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DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - July 30, 1995

GAO: RAAF messages destroyed

Bruce Brown
Record State Editor

All of the outgoing messages from the Roswell Army Air Field from October 1946 to December 1949 were destroyed without proper authority, according to findings released by the U.S. General Accounting Office.

The GAO is the investigative arm of Congress, and was asked by Rep. Steve Schiff,

R-N.M., to identify any government records concerning the July 1947 crash of an object near Roswell.

The GAO released its findings Friday in an 18-page document addressed to Schiff who immediately made the document available to the public.

Also destroyed were records such as finance, accounting, supplies, buildings and grounds, and other general

administrative matters from March 1945 through December 1949.

"People will interpret the missing documents in different ways," Schiff said in a telephone interview from his Washington, D.C. office Saturday.

"Some people will further suggest this is part of the conspiracy. The Air Force suggests that even if these documents were improperly destroyed,

other documents in that era were improperly destroyed also."

He gave as an example the fact that all outgoing messages from RAAF in 1950 were destroyed without proper authorization.

The GAO report states that the chief archivist for the National Personnel Records Center said that, in his personal experience, he found that many of the Air Force organiza-

tional records from this time period were destroyed without showing the name of the person authorizing the destruction.

One document that wasn't destroyed was the 509th Bomb Group July 1947 History.

In the history, it was reported that "the Office of Public Information was kept quite busy during the month

answering inquiries on the 'flying disc,' which was reported to be in the possession of the 509th Bomb Group.

"The object turned out to be a radar tracking device," the history said.

The only other document found to include reference to the "Roswell Incident" was a teletype message from the Dallas office of the FBI to the Cincinnati office detailing a telephone conversation between an officer from the Eighth Air Force and the FBI's Dallas office.

The message described a disc, hexagonal in shape, which was suspended from a balloon by a cable. The balloon was about 20 feet in diameter and resembled a high-altitude weather balloon with a radar reflector.

The Air Force released a report last year which discredited the weather balloon story and instead offered Project Mogul as an explanation. The report said that the crashed object was probably a Mogul balloon.

Project Mogul is described as a highly classified effort to detect Soviet nuclear weapons using balloons that carried radar reflectors and acoustic sensors.

Schiff said the discrepancy in the stories doesn't mean the officers who made the reports in 1947 were trying to hide the truth. He said they may have merely been reporting what they had been told.

Schiff also said he took exception to a Saturday news report that claimed he said the Roswell UFO was a balloon. According to Schiff, he didn't offer any conclusions except to say he was sure it wasn't a weather balloon.

"My purpose in this records search has always been to try to find documents on Roswell so people can make up their own mind," Schiff said.

The GAO did a very thorough job, according to Schiff. When Clifford Stone, director of research at the UFO Enigma Museum, saw the GAO report, he said, "I'm angry and bitter because I think Schiff's office got waylaid."

The investigation was incomplete because the GAO never investigated Project Moon Dust and Operation Blue Fly, two programs begun in 1953 which the military alternately deny and acknowledge, Stone said Saturday.

Moon Dust was allegedly a project to recover debris that may have fallen to Earth from

outer space.

"If Sputnik (launched in 1957) was the first space launch by any government on Earth, what were they recovering up until then?" Stone asked.

Stone said the lack of available paperwork is a sure sign the government is whitewashing something.

"Whatever it was, it was highly classified and it was no balloon," he said.

Stanton Freidman, nuclear physicist, lecturer and author, takes the CIA, the FBI and the Department of Defense to task for not being thorough enough in their searches, he said in a telephone interview from his home in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, Saturday.

"The CIA looked up Mogul balloon, Project Mogul and Roswell, and they didn't look up flying disk, flying saucer, which were the terms they used at the time," he said.

"They didn't look up Corona, for example, they didn't look up Eighth Air Force. It makes no sense, I mean, what kind of search is that?"

He also criticized the FBI for not including an alleged memo, handwritten by J. Edgar Hoover, dealing with the

crash at Roswell. According to Freidman, Hoover wanted to cooperate, but wanted access to the discs.

Other documents the GAO checked for reference to Roswell included:

■ At the National Archives in Washington, D.C. — Air Force papers on unidentified flying objects and Army Counterintelligence Corps historical files from 1947-49.

■ At the National Archives II in College Park, Md. — Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14 and National Security Council meeting minutes from 1947-48.

■ At the National Archives, National Record Center in Suitland, Md. — Army Inspector General reports from 1947-58, Army staff intelligence correspondence from 1947-56, Headquarters Army Air Force message traffic from 1947-54, Army Air Force and Air Materiel Command (Wright Field) research and development files from 1947-50.

■ At the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Mo. — Morning reports for RAAF units in July 1947, Eighth Air Force messages from 1947-50, Eighth Air Force correspondence from 1947-51, Eighth Air Force weekly activi-

ty summaries in July 1947, service records of key personnel assigned to RAAF in 1947, Project Sign (the predecessor to Project Blue Book) investigative reports from 1948, Army Adjutant General correspondence from 1947-49 and missile test firing reports at White Sands from 1947-54.

■ At the Department of the Air Force in Washington, D.C. — current and past records management regulations and a report of Air Force research regarding the Roswell Incident from July 1994.

■ At the Department of the Army in Washington, D.C. — current and past records management regulations.

■ At the Department of the Navy in Washington, D.C. — Air accident reports for July 1947.

■ At the Air Force Safety Agency at Kirtland Air Force Base — air accident reports for July 1947.

■ At the Air Force History Support Office at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. — 509th Bomb Group and RAAF monthly histories for July and August 1947.

GLOBE, Boston, MA - Sept. 8, 1995 CR: R. Dumas

Harvard professor faulted on UFO work

By Alex Beam
GLOBE STAFF

Though Harvard Medical School officials last month declined to censure professor John E. Mack, an official letter summarizing the still-secret investigation of the controversial UFO investigator criticizes his research methods, his accounting procedures and his use of the Harvard name and insignia to promote his treatment of UFO "abductees."

The sharp tone of the letter from Dean Daniel Tosteson, citing "im-

portant questions about the quality and appropriateness of the clinical care that you have provided to your patients," contrasts markedly with a milder statement released in August. At that time, Tosteson "reaffirmed Dr. Mack's academic freedom," and said Mack was a "member in good standing" of the faculty.

Mack, a former chairman of Harvard's combined psychiatry department, is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and researcher who has spent the last five years investigating alleged instances of abductions by ex-

traterrestrial beings. To date, he has discussed most of his findings on television talk shows and in his 1994 best-seller "Abduction," prompting severe criticism from his Harvard colleagues.

