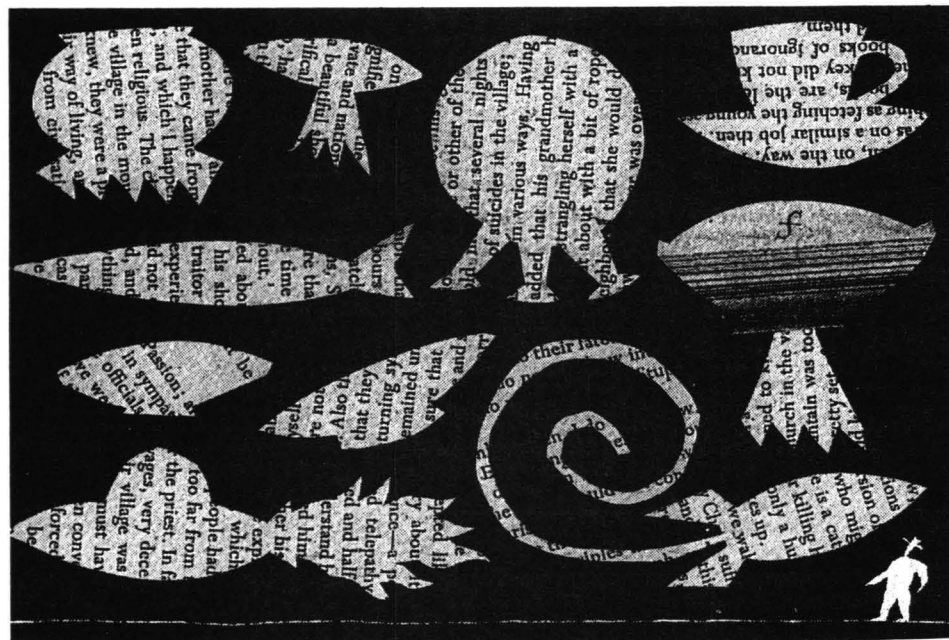
At a time when many journalists have sailed off course on a sea of advocacy, how strange that such subjects as U.F.O.'s and alien abduction of average Americans should inspire Mr. Bryan to produce a book as scrupulously agenda-free as "Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind: Alien Abduction, UFOs, and the Conference at M.I.T." Whether one is drawn to this material or not, the volume is a bracing read because of its uninflected reporting.

One is struck by the dedication with which these psychologists, psychiatrists, therapists and scientists from numerous disciplines have collected and analyzed the facts about U.F.O.'s and purported abductees, as displayed in the more than 100 reports given at the conference. The weight of their work, as described by Mr. Bryan, might convert even the most hard-boiled skeptic to grudging open-mindedness. Equally striking, however, is their gullibility and their failure to address — or even recognize — flaws in the "evidence" they most frequently cite as arguments in favor of the truth of alien-human contact. For instance, many abductees speak of beings who communicate telepathically and have no ears; earlessness is said to provide a convincing consistency to the descriptions. But telepaths would surely still find ears useful to avoid stepping on rattlesnakes, to leap out of the way of roaring avalanches and to listen to the Crab nebula equivalent of Beethoven.

As for gullibility, the researchers Mr. Bryan cites seem to have routinely accepted claims that the "abductees" have never read books about aliens, watched movies about aliens or discussed U.F.O.'s with anyone prior to their uncanny experiences, and thus could not have borrowed these details either from the works of science-fiction writers or from previous abduction reports. But in a popular culture saturated by books and movies featuring the U.F.O. motif for more than 40 years, it's hard to believe that so many of the claimants are utter naifs when it comes to this subject.

Worse, when one of them casually reveals a previously existing connection to U.F.O.'s or to a history of paranormal experience, as frequently happens, the researchers never seem to investigate. We learn about a woman who calls herself Star, for example, who claims to have had no awareness of U.F.O.'s (or interest in them) before being abducted, but who had a friend so wired into the U.F.O. community that she immediately put Star in touch with the head of the Missouri Mutual U.F.O. Network. It's at least possible that Star's account was partly acquired through hearsay, but the researchers never follow this up. Another abductee discussed in the book had a mother who brought a priest to the family home every two weeks

Dean Koontz's most recent novel is "Dark Rivers of the Heart." His next novel, "Intensity," will be published this fall.



JEFFREY FISHER

for many years to cleanse it of ghosts. Researchers saw this as evidence that aliens visited the family through generations — when it might more rationally be viewed as proof that an unstable household preconditioned the woman to fantasize later in life.

Furthermore, many of the presenters at the M.I.T. conference embrace such a wide array of beliefs in paranormal phenomena that their U.F.O. research seems less like a scientific commitment than like one facet of a New Age world view. Richard J. Boylan, a Sacramento-based psychologist, tells Mr. Bryan a riveting story of a six-state tour of military sites related to the Government's supposed cover-up of the U.F.O. story — and then casually mentions that he uses the services of a woman who is a "remote viewer" and who can clairvoyantly see inside places where she has never been. Joe Nyman, a Boston-area hypnotherapist, implies a belief in "health-making through crystals."

The most interesting figure involved with the conference is the co-chairman, John E. Mack, a charismatic professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Mack (who has been criticized by fellow scientists for the manner in which he has carried out his research) explains to Mr. Bryan that he was "raised as the strictest of materialists" in a "meaningless universe," yet speaks in terms of God and the soul, and tellingly refers to those unconvinced by abduction stories as "atheists." Although clearly an intelligent and dynamic man, Dr. Mack sets standards of proof that are more suitable to a theological debate than to a scientific inquiry.

He is deeply impressed with the fact that there are alleged to have been witnesses to some abductions, yet in the course of this conference no witnesses are produced. In the case of one woman in New York City who is said to have been floated out of the 12th-story window of her apartment to a hovering spacecraft while being observed by "two security agents" and a "senior political figure," we have nothing to confirm the existence of these men except the word of a longtime U.F.O. researcher who insists on protecting their identities.

Dr. Mack also argues that children who make abduction complaints similar to those of adults provide credibility for the whole phenomenon, because they're too young to have read the U.F.O. literature and are therefore untainted. This position can only be taken by someone who has no awareness of the sea of pop culture that exposes preschoolers to hundreds of stories involv-

ing aliens, flying saucers and abduction scenarios through Saturday morning cartoons and other television programs, comic books, movies, action-figure play sets and other toys. And when Dr. Mack suggests that such things as bruises, bloody noses, cuts and scratches from rough handling by aliens are "corroborative physical evidence," we can agree only if we refuse to consider the possibility that the injuries could have been self-inflicted.

As portrayed in their own words in Mr. Bryan's book, a majority of those in the U.F.O. community — both abductees and researchers — regard the phenomenon in quasi-religious terms. They are, to borrow the words of a theologian speaking at the conference, "for the most part unchurched people," and this is presented as evidence that they are not on a religious quest. But one might understandably feel that churchgoers have reached a destination in their quest and that it is the "unchurched" who are, in fact, seeking meaning. Indeed, Dr. Mack and other abductee specialists feel that the aliens may want to save our ecologically endangered world, and they make reference with distinctly religious overtones to the Gaia hypothesis, which holds that the earth is a living entity.

Mr. Bryan's deliberately low-key reporting style sometimes cries out for more pointed questioning. He is impressed by unlikely details, as in an abductee's story of an alien trying on her high-heeled shoes, but one thinks immediately of Steven Spielberg's film "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial," in which the hapless alien is in one sequence dressed up as a woman. One wishes that the author would think of the reference as well. At other times, one badly wants to know what Mr. Bryan believes; he's almost maddeningly evenhanded. Yet if he had been more skeptical, or more forthcoming, the result would, perhaps, have been a less interesting book. The reader senses in him not only a refreshingly old-fashioned journalist — who believes in presenting the facts and the voices of his subjects without much comment — but also a man with a genuine affection for people. No one should want to trade his rare kindness for yet another tome written by a sarcastic cynic. Indeed, the power of his straightforward writing left me not merely with an open-mindedness toward the subject of alien abduction but with a hope that many of the abductees are in fact telling the truth and that we are not alone in the universe. □

GLOBE, Boston, MA - May 12, 1995 CR: R. Dumas

## TGIF

ALEX BEAM

### Harvard's Mack talks back

HARVARD UNIVERSITY'S CURIOUS Star Chamber "investigation" of Medical School professor John Mack is currently hanging fire. The school's Special Faculty Committee will soon deliver its final report to dean Daniel Tosteson. The dean may or may not start disciplinary proceedings against Mack, a psychiatrist who has gained national renown for lending perhaps too sympathetic an ear to people

claiming to have been abducted by aliens.

The morning line is that Harvard will back off. No aggrieved patient or financial donor — according to Mack, there are none — has appeared before the committee, which has listened exclusively to caviling from several of Mack's medical school colleagues. For the first time, in an interview in his cramped Cambridge Hospital office, the 65-year-old Mack agreed to address the issues surrounding the yearlong inquiry:



On Harvard's reaction to his work: Although he has been investigating aliens-ate-my-homework stories since 1990, Mack believes it was the March 1994 publication of his best-selling book "Abduction," and his subsequent appearances on talk shows, that prompted Harvard to launch its inquiry two

months later. Mack, who projects a mesmerizing presence not unlike T. E. Lawrence, the

subject of his 1977 biography "A Prince of Our Disorder," sees himself as a modern-day Galileo, a man of science pilloried for offering a "new paradigm" for understanding the human experience.

In recording dozens of remarkably similar abduction tales, Mack says, "I found myself dealing with a genuine mystery that I couldn't dismiss as self-generated. I'm a professor who says there's another reality at play here, and I can see how that would be quite upsetting to the Harvard Medical School. I have committed a kind of crime, a violation of a certain view of reality."

On money: The faculty committee has questioned Mack closely on his sources of financing, which are plentiful (and covetable) in an era when budget cutbacks are being felt elsewhere in the Harvard psychiatric establishment. Mack is alternately assertive — "This is important work. It could be changing the way people see reality" — and defensive about the \$300,000 a year that pours into his Cambridge-based Center for Psychology and Social Change, a huge portion of it from various

Rockefeller family members.

Laurance Rockefeller gives \$250,000 annually, on top of a \$194,000 grant he made to start up Mack's Program for Extraordinary Experience Research; Laura Rockefeller Chasin, Alida Rockefeller and Cambridge's own Abby Rockefeller have donated tens of thousands of dollars to Mack over the years, not including \$86,000 in reported gifts from the Rockefeller Family Fund — gifts a fund staffer says were never made.

When presented with a list of major donors on file at the state's Office of Charities, Mack simply says, "This is all wrong," and declines to elaborate. He also refuses to discuss almost \$200,000 in donations from a family member, large portions of it distributed through the Closter, N.J.-based Nara Fund Inc.

On his colleagues: "Some people support me, and some people think I'm outrageous. I won't deny that this whole process has been painful to me. It's been very expensive in all senses of the word. I just want it to be over."



# UFO

## UFO Sightings Becoming Frequent Experience

By Vicki Lyons

Local residents are experiencing both daylight and night time UFO sightings in our area. The witnesses are reporting both solid objects with shape and structure as well as the red and amber light UFOs which are very familiar to local skywatchers.

Newly settled in Gulf Breeze, Schani Krug was enjoying his first Memorial Day Weekend on Pensacola Beach after moving to Florida from New York. He and a friend were looking south out over the Gulf of Mexico on the evening of Friday, May 26th. They had been sitting on a balcony overlooking the Beach for some time, when at about 10:00 p.m., Schani noticed an incandescent spherical object hovering over the water about a hundred yards out from them. At first he thought it was a large balloon, but soon ruled that out as the object began to move slowly to the south. It began to rise slowly, then just hovered again for a few seconds before rising more quickly (Schani estimates at about twenty-five to thirty miles per hour) and being lost to sight in the cloud cover. Schani told me that at arm's length the object appeared to be about three inches in diameter. "It was an iridescent amber color and perfectly round," Schani stated. It appeared to be at about a forty-five degree angle of elevation from the beach water, although this is difficult to estimate because of the close proximity of the object. The sighting lasted about two and a half to three minutes Schani's friend, having lived here for a while, told him that things like this occur quite often in this area. The sighting prompted Schani to attend the local Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON meeting that was held in the Recreation Center at Shoreline Park on June 11th. It was there that he reported his sighting to the assemblage. He later joined skywatchers at Shoreline Park South for the evening skywatch.

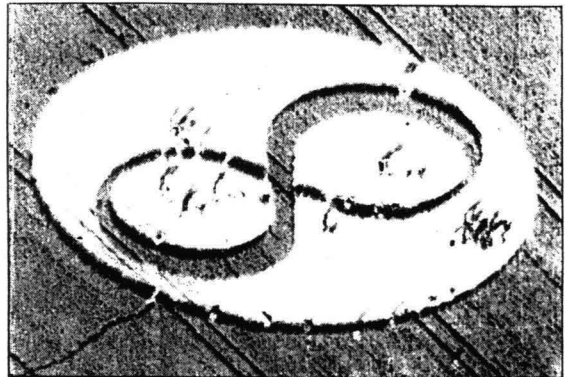
On June 5th, 1995, Ken Baker, a Pensacola resident, experienced a daylight sighting whilst driving south on N 9th Avenue at the junction of Bayou Blvd. and Brent Lane. It was 3:12 pm and a partly cloudy afternoon. The temperature was ninety degrees and winds were from the northwest at ten miles per hour (National Weather Service, Pensacola). In the right turn lane ready to turn west onto Brent Lane, he was waiting for traffic to progress through the junction. The front windows of the car were rolled down and the radio was off. From the southwest over the Applebee's Restaurant, Ken saw what he first thought to be a balloon flying to the northeast across the junction toward the AmSouth Bank and Cordova Mall. The object was about one-hundred feet in the air and was a dark matte color. "It was a flat, round shape like the tire on the back of a van or Jeep in its cover" Ken told me. He attempted to take a photograph of the object, but his efforts resulted in his almost being involved in a

car accident. He decided to turn back and see if he could catch up to the object. It had been traveling purposefully in a straight line to northeast, not gaining or losing elevation and tilting evenly from side to side as it flew horizontally with its flat planes parallel to the ground and sky. There was no noise associated with it. Feeling confident he would be able to chase down the object, Ken turned around quickly in the Albertson's parking lot and proceeded back North on N 9th Avenue. He turned east on Airport Blvd. and travelled to 12 Avenue, turned right onto Bayou Blvd. and back along the side of Cordova Mall. He arrived back at the junction of N 9th Avenue and Bayou Blvd/Brent Lane without having seen the object again. As he was nearing the junction, however, a child in the parking lot of the Burger King restaurant on the north side of Bayou Blvd. let go of a red balloon. Ken noted that the sun was reflecting brightly off of the top of the child's balloon and that it travelled quickly in the wind to the southeast toward the Target store. Ken realized that the child's balloon was following a path of the wind that intersected the path the object had traveled. The object he had witnessed had apparently been traveling across the prevailing wind, which would rule out his initial thought that it was a balloon. The wind speed and direction were checked fifteen minutes later with the National Weather Service in Pensacola. Ken was also struck by the fact that no reflection was given off from the object he had observed. Also, although the wind was quite strong and the child's balloon traveled quite fast, it still exhibited a floating motion as it traveled, not the purposeful "flight" Ken had observed with object. Ken estimated that the object's speed was about fifteen miles per hour and at arm's length it appeared to be approximately one inch in diameter. The sighting lasted about thirty seconds. Ken last saw the object as it went

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY NEWS, Solvang, CA - May 25, 1995



Avebury Stone Circle, "Spider's Web," August, 1994.



Mysterious figure eight "crop circle" appeared in England.

### UPSTAIRS AT THE SIDE STREET CAFE

## Illustrated 'crop circle' presentation slated

Crop circles have been appearing in the fields of England, in greater numbers and with increasing complexity of form, for over 12 years.

Nobody knows how they arrive, who or what makes them, or what — if anything — they might mean.

Michael Glickman, now considered to be one of the foremost commentators on the "crop circles" will give an illustrated presentation upstairs at Side Street Café in Los Olivos Sunday, May 28 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Included in the presentation

are more than 100 full-color slides that include the latest pictures of the extraordinary formations of the 1994 season.

Some topics covered will be strange events that occur around circles, repeated sightings of luminous objects, the jamming of electrical equipment in the formations, profound personal effects that take place as a result of "circle energies," and the sacred geometry inherent in the formations.

Glickman was born in 1941 and trained as an architect at the Architectural Association in London, England.

He has practiced and taught architecture and design both in England and the United States.

In America, he has been a visiting lecturer at Boston Architectural Center, MIT, Harvard, Rhode Island School of Design.

Subsequently, he was assistant professor at the University of Southern California-Los Angeles.

Some years ago, intrigued by the beautiful and mysterious patterns that were appearing in England's cornfields, he became involved in the "crop circle" phenomenon.

He has been a regular columnist for *The Cerealogist*, the major "crop circle" journal.

Glickman is a member of the Council of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies in England, has lectured and written widely on the subject, and is a regularly invited guest speaker at the prestigious annual Glastonbury Symposium.

There is an admission charge for the lecture that will be taken at the door.

For more information, call Evelyn Roberts (688-1936).

TIMES, Washington, DC - June 3, 1995 CR: L. Bryant

## Flying Saucers at Harvard!

While everybody else was worrying about balanced budgets and mad bombers, some people had their eyes on the important stuff. Last weekend the Washington area was host to a convention of UFO watchers, and though no UFOs showed up to be watched, the attendees had little doubt about the significance of what they were doing.

"I think this is the hottest question on the planet right now," one guest from Finland told *The Washington Times*' Sean Piccoli, and presumably the planet she was talking about was the one we're on at the moment, even if it wasn't too clear what the question was. But not all the attendees at the conference sponsored by the Human Potential Foundation in Falls Church had always been on this planet. Not a few, it seems, were a relatively new breed of UFO enthusiasts who say they've been abducted by the ETs amongst us.

The planet's foremost authority on the abductees is Dr. John Mack of Harvard Medical School, author of the best-selling "Abduction," which recounts his examinations of people who say the chariots have swung low and taken them for a ride. Dr. Mack, who also attended the Falls Church conference, is of the opinion that these people are not just full of hot air, that a good many of them (if not all of them) are telling the truth about their abduction experiences.

It turns out, however, that Dr. Mack's colleagues and supervisors at Harvard don't necessarily share his opinion, and he is now the subject of an investigation by the administration. That in itself is controversial, since it seems to some people that an investigation of a faculty member who has published unorthodox ideas jeopardizes academic freedom. Maybe so, but the skeptics may have good reason to wonder about some of the good doctor's claims.

One reason Dr. Mack says he takes abductees' stories seriously is that he can't find anything psychiatrically wrong with them other than traumas produced by the abductions. That seems a bit like saying there's nothing wrong with a particular patient except that he thinks he's Napoleon. But as

one reads some of Dr. Mack's case histories, it becomes fairly clear that there is something wrong with at least some of those who say they've been up in the clouds.

In the first place, not a few of them seem to harbor sexual problems — frigidity, sexual abuse, incest, sexual fantasies, marital problems. Their claims about their abductions and the aliens who took them are closely related to these problems, and they often describe the aliens and what they supposedly did to the abductees in transparently sexual terms. The aliens push things into the abductees' sex organs and take sperm or ovary samples, and the abductees often report that they feel they were "raped" or "violated."