From May 1994 until June 1995, a Special Faculty Committee of the medical school conducted more than 30 secret meetings with Mack, his patients, colleagues and rivals to prepare a lengthy report on his activities. The inquiry officially ended July 28, when Tosteson summoned Mack to his office to discuss the committee's findings.

At that meeting, Tosteson handed Mack a private letter outlining the report's criticisms of Mack's work. According to Mack, both men

agreed that the letter would be sent only to Joseph Coyle, the chairman of Harvard's psychiatry department, and to Mack's superior, Robert Dewart of Cambridge Hospital. In recent days, however, the letter has leaked and found a wide audience around the medical school.

According to the letter, the Special Faculty Committee report:

■ "Expresses the opinion that you did not make adequate use of professionally qualified consultants."

■ "Questions whether your billing procedures were clear and consistent."

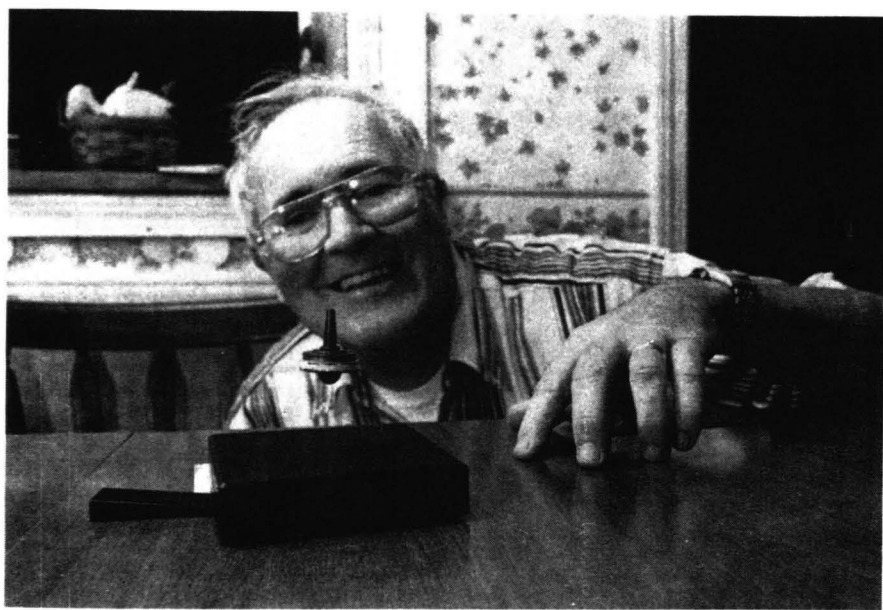
■ "Calls into question the rigor with which your research was conducted... For example, it is unclear whether sufficient diligence was ex-

ercised in the search for physical evidence of the abduction experience."

■ Urges Mack to publish his research in peer-reviewed journals.

■ States that his Program for Extraordinary Experience Research, which features the Harvard emblem on its letterhead, is not associated with the school.

In an interview, Mack decried the "leaking of a highly confidential document to the news media." He described his July meeting with Tosteson as "collegial" and said the letter "is very one-sided," reflecting only the committee's criticisms and none of the detailed rebuttal he and his lawyer had presented.



Dick Larke, who retired after teaching science in Portland schools, demonstrates a spinning magnet that hovers in midair, held there by a combination of magnetic repulsion and centrifugal force. Larke is teaching a course on UFOs for Middletown Adult Education this fall.

UFOs sneak into adult ed program

By DAN McCAUSLAND
Middletown Press Staff

MIDDLETOWN — Metal objects, even spinning ones, are not meant to hover in mid-air.

Similarly, little green men in flying saucers are not meant to exist.

While Dick Larke can make metal objects hover, he is not claiming aliens are waiting in the night sky above Middlesex County.

He is, however, teaching a course on Unidentified Flying Objects for Middletown Adult Education.

"I'm not trying to convince people that there are little green men out there," Larke stressed.

"UFOs and that sort of thing seem to fit into the quasi-supernatural," he added. "I hope I'm not into that."

The explanation of the floating disc is entirely grounded in science. Magnets with the same polarity repulse each other.

The secret is to align the smaller magnet above the larger one perfectly.

By spinning the small magnet, centrifugal force holds it in place untroubled by the imperfections of the magnetic fields.

"It really did get me interested in UFOs," said Larke. "It does show a different kind of flight," he added.

Larke, a retired science teacher in the Portland school system, is fascinated by scientific concepts that might explain UFOs and interstellar travel.

"It would probably be an excellent way of traveling," he explained. "There are some really neat ideas out there."

Larke's interest was further fueled by the popularity of the extraterrestrial thriller TV program the "X Files," and heated Internet debate over a Fox program on an alleged alien autopsy.

Adult education officials did not bat an eyelid at the alien nature of Larke's proposal when he offered it over the summer.

Dr. Hall to discuss alien abductions

St. Michaels resident will talk about 'Psychological Theories of Abductions'

By ERIC MILLS
Health Editor

One of two things is happening:

- 1) Large numbers of people are being abducted by alien beings. Or,
- 2) Large numbers of people think they are being abducted by alien beings.

In either case — mass exploitation by some superior species in the shadows, or mass delusion fueled by some weird zeitgeist of the soul — it is an end-of-the-millennium phenomenon of great interest to social psychologist Dr. Robert Hall.

If these bulbous-headed, black-eyed night visitors exist, it is, of course, an epochal shift in world history.

If the visitors do not exist, the mystery remains: Why are so many sober-minded individuals convinced otherwise, convinced that they have been taken away in darkness, medically manipulated like lab specimens, then returned to their beds?

Even if none of it is true, something strange nonetheless is going on, for such a collective hallucination is, by any measure, indeed strange.

Hall is studying the enigma.

The St. Michaels resident, a member of the national board of directors of the Fund for UFO

"Science is discovering an anomaly that they can't explain within the realm of current psychological theory. So they're trying to escape the anomaly by explaining it away. It's like saying, 'This can't be, because it doesn't fit our theories.'"

Dr. Robert Hall

Research Inc., will be one of the featured speakers during a seminar this Saturday at Prince George's Community College in Largo. Hall's lecture, "Psychological Theories of Abductions," comes amid a day of talk topics related to the UFO phenomenon.

Much of UFOlogy is devoted to the holy grail of hard evidence: the ever-elusive indisputable photograph, or spaceship shard, or diminutive corpse of a gray-skinned humanoid from who knows where. Hall seeks other evidence — not in a scorched-earth cornfield, but in the disturbance patterns left in the minds of the victims, the alleged victims, of alien abduction.

They're not all flakes, leftover hippies, New Age airheads crafting a quasi-religion. The victims more often than not are everyday people, terrified, desirous of avoiding any kind of publicity.