Then too it turns out that many of the abductees report that the aliens have a message for humans — namely, that we're making a mess out of the earthly environment through industry, technology and especially nuclear power. By a curious coincidence it turns out that Dr. Mack himself (and indeed some of the abductees) are anti-nuclear activists and ardent environmentalists.

Nothing wrong with that, of course, but when you realize that many of the abductees' claims were not conscious until Dr. Mack hypnotized them and began eliciting their repressed memories, you have to wonder: Could it be that Dr. Mack, perhaps unconsciously, imposed his own beliefs on his patients, that these people were simply mentally or emotionally troubled and under his therapy started fantasizing the whole experience?

The conference this weekend didn't think so, and as the alien visitor from Finland, who claims to be a frequent visitor to alien spaceships, said, "I haven't heard any debunking or skeptics here. This crowd is so sure, they moved beyond that a long time ago." No doubt they are sure, but others aren't, and for all the scientists on hand, gatherings like these look more like cults of true believers than serious scientific inquiries. It will take more than enthusiasts and more than Dr. Mack's hypnotic trances to persuade either scientists or a skeptical public that somebody out there is catching us.

Behind the AmSouth Bank on N 9th Avenue towards the Cordova Mall.

If you wish to report a sighting, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-

3261. Also for information on the upcoming Projects Awareness 1995 Gulf Breeze UFO Conference to be held October 20-22, call Project Awareness at (904) 432-8888. Keep Looking UP!

# UFO buffs flock to desert outpost



The Associated Press

Glenn Campbell, operator of the "Secrecy Oversight Council," looks from Freedom Ridge, near Rachel, Nev., toward the secret Air Force base in the Nevada desert known as "Area 51."

## Military base's secrecy stirs curiosities

By PATRICK GRAHAM  
The Associated Press

RACHEL, Nev. — Chuck Clark's search for UFOs brought him to this desert outpost, a place with happenings so bizarre a state lawmaker wants to name the road through here "Extraterrestrial Alien Highway."

Clark has yet to encounter flying saucers, but one thing is certain: Something is out there.

Folks you'll meet at the Little A'Le'Inn, the only restaurant in town, say they're entertained some nights by strange lights and sonic booms.

Space aliens? A more likely cause is a military base so secret the government cryptically acknowledges its existence only as a "operating location." Locals refer to the installation as "Dreamland" or "Area 51."

Hardcore UFO and conspiracy buffs like Clark are convinced the

government is keeping recovered alien craft and working alongside little bug-eyed creatures at the sprawling complex, just 20 miles south of here across the rocky Groom Mountain Range.

Aside from classified man-made technologies, the military says there's nothing unearthly out here — only sagebrush and the locals' overactive imaginations.

Until recently, the military flat-out denied the presence of a base. Today, officials acknowledge something's going on outside Rachel.

"We don't have UFOs out there," said Maj. Mary Feltault, an Air Force spokeswoman. "What goes on out there is classified."

But you can decide for yourself. With a 4-wheel-drive truck and lots of nerve, you can sneak a peek at "Dreamland" — even though the military recently made it much tougher to do so.

In early May, the Interior Department agreed to give the Air Force control of nearly 4,000 acres

of public land adjacent to Area 51, including an ideal vantage spot called Freedom Ridge.

For the 100 residents of Rachel, many of whom have established a cottage industry based on UFO fascination, the decision won't really change things.

Locals including Pat Travis, co-owner of the Little A'Le'Inn, say they'll just use other mountain ridges to view the base and will keep searching for what's really going on.

"This won't stop us," she said. "People are still coming out. The information is still there."

Visitors to Rachel can still get a guided trip to other ridges overlooking the base or swap flying saucer stories and order an "Alien burger" at the Little A'Le'Inn — though they can't yet ride down the Extraterrestrial Alien Highway suggested by state assemblyman Roy Neighbors.

Travis and her husband, Joe, share Clark's enthusiasm for space-age — or just spacy — occurrences. They tell of a white beam of light that blazed through their closed back door one morning several years ago.

"I can feel their presence," Pat Travis said. "I get goose bumps when I think of them."

Then there's Glenn Campbell, a former computer software developer from Boston who operates what he calls the Secrecy Oversight Council from a trailer he rents for \$215 a month.

Campbell also puts out a newsletter and an "Area 51 Viewer's Guide" that helps the curious avoid being arrested by the guards who prowl the base's perimeter.

Others who frequent the area include Bob Lazar of Las Vegas, a self-described physicist who claims he worked at the base — on one of nine captured alien saucers to determine how its power source worked.

Area 51 reportedly served as a laboratory for the U-2 spy plane and later the SR-71 Blackbird spy plane, the B-2 stealth bomber and F-117A stealth fighter.

said.

Intrepid snoopers on the ridges surrounding the base use binoculars to bring into focus its huge airplane hangers, satellite dishes and control towers, along with a 5-mile runway.

Signs of supertight security are everywhere — closed-circuit cameras, signs advising "Use of deadly force authorized," and white Jeep Cherokees carrying armed guards.

don't appear in any federal budget allotments.

Clark said exotic military aircraft developed at the base may be mistaken for UFOs. But sometimes fast-moving, soundless pulsating balls of light that appear in the sky just seem to be from another world, he said.

"They may not be UFOs to the Air Force. They know what they are. But they are UFOs to us," he

Photographing or sketching structures or aircraft is illegal. Guards will confiscate film, forcing locals to resort to such tactics as using extra film rolls as decoys and police scanners to try monitoring security radio conversations.

Before the land was ceded to Area 51, Clark stood atop Freedom Ridge, 12 miles away, and pointed out more security in a mountain observatory a few miles off.

"They can tell if you need a shave," he said. "Watch what you

say. They can hear you."

With the ridge now closed, Clark and others say the base can be seen from public land at Tika-boo Peak, a higher mountain 26 miles away. But visibility is poor.

The military's action is seen as hypocritical, since Russia and other countries have been able to observe the base for years with spy satellites.

"All enemies can see it," Clark said. "But we can't."

HELLS CANYON JOURNAL, Halfway, OR - April 5, 1995

## Imnaha Residents Report Nighttime UFO Sighting

Twenty-three year old Bryan Baquet told his mother not to tell anyone what they had witnessed in the wilderness sky over his parents home between 8:30 and 9:30 on Monday night, March 27.

Bryan lives at Corral Creek Ranch, three miles down the Imnaha River from where his mother and father live near the confluence of Horse Creek and the Imnaha River on the Dug Bar road.

"No one will believe us," Bryan told his mother.

But when Rick Swart and Barbara Kriley of the *Walla Walla County Chieftain* caught up with Diane Baquet on the road to Dug Bar the next day, she'd had second thoughts after discussing the happenings with her husband, Russ, and employer, area rancher Don Hubbard.

"I'm getting old," Mrs. Baquet, 50, told the *Chieftain* journalists, "and I don't care if anybody believes me. I know what I saw."

What Bryan and Diane Baquet believe they saw was a hovering alien space craft. At first what they saw looked like a meteor. Then the streaking light stopped over the middle of the river above their place, where it hovered for nearly an hour.

According to The *Chieftain* account, Mrs. Baquet described the image as a round circle of white light with a column of light rising straight up from the center and two other columns of light extending out of the bottom in a triangular pattern. In addition, she said, the white ball was emitting bars of white toward the ground and around the walls of the canyon, and red, blue and white light from what appeared to be some sort of beacon.

Bryan Baquet said that from a distance the image looked like a saucer but through binoculars it looked "more round above the lights." His mother described the magnified appearance of the

image "like a brain ... with veins running over the top of it."

"With the reflection from the lights we couldn't see the bottom but could see a round dome, just like an outline, above the lights," Bryan said.

Both Baquets said the image moved from point to point at lightning speed, including at right angles, and there was no motor noise associated with the lights.

According to separate accounts from both witnesses, the image darted over a knob on the west side of the Imnaha River referred to by locals as "Crazyman's Point," where it seemed to hover for another five minutes before all signs of light disappeared.

By 11 p.m. the image was gone and Bryan decided to leave for home. Mrs. Baquet said she worried that what they just witnessed might have been an alien spacecraft and that it might follow Bryan's headlights.

As Bryan was leaving, his mother told him, "If they come back and chase you, shut off your lights and crawl under your pickup."

Diane Baquet later described the incident: "It's an eerie feeling, because it's like something you have no control over ... you know what you see but your mind doesn't want to accept it." At one point she considered going back into the house and turning off the kerosene lamps but decided that if the object was an alien spacecraft its occupants were already aware of her family's presence. She estimated the object was about the size of a helicopter.

The *Chieftain* checked with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, who that week had been using a helicopter crew to spot salmon redds on the Imnaha River.

Vic Coggins, ODFW area biologist, said his crew and chopper had been out on Monday morning but had not flown after dark that day.



The Associated Press

Chuck Clark sits outside the Little A'le'Inn in Rachel, Nev. His search for UFOs brought him to this desert outpost, close to a secret Air Force base.

Among other rumors: The base has a stable of aircraft obtained from defecting Soviet fliers and is the proving ground for a \$15 billion spy plane, the Aurora, that can do 5,000 mph.

*Aviation Week & Space Technology* recently said radar-evading helicopters and oddly shaped pilotless spy planes are being developed at the 40-year-old base, with money from secret "black budgets" that



# A Belief in Extraterrestrials Isn't Such an Alien Notion

**C**arson City, Nev. (AP)—Assemblyman Roy Neighbors introduced a bill to rename a 100-mile stretch of State Route 375 "Extraterrestrial Alien Highway"—to bring tourists to a remote region that draws people hoping to see UFOs.

For a laugh, a friend sent me the excerpt above. Instead, it reminded me of one of the most jaw-dropping conversations I've ever had. It occurred about 20 years ago with a co-worker, a guy about as level-headed as they come.

We got onto the subject of UFOs, and my friend proceeded to tell me and another colleague a story that he said he'd only told a few other people. We could believe it or not, he said.



**DANA PARSONS**

What he told us was that some 10 years earlier, in the mid-1960s, he had been the editor of a small weekly newspaper in Minnesota. It was Christmastime, and he was delivering a holiday turkey to an advertiser. He remembers it being around 6:30 p.m., already dark, on a very

clear and cold evening.

Having grown fuzzy on the details, I phoned my friend this week. We hadn't discussed it since that day some 20 years ago.

"I was going to a little town a few miles from where the paper was and heading west," he said. "As I left town to get to the main highway to go south, I saw this flashing in the sky, very brilliant, up fairly high, I'd say several thousand feet up, and it was like a series of bright flashes that kept blinking furiously, much brighter and more flashes than you would see on an airplane. So, without thinking I blinked the headlights on my Ford and continued west until I got to the highway and turned south."

"I had to go two miles that way, then

go back east to get to town. I could see it when I was going south, but when I went back east, I didn't see it. I was driving along, it was maybe three miles to get to the town, when suddenly right out in a plowed cornfield to the left of me, maybe 200 or 150 feet in the air, easily seen out of the car window, was this circular object that was following me, with portholes. It was fairly dark and I couldn't see the outline, but it was the usual saucer shape.

"It was about 30 feet in diameter and the portholes went all the way around, and it was very bright. I don't know if it was spinning or if the lights were flashing alternately. I liked it to the landing lights at an airport, these incredibly strong strobes shooting out in all directions. I slowed down, watching it, and debated whether to roll the window down or stop and get out, but the more I drove on, I got scared, and I kept driving into town."

My friend said he assumed it still would be there when he finished his business in town, but it wasn't. He never saw it again. He estimates he saw it for about 10 to 12 minutes.

I remember being amazed 20 years ago that I'd known him for years before he told the story. This week he said, "Since 1965, I've probably told 15 to 20 people, at the most. I found when I did tell anyone, they'd never forget it and they'd come around and say, 'What did you see today, ha-ha-ha.' I have a fairly thick skin, but I didn't want to be known around town as the screwball."

Is he convinced it was a spaceship?

"I'm still wondering what the hell happened," he said. "I have no idea. I haven't made a career out of trying to find out, but here and there my ears have perked up. I really don't know, other than I've heard astronomers talk about it and I heard one say it's totally preposterous to suggest we're the only life, with the vastness of the universe."

Four months ago in Orange County, some people founded a chapter of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), a national group headquartered in Seguin, Tex. Local director Deborah Truncale of Laguna Beach says her group numbers about 60 and, like the national organization, doesn't take a position on the existence of UFOs. Rather, its goal is to push the government to release whatever information it has on the subject.

I asked if the average person pooch-pooches the UFO phenomenon.

"I would have thought so myself," Truncale said, "but the more places I travel and the more people I talk with, I'm surprised at the number of people who believe in the existence of UFOs and life in other galaxies and worlds. And the kind of ridicule factor that used to be in the media has completely turned around, which I find interesting."

My old buddy has heard all the questions and jokes. Yes, he was working long days back then and could have been fatigued. No, he wasn't drinking that evening.

"I would just like to know if there was anything to it," he said this week. "It would be nice if somehow, someday, somewhere, we could find out scientifically if there's something to it. It would be nice to know, but I'm pretty much resigned to the fact that I'm never going to find out."

Dana Parsons' column appears Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. Readers may reach Parsons by writing to him at *The Times Orange County Edition*, 1375 Sunflower Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626, or calling (714) 966-7821.

## Artwork that's out of this world

*Vox Populi celebrates the 48th anniversary of word 'flying saucer'*

### Gallery review

"FLYING SAUCERS HAVE ARRIVED" through July 2 at Vox Populi Gallery, 705A E. Pike St. Wednesday through Saturday noon to 6 p.m.; Sunday noon to 5 p.m. 329-8388.

BY LESLIE HOLDCROFT  
Special to *The Seattle Times*

Some of them were bizarre. The chainsaw sculpture of a silver-suited alien, say.

Some of them were funny. The perfect 1950s family driving on the open road, with nothing between them and the sky but a great big sun and a flying saucer.

And some of them were just plain strange. The Amazon staring down an alien eye on a snake-like body; the giant, extraterrestrial-inspired male sex organ.

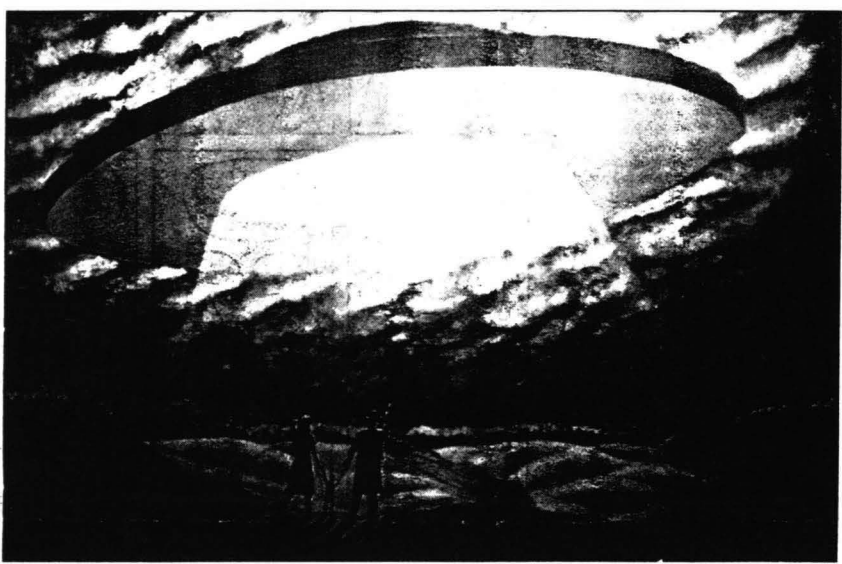
Grab your binoculars, kids, and head to the Vox Populi Gallery for the "Flying Saucers Have Arrived in Seattle" exhibit, a small collection of artwork inspired by UFOs.

### "Flying saucer" coined in '47

Why a UFO exhibit now? Because Vox Populi is commemorating the 48th anniversary of the term "flying saucer." Headline writers coined the term in 1947 after Idaho businessman Kenneth Arnold reported spotting nine disc-shaped, flying orbs darting around the summit of Mount Rainier.

With the help of the Unarians, an organization for those who say they've been abducted by aliens, the Capitol Hill gallery located a handful of artists with an intergalactic past. The work of one reported abductee appears in the show. Another man, who says he has seen a flying saucer, although not been aboard one, contributed several pieces to the collection.

The erratic exhibit proves one thing: A UFO sighting—whether real or imagined—makes a captivating subject. Whether through humor, vulgarity, kitschiness or solemnity, the artists here deal in severity. Sometimes the mood is atmospheric



"Seek Us Out, Bring Us Home," by David Kane.

and hopeful, sometimes violent or maudlin. The most common approach, thank Jove, is humor.

The standout in the small collection is David Kane's luminous painting "Seek Us Out, Bring Us Home." An enormous UFO hovers above a couple and a child, bathing them in a light that seems to pierce their gray world. The humans stand expectantly on alert feet, mesmerized. They want what this ship has to offer.

Michael Finster's fascinating painting "The Abduction of Ezekiel" traces the first sighting of a flying saucer to the Bible. The artist divides his panel into several sections, covering them with Bible passages and intricate action scenes. The first interplanetary spacecraft appeared in the Bible as "wheels inside of wheels." Trust God. Accept faith. Believe in the possibilities, the artist tells us.

Most of the artists, however, found the subject of flying saucers humorous. One after another uses

little-kid logic to frame the concept, and often the work seems inspired by sci-fi comic strips. Paul Friedrich enjoys himself with several cartoonish depictions. "Up, up it Goes" seems to be painted by a little kid. A Lucy van Pelt look-alike watches a silver spaceship about her size blast off. It's no more menacing than a comic strip.

Tim Silbaugh of Seattle employs pop-art to evoke his mood through paint. "Incident at Issaquah" shows a beaming 1950s family driving down the open road, followed by a flying saucer. Faces frozen in smiles, they've got the same synthetic hearts and minds of Andy Warhol's pop-art characters. A flying saucer hovering over a suburban street accomplishes the same vacuous end. Silbaugh's title for this one: "Where's Daddy?"

Kaylun Campbell has fun with the mystical nature of the topic in a piece resembling a game board, and Amos' drawings of the topic seem both

futuristic and playful. Yet overall, the exhibit offers only a few interesting pieces.

### Sculpture by 'abductee survivor'

By rights, Kent Steadman, who says he's an abductee survivor, should be the centerpiece of the exhibit. His small mixed-media sculpture can be located at a table to the right of the gallery's front door, a discreet and appropriate location. Named "Entity Sirius," the strange sculpture looks like a cross between the Little Mermaid and those horned fish that scale the bottom of the sea. Steadman covers his creation with multicolored fabrics pinned down with faux pearls and colored balls. A couple of iridescent, egg-shaped objects rest at the beast's tail, and plastic fangs extend from its mouth. Its intent is anyone's guess.

It seems safe to assume that the Unarian society might not appreciate every piece in the collection. But those with a sense of humor will.

## Close encounter or just a blimp? You be the judge

By Shana Hefner  
Gazette Staff Reporter

GASTONIA — Some people admiring the night sky in Greater Gaston Friday saw something they didn't expect to see — a strange-looking circular object with flashing lights.

People from Dallas to Belmont to Clover, S.C., reported sightings of the object. Calls flooded Charlotte Douglas International Airport, Gaston County Communications, the National

Weather Service and *The Gazette* newsroom.

"It was a circular thing. My wife saw it," said J.C. Wray of Gastonia. "It was flying at about the height of a helicopter, and it was about the size of our living room. The lights were going around it like they show it in the movies."

No need to panic.

According to officials at the airport, the subject of these encounters was actually from earth.

"It's a blimp. We've gotten a lot of calls," airport operations

officer Chris Mueller said. "It just came through the area around 7:30 p.m. starting with Lake Norman."

But Cindy King of Belmont and others who saw the object weren't convinced.

"It was not a blimp," Ms. King said. "We saw a UFO. The whole neighborhood did. I have never witnessed anything like this in my entire life."

"I wanted people to see what I was seeing. We went down the neighborhood knocking on doors," she said. "It was neon green. It was hovering."

CONVERSATIONS/by Jeannette Batz

# ALIEN STATUS

**Ever since** the *X-Files* episode where aliens kidnap Agent Scully — that mysterious shot of her bare belly on a stretcher — I've lost the ability to think cozy thoughts about my favorite Martian. So when I see that UFO researcher Marc Davenport and his wife, Leah Haley (who claims she was kidnapped by aliens), are lecturing at (of all places) Noah's Ark, I know I won't go. Partly because I expect nonsense, partly because I fear truth.

I work up just enough courage for a phone interview — and as we talk, I realize I'm less curious about aliens than about why I cringe from the thought of them. My answer comes in roundabout fashion, as Davenport describes what he believes are governmental conspiracies to hide evidence, suppress information, preserve power. "UFOs have flight capabilities a thousand times more efficient than anything we have," he observes. "They appear to be able to travel at multi-light speed, and they can make themselves invisible — just imagine the military implications of that, the weapons-delivery system you could have."

I get it: We're scared of the aliens but eager to get their toys, and even more eager to prevent anyone else from getting them. "We already know what happens when an advanced technological system comes in contact with one that is less advanced," Davenport observes ruefully. "Look what happened to Native American culture."

Next, he sketches a quick scenario: Spaceship lands on the White House lawn; CNN grabs cameras; no one goes to work the next day because they want to watch the aliens on CNN; no one invests in Lockheed or the oil companies, because they've just seen a portable source of unlimited power. Religions crumble, nation-states dissolve. "It would change our entire society overnight," he concludes. "That's why we need to manage contact, so we don't have our civilization falling apart at the seams."

Hell, I think, it's already falling apart. Maybe a little alien nation would bring us together, if only for a great big rally-round-the-globe war. "The existence of most of us is pointless," Davenport says, unwittingly echoing my angst. "Pretend you're one of these aliens up there looking down at us. First thing you do is monitor our TV broadcasts: reruns of *Mr. Ed* and *Green Acres*, MTV and Monday-night football, 22 guys slogging back and forth in mud and snow over a pig's bladder, beating each other's brains out while 20,000 people drink warm beer."

"Our entire history has been one bloody war after another," he continues, building to a pitch. "Wars punctuated by murders and rapes, and we've polluted our planet to the point where we almost can't survive, and we continue to do so. *We don't think about anything we do.*" Davenport figures any alien worth his, her or its salt would conclude that there is no intelligent life here, no reason to have official relations with us. "Now, what they are doing with us — have you seen *Wild Kingdom*, where people come in helicopters, shoot the bear with a hypodermic, then weigh him and take tissue samples, and the bear wakes up with no memory except seeing the helicopter leave. We say we're doing it for the bear's own good — well, some of the aliens have said that, too. But they've lied to us on other occasions."

If there's anything I hate, it's an alien who lies. But Davenport's slippery "they" is beginning to bother me — does he believe all of "them" come from the same place and operate the same way? "Oh, no," he says immediately. "If my hypothesis is correct, they are literally able to warp space-time and change its structure artificially, the way a black hole does naturally. So they could be coming here from another planet, star system or galaxy, or from parallel dimensions of our own future and past."

If time is a Slinky, looped in multiple dimensions, you could have several Slinkies alongside each other, and leap from one to the other. We're the ones who created past, present and future, because living in all those dimensions at once doesn't make sense to our linear pea brains. (If you're wondering how a pea could be linear, stop; you're nearing a wormhole.)

By now, my unconscious fears have come into the greenish-white light and melted a little. But rational fear remains: Do the aliens mean us harm? "Through history, there's been evidence of classic encounters with spaceships and aliens," Davenport remarks. "The Bible's full of them. Yet there's no evidence that they have tried to exterminate us, or use us for food." Pickled ovaries? Roast hamstring? As I shudder, he reminds me, "If they wanted to, they could; it would be child's play." He's pretty sanguine about the odds, but he does believe "they've been interacting with us and influencing our development." Visions, divine messages, calls to holy war — all could be coming from aliens. "I believe in a creator, but I also believe there are people going around in UFOs saying they're God," he adds. "Human beings have a tendency to worship anything that's a lot more advanced than they are."

Worship it, fear it and avoid it whenever possible.



Marc Davenport

## Letters

To the editor:

A recent flurry of UFO sightings have been investigated and the results are in.

A large humming top-shaped object over Lincolnton on March 13 at 6:30 p.m. remains unexplained.

A huge blimp-shaped object reported from dozens of eyewitnesses over Greensboro, Lexington, Lake Norman, Boger City, High Shoals, Dallas, Denver, Belmont, Gastonia, Lowell, Long Shoals and Iron Station was reported on March 17. These reports were a combination of sightings of the Family Channel and the Blockbuster blimps.

The report of two observers of four or five strange, dwarf-like creatures in Sully County on May 10 remains unexplained.

June 24 will be the 48th anniversary of UFOs in modern times, but the real showdown excitement in the nation will come in July, when scientific, United States Air Force, MUFON and General Accounting Office (GAO) reports on the Roswell, New Mexico UFO crash will be released and reported on at this time.

Sincerely,  
George D. Fawcett  
602 Battleground Road



## Deborah Truncale

Newport Beach's Dr. Deborah Truncale holds doctorates in psychology and theology, is an ordained minister, founded the Human Horizons Institute for the Study of Human Potential and is the director of the new Orange County chapter of the Mutual UFO Network. An odd mix of credentials, or is it?

**What form has your role taken as the State Sections Director of the newly formed Orange County chapter of the 5,000-member-strong MUFON International?**

For the past 20 years I've been involved in studying anomalous phenomenon. Like unusual aerial phenomenon sightings and experiences both children and adults have reported with what seem to be unusual beings. I have 54 cases of children and 42 adults that have had unexplainable encounters. Usually adults will come to me because they think they're crazy. If I suspect that they are in need of psychiatric help, I refer them to psychiatrists. So far, I've had to do that twice. It's sad in a way, but it's good to know they're getting help.

**Have there been any recent sightings along the Orange Coast?**

Yes. A few months ago a young man on Balboa Island called up and said he had made a video of swirling lights. He was sure they were extra-terrestrials. After investigation, including sending the video out to our optics expert, who has a Ph.D. in optical engineering, we determined that they were concentric circles created from a launch that evening at Vandenberg Air Force Base north of Santa Barbara. It was really tough on the young man when I told him the sighting was explainable. He wanted it to be something else, something special. He hasn't called me since.

**Any unusual phenomenon that haven't been explained yet?**

Currently, we have reports coming in of green neon orbs. People from all up and down the coast, San Juan Capistrano, Laguna, Newport Beach, Mission Viejo. My inclination is that they are some sort of experimental military design, but we haven't been able to fully explain them yet.

**Have there been any local cases that you aren't as skeptical about?**

There was a very famous case in the mid-sixties of a man who saw a UFO while driving near what is now Santa Ana's Dyer Road. He took pictures of it and they ran in the *Register*, I believe. Shortly thereafter he was approached at his home by two men who said the Air Force needed the pictures. When he asked for the photos back, he was told that no one from the Air Force had come to his home. Then recently, he got a telephone call from a woman who asked if he had checked his mail lately. When he did, the photos were there. We're currently investigating that incident.

**You believe spirituality has to be grounded in reality and that new physics is a way to scientifically do that. What is new physics?**

Quantum physics or quantum mechanics, which explain that in one paradoxical moment you can have something that appears to be a particle from one point of view and a wave from another. This can begin to explain our world and the seemingly unexplainable things that occur in ways that are not so odd. It can give us an understanding of the vastly different ways human spirituality can manifest itself.

**Such as...**

The psychic realm. If you look at different physicists like Adrian Dobbs, David Bohm, they talk about the application of theory. For instance, we have never been able to see a photon, yet we have all these theories about them and we've been able to prove how they work on the optic nerve of the eye so people can see. Well, Adrian Dobbs believed that there must be something very similar in the psychic realm, like a "psiton" particle that somehow impinges upon the neurons of the brain and carries with it information about the potential of any given moment at any given time. Of course, the next moment that whole frame may change, which would explain why psychics are not always accurate. But if we have physics that explain how these psychic experiences work, then we begin to see them as not so far out. It's something that would

explain even more of the wonderment that makes us human.

**Do you believe that alien life forms are visiting Earth?**

Though I'm the director of MUFON of OC I can't say definitively that extra terrestrials are visiting our planet. I would love to, but I can't. But again, if we look at theoretical physics we have possible explanations for experiences with beings that are inter-dimensional, meaning that our three dimensional view of the world might not apply all the time. Are those related to some of the reports of crashed saucers or crafts, or burn rings on the ground where grass won't grow for years, or some of the scoop marks on people, or the cattle mutilations. These things are all very

much part of our three dimensional world but remain unexplained.

**You've put together a seemingly unrelated variety of degrees and interests. Do they have a common purpose?**

In a way, they do seem very separate and wide spread. But I want to help people realize their full potential by understanding and benefiting from experiences that have been frightful because they have been viewed three-dimensionally, and therefore not understood. The key to our further growth is finding the balance between new physics and our human potential. That to me is what ministry is about and what science is about for the next century.

-interviewed by Terence Loose





Chieftain/Rick Swart

Diane Baquet of Imnaha stands at the edge of Crazyman's Point high above her house along the lower Imnaha River Tuesday, the day after she and her son saw what they say may have been a UFO. Baquet

says the craft appeared to have landed near where she is standing. Baquet's home, located near the confluence of the Imnaha and Horse Creek, is visible in the center of the photograph.

## Light show baffles Imnaha residents who think they may have seen UFO

By Rick Swart  
and Barbara Kriley  
of the Chieftain

Imnaha residents this week witnessed what they believe may have been an alien space craft hovering above their home near the confluence of Horse Creek and the Imnaha River.

Diane Baquet, 50, and her son, Bryan, 23, say that on Monday night they observed an incredible light show for about an hour.

The Baquets were reluctant to talk about the experience and did so only at the prompting of Mrs. Baquet's husband, Russ, and employer, Imnaha area rancher Don Hubbard, after Hubbard overheard the family's account of the event Tuesday morning.

"Bryan told me not to tell anybody because nobody would believe us," Mrs. Baquet explained after we caught up with her along the road to Dug Bar. "But I'm getting old, and I don't care if anybody believes me. I know what I saw."

At first what they saw looked like a meteor. Only the streaking light stopped over the middle of the river above their place, where it hovered for nearly an hour.

Mrs. Baquet described the image as a round circle of white light with a column of light rising straight up from the center and two other columns of light extending out of the bottom in a triangular pattern. In addition, she said, the white ball was emitting bars of white toward the ground and around the walls of the canyon and red, blue, and white light from what appeared to be some sort of beacon.

'... I don't care if anybody believes me. I know what I saw.'

— Diane Baquet  
Imnaha

Bryan Baquet said that from a distance the image looked like a saucer but through binoculars it looked "more round above the lights." His mother described the magnified appearance of the image "like a brain ... with veins running over the top of it."

"With the reflection from the lights we couldn't see the bottom but could see a round dome, just like an outline, above the lights," Bryan Baquet said.

Both Baquets said the image moved from point to point at lightning speed, including at right angles. They also said there was no motor noise associated with the lights.

"It would come forward, then back off real fast," she described.

According to separate accounts from both witnesses, the image darted over a knob on the west side of the Imnaha River referred to locally as "Crazyman's Point," where it seemed to hover for another five minutes or so before all signs of light disappeared.

At 11 p.m., the image was gone and Bryan decided to leave for his house, located about three miles down river at the Corral Creek Ranch. Mrs. Baquet said

she worried that what they had just witnessed may have been an alien spacecraft and that it might follow Bryan's headlights.

Bryan reported that as he was leaving his mother said, "If they come back and chase you, shut off your lights and crawl under the pickup."

"It's an eerie feeling," she later described the incident, "cause it's like something you have no control over ... you know what you see but your mind doesn't want to accept it."

At one point, Mrs. Baquet said, she considered going back into the house and turning off the kerosene lamps but decided that if the object was an alien craft its occupants were already aware of her family's presence.

She estimated the object was about the size of a helicopter, and in fact a helicopter crew under contract with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has been working in the area this week, conducting surveys of salmon spawning areas, or redds, in the Imnaha River.

Vic Coggins, ODFW area biologist, said his crew had gone out in the chopper on Monday morning but had not flown after dark on Monday.

If the object witnessed by the Baquets was indeed some type of aircraft it is unlikely it would have been detected by any of the radar systems which cover the region, according to Andy Plamondon, an air traffic controller at Felts Field in Spokane, Wash.

He said that most control towers have a radar umbrella of less than 40 miles, so the only place where such an event might show up is on the radar screens of aircraft who were flying in the area at that time.

The Imnaha area, like much of the Pacific Northwest, has had its share of alleged encounters with unidentified flying objects (UFOs) over the years and is not all that unusual, according to various sources interviewed.

"It's a common experience at lookouts, and I would not be surprised that a couple living out in the sticks would have that experience," said Tom Bates, a reporter for The Oregonian who has written about UFOs. "It doesn't surprise me ... it doesn't surprise me a bit."

Bates once worked for the Forest Service at one of its lookout towers and logged his own eyewitness account of a UFO sighting on his official logbook. Bates, as a reporter for The Oregonian, subsequently attended a convention of former lookout station guards and was amazed by the "number of people who testified that they had seen a number of spectacular observations around the Northwest." It was striking, he said, to hear these stories in great detail years after the fact, in some cases, from more than one source.

GLOBE, Boston, MA - Feb. 19, 1995 CR: B. Greenwood

## Believers in alien visits find ally in psychiatrist

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHNSTON, R.I. - Rhode Islanders who believe they have had contact with beings from outer space have an ally in the Ivy League.

Thousands of Americans have recounted experiences with beings from outer space, mostly with a race called the "Grays," said a Harvard University psychiatrist at a gathering of UFO buffs.

But out of fear of "ridicule, harassment and scorn," most people never talk about their experiences, said John Mack.

Mack, who authored a book on human contact with aliens, spoke to an audience of about 90 people at the Pocasset Lodge Friday night. He told them he uses hypnosis to help people remember their experiences.

In "Abductions," Mack details several cases where people have been abducted by aliens and taken aboard a spacecraft for experiments. They usually recount lying on a table, paralyzed and surrounded by several aliens, he said.

Mack said "nobody really knows" what the extraterrestrials want.

Some people at the gathering, which was sponsored by the Rhode Island chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, recounted their own experiences with aliens.

The aliens, according to Mack, are 3½ to 5 feet tall with large, elongated eyes without pupils and having leathery skin with a gray hue.

"These are the most widely reported type of aliens," he said, referring to them as "Grays."

David Rubien, director of local UFO network, said there have been numerous reports of other types of aliens.

Throughout history, people have reported contact with "Blondes," a race of beings that are human in appearance, light hair and eyes and "angelic looking," Rubien said.

Just about every culture on Earth has reported contact with Grays or Blondes, said Mack, who has appeared on television talk shows, including Larry King's Oprah Winfrey's.

Mack said the fascination - and skepticism - with which people in Western cultures approach the topic of aliens isn't unique.

"When the Dutch colonized parts of Africa, the tribal peoples thought they were beings from the sky that were part of their tribal lore," he said.

POST, New York, NY

March 9, 1995

### 'Quest' Fest

Turner Original Productions has green-lighted a two hour documentary on UFOs. Dubbed "UFOs: The Quest," the production will air on TBS in 1997. Larry King, who hosted TNT's recent UFO special, will not be involved.

— J.A.

# Close Encounters Of The Local Kind

By JULIE COLLINS  
News-Record Staff Writer

Some people say they have seen them; others say they have not. The U.S. government may know about them; then again, it may not.

Shirley Phillips of Shenandoah County has seen them. In September 1994, Phillips saw something in the sky "that shouldn't be there." She was driving home on Va. 721, west of Mount Jackson, when she saw what she thought were three weather balloons or satellites hovering about 50 feet above a set of power lines.

Phillips says she ruled out weather balloons after she noticed each object had several sets of windows and two large antennae. A metallic ring encircled each object. After several minutes, Phillips dismissed the incident, attributed it to fatigue and drove home.

When she saw the objects again at her home two miles east of Basye, at 9:45 p.m. on Nov. 2, 1994, she called the Shenandoah County Sheriff's Department. She wanted witnesses.

Deputy Steve Bowers arrived at Phillips' home at 9:51 p.m., according to his police report. He and Phillips watched, open-mouthed, as the objects, five in all, signaled each other with red, blue and green flashes of light.

"He (Bowers) said, 'I don't know what they are, but they don't belong there,'" Phillips says.

The objects hovered near her home for several hours Phillips says.

The sheriff's department called Pete Davenport at the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle to help identify the objects. Davenport later called Phillips and asked her to describe her second encounter.

Davenport, who says he saw his

first UFO in St. Louis in the mid-1950s, told Phillips she had seen UFOs — objects that might be manmade or something out of this world. Phillips doesn't know what she saw, but she's keeping an open mind.

"Who knows — in this day and age. Before I'd seen what I saw, I thought people (who said they saw UFOs) were crazy," Phillips says.

The Shenandoah Valley is no stranger to close encounters of the unexplained kind. At least 25 UFO sightings in the Valley between November 1964 and January 1965 were recorded in Project Blue Book, a compilation of UFO sightings investigated by the Air Force. The program was discontinued in '69.

With Blue Book closed, ufologists — people who track UFOs — founded Mutual UFO Network in Seguin, Texas (MUFONT), the largest UFO civilian research organization in the world. It boasts

## Who You Gonna Call?

To get information about sightings — or to report one — call the following numbers:

- The National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle — Pete Davenport, (206) 722-3000.
- The Center for UFO Studies in Chicago — (312) 271-3611.

- Mutual UFO Network in Seguin, Texas — Walter Andrus, international director, (210) 379-9216; Mark Blashak, MUFONT director in Virginia, (804) 784-3442; Don Lovett, MUFONT assistant director in Virginia, (804) 550-2846.

5,400 members. Mark Blashak of Manakin serves as MUFONT state director for Virginia. Don Lovett of Mechanicsville serves as MUFONT assistant director for Virginia.

The organization's goal is to "resolve the phenomenon of UFOs," says Walter Andrus, MUFONT international director.

"We definitely have UFOs. There's no question about that, and they're not from this planet," Andrus says.

Lovett agrees, although he hasn't seen a UFO. Lovett and Blashak investigate UFO sightings in the commonwealth, a process that can take several months per case, Lovett says.

"We investigate (everything from) extremely plausible sightings to reports that were just (sightings of) airplanes. Of course you have to expect that. That's the nature of the beast," he says.