They check out as normal by the guideposts of standard psychological profiles. They cross class and gender lines, and if they have a unifying characteristic it is this: Standard reality becomes irrelevant, for in their own brains, there is no question. They were taken by the nocturnal ones. This really happened.

In the victims' painfully resurfaced memories, "It was real," says Hall. "It absolutely does not resemble a dream."

Born in Georgia, raised in Connecticut, Hall was a research social psychologist with the Air Force Personnel and Training Research Center. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota, where he later became assistant professor of sociology and received grants from the National Institute of Mental Health and the Hill Family Foundation.

He was program director for sociology and social psychology at the National Science Foundation. He was head of the Department of Sociology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is thoughtful, soft-spoken, widely published in scholarly journals.

And he has a life outside the UFOlogy community. "I've refused to let this become my one absorbing interest." Last year he was commander of the Miles River Power Squadron. Last week he was at Bates College in Maine, delivering lectures on psycho-social stress and the effects of stress on health.

He doesn't live, breathe and sleep UFOs, which lends a level-headed plausibility to his beliefs and arguments. "At this point I cannot firmly rule out that this is some kind of psychological phenomenon like false memory." False memory, he notes, has become "a hot issue in the reporting of sexual abuse." In some cases there is a false memory of abuse, in some cases a true memory, "and we have not yet figured out how to separate the two. I think we have a similar problem here [with alien-abduction cases]."

The key compelling factor, again, is that the typical abduction victim is "not only psychologically normal, but utterly sincere and very shook up by whatever it is they remember," says the psychologist. The casebook victim is in a state "very similar to post-traumatic stress disorder."

But were they abducted? "I don't take it as weighty evidence that it's real. I take it as weighty evidence that they believe it sincerely."

Does he? From the evidence he has studied, does Hall believe these abducting entities exist?

"I really haven't made up my mind firmly, but I tend to believe they are real, much as I would rather not believe it."

If victims worldwide are experiencing a shared illusion — a shared illusion with oddly realistic after-effects — to a behavioral scientist, the profundity of the trend is little diminished.

"If it is a false memory thing, then it is a very important one to understand... I'm willing to be convinced by good evidence that it's a psychological thing. If it is a psychological thing, then it is extremely important... This does not at all resemble any documented case of mass delusion..."

"The central factor in my beliefs is that this is an anomaly, something we cannot understand within our present scientific knowledge."

Theresa Liseo, coordinator of Middletown Adult Education's general interest programs, said that because of Larke's sterling service to adult education and his science background, no one was concerned by the extraterrestrial nature of his course.

"He is such an enthusiastic and reliable teacher," said Liseo.

"We try to offer courses that are topical," she added.

Larke himself inhabits the middle ground on the issue of whether little green men are really visiting us in flying saucers.

"It's pretty hard to feel that in the universe, as big as it is, we are the only ones," he said.

"I'm not so foolish to think they are going to land in my back yard tomorrow," he added.

His course starts on Oct. 3 and runs for four Tuesdays. Spaces are still available and

There are no easy answers for skeptic or believer. "Science is discovering an anomaly that they can't explain within the realm of current psychological theory. So they're trying to escape the anomaly by explaining it away. It's like saying, 'This can't be, because it doesn't fit our theories.'"

Hall studied an abduction incident that allegedly took place in Talbot County.

He interviewed the victims, a couple who requested anonymity.

In the wake of the incident, the wife read up on the subject. She left a book on the coffee table.

Her young child, who knew nothing of what was transpiring with the parents, reportedly pointed at the picture of the alien with large black eyes and said, "That's the doctor who comes and sees me every night."

Saturday's UFO seminar begins at 10 a.m. Lectures run through 5 p.m., followed by a panel discussion. Hall will be joined by other leaders in the UFO field, whose topics will be "The Government and Roswell," "Perspective on UFOs and SETI," "The UFO Evidence: An Update," "Cosmic Paper Trail: The Documents of UFOlogy" and "Abductions: Physical Evidence Cannot Be Ignored."

In-person registration will be allowed; cost for the day is \$25. Prince George's Community College is at 301 Largo Road. Take Route 50 West to 495 South. Take the first exit, 17A, Landover-Largo Road, Upper Marlboro East. The campus is about 3 miles down the road, on the right. The seminar will be held in Marlboro Hall 1097 unless otherwise posted. Call 301/322-0797 or 322/0875.

Letters

It's time to talk

Dear editor:

Can we talk about this yet?

Nicholas Copernicus determined in the 15th century that the sun, not the Earth, was the center of our planetary system. However, the accepted view at the time, was that the Earth was the center. So, being the wise man he was, he had his findings published only after his death.

A century later, Galileo Galilei confirmed his theory with his telescope. However, he was not a wise man and published his findings against the accepted views of the majority. His use of the telescope not only cost him his eyesight (he spent too much time looking at the sun without a filter), but he was also placed under house arrest for life and given the choice of retracting his findings or losing his head. He quickly got smart, retracted his findings and kept his head,

Which allows the majority of us still living in the 20th century to maintain without a doubt, "We are the only ones."

Or so I thought until October, 1952. At that time I was assigned to the Marine barracks in Key West, Fla., (presidential guard.) While on leave the last week of October, a high school girlfriend and I had what UFO experts call a close encounter.

In July of 1952, I returned from the Korean war after serving one year in the George Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division. I was wounded twice, but nothing in the war has stuck in my mind like the encounter at 9 p.m. the last week of October, 1952.

I have since spent 43 years researching the phenomena in an effort to find an answer. In looking for the answer, I have reread the Holy Bible and books by Stephen Hawking, Zacharia Sitchin and many others in an effort to find out who and what I am.

On Monday, Aug. 28, at 8 p.m., the Fox television network presented a film titled "Alien Autopsy: Fact or Fiction?" Because of so many requests, it was repeated again Monday, Sept. 4, 1995.

If this film proves to be authentic, it is the greatest story since the beginning of man. If not, it's the biggest hoax of the 20th century.

Yet not one of the three major newspapers covering our county has printed one word on the subject. Perhaps my favorite little newspaper, *The Arcadian*, although under new management, will continue to cover news of interest to its readers, while we awaited the arrival of its three big brothers into the 20th century.

John M. Burch
Arcadia, Fla.

ALIEN ALERT

In the current "Flying Saucer Digest," published by the local United Aerial Phenomena Agency, the "Around and About the Saucer World" column has a story about you.

Actually, it's a request for



"abductee volunteers from the northern Ohio region" for a research project that would "push the frontiers of knowledge in the area of abduction events to new shores!"