Despite the government's reluctance to talk about UFOs — "their silence in the face of overwhelming evidence means they're alarmed" — the number of people who say they've seen UFOs is growing, Davenport says.

The center receives one to three dozen calls every day "from rank-and-file Americans," many of whom refuse to give their names. They describe seeing balls of fire, lights, triangles, diamonds and cigar-shaped objects zip across the sky. Callers have said the UFOs sounded like "Niagara Falls only 10 times more loud," or are quiet, unobtrusive, he says.

"I hope it doesn't get any busier," Davenport says.

A sample of UFO sightings in Virginia in 1994, according to records from the Seattle UFO Center:

- Oct. 25, 1994 — Annandale man sees flickering, oval object in night sky.
- Nov. 2, 1994 — Basye woman sees a disc with two antennae and windows.
- Nov. 2, 1994 — Edinburg woman sees object with red and blue flashing lights, similar to what Phillips saw in September and November '94.

fast. It took off at a perfectly square angle," he said.

Later, people in the Staunton area reported seeing a "little green man" wandering near the landing sight. An armed posse set out to capture the extraterrestrial, according to "Don't Look Up!: The Real Story Behind the Virginia UFO Sightings," written in 1985 by Gordon and Paul Dellinger.

The alien turned out to be Donald Cash, a 36-year-old Valley man who donned blue overalls and a leather cap to play a joke on a friend.

Burns' alleged encounter with a spaceship intrigued the late Ernest Gehman, a professor at Eastern Mennonite College and Seminary (now Eastern Mennonite University). Gehman was head of a now defunct UFO investigators group at the college.

Gehman discovered that in the field where the UFO was said to have landed, radioactivity registered at over 60,000 counts per minute, a high and unusual reading, he wrote. Two Air Force sergeants also investigated.

During their visit to the field, the sergeants kept adjusting their instruments so they wouldn't get a high reading, Gehman wrote, explaining that Air Force officials were part of a cover-up.

About 85 percent of all UFO sightings in Virginia and beyond have a terra firma explanation, says Danny Gordon, news director at radio station WYVE in Wytheville. Gordon tracked and researched UFOs in the late '80s.

Most UFOs are airplanes, weather balloons, blimps, stars, planets or products of overactive imaginations, he says. It's the sightings that have no explanation that leave ufologists scratching their heads.

A skeptic by nature, Gordon spotted his first UFO hovering

lies otherwise. Kline has been a member of the Daisy Rowe Club in Nelson County for the past year. Members meet once a month at various sites in Nelson County to play tapes of UFOlike sounds — beats, vibrations — and guide spaceships to Earth. So far, they've had no luck.

Just in case, they practice what they would say to an alien. "What are you going to do if an ET (extraterrestrial) walks into your house? 'Hi, you want a beer?'" Kline says. You should remain calm, he says. Don't try to pick an alien's brain (or brains). First encounters of the third kind should be friendly, non-committal, Kline says.

The group also discusses alien abductions, focusing on what to look for if you suspect you've been the object of alien studies but can't remember the incident. Look for unusual scars and unaccounted for gaps of time, he says.

There are no "kooks, flakes or trekkies" in Daisy Rowe, only college-educated professionals who "know there is something out there," he says.

Ed Pearson is organizer of Celestial Contacts of Charlottesville, a group that meets every month to discuss UFOs and other phenomena. He says it's important for people to feel comfortable believing in UFOs. More than 70 people attended the first Celestial Contacts meeting in January. The next meeting drew as many people.

"In my mind, it was a one-shot affair, but attendees remained interested," Pearson says. He doesn't know if extraterrestrials exist, but he's met scores of people who believe they do.

"I don't know if this (UFO question) has to be an either/or subject. We have to come out from under our blankets and acknowledge what our senses tell us," he says.

Scientists are monitoring the

natural objects, according to the Science and Technology Department of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Project Sentinel at Harvard University's Oak Ridge Observatory in Massachusetts initially monitored 128,000 channels simultaneously. The project was updated in 1985 thanks to a donation from filmmaker Steven Spielberg, director of "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." Sentinel now can receive 8.4 million channels. In two months, Sentinel will be able to access 1.25 billion radio channels, say officials at the observatory.

In October 1992, NASA began a 10-year search for extraterrestrial signals using radio telescopes in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, and Barstow, Calif. In 1993, Congress halted funding for the project because it was too expensive, say NASA officials in Washington, D.C. The project now is run on a smaller scale by private research institutions.

Jon Staib, professor of physics and astronomy at James Madison University, says a little education would go a long way toward curbing UFO sightings. For instance, Venus, shrouded in atmosphere during the winter, can look like it's changing colors during early morning or evening hours.

## UFOs could be real, say half of those polled

■ Many say they think the government may be covering up evidence about extraterrestrials.

By Thomas Hargrove  
and Guido H. Stempel III  
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Half of America's adults believe flying saucers could be real and that the federal government is covering up what it knows about extraterrestrial beings.

And, no, they are not kidding. Neither is the General Accounting Office, which, at the request of a member of Congress, is scheduled this month to release a report on whether the Air Force has withheld documents about the internationally famous allegation that a UFO crashed in Roswell, N.M., in 1947.

A national survey of 1,006 adults conducted by Scripps Howard News Service and Ohio University found that the growing mistrust in government and Hollywood's routine television and film portrayals of space aliens have combined in a remarkable way. Many Americans say it is possible Uncle Sam does not want the world to know that Martians, Vulcans or "E.T." may really exist.

"This really is nothing new," said UFO enthusiast Larry W. Bryant, a retired Pentagon spokesman in the Army's Office of Public Affairs.

He said the Gallup Poll for more than 20 years has consistently

found that about half of Americans say they believe unidentified flying objects are "something real."

"Hollywood's popularizing of mysteries has certainly played a role in raising consciousness about what the government knows about the UFO reality," Bryant said.

The notion that the federal government has clandestine knowledge about alien beings was a central theme in some of the most commercially successful films of all time, including *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*; *E.T.* — *the Extra-Terrestrial*; and *Starman*.

It is also a common theme on the popular television series *The X-Files*.

Participants in the Scripps

Howard-Ohio University survey were told, "Some Americans feel that flying saucers are real and that the federal government is hiding the truth about them from us. Do you think this is very likely, somewhat likely or unlikely?"

Only 43 percent said they believe this is unlikely. Nineteen percent said they believe a UFO cover-up is very likely. 31 percent said somewhat likely and 7 percent were uncertain.

The poll found belief in such a government conspiracy varies considerably according to age. A slight majority of people who grew up in the television era say they believe in it, while an overwhelming majority of their parents' generation does not.

The survey has a margin of error of 4 percent.



# Writer shares strange experiences

I have searched the skies for years, since I saw *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, but I have seen only one unidentified flying object. Only one in more than 10 years of searching the skies.

Here's what happened.

In July 1993, friends and I were camped in a serene valley on the Rampart Range Road, 12 miles off the main road that runs between Sedalia and Deckers, Colo. It was after midnight and a few of us were hanging around the campfire, savoring the last bites of the good food, swapping stories and enjoying one another's company.

The night was cloudless and the stars were brilliant. The Milky Way shown clearly.

Bonnie, a woman from Boulder, saw it first.

"Hey, someone is coming down through the trees with a bright flashlight," she said.

I recall all of us were concerned; wondered who could be out walking at this time of night. We concluded that it was probably the U.S. Forest Service; someone had spotted our campfire from Devil's Head fire-watch tower, five miles away, and dispatched a forest ranger to investigate.

"Hello," Bonnie called out.

There was no response.

"Hellooooooh," she shouted again. Still nothing. The light was moving slowly through the trees and coming

toward us.

As the group's concern turned to uneasiness, the light did the strangest thing. It rose out of the trees into the sky and stopped, suspended like a high-fly ball. No one in the group said a word. We were transfixed as this light began to put on a show.

From the side closest to the ground, it projected two beams of light—silvery blue lights. As we watched, the object shifted shapes. One time it appeared to be round, then oval, then oblong.

"What is that?" someone said.

No one answered.

Suddenly, the light was gone. Gone as if someone had turned off a light switch.

Poof.

"That was no ranger's flashlight," I said. "Flashlight beams don't rise out of the trees, stop, shoot light, change shape and then disappear."

Neither do stars, meteors or falling space garbage. The truth is, to this day we don't know what it was. We never will.

We saw an unidentified object of some kind that had the capability to rise into the sky, shift its shape, throw silvery-blue light from its underside and then zip out of our experience at warp speed.

I have told the story a few times in two years, at parties and once in a column. But I had never met someone who had "experience" with

## On the Record

By Barry J. Tobin

sightings until I met Chris O'Brien, UFOlogist, researcher and author, and told the story to him.

"I have a lot of reports from that area," he told me.

Before I gave him all the details of the experience, he gave those details to me.

"Was the light blue? Did it change shapes?"

I nodded my head 'yes,' as the goose flesh crept up my arms and the hairs rose on the back of my neck.

I thought I would be happy about seeing a UFO. Seeing one makes for great conversations at parties and provides grist for newspaper columns. Instead, I feel frustrated because there is no explanation for what I saw. O'Brien could do little to ease the frustration, either. Despite the years of study and investigation, he could only confirm friends and I had seen an unidentified object that rose in the sky and disappeared.

"It could have been something the Air Force Academy was testing—something secret," he offered. "Or, it could have been something else."

O'Brien investigates unusual animal deaths, too. The press and other media call them, "mutilations," but in some cases, the incisions are so

precise that "mutilation" seems inappropriate to describe the procedure.

O'Brien investigated another unusual animal death (UAD) last Friday—a horse.

Carrying cameras, notebooks and other gear to record what we saw, O'Brien and I hopped a barbed-wire fence to get to the site.

The horse lay on its right side in a pasture, approximately 150 yards off a rural road. The carcass was bloated, but there was no stench of death and decay. When I asked O'Brien if that was "unusual," he nodded his head to concur.

He began to count aloud and record the evidence that we saw.

"One, two, three...seven, eight, nine spots of bird droppings near the carcass. Hide is missing from the muzzle, jaw and part of the neck. There is one set of coyote tracks around the carcass, as if the predator were scared away. Some teeth are missing, and the tongue has been partly gnawed off. There is evidence of gnawing around the anal opening."

Strange, he said, later on the drive back to Alamosa.

"That horse was 8-10 years old. It could have been predator action, but then predators don't eat the [animal's]

hide. The hide was gone. There was no hair on the ground and those cuts were pretty clean."

O'Brien has no agenda, he said. He is not out to prove there are flying saucers, extra-terrestrials or clandestine government operators performing these bizarre procedures on our animals. Nobody knows who or what is responsible, he said, adding that objectivity has to be at the fore.

Valley Publishing's Summer Grande '95 presents a story on UFO research. In addition to comments from O'Brien, Linda Moulton Howe, a television producer, long-time UAD researcher and author, offer their ideas.

Howe, operating under a grant from the Bigelow Foundation, wants to be informed of UAD incidents. She requested I print her address and telephone FAX number for readers.

Linda Moulton Howe  
P.O. Box 538  
Hunting Don Valley, PA  
19006

FAX: 1-215-491-9842

There will be more stories about UFO and UAD phenomena forthcoming in Valley newspapers.

Of course, objectivity will be at the fore.

## UFO study here

COUNTY LEADER, Gooding, ID - May 31, 1995

# Strange lights will be investigated

By Mary Ann Hagen  
Gooding County Leader

GOODING - Lights brighter than bright in a place where they shouldn't be will be investigated again this summer.

Former Jerome resident Ike Bishop will return to the area June 9-10 and wants to talk to anyone who has seen either the strange light or other sightings of any unidentified flying object.

The first sighting he investigated was reported in February 1994 when a Camas Prairie resident reported a red and blue strobing light so bright it turned off the photo cell in his yard light.

A school bus driver and his passengers reported the same light while returning from Bliss. Law enforcement officers said they saw the light, which was followed by a large boom.

Bishop says he is a volunteer with the Mutual UFO Network, Inc., composed of people seriously interested in studying and researching the flying phenomenon.

The network is based in Texas and has been in operation since 1969. It firmly believes a concentrated scientific study will provide answers to the UFO enigma, he said.

In the case of the Camas

Prairie lights, he said more than 30 people were interviewed and had the same story - an intense light, bright enough to read a newspaper at night, followed by a loud report comparable to a sonic boom. It happened around 10:15 p.m. Feb. 10, 1994 above Fairfield.

The Air Force reported refueling operations in the Twin Falls-Jerome area but no plane capable of causing a sonic boom at the low altitude of the light.

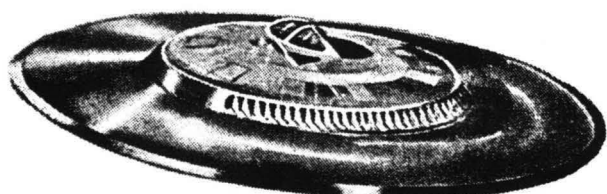
He said reports indicated the light and sound travelled from east to west at approximately 50 miles in eight seconds. The area

was under a heavy cloud cover with light snow falling. If you have information, Bishop asks you call him at 345-6174.

Since then Bishop has heard stories about strange bright lights in the Bennett Hills. He says he is anxious to investigate these, too.

TIMES, New York, NY - May 7, 1995 CR: L. Bryant

## Should Harvard Beam Him Up?



Suppose somebody writes a book called "Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens," consisting mainly of the case histories of 13 people who say they have been abducted by diminutive, large-eyed, gray-colored space creatures and forced to have sex with them. And the book becomes a national best seller and the author a star on the talk-show circuit.

Then suppose the author is a tenured professor at Harvard Medical School.

If you're Harvard, what do you do? That's the conundrum that for the past year has bedeviled Daniel Tosteson, dean of the Harvard Medical School.

The best-seller by Professor John E. Mack, a 65-year-old psychiatrist at the Harvard Medical School's Cambridge Hospital, may be easy to dismiss as out

of touch with reality. But the question of the rights and responsibilities of a university to protect its reputation when that may conflict with academic freedom could hardly be presented more starkly.

Proceeding cautiously last year, Dean Tosteson appointed a committee of Dr. Mack's peers to evaluate his research methods. Now, after more than 30 closed-door hearings over the past 12 months, the committee is about to deliver a report said to be sharply critical of Dr. Mack.

After that, the matter will have to be resolved between Dean Tosteson, Dr. Mack's lawyer and perhaps some diminutive, large-eyed, gray beings who claim tenure. WILLIAM H. HONAN

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - May 17, 1995

## UFO

By Carole Baker

While driving east on I-10 Thursday, May 4, at seven p.m., a local man became intrigued by what he saw in the northeastern sky. He was driving without headlights on, since the sky was still light.

Ahead of him and to his left as he approached the Avalon exit on the Interstate, he saw a "giant chevron shape of lights, like Christmas tree lights in a row stretched out in the sky." The lights were white and along what would have been the base line of the triangle, there was a cluster of four or five lights of the same size "like the tail on a kite." As he watched, these lights would come on "like a switch" for about 15 seconds and then go off for about 30 seconds. The whole pattern was about 20 degrees above the horizon. The points at the bottom of the chevron were described as "as far apart as the length of a school bus" at arm's length, which would indicate that whatever these lights were attached to was of a fairly large size. While no object was plainly visible, the witness felt that "those lights must have been attached to something." The witness estimates that the object (light pattern) was approximately a mile, or mile and a half away from him when

he last saw it as he turned off on the Avalon exit. A long-term resident of this area, he told me that he had "seen all there was to see in our skies — planes, weather balloons, experimental aircraft from Eglin and barium patterns." He knew that this was something "out of the ordinary that could not be explained." He said that he was not involved with UFOs, but knew that he had seen something that should be reported and assured me that he would again call the hotline should he experience a sighting in the future.

"I just wanted it to go on record and be reported," he said. He also commented that he could not understand why other motorists driving east on I-10 then had failed to call it in. "Other drivers must have seen it," he told me. "It was so big and bright."

The sighting is under investigation by the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON group, and we would ask that if anyone else witnessed this chevron pattern in the sky, or if you are a witness to any unusual lights or objects in the sky, please come forward and call the MUFON hotline at 436-3261. Keep Looking Up!



BOREHAM WOOD TIMES, Herts., England - May 25, 1995

Barnet's very own ufologist takes an objective view on matters extraterrestrial

# Looking for the answers

**IF you were a super-intelligent extra-terrestrial being, would you strain the very fabric of time and space just so you could hover lamely over Barnet?**

**■ COLIN O'TOOLE asks ufologist Michael Lewis whether we should take other people's close encounters seriously.**

**M**ICHAEL Lewis is married with two grown-up children.

He has a nice house and a steady job working for the Church of England. But one thing saves him from being the embodiment of suburban normality. He happens to believe that flying saucers could quite possibly visit the earth from far-flung galaxies.

Sceptical? So was he, until adolescent curiosity led him into a serious investigation of UFOs which has lasted for more than 30 years.

Now from his home in Strafford Road, Barnet, he investigates sightings of unidentified flying objects from all over Britain as a co-ordinator for the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA).

His calling is one which he says is often misunderstood. "We are not a debunking organisation. That means that while we do try to see if there is an explanation for UFOs, we do not try to explain things away."

"For some people UFOs become like a religion, so on the other hand we try and keep our feet on the ground. I am myself an enthusiastic believer in UFOs but we try to look at things objectively."

This sense of objectivity is obvious in Mr Lewis's account of his own closest encounter which happened while walking to his office in Westminster where he works as a financial comptroller in the property department of the Church of England.

"Looking up Whitehall, I saw coming towards me a classic flying saucer. It was illuminated with a dome, portholes, the lot. I just stood there and I thought 'this can't be'. It went behind the buildings at Bridge Street and swung around Parliament Square towards Westminster Bridge. From where I was standing you would say it was definitely a UFO. But once you saw it close up you could tell it was a hot-air balloon. We have had lots of sightings like that."

As for extraterrestrial visitors to Barnet, Michael says he has not come across a genuine sighting since 1977. He says recent reports of lights in the sky over Totteridge can be put down to laser shows from pop concerts at Wembley Stadium. Genuine

sightings, he says, tend to come in clusters known as 'flaps'.

"They generally occur at ten year intervals: 1947, 1957, 1967 and 1977 were all big years, although 1987 was not so remarkable. In 1977, Barnet was one of the areas where there was a high level of activity. I had absolutely nothing and then suddenly there were reports coming in from Barnet, Arkley and all over. One lady in Hadley saw a classic flying saucer from her garden, which is really quite rare. Another chap saw a moving green luminescent ball."

According to Mr Lewis, most close encounters don't involve Mekon-like creatures clambering out of flying saucers.

"Usually people see something that doesn't really have a firm shape but is performing an unusual motion. Sometimes it is like falling leaves, or other times they remain stationary and then suddenly move off at speed. Time and time again people say 'I never believed in UFOs until I saw...'"

What impresses you most about Michael Lewis is his sense of fair-minded integrity. While not discounting the possibility of extraterrestrial visitors, he is also alive to other explanations for the sightings.

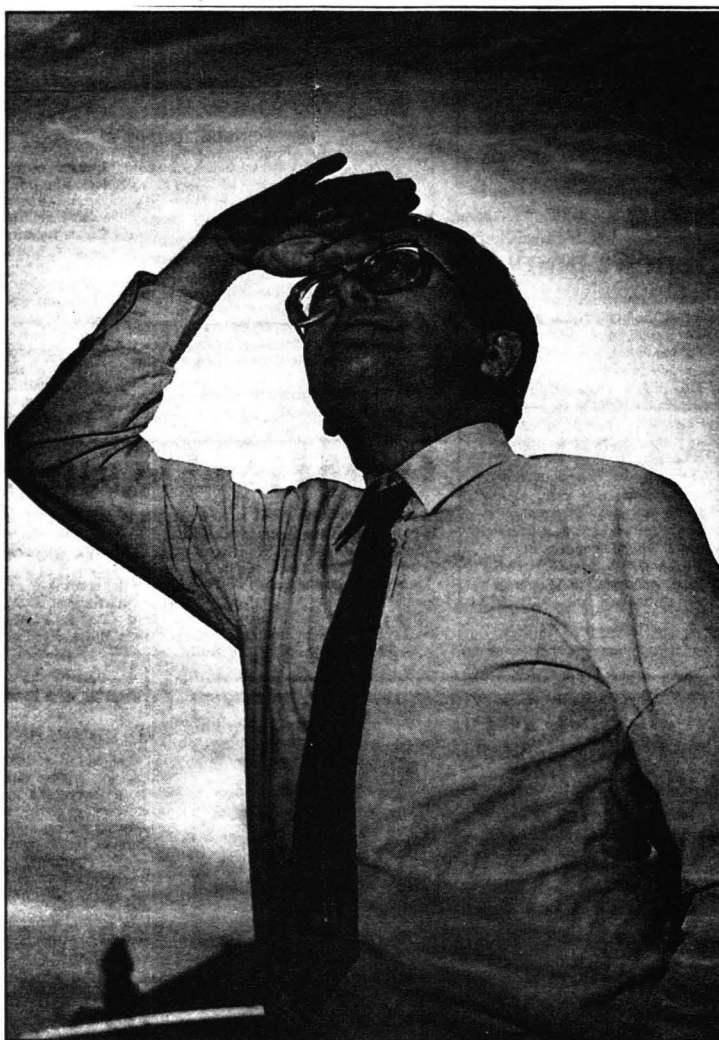
"I have always taken psychic research seriously and there is definitely a link between it and UFOs," he says.

"If someone experiences something unexplained in the street they would say it's an alien. If they experienced the same thing in an old house, they would say 'oh it was a ghost'. That seems to me to be a totally artificial line to draw. You have to examine everything and accept nothing."

The would-be explanations for these unclassifiable experiences are manifold. They range from weather balloons to the effect on the brain of surges in earth's magnetic field prior to earthquakes. Accounts of alien abduction involving sinister sexual experiments often bear a striking resemblance to ancient tales of demonic succubi draining away victims' sexual energy while they sleep.

However many the explanations are, Michael Lewis knows that for every million UFO sightings he only has to be proved right once to win the argument.

That one in a million shot may have happened in 1947 at Roswell, New Mexico,



**Head in the clouds? Michael Lewis of the British UFO Research Association thinks not**  
Photo: PETER BEAL

where the US military is said to have recorded footage of a flying saucer crashing.

The supposed cover-up, including secret autopsies on the alien remains, is the subject of a conference to be held later in the year in Sheffield. Now that we are no longer scared of being invaded by the Russians, some might say it is the perfect expression of our collective paranoia to believe that The Aliens are Coming. But Mr Lewis likes to keep his mind aloof from the nay-sayers.

## Unexplained

Likewise, he rejects the notion of ufology as a sort of intergalactic train-spotting, providing light relief from the daily grind of the modern office.

Instead he has an evangelical fervour in defence of the notion that, in spite of our technological progress, there are still some

things that we cannot fully explain. For this, Mr Lewis is willing to sacrifice hour after hour of time following up what he knows will often be bogus sightings.

"What keeps me going is the implications for our whole outlook on life, our whole world view. The basic tenets of science are challenged by this. The trouble with science is it is too concerned with what goes on in the laboratory."

Himself a committed church-goer, Michael Lewis is a tireless campaigner against the flat-earth syndrome which stops us being open to new ideas.

"Most have got their little belief system and they don't want to hear anything that challenges that. We want people to just think about it and make up their own mind."

● If you have a seriously unexplainable experience, you can contact BUFORA on 0181 449 5908

## THE five things most commonly mistaken for UFOs in the sky over Hertsmere are:

- laser shows from pop concerts at Wembley Stadium seen as a rotating pattern of lights
- the planet Venus in early morning seen as a sphere of light
- police helicopters circling
- aircraft waiting to land at night
- airships and hot-air balloons



# SKY

● A former British Airways pilot reveals close encounters with flying saucers.... **SHAILJA CHIBBER** reports

PEOPLE

**UFOs do exist. It's official. If you don't believe it, take the word of former British Airways pilot Graham Sheppard.**

Not only has he seen flying saucers, he claims to have had two near-misses with them.

On both occasions, Graham was flying a passenger plane as a co-pilot.

And although the sightings happened in 1967, time does not seem to have blurred his memory.

*He vividly recalls his first 'close encounter' which happened over Manchester.*

"We were flying a four-engined Vanguard, carrying 135 passengers. We had just received a radar alert.

"The controller told us there was an unidentified craft in the airway. And then we saw it.

"Shining in the sunlight was a silvery object, gleaming and flashing. The sky was very clear.

## ● 1,000mph

"We saw it clearly and closely - a bit too close for comfort. It was 30ft in diameter, shaped like a discus.

"After following a very straight course, without the slightest deviation, the object passed us on its northerly track.

"It was coming towards at us an incredible speed - easily 1,000mph. It began to resemble a hubcap - we saw it had a raised portion on top.

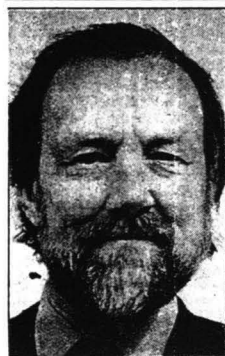
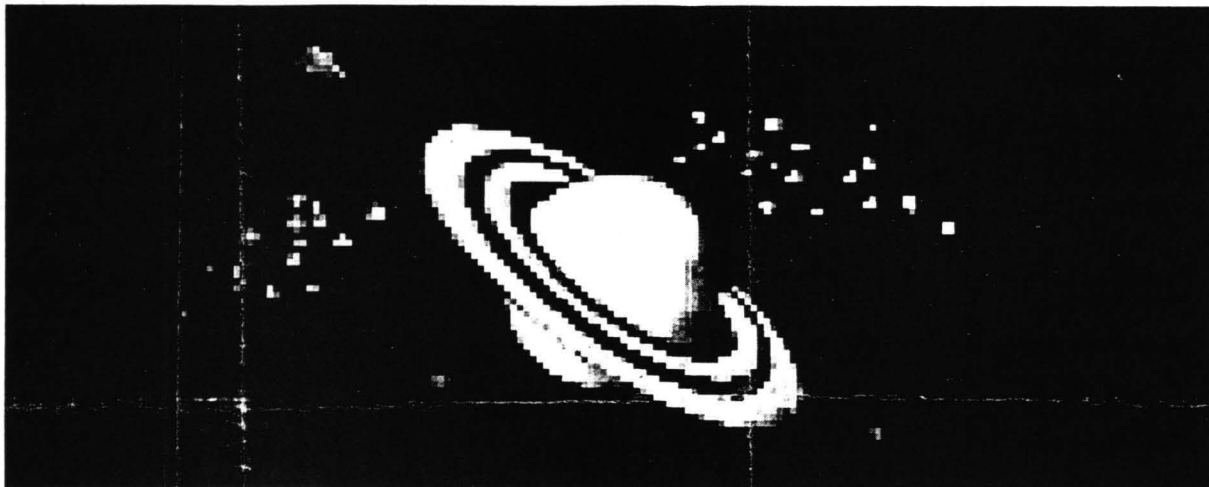
*"It was a quarter of a mile away from us, and about 200ft below us. It showed every sign of being under intelligent control."*

Together with his captain, Graham decided not to report the flying saucer. He explained why.

"We were too embarrassed to report it. People's reactions are predictable.

"Before experiencing it for myself, I too would have been very sceptical about such a report.

"The media would have had a field day and you can imagine the commercial implications it would have had for



● Graham Sheppard

the airline. We were not prepared to take the risk."

It was not long before Graham had another sighting - this time in the night sky over the Bay of Biscay.

"Again it was 1967. March 22, in fact. It was a dark starlit night.

"Two flashing lights were ahead of us. They changed colour many times, blue to white, yellow to green - they were very brilliant.

"It was like a Catherine Wheel of colour. They were

● FAST-MOVING objects travelling in the night sky...so far still unexplained

# UFOs do exist, I've seen them

zipping around, almost dancing, doing figures of eight, looping around each other very fast.

"We could not believe it. I can only describe it as 'aerobatics'."

*"It is difficult to say what the distance between us and the UFOs was. Between eight to 10 miles, I imagine."*

"Three of us saw them, for quite a long time, the captain and a fellow first officer as well as myself. We contacted

Bordeaux radar, which confirmed there were two unidentified aircraft in the sky."

Again, the pilots decided not to report it.

Graham says he knows a lot of pilots who, like him, have seen more than just clouds while flying the skies.

He said: "It is a rare thing to happen. Before retiring in December last year, I had been a pilot for 28 years.

"In all that time, it had happened twice."

Graham was so moved by

his experiences that he now helps out with research into UFOs.

He said: "Since my sightings, so much has changed. There is a vast amount of literature, film and information on the subject.

*"So many people now claim to have seen them, it is unparalleled."*

"In my view, there are definitely some other species which seem to be sharing the same air space as us.

"I am convinced of that."

Graham has just returned home to Britain after addressing a major conference in the USA that was attended by more than 600 people, many of them pilots, scientists and researchers.

A number of them said they had been in similar circumstances.

● If you have seen a UFO and would like to get in touch with Graham, contact *Skyport* and we will pass on his details to you.

# UFO UPDATE

with Jon Peake

WELCOME once again to UFO update, I've got another amazing tale for you this week and it comes from a man called Cliff from Standish Lower Ground.

He was prompted to telephone the Reporter after reading the recent sighting of the UFO in Parbold by the five women coming home from a night out in Southport.

Cliff's encounter happened towards the end of March at around 11pm.

He was stood at the back door of his home in Speldin Drive after letting his dog out.

He looked over towards the nearby sports centre where he saw what he described as a 'massive, saucer shaped object which was glittering between the trees.'

Cliff went on: "There were big lights encircling it, I've never seen anything as big in my life."

Cliff said he stood and watched the UFO for two to three minutes and noticed the sound of powerful turbine engines.

After a short time the engines stopped and the craft slowly slid away to the side.

There was no noise as the craft moved off slowly.

Cliff went to alert his girlfriend who was in bed at the time but by the time she looked out of the window, the craft was barely visible in the distance.

Did you see anything that night towards the end of March? If you did or you have any other UFO stories, pictures or accounts please contact Jon Peake on 01942 228000.

# The Earl of Clancarty

THE 8TH EARL OF CLANCARTY, who has died aged 83, devoted his life to propagating belief in flying saucers.

Clancarty claimed that he could trace his descent from 63,000BC, when beings from other planets had landed on Earth in space-ships. Most humans, he said, were descended from these aliens: "This accounts for all the different colour skins we've got here," he said in 1981.

A few of these early aliens did not come from space, he explained, but emerged through tunnels from a civilisation which still existed beneath the Earth's crust.

There were seven or eight of these tunnels altogether, one at the North Pole, another at the South Pole, and others in such places as Tibet. "I haven't been down there myself," Clancarty said, "but from what I gather [these beings] are very advanced."

He once produced a satellite photograph showing a large circular blob in the North Polar ice which, he said, was the entrance to one of the tunnels. He remained adamant even when it was pointed out to him that he was looking at part of the camera.

When Clancarty addressed

a 1981 meeting of the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association, its chairman rebuked reporters for laughing at Lord Clancarty's views:

"We are tired of people treating us as a joke. We are serious people and this is a serious subject."

Clancarty said that most of the aliens who were still arriving from space (and from the centre of the Earth) were friendly. But then he pointed to the sky and added: "I'm told there is one hostile lot."

For years he was frustrated in his desire to see a flying saucer. He installed a UFO detector in the bedroom wall at his flat in South Kensington, but with disappointing results.

"It did buzz one Saturday afternoon," he said, "but when I rushed out I found that the sky was cloudy and completely overcast. Presumably it was above the cloud."

At last he spotted his first (and last) UFO: "It was an eerie white light zig-zagging over South Kensington," he recalled. "I had to climb into the kitchen sink to get a good look at it through the window."

The fifth son of the 5th Earl of Clancarty, William Fran-



Clancarty in 1978

cis Brinsley Le Poer Trench was born on Sept 18 1911 and educated at the Nautical College, Pangbourne.

In the 1950s he edited the *Flying Saucer Review* and founded the International Unidentified Object Observer Corps.

He also found employment selling advertising space for a gardening magazine housed opposite Waterloo Station; office wags pointed out that Trench earned his renown by gazing at space and his living by selling it.

When he succeeded to the earldom (created in 1803) on

the death of his half-brother in 1975 Lord Clancarty founded a UFO Study Group at the House of Lords, and introduced *Flying Saucer Review* to its library.

Four years later he organised a celebrated debate on UFOs which attracted many speeches on both sides of the question.

Lord Strabolgi, for the Government, declared that there was nothing to convince him that any alien spacecraft had ever visited the Earth.

Lord Clancarty's books, written under the name Brinsley Le Poer Trench, included *The Sky People* (1960), *Men Among Mankind* (1962), *Forgotten Heritage* (1964), *The Flying Saucer Story* (1966), *Operation Earth* (1969), *The Eternal Subject* (1973), and *Secret of the Ages* (1974).

He married first, in 1940 (dissolved 1947), Diana, daughter of Sir William Younger, Bt. He married secondly, in 1961 (dissolved 1969), Mrs Wilma Belknap. He married thirdly, in 1974, Mrs Mildred Spong, who died in 1975. He married fourthly, in 1976, Mrs May Beasley. The heir to the earldom is his nephew Nicholas Power Richard Le Poer Trench (born 1952).

# There's something in the air tonight!

But new UFO club say no cranks, please ...



• Calling Manchester: This UFO over the city skyline was mocked-up by Metro's photographic staff, but the new club want real sightings.



• Paul Wilde: Says there has been a huge increase in UFO sightings in South Manchester.

UFO sightings are soaring in Manchester.

The popularity of the cult TV show The X-Files has created a craving for knowledge of close encounters of the third kind.

And, according to enthusiast Paul Wilde it's led to a major increase in UFO sightings around areas such as South Manchester.

Now, Paul who lives in Longsight and his colleague, Alan Lawson, are launching the city's first ever UFO evenings which aim to take seriously a subject which has long been associated with the nutty brigade.

Experts in the field of extra-terrestrial sightings have been lined up to host in-depth discussions on the phenomena which

by Janet Reeder

have intrigued scientists for centuries.

But Paul and Alan also hope the evenings will give local people the chance to share their own personal UFO experiences.

They have already been in touch with some who claim to have had a close encounter, including two ordinary housewives who had an extraordinary experience when they spotted a bizarre triangular 'spaceship'

in the sky in January.

"They were coming out of their workplace at about 6.30pm when they thought they saw an aircraft heading for Manchester Airport," said Paul.

"But then they saw it was a triangle shape which just hung in the air. It hovered quite low for about ten minutes and then moved slowly off.

"It has had such an effect on them both that they now question everything. They had never been interested in UFOs before, but now they are eager to find out more."

The women's story may just have been one of those individual sightings that crop up every now and again if it wasn't for a newspaper report, about the same time, which described two BA pilots having an almost identical experience.

Captain Roger Wills and first officer Mark Stuart reported they too saw the triangular shaped object early in January.

A spokeswoman for BA said the men reported the incident to the CAA, but after being inundated with queries from UFO buffs and the media they refuse

to speak about their strange encounter.

Those who do want to talk about their experiences, or who are just curious can attend the first night of the three separate monthly meetings taking place on April 27 at 7.30pm at Samuel Platts, Trafford Park with guest speaker Mike Soper of Contact UFO International discussing a history of UFOs using rarely seen footage.

Tickets on the night will cost £5.

Telephone 953 4044 (daytime) or 747 2651 (evenings) for details.

EVENING POST, Wigan, England - April 25, 1995

## Summer brings crop of mystery circle sightings



THERE are always certain telltale signs that summer is on its way.

The days start to get longer, the winter weather sometimes goes away for more than a couple of hours, dads start planning that barbecue in the garden - and enthusiasts start spotting crop circles.

A flattened crop field near the M6 at Eccleston, near Chorley, could lay claim to be the home of the first sighting of 1995.

A row of five small circles was spotted by pilots on Friday, and by Sunday morning a larger formation, one of the biggest yet found in Lancashire, had appeared in a neighbouring field.

### Epidemic

Specialists believe that they may mark the start of an epidemic of the mysterious circles in the North West.

Chris Kenworthy, a member of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies which is based at Bartle Hall, near Preston, said: "Crop circles in Lancashire are very rare, and to get them in this area is astonishing."

"For it to happen in Lancashire first is a sign that we will be getting a lot more, because whenever they hit a new area they really go for it."

The largest ring was 12 metres across and had a tiny, sharp-edged circle beside it.

The appearances follow record sightings of UFOs in the county this year, and Chris, who has investigated circles all over Britain for four years, believes that they are not the work of hoaxers.

He said: "No hoaxer could make such precise, swirled circles in oilseed rape without breaking the stems. These are the real thing."

"Nobody claims that spaceships land in the crop,

but a lot of people believe it's a contact - not that it's a landing site, but somehow it's been used as a form of communication."

Although many crop circles turn out to be hoaxes, the rings are likely to attract a great deal of interest from researchers throughout the country.

Most circles are found in Wiltshire and more than 2,000 remain unexplained.

George Wingfield, editor of crop circle magazine The Cereologist, said: "The mystery remains. Something is going on that we still don't understand."

### FACT FILE

HERE are a few crop circle facts drawn from Chris Kenworthy's own X-files on the mystery phenomenon.

■ Crop circles form during the night. Strange lights and sounds are often recorded, and animals are disturbed.

■ The vast majority of crop circles are said to appear within 10 miles of the Avebury Stone Circle in Wiltshire.

■ Some visitors to crop circles experience dizziness and nausea. Cameras and camcorders sometimes malfunction.

■ Many circles have "magic bends", where the stems are bent as though steamed over - an effect that can't be hoaxed.

■ Two men, Doug Bower and Dave Chorley, claim to have created crop circles, but failed to demonstrate it.

BRIGHTON & HOVE LEADER, Sussex, England - May 25, 1995

## Trailing the aliens

group hope to organise skywatches, public meetings and conferences.

They will also offer support to those who have suffered flying saucer trauma, a reaction which has been known to occur

after an encounter.

A prime site in the area for UFO spotting is Chantonsbury Ring, just north of Worthing.

Mr Dean was walking near the Ring with fellow enthusiast Pat Begley last

November when they saw a silver and black disc cross the sky at great speed. There have also been sightings near Rye.

The Skysearch organisation has already built up a membership and is

connected to a national network of ufology supporters.

Mr Dean said: "Skysearch is trying to bring the positive side of ufology into the limelight."

"Alien civilisations have always visited earth but now they are appearing more frequently and making their presence known."