To all you "X-Files" fans, that probably sounds like a front for Long-Nosed Greys looking to harvest human DNA, but it isn't. It is the next logical step in Nick Reiter's quest for truth.

Reiter, 33, who works in a Toledo solar-power research lab, has spent several years testing "certain individuals," as he politely describes them, who exhibited a sensitivity to magnetic forces.

"As comical as it sounds," Reiter says, "we took a large magnet and held it near their heads while they were blindfolded." Even though they could not see the magnet, these individuals knew exactly where it was.

"Wherever we moved it, they experienced a very strong physical pressure in their heads or a very strong tingling feeling," Reiter says. "They also had a spook response - like their hair standing on end - that was similar to the panic attack they experienced during their UFO encounter."

That's right. Individuals with magnetic sensitivity had a history that included alien abduction.

Reiter wanted to prove that these abductions were

accompanied by a measurable electromagnetic disturbance. So he designed a "magnetic field detector" using rubber, glass and bits of a plastic soda straw.

He placed his detector in 14 homes, seven of which were occupied by people who had been UFO-ed.

"The trend," Reiter says, "was the units in the abductee homes were going off."

Apparently the aliens were coming back and triggering changes in the electromagnetic field. Now instead of just testimony from abductees, Reiter believes he can produce tangible evidence of alien visitation.

He wants to expand his test group and redo the experiment with laboratory-grade instruments. He needs your help.

He can be contacted at 541 W. Stone St., Gibsonburg, Ohio, 43431.

CR: B. Robbins

DEL NORTE TRIPLICATE,
Crescent City, CA
Aug. 15, 1995

Flying saucer?

Local residents report weird lights in the night sky

By Dorothy MacKenzie

TriPLICATE staff writer

It appears the West Coast is popular with another kind of surfer - galaxy surfers with their unidentified flying objects.

Several Fort Dick residents reported spotting gravitating lights late Sunday night which were, according to the Del Norte County Sheriff's Department log, "motionless in the sky, then doing U-turns and returning to the previous location."

A deputy who responded also noted seeing "lights in the Eastern sky ... hovering and then moving east to west."

"It is undetermined what it was," said Lt. Tony Luis, public affairs officer for the Sheriff's Department.

The incident was reported to the UFO Hotline - a number which feeds into the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Wash.

The hotline took calls of sightings all along the West Coast during a 24 hour period that included Sunday evening.

Sean Ratnour, 16, of Fort Dick, said he observed the distant objects from about 11:30 p.m. Sunday to 1:30 a.m. Monday.

Taking advantage of the clear sky and good weather, he and a friend decided to watch for meteor showers. What he saw, he said, was not natural.

"At first it looked like a star," he said. "It was white and moving back and forth. We said that's no satellite. It made a U-turn, dove and came back. It split into two and they played around."

"It was the big red one like a planet that scared us," he said, referring to a third UFO. "That one went across the sky northbound and grew bigger. It moved fast and would stop and be still and start up again. It was truly scary. It wasn't cool."

Others in the area also observed the phenomena.

"I don't know what it was," said a Fort Dick resident who wished to remain anonymous. "It was the scariest thing I've ever seen. It was not a meteor shower; I've watched those many times. And airplanes have blinking lights. These were not blinking. They split, went up and down and sideways."

Despite the sightings, some remain skeptical to the possibility of extraterrestrial UFOs.

"I didn't think it was a UFO," said Nathan Guzik, a recent Del Norte High School graduate who witnessed the event. "It was something like a new jet. It was weird; it wasn't scary."

WestLog Aviation, the United States Coast Guard, the United States Forest

TRIBUNE-REVIEW, Greensburg, PA - Sept. 3, 1995

ALLEGHENY ATTITUDE

Coincidence? Wecht gets foxy with televised 'Alien Autopsy'

Monday, Aug. 28, 1995

8:17 p.m. A video wave receptor in the North Hills of Pittsburgh picks up a strange and unprecedented transmission.

The receptor has locked on to a frequency operated by a broadcast network named for a small, furry, aggressive mammal.

An "Alien Autopsy," we are told, is under way.

8:19 p.m. An unidentified figure in white picks up a scalpel and begins the grisly work at hand. The film is black and white, the images grainy and at times unclear.

8:20 p.m. As the camera pans the prone figure on the table, a familiar voice intones: "Six fingers on each hand ... six toes on each foot ... a humanoid figure."

The intoner himself is more than humanoid.

He is Wecht. Dr. Cyril Wecht. Famed coroner. Raconteur. Candidate.

Candidate for Allegheny County coroner, providing commentary on alleged alien autopsies. Coincidence?

8:21 p.m. The issue at hand has little to do with the November ballot. Or does it?

The questions raised tonight have "alien voter" implications beyond anything Pete Wilson has ever considered.

The "facts" in evidence deal with the discovery in the New Mexico desert and the furor over a film that purports to be a few decades old and to show an actual alien cut apart.

Who is capable of assessing such evidence? You know.

8:25 p.m. As body parts are separated and internal organs lifted out, the candidate-coroner speculates as to their type and origin.

The possibility of a hoax is raised. Only three possibilities exist: This is the simulated autopsy of a special effects creation, this is the actual and horrifying autopsy of a pitiable homo sapiens who probably never envisioned becoming the ratings delight of the summer, or this is the vivisection of a visitor from another planet.

Consider this: the broadcast frequency originator is owned by a man from Australia, who once formed a business pact with a man named Newton.

You be the judge. Tuesday, Aug. 29, 1995 7:32 a.m. The ratings are in. "Alien Autopsy" has aggregated the largest number of viewer-consumers that the small, aggressive, furry mammal channel has ever experienced from the beginning of June to the end of August.

The best Monday night ratings

since the "Melrose Place" finale.

"Melrose" star Heather Locklea also has a tiny body, large head and unusually big eyes. Coincidence?

Fox officials immediately decide to rebroadcast the special at 9 p.m. Labor Day.

Wednesday, Aug. 30, 1995

11:15 a.m. During last spring's primary season, Wecht supporters threw an "O.J."-themed fund-raiser giving donors a chance to meet other pathologists working for the O.J. defense.

Autopsy photos from Simpson trial deemed unsuitable for network broadcast.

Graphic-if-grainy alien autopsy OK.

Is truth really stranger than fiction?

Thursday, Aug. 31, 1995

2:37 p.m. Columnist places call to home of candidate-coroner and learns that Dr. Wecht is "out of the country."

Australia? The solar system?

Later in the p.m. A phone number is offered and a time set. Analysis of the area code points to an eastern seaboard state known primarily as the residence of late-night talk show host David Letterman. Coincidence?

Friday, Sept. 1, 1995

9:03 a.m. Columnist disables "call waiting," enters the 11-digit number, and is informed that the candidate is not "in" yet. This coincides with the beginning of Regis. Coincidence?

12:11 p.m. The Macintosh (PowerPC 6100) voice-mail messaging system alerts columnist to incoming transmission.

Dr. Wecht apologizes for missing previous calls.

He was in Rio de Janeiro at a conference on the Kennedy assassination and also missed the Fox special. Informed of its out-of-this-world ratings, he says, "Wonderful ... great."

Asked about six weeks ago to review a controversial film that had come into Fox's possession, Wecht flew to Washington, D.C., watched the 20-minute film a couple of times and taped his commentary.

Family feedback leads him to believe that the final product did not misrepresent his views.

"This is a serious program and it's intended to let people see and come to their own conclusions," he says.

"I remain on intellectual tenterhooks myself - on the fence. I've never been a UFO follower."

"There is a lot here that is extremely puzzling, exciting, provocative. At the same time you can't help but ask yourself, is this some kind of extremely clever charade?"

Of the being he saw autopsied, he says, "It's significantly unlike any body I have ever seen or heard about. It is like a human, but one would hesitate to call it human. It's not a girl I would date."

"There is much to give one pause."

Indeed. (Ruth Ann Baker is a talk show host on WTAE-AM radio.)

USA TODAY, Arlington, VA
Oct. 10, 1995 CR: J. Heeger

STREET TALK



DANIEL KADLEC

The UFO factor: Regular readers of *Volume Reversal Survey*, a market newsletter, may be surprised by editor Mark Leibovitz's commentary in last week's issue. In it, he discusses the USA's "secret government," which Leibovitz theorizes is preparing for "a secret (military) attack on U.S. citizens in Arizona, Idaho and Montana." He also asserts the government for 50 years has kept secrets about UFOs and alien beings on Earth, and that the secret may not hold much longer. "Some say Clinton is threatening to come out with the alien story if he is hounded any further on (White-water)," Leibovitz writes. "One or more of these events could be enough to send the financial markets into a panic."

In an interview, Leibovitz said his "conspiracy theories" aren't central to his investment strategy. But he's bearish on stocks anyway. "We may be in a topping phase now and starting a multiyear bear market," he says. "These things may not come to fruition for 10 years. But the day they do, if you're in the market, forget it."

Daniel Kadlec's e-mail address is hadlec@prodigy.com.

Service and the United States Air Force all denied having aircraft in the area at that time.

"Many of the sightings have nothing to do with mistaken identities, such as twinkling stars, swamp gas,

satellites or the space shuttle," said Peter Davenport, director of the UFO Reporting Center. "It is my suspicion we are dealing with peculiar craft that do not seem to conform to terrestrial aircraft on this planet."

SEEING IS BELIEVING

Rally promotes awareness of UFO sightings

By Susan Vela
The Grand Rapids Press

Kirsten Gates doesn't know if she believes in space ships, eerie beams of light and little gray men.

"But I believe there's something out there," said the 23-year-old Grand Rapids resident. "I just think it's interesting and want to find out more about it."

She got her chance Saturday, when she and about 30 others gathered for a three-hour rally on the steps of the Gerald R. Ford Federal Building.

The event kicked off West Michigan's 1995 UFO Awareness Week and included speakers, poetry, skits and songs all touching on close encounters of the third kind.

Organizers also set up tables to sell their alien wares — space ship toys, rocks painted with alien faces and alien dolls that play the Disney song, "It's a Small World," when their belly buttons are pushed.

"You can question my facts, but don't question my sincerity," said Dan Wright, head of the abduction research project for the Mutual UFO Network Inc. (MUFON), after his noon speech regarding "gross observations" gleaned from 195 sightings.

MUFON, which is based in Sequin, Texas, and claims 5,000 members worldwide, seeks to research alien sightings.

Wright, who's never been abducted but claims he's seen mysterious lights, stated there are at least 10 types of other beings and that people claiming to have been abducted by them have similar details when revealing their stories through hypnosis.

Most abductions are for reproductive purposes, he noted.

The typical subject generally senses something is about to happen — perhaps "electricity in the air" — before the abduction occurs, usually in the dead of night when humans are more sedate and willing to cooperate, he said.

The alien then levitates the human before leading him to a space ship, sometimes via a beam of light, he explained. Then, the abductee enters a vestibule and is led into "the infamous greeting room where, if the subject's



Check it out: "X File" fans Bob VanderClay, Jason DeVoss and Bill Rogers sign petitions at a rally in downtown Grand Rapids.

“Someday you will remember; now you must forget.”

ALIEN MESSAGE TO ABDUCTED HUMANS

not already naked, he soon will be," Wright said.

What follows is, for men, the removal of sperm, and, for women, the removal of eggs to make hybrid human-alien, Wright said.

The "usually gray beings" then return the humans to their earthly homes, reproaching them that, "Someday you will remember; now you must forget."

"That's why hypnosis is so important to bring it back," concluded Wright, a 1965 graduate of Godwin Heights High School who works as a policy analyst for the state Department of Social Services.

Bill Rogers, 35, of Sparta joined Grand Rapids residents Bob VanderClay and Jason DeVoss, both 19, in attending MUFON's 11th annual rally.

Although all supported the possibility



A believer "totally," Megan Buss, 20, of Rockford examines UFO-inspired souvenirs at the rally on Saturday.

of other beings, DeVoss remained a bit skeptical of Wright's details.

"Since we haven't seen any (aliens), I can't really comment on that," said

DeVoss, now attending the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

This is the third year West Michigan participated in UFO Awareness Week. Virginia Tilly, organizer and a field investigator for MUFON, said attendance increases each year, with many people telling tales of close encounters for the first time.

MUFON accepted calls last year when, on March 8, 1994, Ottawa County 911 calls included several people calling to report strange lights in the sky.

Also, one National Weather Service official said a "thing" zipped from South Haven to 10 miles west of the city, over Lake Michigan, in approximately 10 seconds.

"There's the ridicule factor," noted Tilly, claiming sightings can break up marriages and cause people to lose jobs. For her, though, her experiences just made life "a lot more interesting."

Tilly said she saw her first UFO at age 5, when an alien told her to study hard.

Six years later, she was taken aboard a space craft for a physical exam, the details of which remain hazy, she has said.

UFO Awareness week will conclude Sunday, Aug. 20, with a 1 to 6 p.m. picnic in Wyoming's Pinery Park.

Nothing happened in July '47?

SANTA FE — To no one's surprise, 14 additional government agencies have joined the Air Force in saying that nothing happened at Roswell in early July 1947.