DAILY STAR, London, England - June 2, 1995

### UFO OVER COMMONS

STUNNED "Flying Eye" traffic reporter Russ Kane told listeners to London's Capital Radio from his Cougar aircraft yesterday: "I've just seen a UFO over the Houses of Parliament. I'm not joking - it was really spooky."

A UFO research organisation has been set up in Salden to record and investigate close encounters in the Sussex skies.

Skysearch, headed by "ufologist" Larry Dean, was inspired by the sighting of a mysterious black disc circling the heavens near Worthing.

Now Mr Dean and his



# Family lost two hours of their lives

Who and why are two questions which spring to people's lips where UFOs are concerned. This week the K Files attempt to explain just what these visitors are up to.

When investigating UFO sightings the witnesses almost always ask the questions "Why are they here? What are they up to?" Well, I don't know, if I did I'd know as much as the Government — but we can speculate.

There are two sources of information that might give us an insight into the motives of the Ufonauts.

Firstly, direct observation of the aliens engaged in some mysterious activity (these cases are quite rare) and secondly, reports extracted from a witness under hypnosis that indicate he or she was actually abducted and taken aboard a UFO (these cases are

surprisingly common).

It seems the aliens take organic samples, plants and animals (including humans) are gathered and subjected to curious and occasionally unpleasant tests.

In Southern France lavender grower Maurice Masse saw an oval object standing on six legs in one of his fields. Slightly in front of the object two entities dressed in one-piece suits were examining the lavender plants. One of the entities spotted Masse, took a cylinder from its belt and fired a beam of light at him. He was paralysed for 15 minutes during which time the entities entered the craft and took off.

In Belgium Mr V (name withheld) got up at around 2am to go to the toilet.

He looked through his kitchen window and saw a strange entity dressed in a one-piece suit at the bottom of his small walled garden.

The creature was examining something in the garden with a peculiar instrument. Mr V flashed a torch at the creature which departed by walking up and over the wall as if the vertical surface was in fact flat.

In the US reports started to emerge about cattle being mutilated and parts removed with surgical precision. Typically, a strange light would be seen at night and the next morning the body would be found in a deserted area minus blood, body fluids and certain internal organs — all removed neatly and precisely. There is at least one case of this happening to a human.

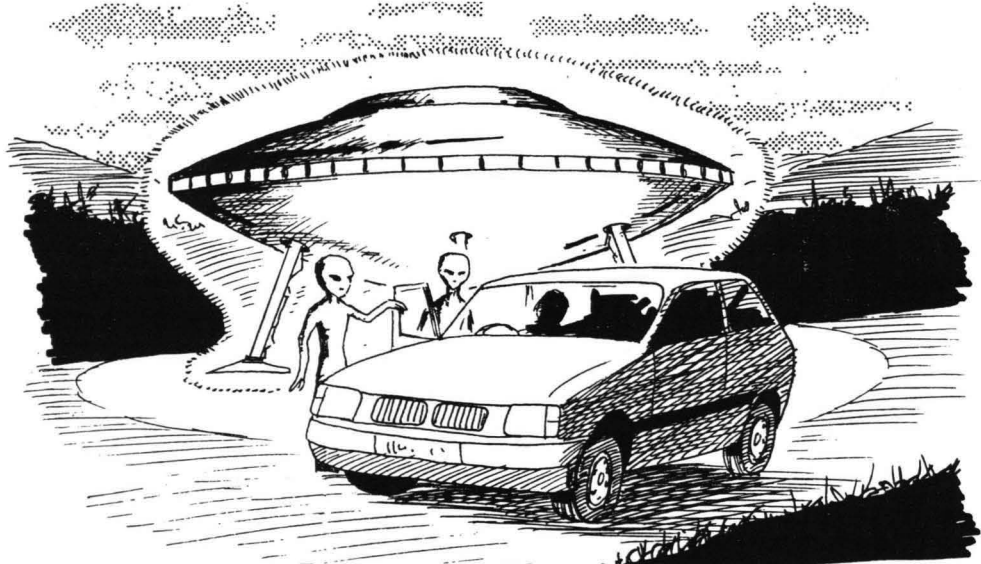
There are a large number of reports of people being abducted, taken aboard a UFO, given a thorough medical and then returned after some sort of mental block had been introduced. These cases emerge when the person, who has been suffering a feeling of disquiet and was often subject to frightening dreams, was hypnotised.

In Essex John and Elaine Avis, together with their three young children, were driving home to the village of Avely. They saw an oval shaped UFO in the sky, then, as they drove round a bend they encountered a green fog. The car jerked violently and suddenly they were driving back towards their home. When they reached their destination they found that they had lost two and a half hours.

Three years later they agreed to

undergo hypnosis and a strange story emerged. After encountering the fog they were removed from the car by strange creatures and subjected to various medical tests after which they were told by their abductors that genetic experimentation was part of the reason for them being there.

This interest in genetics is a recurring feature of close encounters and if we consider that at least some of the witnesses are telling the truth a disturbing scenario emerges. The UFO entities don't seem to be either benevolent or malevolent, they are like botanists and zoologists with a job to do and we are part of their investigative work. Basically they are indifferent to us and indifference is very hard for egoists like us humans to accept.



● Close encounter . . . but just why do aliens pay us earthlings a visit?

IRISH TIMES, Dublin, Ireland - May 6, 1995

## William Reville on a new theory to explain those mysterious hovercraft in the sky

# Flying saucers and other crockery

UNIDENTIFIED Flying Objects are usually explained, by those who place credence in them, as flying saucers, of extra-terrestrial origin, piloted by aliens. This book puts a novel twist on the story. It accepts the reality of flying saucers, but contends that they are man-made and controlled, and represent the fruits of elaborate secret projects. The book offers some reasonable evidence that very advanced aircraft of circular profile do indeed fly in our skies, but the remainder of the story is mainly based on speculation.

**Projekt UFO**  
by W.A Harbinson  
Boxtree  
473pp, £16.99 in UK

in this manner. He considers that the conclusions of the well-known writer Erich von Daniken are little more than nonsense.

Harbinson presents convincing evidence that saucer-shaped aircraft have been built in Germany and in Canada. During the second World War, the Nazis were actively working on a project to develop an advanced saucer-shaped aircraft. Harbinson explains how such a shape maximises the potential for achieving the highest speeds and the most flexible manoeuv-

vrability. By the end of the war, the Germans were flying small spherical craft by remote control and test flying larger piloted saucer-shaped aircraft. At the end of the war, these plans fell into the hands of the Americans and the Russians.

Shortly after the end of the war, the Canadian aircraft company, A.V. Rowe, in collaboration with the American Air Force, and with the assistance of the German scientist Walter Miethe, who had worked on the German project, built a circular flying aircraft called the Avrocar. The aircraft was designed for vertical take-off and landing and high manoeuvrability and was meant to be used in the defence of Arctic regions. According to the American Air Force, the project was dropped in 1962, and the prototype aircraft

is on view in the army museum at Fort Eustis, Virginia.

The modern spate of UFO observations began in 1947. A majority of the sightings were over secret American Air Force and Naval research centres. The American Air Force began investigating the sightings but gradually, according to Harbinson, became more interested in ridiculing reported sightings than in investigating them. Eventually, in 1969, they declared that there was nothing to the UFO phenomenon and it merited no further investigation.

Several of the flying saucer sightings recounted by Harbinson were made by trained observers such as airline pilots, and would be hard to dismiss. The craft are 100 to 150 feet in diameter, and in several instances occupants

have been reported to alight from the craft. Sometimes the occupants are reported to have normal human appearance, and sometimes to be smaller than normal adult size with extra large heads.

Harbinson speculates that both the Americans and the Russians have their own secret flying saucer programmes. He speculates that the frequent UFO sightings around secret military installations are test flights of flying saucers under development at these research stations. He goes on to speculate that the smaller sized crew members are cyborgs — half human, half machine — who are being developed for the investigation of inhospitable environments in space and elsewhere.

Harbinson further speculates on the existence of a vast underground complex in the Antarctic,

manned by Nazi scientists and SS officers, who moved there during the second World War, and who continue to work on the development of highly advanced aircraft and secret weapons. At times the speculation sounds like an *Indiana Jones* saga.

*Projekt UFO* does a good job in describing the history and development of the UFO phenomenon and of the known record of military attempts to build a flying saucer. The speculative part of the book, while fascinating because of the fantastic ideas suggested, is ultimately unsatisfying because of the almost complete lack of hard evidence. It is rather like building castles in the air, or should I say saucers in the air?

□ William Reville is a Lecturer in Biochemistry at UCC, and an Irish Times columnist

BURTON TRADER, Derby, England - April 25, 1995

## Special enquiry of the third kind

by Louise Worrell

AN alien craft spotted in the skies over Burton has sparked a special enquiry by a UFO research group.

Keen plane spotter Karl Kay and his friend Steven Nathan, both aged 15, were watching for aircraft from Karl's bedroom window when the astonishing sighting took place.

As the two schoolboys gazed out of the upstairs window of Karl's Broadway Street home a strange craft appeared and hovered above them.

"Steven and I were looking out of my bedroom window when we suddenly saw some bright lights that weren't there seconds before," said Karl.

"We looked through the

binoculars and there were five lights on the craft which were in a square formation - four white lights and one red in the middle of them - the red one was flashing dull and bright continually like it was pulsating.

"The lights were hovering over the Toyota factory and there was a high pitched humming noise which was quieter than an aeroplane. Then suddenly it began to curve round and it was rotating in such a way that we could actually see the bottom of it."

Karl, whose close encounter happened last Thursday evening at around 10.15pm, says the craft then turned quickly towards the Branstons Road area before disappearing. "I know quite a bit about

planes and I'm certain that this wasn't a plane," said Karl.

"I was really excited because up until this time I had never seen anything like it before in my life - I just wished I'd had a camera nearby to take a photograph."

Burton Police reported several calls from residents claiming they had seen mysterious lights in the sky.

But a spokesman from East Midlands Airport said he had received no calls from concerned Burtonians: "We haven't heard from any residents, but if and when we do we tend to dismiss them anyway because many people confuse the lights with aircraft."

COURIER &amp; ADVERTISER, Dundee, Scotland - Feb. 11, 1995

## Is there anybody out there?

A KINCARDINE woman spoke yesterday of her terror as a mysterious airborne high-speed object hurtled past her house.

The woman made the latest unidentified flying object sighting near the coast at St Cyrus early on Thursday.

She was first attracted to the frisbee-shaped yellow glow outside her house around 6.30 am after hearing what sounded like flights of birds beating their wings.

The woman, who wished to remain anonymous explained, "I was lying in bed when I heard the noise, it was really weird.

"When I got to the bedroom window facing the sea I didn't see anything. But when I rushed to the other one facing inland, I saw it before it disappeared.

"I saw it very briefly, it must have been about a second, but I heard it for about five seconds.

"This was something going somewhere. It was flying in a straight line. It didn't hover or stop, it just kept going very very fast.

"Where we stay, there's not many people about and I must admit it left me feeling pretty scared."

This sighting brings to four the tally for Tayside and neighbouring Grampian in two weeks. Others have taken place near Perth, Aberfeldy and Forfar.

The woman witnessed the mystery object not long after her husband had left for work.

She continued, "He laughed and told me it must have been his car lights in the distance, but it wasn't—cars don't fly."

The area is often buzzed by high-speed RAF fighter jets. Helicopters and other aircraft also pass overhead.

The woman is adamant that

what she saw was neither of these.

Friends she told of the experience laughed it off, but she was prompted to contact The Courier after other reports of UFO sightings were highlighted by us yesterday.

"Once I saw the story, I knew I wasn't being daft or imagining it and I certainly wasn't lying about it."

She reported the sighting to police soon after it happened and yesterday contacted staff at RAF Leuchars.

She was told by a sergeant there that two youngsters had also spotted a UFO that day.

"I was told I would get a letter from the Ministry of Defence with some sort of explanation about what happened. I was open-minded about UFO sightings before. What I saw on Thursday was something I've never seen before."

# Close encounters recorded by people from all over twin towns

# UFO reports are out of this world!

HEAVENS above! The Runcorn and Widnes area has been going UFO crazy over the past week with sightings of flying saucers reported thick and fast.

Some UFO experts, who have joined the skywatch over the twin towns, believe the River Mersey could be a UFO 'window' which is drawing in craft from other planets.

Everybody has been looking to the heavens after the *Weekly News* reported a fortnight ago that residents at Castlefields in Runcorn were buzzed by a UFO which appeared to have been sucking water out of the river.

Last week we carried reports of a UFO over the Runcorn-Widnes Bridge and another above Daresbury.

This week there has been an avalanche of sightings. Here's just a sample of some of the strange happenings:

**ADRIAN DERBYSHIRE**, 12, and his sister **JOANNE**, 10, of Water Street in Runcorn, were playing basketball in the street at 7.45pm on Saturday when they saw a UFO cross from Widnes towards the Runcorn-Widnes Bridge.

'It went very fast and then dived low,' said Adrian. 'It had a pointed front and was very bright. Then it turned red as it went over the bridge.'

**PAULINE SHEAKEY**, 49, of Cartmell Close, Runcorn, saw a strange white light at 9.20pm on Monday. She said: 'It appeared to be above Boston Avenue and came to a stop above the Asda store.'

'It was more square in shape than round and had searchlights. It was not an aeroplane or a helicopter but definitely a UFO.'

**SHARON BROWN**, 24, of Morval Crescent in Halton Brook, was amazed by her sighting because it

## EXCLUSIVE

by DAVE FOX

was so similar to the weird broken lights seen over Daresbury by Brow School headmaster Michael Highton.

'I actually saw it when I was outside the Southbank Hotel in Runcorn Old Town and I just cannot understand how rays of light can separate into pieces. It seemed to be a diamond-shaped UFO.'

**PAT WILLIAMSON**, 45, of Park Lane, Frodsham, saw a brightly lit UFO over the River Weaver opposite the Bridge Inn at Frodsham.

She said: 'It seemed to be hovering and had diamond-shaped lights underneath. I'm glad other people have reported seeing something similar because everybody thought I was daft when I said I had spotted a UFO.'

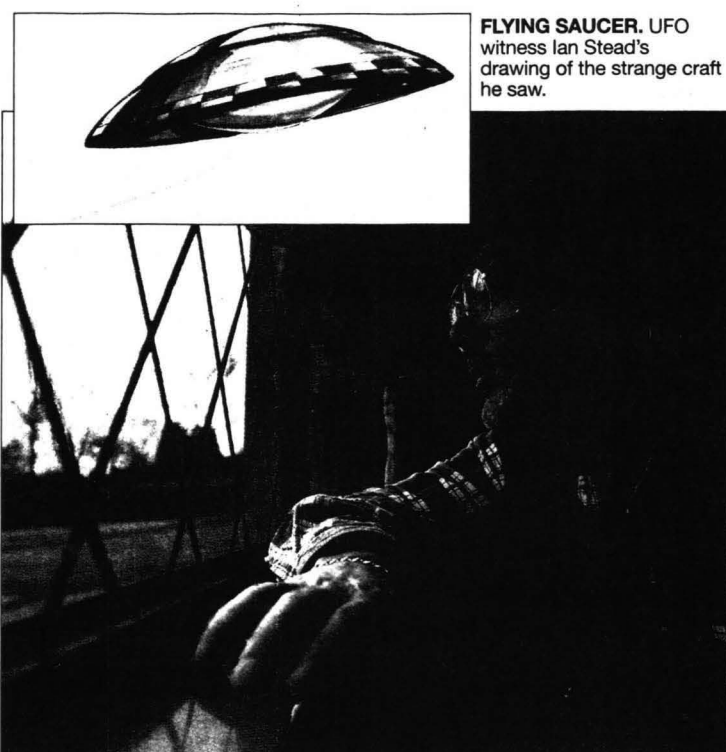
**IAN STEAD**, 29, of The Glen, Palacefields, Runcorn, was astounded last Tuesday when he saw a huge UFO with bright red, green and yellow lights in sequence hovering above the Mersey.

'I was amazed because it was so similar to the flying saucer described in the paper by the Castlefields residents,' he stressed.

'Then it changed and appeared to go flatter. At first it was over Wigg Island and then it moved to Weston Point. I watched it for about two hours. There was no way it was a plane because it must have been at least 300-feet long.'

**BRIAN CURRY**, 53, from Speke, was travelling with friends from Palacefields when he saw a cigar-shaped UFO approaching the Runcorn-Widnes Bridge.

He said: 'I could see clearly there were very bright lights flashing along it in a very odd sequence. It was so strange because it appeared to be tumbling



**FLYING SAUCER.** UFO witness Ian Stead's drawing of the strange craft he saw.

## UFO HOTLINE

Have you seen a UFO in the last few days? Ring and report it to the *Weekly News* on 01928 717979.

## CIGAR-SHAPED:

Brian Curry spotted a UFO above the Runcorn-Widnes Bridge. 1604JBA

in the sky. It drifted off down river travelling in a very haphazard manner.'

Oddest sighting of all was spotted by Ellesmere Port man **STUART MacPHILLIPS**, 30, on his way on Wednesday to work at Carlton Press on the Manor Park industrial estate in Runcorn.

He was going past Junction 12 of the M56 at Clifton when something caught his eye.

'It was a yellow, orange glowing figure about the size of a small boy or a dwarf which moved swiftly across the road bridge above,' he said.

## Expert stresses importance of having open mind on sightings

UFO spotters have been holding sky watches over the past week at Frog's Mouth on Runcorn Hill and at Frodsham and Helsby Hills.

One of them, Mark Rosney, 32, of Prince's Close, Castlefields, Runcorn, said

his group had received a lot of reports of sightings.

He added: 'It is amazing how many people have come forward saying they have seen something. There seems to be more activity now over Helsby.'

'Some UFO experts do

believe there are 'windows' which UFOs follow and one is above the Mersey.'

'Personally, I feel we have to keep an open mind and also consider such things as natural phenomena like ball lightning and what is known as earthquake light.'

## FACTFILE

- IT wasn't until World War Two that the first recognised UFO sightings occurred. Allied fighters had reported that they were being followed by strange blobs.
- UFO experts have different theories for UFOs. Some claim that inside the centre of the Earth exists an advanced civilisation and UFOs are spacecraft from this hidden civilisation.
- Some 'ufologists' believe that UFOs are the

- handiwork of survivors of Atlantis who have an under-sea base.
- LIGHTNING can cause strange fireballs which are sometimes mistaken for UFOs by people. For that reason UFOs spotted in storms are dismissed as fireballs.
- UFOs which are cylindrical cigar shapes are thought to be mother-ships. Witnesses have seen smaller craft released from these.
- UFO witnesses some-

- times report dizziness, headaches, exhaustion, and unconsciousness.
- SIGHTINGS of UFO are more common in some areas than others. These areas are known as 'windows'. The three most common windows are the North Pole, the South Pole and Bermuda triangle. Ufologists believe flying saucers enter through the poles to avoid the dangerous Van Allen radiation belt encircling the earth.

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Derby, England - Feb. 23, 1995

## More UFO reports

TWO more reports have been made of an unidentified triangular craft over Derby, bringing the number of sightings to eight.

Last night, the UFO was seen over Chaddesden and

Charnwood Street. Olive Haynes (69), of Spondon, saw the craft at 8.40pm while driving towards Osmaston Road.

She says it circled overhead four times before disappearing.