U.S. Rep. Steve Schiff's big investigation by the General



Jay Miller

Inside the Capitol

Accounting Office is over. A two-year search from one end of this country to the other has turned up two documents mentioning a balloon being found near Roswell — and that's it.

If you're like me and find it hard to believe that little gray

men landed in a spacecraft, maybe you're happy it ended this way. But there are some things that still bother me.

First is the front-page headline in the July 8, 1947, Roswell Daily Record: "RAAF Captures Flying Saucer On Ranch in Roswell Region." The article quotes the Roswell Army Air Field Intelligence Office as announcing it had come into possession of a flying saucer.

The military doesn't deny that much. But the next day, higher officials said the boys of the 509th Bomb Group had mistaken an ordinary weather balloon for a flying saucer.

Possibly you've been reading about the 509th Bomb Group lately. They were an elite collection of pilots, drawn from throughout the Army Air Corps to drop the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They were the very best we had.

And since our country's leaders determined that we needed to maintain a nuclear

deterrent, the special unit was kept together and sent to Roswell. It's hard to reconcile in my mind that the only guys entrusted with delivering our nation's nuclear punch couldn't tell the difference between a weather balloon and a flying saucer.

It's a good thing we never had to drop another nuclear device. The 509th might have loaded the bomb bay with cream puff's by mistake.

And then there's the people of Roswell. Too many of them say they saw something more than a balloon. If this had taken place in Santa Fe, I might believe my government. But when I hear people in that part of the state stand up for their neighbors' reputations, I believe them.

Schiff had the same sort of feelings. And he thought he knew a solution. Although it appeared that no agency would ever find any records of what happened at Roswell, all gov-

ernment agencies are required to keep a permanent record of all messages they send out.

But somehow, only one of those 15 agencies could find any message it had ever sent anyone about the Roswell Incident. That was an FBI teletype message sent from its Dallas office to its Cincinnati office detailing a July 8, 1947, telephone conversation with an officer of the Eighth Air Force in Fort Worth, Texas, about a weather balloon that landed near Roswell. The one other piece of information turned up by the two-year search was a history of the 509th Bomb Group telling how its public information office was kept busy during the month of July 1947 answering inquiries about the flying disc, which turned out to be a radar tracking device.

Maybe weather balloons are radar tracking devices, but the description sounds much more like the story the Air

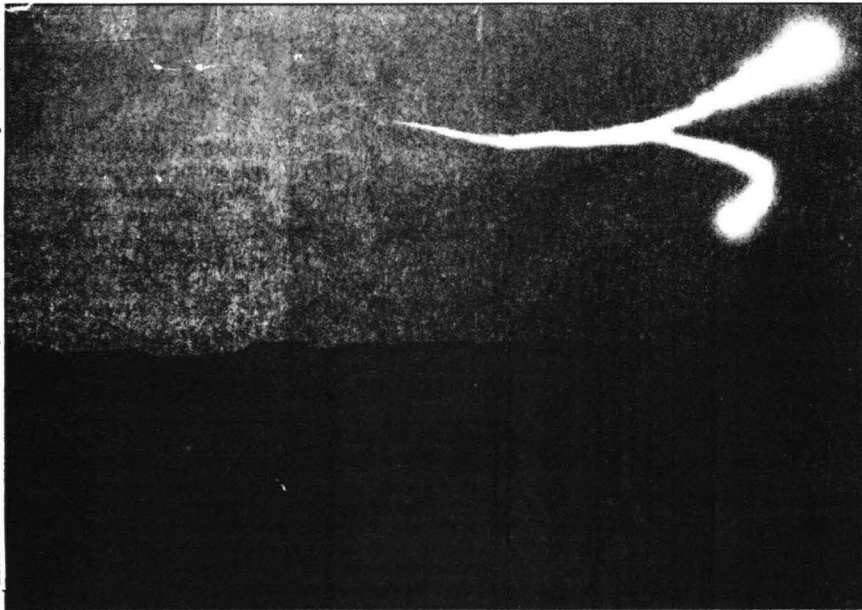
Force switched to last year.

The Roswell base, by the way, destroyed all outgoing messages from that period "without proper authority." It was a good try by Schiff — and it should have worked. Maybe it's all coincidence that many important people showed up at bases across New Mexico in the days following the Roswell Record headline. And maybe it's also coincidence that except for flight records of those visits, we have no idea of why all the excitement.

Schiff seems ready to bow out of any further involvement. Some already are saying that's because he has learned the truth and now is part of the coverup.

Only by accident are we likely to ever learn what really happened. And it may not be much more exotic than a balloon. But as long as people keep thinking of new records to check and they turn out to be missing also, the conspiracy theories will grow.

Personally, I think we should quit worrying about it, but continue to promote our state's burgeoning UFO industry — for fun.



Argus Observer/LARRY HOFFMAN

This computer illustration of an unidentified flying object is what was described by Treasure Valley residents Tuesday morning. A bright light appeared in the sky, split in two and disappeared. Some say it was a meteor. Others believe it is a true UFO sighting. The photo image was created by the Argus Observer staff.

UFO: Facts or fabrications

Residents give first-hand accounts of what they saw

ONTARIO — Many people in the Ontario vicinity saw the object that crossed the sky early Tuesday morning. Some were pretty sure of what they saw; others still can't explain it.

Following are responses to an article in Wednesday's edition of the Argus Observer asking for those who witnessed the object to give their account.

Tim Ray, Fruitland:

Ray, 24, was taking his children to their babysitter in Fruitland and was traveling south on U.S. Highway 95 when he saw the light.

"My radar detector started going real nutty when I got on top of the hill there (by Palisades Jct.)," Ray said. "I reached over and unplugged it."

He told his children the object was an airplane.

Ray described the object as a white and bluish sphere with light emanating from it. He said it glided across in front of him between 100 and 150 feet off the ground. He said he stopped his vehicle and two smaller objects came around and seemed to move toward the vehicle before they disappeared. He said he would estimate the size about the same as the water tower in Fruitland.

Ray said there was no noise from the object. He said it took off flat and went out for a half mile to a mile before disappearing.

"I got a pretty good look at it," he said. "It was there."

Charlene Grosdidier, Ontario:

Grosdidier, too, saw the light in the sky. To her, the flash did not look like a meteor.

"I saw a greenish-white light moving through the center of the sky," she said. "All of a sudden, it split in two and totally disappeared."

Grosdidier said she saw the object from west to east about 10 o'clock high.

"I've seen meteors and I know what they are," she said. "This wasn't one of them. It was bigger than any of the morning stars and definitely bigger than the light on an airplane."

"It was real amazing to watch it. It didn't leave any trail and I heard no noise."