## Sightings of UFO

It is about a month ago since my letter on a UFO mystery was published in the *Shropshire Star* and I am sure many people are wondering if I got any response.

I was amazed that anyone else saw it, for those few minutes, at an hour when most people were asleep or on night shift.

I received reported sightings from Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth, Church Stretton (2) and Newport, and one, impeccable, but fractious one, from Nantwich.

A dear old lady of 90, obviously writing with great difficulty, thought it was "an exciting thing to see" and it tallied exactly with my sighting.

A refreshing phone call came from a PC of Bridgnorth who was delighted to read my letter, as it confirmed he really was "seeing things."

Trying to get confirmation I have rung RAF Shawbury, RAF West Drayton, the Ministry of Defence and was even given the phone number of the Royal Observatory, but in the end decided to ring Jodrell Bank, where I was most sympathetically received, and the receptionist confessed to having read my letter - but alas! - no confirmation.

After a friendly conversation the receptionist took my name, address and phone number, and with a "someday we may know about these things", I had to be content.

My thanks to the *Shropshire Star* and all who answered my appeal.

Ure Plummoxed  
Otogenarian  
W. Woolley  
Trench  
Telford

EVENING CHRONICLE, Oldham, England - Feb. 6, 1995

## Expert to probe flying saucer sighting

UFO expert Steve Hough is to investigate an Oldham man's claimed sighting of a flying saucer.

Mr Hough, who has just published "Supernatural Britain", which details other UFO experiences on the moors above Oldham, plans to talk to John Fogg.

Mr Fogg is convinced that what he saw in the skies above Oldham at lunch time on Friday has no normal explanation.

He was walking his dog in front of his home, in Richmond Walk, West Street estate, when he looked up at the sky.

## Sausage

He said: "I was looking at the vapour trails of aircraft in the sky and I saw this little silver thing come from Ashton way, and as it passed behind a cloud it seemed to stop."

"Then it came out of the cloud at 45 degrees to the way it went behind in, and headed towards Manchester."

"It was sausage or egg-shaped, and shot off 10 times as fast as it arrived. There was no vapour trail, nothing."

"I have never seen anything like this before. The whole thing lasted five minutes, at about 1.30 pm."

Mr Hough said that he had had no other reports of unexplained happenings on Friday, and added: "We have had a lot of airship activity recently, but that can't explain it, because of the speed he describes. I would certainly like to talk to him about it."



# Is this close encounter really up to scratch?

IT looks like a scratch on the photograph - but the small mark just right of centre on this picture could be a visitor from outer space.

Mystery objects have been seen hovering in the skies above Lancaster during the last few months.

This photo, taken looking towards Slyne and Bare, is said to contain a UFO.

The UFOs have appeared in the shape of flat spherical objects or bright lights silently flitting through the skies at twilight.

Other people have reported seeing either light grey or orange-coloured objects shaped like a rugby ball moving at

By STEVE JARVIS

speed through the skies. But sightings of the mysterious objects have spread northwards to the Lake District and further inland.

## Tapped

The growing number of reported sightings is causing concern to the North Lancashire UFO Investigation Group.

The group, whose members prefer to remain anonymous for fear of their phones being tapped, has been investigating the reported sightings. They say the sightings since Christmas have involved more than 20 people.

A spokesman for the group said today: "Over the last three months, there have been numer-

ous sightings of three types of objects.

"These have been seen at various times of day. Most noticeably all are silent. They don't seem to be bothered about being seen and can hover."

One of the sightings, by eight-year-old Lancaster girl Bunty Marshall, has excited UFO spotters.

## Case

Bunty and her mum Gill say they saw a strange object shaped like a dinner plate hanging in the sky above Skerton Bridge which then split into two.

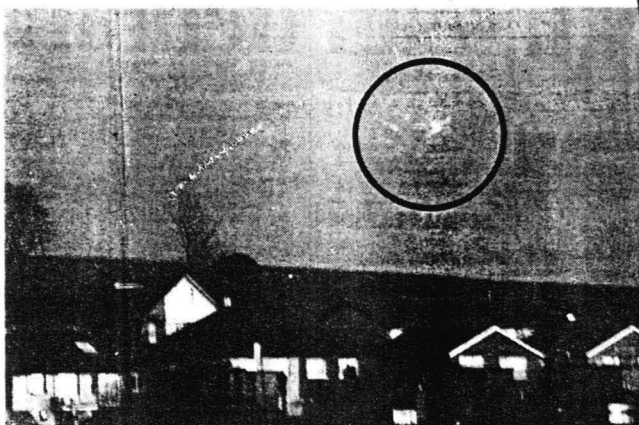
The group believes that this could be very similar to another sighting 20 years ago above Windermere in the Lake District.

Other sightings includes a bright light, which is

silent, and below the level of the stars in the sky. It hovers and moves slowly. One of these sightings was witnessed by a UFO fan from Bare. The slow-moving light was viewed above Slyne and Beaumont in late January. It hung in the sky for half an hour then slowly moved across to the south and was seen by at least 10 people.

The third kind of sighting is the rugby-ball shaped object which moves at speed across the sky.

The Ministry of Defence and the Civil Aviation Authority have so far been unable to explain the mysterious objects which have been seen in the skies above Lancashire since the start of the year.



SUNDAY PEOPLE, London, England  
Jan. 29, 1995

## I suppose a quick UFO is out of the question?

OUT-OF-THIS WORLD sex is bringing a heavenly headache to divorce lawyers.

For more and more couples in America are naming the third party as a lover from OUTER SPACE.

Jealous wife Debbie Hill claims her husband John is abducted three times a month by UFOs to make the ether move with a sexy alien.

She said: "I am especially upset by the sexual activity, resulting in hybrid off-spring."

"What the aliens do is tantamount to rape."

Another victim called Linda said husband Steve lost his sex drive

By FIONA MAY

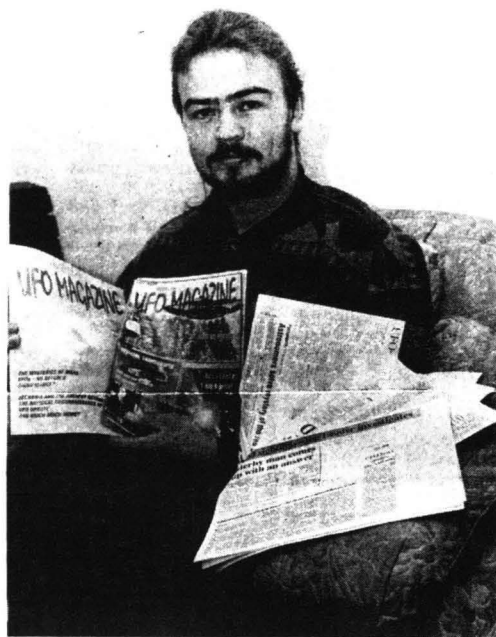
after she described her extra-Martian affairs with a flying saucer crew.

The marriage-wrecking UFOs are spotlighted in the science mag Omni.

A scientist said: "I have seen several abductees divorce."

CRAVEN HERALD, Skipton, England - Jan. 27, 1995

# UFO man's new job is out of this world!



Enthusiast: Simon has a lifelong interest in UFOs

PERHAPS the height of human arrogance is to believe that out of all the planets in all the galaxies in all the universe, we are the only form of intelligent life.

Isn't it possible, or even probable, that somewhere out there other alien life forms exist and, as we take our first steps into space, they may already have found us.

That is certainly what Barnoldswick man Simon Whitehead believes, and he is far from alone. In recent years interest in UFOs has grown at a phenomenal rate. So too has the mountain of evidence which believers say proves UFOs exist and visit our planet regularly.

Simon, 26, of Riding Close, has just been appointed Barnoldswick's official investigator for Quest International - an organisation dedicated to recording and investigating UFO sightings and other strange phenomena. It also publishes "UFO Magazine".

Simon's interest in the subject began at an early age, after his mother told him of a "close encounter of the first kind" she experienced in the 60s.

"She saw a massive silvery disc which flew straight over her house at Flasby," he said.

Despite his lifelong interest, Simon didn't experience his own UFO sighting until last November. He was out walking his dog near Silenight's Moss Shed in Barnoldswick, when he saw a UFO moving silently overhead.

He told the Herald at the time: "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

by Duncan Smith

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 contacted UFO expert and director of UFO Magazine Mr Tony Dodd, who lives at Grassington, to report the sighting, which other people have since confirmed.

Simon stressed that he is not "some kind of world authority", but just a very keen and dedicated amateur. His role will be to investigate any sightings reported to him and pass them on to Quest International.

He accepts that sceptics may see him as an 'oddball' but invites anybody to treat the subject with an open mind and, if interested, to read up on it.

In fact he believes the powers-that-be, both here and abroad, have had proof of UFOs and alien beings for over 50 years. But they have maintained a cover-up in order to maintain the social order and prevent mass hysteria.

"Over 3,000 commercial airline and military pilots, and even some astronauts, have filed official reports of UFOs," said Simon. "I believe there are highly advanced and highly evolved biological entities who are visiting our planet and monitoring us."

He would like to hear from anyone in West Craven who thinks they may have seen a UFO, and urges people not to feel foolish about coming forward, "no matter how bizarre or logic-defying their experience seems to be".

Simon's telephone number is (0282) 850553.

Picture by Dale Frankland.

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Derby, England  
May 24, 1995

## Close encounter

A DERBY couple have called in UFO experts after claiming they saw an alien craft.

The young couple from Oakwood, who do not want to be named, say they saw the UFO while on the A52, near Ashbourne, at 1am on Sunday, May 7.

The large dome-shaped craft was 30ft off the ground, vanished, then suddenly reappeared 20ft from their car. Alan Hitchcock, of the Phenomena Research Association, has interviewed the couple.

# UFO SPOTTED AT MALBOROUGH

A TRIANGLE of strange lights seen over Malborough could match up with an unidentified flying object sighted throughout Europe.

Mr Mark Hulin, of Lower Town, Malborough, saw the object at 10.42 pm on Friday, but the sighting lasted barely ten seconds.

"Lots of stars were out and I was looking at a particular star when this thing caught

my eye," he said.

"There were three white lights in the shape of a triangle, with a light in each corner. The lights were moving very slowly as one object. As they moved they rotated so it was highly unlikely they were separate lights."

As a member of the Plymouth UFO Search Group Mr Hulin is experienced with observation tech-

niques. He reckoned that the object was about a mile away and was up to 30 metres across.

The lights were much brighter than stars and there was no question of the object being a helicopter, glider or microlite machine at that time of night.

There had been similar reports of a triangular object being sighted around the county, he said.

"Some people saw it at Bowcombe Creek last summer and a woman saw it at Callington last September. Similar reports have been made in other places in Europe in recent years."

Mr Hulin said that

the westcountry saw more UFO sightings in 1993 than anywhere else in Britain.

The Plymouth UFO group checked out local aircraft activities and other air traffic when compiling reports, he said. But they were more concerned with unexplained sightings than "little green men" stories.

The group investigated incidents in a factual way and reports were sent to the Ministry of Defence, which also carried out its own research. The MoD often returned submitted reports and added their own comments.

"We don't set out to prove UFOs exist," he said. "Our interest lies

KINGSBRIDGE GAZETTE, Devon,  
England - Jan. 6, 1995

COLCHESTER EVENING GAZETTE,  
Essex, England - May 23, 1995

## It's a mystery to Toyah

A ROCK star was the latest sighting by UFO spotters.

Toyah Wilcox, whose hits include It's A Mystery, visited Clacton yesterday.

She interviewed Ron West, chairman of Essex UFO Research Group, on Clacton beach for Anglia's the Magic and Mystery Show.

It is planned to be broadcast on July 7.

Mr West said the group had received a record 820 sightings since the end of November.

Many have reported triangle-shaped lights in the sky, some bigger than football pitches.



# N.J. man debunks debunker of 'Nessie'

## Photo of monster authentic, he says

By ERIK SWAIN  
Home News Staff Writer

NEW BRUNSWICK — Maybe, just maybe, the Loch Ness Monster really does exist.

At the very least, claims a New Jersey enthusiast, a well-publicized account discrediting a famed 1934 photograph of the creature said to roam the bottom of a Scottish lake is itself fabricated.

Richard D. Smith, a journalist and researcher from Rocky Hill, told the International Society of Cryptozoology yesterday that claims by Christian Spurling, an Englishman who said he was in on the hoax, are false. Spurling's account was made public last year.

The society, dedicated to the study of large unusual and unknown animals, held its annual meeting yesterday at Rutgers University.

"Clearly (Spurling's) story has holes big enough for a Nessie to swim through," Smith said. "I do not believe in these animals in the way some unfortunate people believe in flying saucers, but I am reasonably convinced that there are indeed breeding populations of large, unknown aquatic animals in Loch Ness and in geologically similar lakes across the world."

The photograph in question, considered by enthusiasts to be the most realistic ever, was taken by an English doctor named R. Kenneth Wilson, accompanied by a friend, Maurice Chambers, who were passing the lake on their way to Inverness.

Several people had reported sightings prior to the famous photograph, and in December 1933 the Daily Mail of London paid a scientist, M.A. Wetherall, to investigate.



A Rocky Hill man is defending the authenticity of this 1934 photograph allegedly of the Loch Ness Monster. An Englishman last year claimed the photo was part of a hoax.

He found some footprints that he claimed to be authentic but that turned out to be made by an artificial hippopotamus foot, Smith said.

Shortly after Wetherall was humiliated, Wilson took the famed photograph. Then, last year, two British researchers, Alistair Boyd and David Martin, revealed that they had interviewed Spurling, Wetherall's stepson, who said Wilson's photograph was a hoax masterminded by Wetherall with help from Spurling and Wetherall's son, Ian.

"I suggest (Spurling) wished to rehabilitate his family by telling that his stepfather in fact fooled the world," Smith said.

Spurling told Boyd and Martin that the creature was actually a toy submarine with a foot-high plastic-wood neck and weights to

submerge it, and the photograph was taken in a small bay. Wilson and Chambers were recruited by M.A. Wetherall to legitimize the hoax, according to Spurling.

Spurling was interviewed in 1992 when he was 91 years old. He died before Boyd and Martin publicized their scoop, Smith said. Both of the Wetheralls, Wilson and Chambers are dead, and Wilson in 1969 was still insisting the photo was real, Smith said.

Smith said what upset him was that the media gave instant credibility to Spurling's story but ignored the findings of those who believe the creature exists. "There should be one standard of evidence for proponents and skeptics alike," he said.

Yesterday, Smith attempted to prove that the device could not have been a toy boat and the pic-

ture could not have been taken in a bay. Among his points:

- Spurling never identified the bay where the hoax allegedly was performed, nor did he produce the toy boat and its accessories.

- The famed photograph was actually cropped and blown up. In the original, more panoramic print, a distant shoreline, consistent with the terrain at Loch Ness, is visible.

- Wilson actually took four photographs, two of which did not come out. But a second, little-known one was developed. In this photograph, the object is submerging, but its head is at a different angle than in the first photo. The change in angles would not

be possible if the head and neck were made of plastic wood.

- Toy submarines at the time were made of pressed tin, were no longer than 14 inches and would not have been able to support a 12-inch plastic-wood neck and weights, according to experts.

- Spurling said the waves in the photo were ripples created by the boat and were at most a foot high. Three independent studies, including one by a skeptic and one based on the wind statistics of Loch Ness the day of Wilson's photograph, showed that the waves could not have been the height Spurling said they were.

In addition, a toy boat makes ripples that are even all around, which is not the case in Wilson's photograph, but is the case in a 1972 photograph taken by an English sideshow performer that was confirmed to be a hoax.

And, Smith said, only recently was it discovered that Wilson was accompanied on his trip by a woman who was not his wife. Wilson would not have risked calling attention to the trip if his story were not true, Smith said.

Smith said he also was skeptical because Boyd and Martin have yet to publish a paper on their findings, as they had promised.

"Their excitement over meeting a living link (to the photograph) and their enthusiasm overrode any skepticism," Smith said. "But they are important. Boyd was one of the first to find the (wide-angle) print (of the famed picture). Needless to say, they are not happy with me right now."

The audience of about 40 was generally receptive, though researcher Richard Ellis said, "It seems you're discounting some things (Spurling) said because he was 90 years old, but you're accepting other things despite him being 90 years old."

## The trap awaits a visit from Big Foot

It's bigger than Paul Bunyan and more elusive than Elvis. Call it Yeti, Sasquatch, or Bigfoot, but a trap has been set in the U.S. Forest Service's Applegate Ranger District to capture the northwest's backwoods legend.

The trap, actually a "very large beamed structure, like a small cabin" made of railroad ties was completed in 1974 by North American Wildlife Research of Eugene, said John McKelligott of the Applegate Ranger District.

Though no longer operational, its large green sliding metal gate welded open, the trap remains "a curiosity," said McKelligott, for those seeking the unknown, a little fun, or some exercise and local lore.

Perry Lovell found tracks of 18-inch footprints marking six-foot strides in his garden on August 30, 1969, according to an account distributed by the Applegate Ranger District. The garden was on forest service land on a mining claim owned by Lovell.

Word of the footprints reached North American Wildlife Research, which applied for a special-use permit to build the trap at the site of Lovell's claim, according to the Ranger District's account.

The permit was granted (and has expired) and the trap was built before Applegate Lake Dam was constructed in the early 1980s, said McKelligott.

How about current sightings of the big guy?

"We've had sporadic sightings in the high country at Silver Fork, in that area," said McKelligott, "but nothing in recent history. That whole thing is a done deal."

Yeah, well maybe. These directions to the Bigfoot trap have been provided by the Ranger District office: take Highway 238 from Jacksonville, eight miles to Ruch. Turn left on Upper Applegate Road and travel south for 16 miles. Hart-tish picnic area offers ample parking. The Collings Mountain Trail begins across the road from Hart-tish Park. About 3/4 of a mile up the trail is an abandoned miner's cabin. Just beyond the cabin another trail goes to the left. Take this one up the hill, and in a couple hundred feet you'll come upon the trap.

STANDARD TIMES, New Bedford, MA - June 14, 1995 CR: R. Dumas

## Air Force researches thunderstorm 'sprites'

By Keay Davidson  
San Francisco Examiner

SAN FRANCISCO — Scientists are puzzled over the weirdest atmospheric discovery since cosmic rays: blood-red apparitions with bluish tentacles that flash briefly far above Earth, sometimes near the edge of space.

These so-called "sprites," perhaps bizarre electrical events quicker than the pop of a flashbulb, are as startling to the lucky few who have glimpsed them as the aurora borealis or exploding meteors.

Thunderstorms appear to trigger sprites, yet they flicker and flash far higher than ordinary lightning. They

dance in the void tens of miles above thunderclouds, with no obvious connection. The biggest sprites are incredibly large, filling thousands of cubic miles of air.

Some scientists worry that sprites and a related phenomenon, "blue jets," could threaten high-altitude aircraft, perhaps by damaging their sensitive electronics. As a precaution, the U.S. Air Force is starting a sprite research project at Phillips Laboratory at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Mass.

An American Airlines pilot who was flying at 33,000 feet near Panama and witnessed a blue jet called it "the most spectacular and unex-

pected natural event I have seen."

"About five times, a large discharge of lightning at the top of and within the cloud was followed by a vertical shaft of blue light that propagated from the top of the cloud upward to 100,000 feet," wrote the pilot, John G. Hammerstrom of Tavernier, Fla., in a 1993 letter to Aviation Week & Space Technology.