Ed Parsons, Payette:

A retired U.S. Air Force fighter pilot, Parsons was also mystified by the sighting.

Parsons was on U.S. 95 in Payette when he saw the light.

"I first saw it ... very low on the horizon," he said. "It was a very bright, greenish-yellow light. It appeared to be on a fairly steady course from my right, headed toward the east."

"It was two or three times the size of a falling star. It was kind of oblong like a football, but not as defined as a football would be."

"When the large, bright light disappeared, all I could see was two little green lights, one on one side, and one on the other, like they might be on the wingtips or something."

Parsons said he had his window down at the time of the sighting. "There was no noise, like a sonic boom. I have no idea what it was."

Parsons, who flew planes for 35 1/2 years, said he has "pooh-poohed" others who claim to have seen something similar.

"If you look up at the sky long enough, things seem to move," he said. "This is one thing, whatever it was, that was very, very real. I've never seen anything like that."

Kay Martin, Fruitland:

Martin was traveling south on U.S. 95, just south of Gayway Junction when she saw it. She estimates it was half to three-quarters the size of a full moon.

"It was bright and round, but not round like the moon, more like a glob," Martin said. It was moving faster than an airplane, but slower than a shooting star.

Martin said the object appeared to be burning in the atmosphere.

"I guess it took about 10 to 15 seconds for the whole show and it

was quite an awesome sight."

Martin said it was quite uneventful — enough so that "I had forgotten about it by the time I got my morning Diet Coke and didn't even remember to tell any fellow employees."

"I really don't think there were little green men in it and no, I don't think they were on their way to abduct a cow or some poor person to do strange experiments on them. Last but not least, I don't think the government know all about it and is trying to cover the whole thing up for any reason."

Ron Schappert, Fruitland:

Schappert, too, was on U.S. 95, south of Fruitland when he saw the light.

"It started bright, then became dull red," he said. "It seemed stationary for about four seconds before it moved."

Schappert said the object with a tail two times as long as the ball, which appeared the shape of a dinner plate, but smaller. He said it moved from what seemed the Vale vicinity toward Boise, and broke into two pieces. He said a small ball came off the left side of the object, while a bigger object came off the right, then disappeared.

Shelley Brudenbach, Ontario:

Brudenbach was on her way to work, traveling south on South-west Fifth Avenue, near the Treasure Valley Community College campus.

Brudenbach said the light was low in the sky, "not like the stars."

"It was slower than a falling star and it split in two," she said. "Then they disappeared."

Gary Wallace, Fruitland:

Wallace said he noticed the object, along with his two brothers, about 6:35 a.m. as he was headed east toward Parma.

He said the round, white light moved east and was visible for about 10 seconds. He said it moved from the passenger-side of his windshield to the driver's side, split in two and vanished.

Florence Sherk, Adrian:

Sherk said she was closing her bedroom window shortly before 7 a.m. when she saw the light.

"This bright light was whipping along from the west headed east," she said. "I remember thinking,

"The sound is sure a long way behind."

"Then I closed the curtains and forgot about it."

Clare Landreth, Westfall:

"When I first saw it, I thought it was a comet or a meteor," Landreth said. "It was very real, very impressive, very bright and very fast."

Landreth said the sighting lasted a short time and "I don't know if a person could have counted to 10 before it disappeared."

Landreth said the object appeared to split in two before it disappeared.

"I am personally suspicious when (the government) denies (knowing about it)," Landreth said. "Our officials probably know what this was. In my opinion they're trapped ... they can't tell us what it is. We're probably living in danger."

"They can tell us if a drop of rain fell in Reno. Are you telling me they don't know if something invaded our atmosphere?"

"I wish they would just tell us the truth about what it is instead of lying to us."

Frank McCambridge, Ontario:

McCambridge said he saw the light twice. The first sighting came Aug. 15 about 6:30 a.m., about a quarter-mile from Murray Pond, nine miles east of Unity. The second, Tuesday at 9 p.m. occurred while returning from fishing south of Unity.

Both times, McCambridge said the light lasted about five seconds, then ~~it was like someone flipped a switch and it went out. It was a ball of real bright, green light.~~

McCambridge was heading north when the light appeared in the east. He said it was kind of odd shaped.

"It didn't bother me any. It kind of bothered my friend a little. I'm quite sure it wasn't a meteor because it was traveling in a horizontal direction. Meteors would be going down."

Cheryl Darling, New Plymouth:

Darling had arrived to work at Woodgrain Millwork about 6:30 a.m. and was parked on the north end of the complex.

She said she saw a very bright, white light coming toward the bulk tanks, headed northeast and then turned to the southeast.

"That's when I saw flashing red and green lights, then it disappeared," she said. "Planes don't move that fast. At first I figured it was a plane, but it was moving too fast."

Kevin Johnson, Ontario:

Johnson was on his way to work and was headed south toward Kuna when he and his younger brother spotted the object in the sky.

"It was a single light. I thought maybe it was a jet's afterburner," Johnson said.

Then, he said, the object split in two and the light "intensified three or four times. Then it went back to one light and disappeared."

Johnson said the sighting "kind of put me in awe. It didn't scare me, it was just really weird. When it went back together I could see it start to me, and then it was just gone. I don't think it was a meteor."

Anita Goff, Weiser:

Goff's husband wouldn't believe her about the sighting until news reports started filing in.

Goff was on her way to work when she saw a "strange light at Mosso Corner, about four miles north of Ontario on Oregon Highway 201."

Goff said the light was bright in front and dimmer in the rear. "It was closer to the ground than an airplane, but faster," she said. "I

thought it was a falling star, but I did not see it land."

Glenda Barnes, Nyssa:

Barnes was with Ruth Rodriguez, walking near the LDS church when they saw the light.

"I was this light. It looked like a huge fuselage of a burning plane," Barnes said. "We saw it about four or five seconds and it disappeared."

Rodriguez said the object, which was headed east, split in two before it disappeared.

Dory Eusche, Ontario:

Eusche was on the way to work, headed from Ontario to Nyssa when "I saw bright lights, it seemed like an airplane. ... It was slow moving and really bright."

Eusche said the light was large and headed southeast.

"I thought maybe it was a UFO," she said. "I kept looking and pretty soon it disappeared."

Janine Miller, Weiser:

Miller, an employee at Treasure Valley Community College, was on Oregon Highway 201 headed to work when she spotted the object out of the right corner of her eye.

"It was headed from west to east," she said. "At first I thought it was an airplane but, as it moved across the sky, the light from it became brighter and larger."

Miller said she felt it was moving too slow to be a falling star.