Blue jets typically occur just above thunderstorms and, as their name implies, have a bluish color. In contrast, sprites — whose name refers to their elusiveness — are far bigger and occur far higher in the upper atmosphere. Some sprites flash more than 50 miles up in the ionosphere, an electrically charged region best known because it reflects radio signals over great distances, allowing AM listeners in places such as San Diego to listen to talk-show chatter in Detroit.

That atmospheric region was once regarded as a dull void, interesting mainly as the gateway to outer space. But today space shuttles fly to orbit, and return to Earth, by passing through the upper atmosphere. It's also familiar to pilots of spy planes.

In a few decades, the upper atmosphere may be teeming with "hypersonic" commercial airline traffic ferrying thousands of passengers from, say, New York to Tokyo in a few hours.

While there have been some measurements and some theory and computer modeling of sprites, no one has done any definitive study of the potential effects of these phenomena on Air Force aircraft systems such as infrared sensors, according to the head of the Air Force sprite project, physical chemist Laila Jeong.

"The best that can be said is there may be potential effects — and those

need to be explored," Ms. Jeong said.

The exploration is under way as the thunderstorm season starts to rumble across the American heartland.

In a few weeks, scientists from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory will take a high-speed camera to Colorado in hopes of filming sprites as they spark in the night sky.

With luck, the Livermore researchers, John Molitoris and Colin Price, will snap up to 40 pictures a second of sprites. With luck, frame-by-frame analysis of the pictures could reveal how sprites evolve during their fraction-of-a-second lifetimes.

"This camera is a 'Star Wars' spin-off," Mr. Molitoris noted. "The Air Force developed it to scan the heavens very fast in order to identify high-speed missiles."



# Mysterious "glass skull" found

by Christopher O'Brien

A highly unusual artifact has been found in Saguache County. The artifact was discovered during the first week of February, 1995, by a woman, who found it on a fence-line in her pasture. The ranching family is understandably puzzled over the artifact, an exquisite glass skull. The skull was on the surface of the ground and partially covered by blown sand which filled in the crevices. The lucky finder was alerted to its presence by sunlight glinting off its brilliant, flowing form. Undoubtedly, the San Luis Valley Skull will generate controversy, however, regardless of its origin, there is no question that the find is an exceptional work of art.

Crystal skulls (skulls carved out of quartz) up until now, have only been discovered in the Yucatan region of Mexico and Central America. If the San Luis Valley Skull is authenticated as ancient, it may be the first skull-shaped glass artifact found outside of Mexico/Central America and be an archeological find of historic importance.

Dozens of crystal and glass skulls have been discovered through the years in the Yucatan and several are quite famous. These skulls are thought to have been used as healing tools by Mayan, and possibly Olmec and

Toltec priests, for ceremonial healing practices. Their true age is unknown and difficult to determine. Several may be well over a thousand-years-old.

## Is It Ancient?

As we know, some of the earliest traces of man in North America can be found here in the San Luis Valley. Humans have come into this valley for almost 11,000 years, and one can't help but wonder if there is a connection between early man and this discovery.

As most Eagle readers know, The San Luis Valley has always had its share of unexplained events, however, most of these alleged occurrences have not left behind any trace of their fleeting presence. It is very difficult, if not impossible, to argue with physical-proof in the form of such an incredibly beautiful and enigmatic work of art.

The San Luis Valley skull is six-inches high and 3 1/2 inches wide, and appears to be made from a single piece of molten-glass. It does not appear to be made out of quartz. Its unique form doesn't suggest a typical human skull, rather, it is highly stylized. The woman who discovered it fondly describes it as looking like an "ant-person" skull.

The unusual-looking three-pound skull is asymmetrical and was obviously not made to sit on a mantle, or altar. This asymmetrical nature could be significant and unique. The smooth, graceful lines flow effortlessly through the form, suggesting to one viewer a "prenatal, feminine quality." One verified "unique feature" is the elongated Jaw which twists down and to the left with what appears to be a tongue protruding from between the upper and lower teeth. The nose

Luis Valley Skull, Nocerino thinks that all true ancient skulls are considered to be female.

A complete documentation packet has been sent, and Nocerino expressed interest in coming to see the skull. He acknowledged the highly unique nature of the skull, and it's possible significance.

The family is understandably hesitant to publicize the exact location where this enigmatic artifact was discovered and has asked that the location of their ranch, and their identities, be kept confidential. They don't want people showing up and tramping around their pasture scaring their animals.

After personally viewing the skull, this strange find is very hard to argue with. Even if it was placed there for the rancher to find, the object itself is worthy of scrutiny and wonder.

## Famous Crystal Skulls

One of the most famous of these crystal skulls is the "Mitchel-Hedges Skull." This life-sized, incredibly beautiful artifact was unearthed in 1927 in Belize by F.A. Mitchel-Hedges, an English archaeologist looking for evidence of Atlantis. It was discovered by Mitchel-Hedges daughter Anna, while excavating the Mayan ruin at Lubaantun. The Mitchel-Hedges skull is considered to be the most perfectly formed of all the 12 major crystal skulls.

Another rather famous skull is "Max," a life-size crystal skull carved from a single piece of clear quartz. Joanna Parks, the caretaker of the skull, was given the skull by a Tibetan Rimpoché. Joanna



This unusual glass skull, measuring six and a half inches high, was recently found on a local ranch. Investigators will be studying this artifact to try and determine its origins and purpose. photo by Kz. Dennett

hole in the front actually extends over an inch into the interior of the skull, and an amazing earing hole on the right side has been incorporated into the design.

## Two-Faced?

The back of the skull features of a pair of flowing, recessed indentations that were incorporated into the design. Viewed from the back, these recesses almost appear to represent an additional set of eyes.

The discoverer recently took the skull to a Denver museum to have it analyzed. The "scientist" who did the analysis was evidently impressed by the workmanship. Under a powerful microscope, he could not find any mold marks to indicate the method of creating the enigmatic form. He claimed he couldn't comment on its design, or method of manufacture, because of

his position at the museum. He did acknowledge that the skull is very unique in appearance.

Rest assured, the highly stylized form is guaranteed to illicit a response from an unsuspecting observer. "Some people are plumb scared of it when they first see it," the rancher told me. Others who see and hold it seem very attracted to it. One thing is for sure. The San Luis Valley Skull grins mysteriously-almost daring you to touch it.

It challenges one's attempt to explain its very origin, let alone why it was "found."

## "It's Not Man-Made"

Several strange peripheral events have occurred that the rancher family attribute to the mystery skull. In one instance, the discoverer's husband opened up a



Side view of the glass skull shows the back of the head to be unusually elongated.

cabinet where the skull was being kept and he instantly smelled "a ladies perfume that about knocked me over," He said, "It smelled just like a busted bottle of perfume. They couldn't locate the source of the smell and have never smelt it since,

The woman mentioned a psychic reading she had received soon after its discovery, "I went to this psychic for a reading, I didn't tell him what I'd found, and he told me 'It is very old, It's not man-made and not of this earth, You must be very careful with it, It can be very detrimental .... You must be balanced, or you will be hurt,'" She asked the psychic if she should "do anything in particular with it." He told her, "Wrap it in silk and keep it in an ionized box. ". She was also told someone she didn't personally know would contact and help her.

## The Experts Are Intrigued

Nick Nocerino, who has written several books on crystal skulls and studied them for over 50-years, is considered by many to be the world's foremost expert. Nocerino has been contacted and is very intrigued by the find. He has offered to help authenticate the San

lives in Texas and has graciously allowed private access to the artifact by the public. In an interesting coincidence, less than two months after the San Luis Valley discovery, Joanna Parks brought Max from Texas to Colorado for a rare public viewing at the Pikes Peak UFO Conference, in Colorado Springs.

The "British Museum Skull" is a less perfect, possibly unfinished skull brought out of Mexico by a British soldier during the reign of Emperor Maximilian, shortly before the French occupation. The Mexican government has tried unsuccessfully to re-acquire the skull which they consider to be Mixtec in origin.

The "Aztec Skull" which is in Paris, France at the Musee de L'Homme, Palais de Chaillot, is rather "gruesome-looking" and probably represents Mictlantecutli, the Aztec God of Death.

Crystal skulls were undoubtedly venerated in ancient Mexico. Small skulls of varying degrees of sophistication can be found in the Cristy collection at the British Museum, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Douglas Collection and Blake Collections, and at the Trocadero Museum. Dozens of these skulls that have been found, however most are crude-looking in appearance and all obviously represent human-skulls. The San Luis Valley Skull may be different.

## Speculation

Speculation concerning the actual origin and age of several of these crystal skulls centers around the lost civilization of Atlantis. Some think the Yucatan civiliza-

tions were not the actual artists who fashioned the skulls. They may have inherited them from a much older civilization, Atlantis. They point to the cruder, smaller skulls as being made by the later Yucatan peoples.

Edgar Cayce, America's Sleeping Prophet stated in 1933, during reading number 440-5, states "Initiates of Atlantis engineered and manipulated precious power crystals for the production of galvanic and spiritual energies. The crystals were so potent they were in large part responsible for the Atlanteans' advanced technology. Later, in Atlantis history when crystals were improperly used, they contributed to the final destruction of the island-empire. The crystals were housed in an oval temple, the roof of which was rolled back to admit light from the sun and stars which activated the 'white fire-stones.'"

Other "channeled" information from additional sources mentions three crystal skulls; one red, one blue, and one clear as being the main power source for the Atlantean civilization. A story circulated several years ago concerning a diver discovering an underwater room off Bimini, which he alleged contained a crystal skull.

The mysterious San Luis Valley skull will undoubtedly become the focus of much wide-spread speculation and interest as this story continues to unfold. Results of professional analysis will be reported in an upcoming issue of the Crestone Eagle. We do indeed, live in a mysterious and special valley.

## VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

Of course the call got my attention, especially when the woman ... in her 80s ... said the February Bigfoot track chase reminded her of the days on the upper Coppel when her family "lived right among them."

Yes, and several other families who were homesteading in this section also experienced the family (or families) of Bigfoots who lived nearby, my caller informed me.

My caller, by the way, remains anonymous in this relating. That's her choice, but the story she tells is one of the most interesting of the many Bigfoot tales I've heard from this part of the Blue Mountains.

And, after all, the stories recounted about the subject are what make up a big piece of the interest this anomaly seems to hold.

My caller had opened the conversation by observing that a comment about Bigfoots possibly eating a deer killed by a cougar, would prove a point she remembered about her childhood days on the upper Coppel. There, at Coppel Falls, she said, Bigfoots reputedly would chase elk and run them over the brink at the falls. Then, at the base of the cliff, the critters could pack off the elk at their leisure!

When I reminded her that early native American mankind had used the same tactic to kill off thousands of buffalo, she felt certain the old stories were true.

And, she had a number of stories to tell, too.

The story of the Bigfoot encounter at Huntsville in 1900 has been the oldest recollection locally of the

Bigfoots of the Blues. What my caller was talking about were the experiences of her family and other homesteading families of the 1920s. She said she was 13 ("...that's 70 years ago") when her father recounted his own first experience with the Bigfoots which were to become so much a part of their life on the Coppel.

"My father told me one day he was looking across to an open hillside on which rested a huge white log. Then, he says he saw the 'biggest, strangest bear ever' walking out of the brush ... two others followed and then all went to the log and sat on it, then went to tearing it apart and had their lunch (of grubs, etc.?) then went off down the trail. My father made me promise not to tell my mother about this incident."

My caller was to have her own experience and encounter with a Bigfoot as did her mother and two sisters, I was to learn as the telephone conversation continued.

What my caller saw that day possibly was a young Bigfoot.

"What I saw was a sort of man-creature, about six feet tall, reaching up into a young tree, its fingers spread ... it had brown hair and its face was gray...it turned its head on its shoulders like an owl would to see me. I froze and it just disappeared into the brush."

Her mother's encounter came one day when the family's herd of six milk cows was apparently "rustled" ... they were not in the usual place they were pastured in, my caller said.

"We always figured the Bigfoot

family had herded the cows off...mother followed the tracks and after a time caught up to our cows with a small Bigfoot with them. She figured the older Bigfoots had left the young one to look after the cows.

"Mother said she looked at the Bigfoot and it looked at her. She was scared but ran after the cows and she and the cows all ran toward the homestead."

"Mother said the Bigfoot was just a caveman, but he was dressed up in furs and really needed a bath!"

My caller's second encounter was not with the creature itself, but it must have been close by for the strong odor was noted, a factor in many sightings of Bigfoots.

"My two sisters and I had ridden horseback into the woods one day...we came across where limbs had been stripped from a young tree in the trail. The horses wouldn't step over them...there was a rustling in the brush...my horse reared up on its hind feet and wouldn't go over the pile of limbs. Then, I smelled a strong odor...like a 100 pairs of socks from as many stinky feet...not a 'dead' smell and not a 'skunk' smell...a sweaty smell...real pungent, too."

My caller made an observation about the Bigfoot family and its possible relationship to the abandonment of homesteads on the Coppel. I have an opinion on that, but it would be interesting to talk with some of the descendants of those homesteaders.

Members of the Bigfoot family often raided her family's garden,

my caller told me.

"Many people around there had experiences of following tracks made by a big barefooted man....sometimes the stride of tracks was so far apart we had to run and jump to get from one step to another...it was a real big one, I guess."

My caller also noted that "a real big one looked into our windows one night. Lots of people up there had this sort of experience and it was pretty un-nerving to them...I think it was a reason many left that area and gave up their homesteads...they just moved out and never said why, although not all were doing too badly."

My own idea of why some people gave up homesteads was simply because the land would not provide a living for the family. I know this was the experience of my mother's family in the Colville country at the turn of the century. When the homestead was "proved up" her father had to head to the nearest town and take a job in a sawmill to earn a living. The land wouldn't do it and nobody was buying the land, either. So, the family wound up just moving out and abandoning the plans for the homestead, my mother told me.

A couple more comments about the Coppel Bigfoots.

According to my caller, the creatures "were a family...no mistake about that and I think they even had names for each other. And, another thing, when a Bigfoot got angry, they'd throw rocks at whatever made it angry."

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If you're tracking a Bigfoot or planning to go through a field to check out a stretch of a stream for trout, remember to check first with the landowner.

I got this reminder shortly after the February sighting of Bigfoot tracks on the slopes of Mill Creek and on up to Five Points. The point made in her note to me was well taken by Geanice Meiners, writing for Five Points Farm, Inc.

"As a matter of note: We get a little tired of the Bigfoot Charade, and the fact that the land we farm gets so well publicized, AND draws so many people. This land is Lyons Trust land, and has been posted for 'No Trespassing' for some time. We don't enjoy seeing the human footprints walking through the wheat we grow, and the ONLY person who can give permission for anyone to be in the No Trespassing area is Dennis Gisi of the Baker Boyer Trust Dept."

This notice applies to the land where the tracks of three unknowns were seen in February, but sentiment expressed by Meiners applies to all lands where you might see strange tracks that you want to check out.

Or, with the trout season now opened, if you want to try your angling skills on a stretch of a creek.

Check first with the property owner!

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, Boston, MA - May 23, 1995 CR: R. Dumas

## The Search for Life 'Out There' Continues

IT'S one of humanity's grandest questions: Are we alone in the universe? Engineers now have powerful new technology to help search for an answer. And that's why even though Congress doesn't want to fund such research any longer, the public hasn't let the Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) die.

Planetary Society members, for example, have just matched a \$100,000 challenge gift from Micron Technology Inc. to upgrade the SETI observatory managed by Harvard University Prof. Paul Horowitz. This will supply advanced computer-memory chips for listening equipment that would have been impossible to build a decade ago when the observatory in Harvard, Mass., began its SETI program.

Meanwhile, the SETI Institute of Mountain View, Calif., is finishing a survey of nearby stars in the southern sky in cooperation with Australia's Parkes Observatory. The 210-foot radio telescope at Parkes is the largest radio telescope in the Southern Hemisphere. Temporarily outfitted with the institute's specialized radio-detection equipment, it has become a sensitive listening post for alien signals.

This is part of a larger, privately funded search program that the institute calls Project Phoenix. Like the legendary phoenix that rises newborn from its funeral pyre, the project revives some of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's SETI program that Congress killed in 1992. It has refined the NASA-developed radio detectors and picked up part of NASA's planned survey of selected stars. Phoenix has a list of 1,000 stars closer than 150 light-years away that seem likely to have planets. About 200 of them are visible only from the Southern Hemisphere. Hence the cooperative search with Parkes Observatory, which is about six hours' drive west of Sydney.

Like other SETI searches, this one listens to a band of radio frequencies between 1,000 and 10,000 megahertz where there is little cosmic radio interference. This search specifically targets 28 million channels from 1,200 to 3,000 megahertz. If a suspicious signal is detected, analyzer equipment linked to a 72-foot auxiliary radio telescope 150 miles away checks it out.

So far, roughly 100 stars have been checked with no signals yet detected. The observation program ends May 31. Then a two-week "open" observation period follows during which other teams can use the equipment before it returns to California.

### SCIENCE

Robert C. Cowen

**'We've definitely had a signal from an intelligent civilization. But we can't tell if it's from this world or from out of this world.'**

- Astronomer Paul Horowitz

SUN-TIMES, Chicago, IL - May 22, 1995

## Hunters Try to Drop In On Bigfoot

Chinese scientists set off last month on a yearlong expedition in the wilderness to search for the fabled "Bigfoot" creature.

Now they may have to act as Bigfoot's bodyguards. It seems the people who run the Shennongjia National Park, hoping for more tourism in Bigfoot-land, put a bounty on the ape-man's head.

And the bounty hunters are on their way. Scientist Wang Fangchen, in charge of finding the creature that may or may not exist, said Bigfoot "will be given total protection," if need be.

The bounty is \$60,000 alive, \$6,000 dead or \$1,200 for authentic droppings, officials said.

### Fingerprints of the Gods-

Graham Hancock

(Crown/ 0517593483/ \$27.50/ 624 pages)

Originally published in Great Britain and a bestseller there, this book explores the wonders and connections of the great civilizations of the Andes, Mexico, and Egypt. Hancock examines the technologies of these peoples, cities and ancient maps, and synthesizes this knowledge with geological and astronomical evidence to posit his thesis that a remotely ancient people of high intelligence inhabited our prehistoric earth. This currently unidentified civilization lived as much as 10,000 years earlier than scholars have previously thought.

Structures examined and discussed in detail include the pyramids & the Sphinx of Giza, the Peruvian fortress of Sacsayhuaman, Bolivia's Tiwanaco and a number of pyramids in Mexico. Hancock gives evidence that Antarctica was a warm-weather region and suggests that it held an advanced civilization, until a global catastrophe thousands of years ago. He supports this suggestion with crust-displacement, a theory related to that of continental drift and one that held Einstein's interest.

Hancock delves into the worlds of mathematics, mythology, anthropology, archaeology and geology. He relates findings to the legends of a lost Atlantis and to Biblical accounts of pre-historic events. He includes most recent findings of technology. Formerly a journalist for *The Economist* and the London *Sunday Times*, Hancock holds a 1990 H.L. Mencken Award for his book *Lords of Poverty*. His *The Sign and the Seal*, documenting his investigation of the Ark Of The Covenant, was an international bestseller.

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