"As I watched it move across the sky it looked like it was very close to earth for the size it was," Miller said. "It looked about the size of a headlight in the sky. Then it looked as though it caught on first and had a fiery tail for about three to five seconds and it started plummeting toward earth."

Miller said she was concerned the object would strike the earth and kill someone. "That was the only time I was scared," she said.

Miller said the object split in half and reminded her of how the Space Shuttle Challenger looked when it exploded.

"Both pieces were still lit up like stars and, after a second or two, they were no longer lit up and there were just two black objects in the sky," she said. "Then they just disappeared. It was like they disappeared into thin air."

Miller said she felt really special to see the phenomenon. "It was something that not many people would ever get to witness and I was so excited that I was one of the few who did," she said. "I think it was the most beautiful sight I have ever seen."

Mike Aubrey, Weiser:

Aubrey was at the Weiser Air Service office at 6:30 a.m. when he saw the light.

"I happened to look over at the flag pole and saw a green light," Aubrey said. "I told Frank Thompson, 'Boy, that plane is out early.' It looked like it was in the pattern for Runway 30. Then it split, one light went southeast and one went east."

Aubrey said the light was traveling "rather slow," but when it split it went "really fast and then disappeared."

Aubrey said he saw what appeared to be a vapor trail about four feet long after the object vanished.

"I could not tell you what it was, but it made the hair stand up on my neck and back," Aubrey said. "If I had an opinion, I would have to say I've never seen anything like it in my life. So I would say, 'UFO.'"

Tuesday sighting may fall into rare, unexplained files

LARRY HURRLE
Argus Observer

ONTARIO — UFOs: An unidentified object seen in the sky believed by some to be the crafts of extraterrestrial beings. Tuesday morning's phenomenon in the skies south of Ontario is no different. Some believe the explanation is simple — a meteor; other's believe the object was something else — something, well, unexplainable.

Ike Bishop, a UFO analyst with the Mutual UFO Network in Boise, says the Tuesday sighting is still in the investigation stages and is still not explained.

"Ninety-nine percent of sightings can be explained," Bishop said. "I think this one is going to fall into the 1 percent that can't be explained."

By most reports, a bright object appeared in the southern sky, moving west to east at about 6:30 a.m. The object, flying in a horizontal pattern parallel to the earth, then split apart, flew a short distance further and disappeared.

Was it a meteor that exploded due to the earth's dense atmosphere? Or was it a craft or two crafts from extraterrestrial beings? Bishop is taking the investigation very seriously.

"We've been looking into it," he said. "We've had over 100 phone calls (in Boise). It's still in the investigation stage."

Bishop is the chief field investigator for MUFON, a worldwide, non-profit organization founded in 1969. The organization has more than 5,000 members and, according to Bishop, simply wants to find scientific proof that UFOs exist. MUFON has more than 20 members in Boise.

As for Tuesday's sighting, MUFON is at the stage of

explaining what the phenomenon was not, instead of explaining what it was.

"We know it was not a commercial airliner," Bishop said. "It was not a crop duster or a private plane and it was probably not a helicopter. It's very doubtful it was a helicopter."

The area of the sighting covers southern Oregon from the Crane area to the Oregon-Idaho border and east to Parma, Caldwell, Nampa, Kuna, Melba and the Snake River, Bishop said.

Bishop said he has been in contact with Mountain Home Air Force Base, the Boise Air Terminal and Hill Air Force Base in northern Utah. None of the contacts has confirmed any sighting on radar. Also, a check of falling space debris in the Northwest revealed nothing.

Bishop said the object disappeared in the vicinity of the Snake River, south of Kuna. He said flyovers and a driving tour of the area revealed nothing hitting the earth.

One interesting note, Bishop said, was the object was picked up at the Boise State University seismology department. Upon checking the scans of earthquakes, lightning strikes and other disruptions picked up by the seismographs, Bishop said the reentry of the Space Shuttle into the earth's atmosphere was a very similar pattern. The rest were completely different.

"It created the same sound waves as the Space Shuttle," Bishop said. "I asked if it could be a meteor, and he said 'absolutely.'"

Bishop said as large as the object was described, it should have been picked up on the radar. As well, he said, if it were a meteor, an explosion should have been heard when the object split apart. All reports indicate there was no noise.

"This object was very large and was traveling very fast," Bishop said. "The way it entered the earth's atmosphere could have made a meteor go on a horizontal trajectory. The earth's atmosphere, being as dense as it is, would have made the object explode. But there wasn't any noise and there were people very close to this."

Currently, Bishop said, reports indicate the object was between 2,500 and 5,000 feet high. However, he said, indications the object may have been seen in western Oregon or from Washington may indicate it was higher in the atmosphere.

Anyone with information on the object can call Bishop to report their sighting at (208) 345-6174.

Encounters too far out for skeptics

Alien meetings topic of UFO conference

By CLAY EVANS
Camera Staff Writer

Leah Haley has seen the face of "alien entities" who have been abducting humans from the Earth, and it is Sinead O'Connor.

Well, that's not exactly right. But at least one of the entities the 44-year-old former accountant from Tennessee said she encountered aboard an extraterrestrial craft bore a certain resemblance to the bald-headed, angst-ridden Irish diva.

The female alien "told me that her people were trapped in this dimension, and they needed our help to get out," Haley told an audience of about 35 people during a conference on "The UFO Phenomenon" in Boulder on Sunday. Another session of the conference was held in Denver on Saturday.

Haley, the last of three speakers at the conference sponsored by Parker resident Jack Steinhäuser, kept her audience riveted to their seats as she regaled them with stories of her many abductions and offered slides purporting to show injuries received at the hands of aliens.

But while Haley, her husband Marc Davenport, and Christopher O'Brien, who investigates claims of the paranormal in Colorado's San Luis Valley, intrigued the audience with claims of extra-terrestrial encounters, some skeptics say there's something missing from all such reports.

"What they are lacking is any real physical evidence that is irrefutable," said Kendrick Frazier, editor of The Skeptical Inquirer, a magazine published by the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal. "And if a person has been abducted — a federal crime — why not report it to the FBI? One reason may be that there is a large fine against false reporting."

But Haley would answer that even the FBI may in fact be in on the alien conspiracy: She said she also was abducted by military officials, who used electric shock to try and make her confess her "experiences aboard alien spacecraft. Waiting just off-stage, Haley said, was a silent, knee-high alien she calls the "Gerber baby" type.

Haley's alleged encounters began at age 3. She said she later met an alien in the Alabama woods — a memory she did not recall until "hypnotic regression therapy" in the 1990s — after she, her brother and a friend witnessed a silver ball hovering in the sky.

In "the late '70s or early '80s," Haley had a non-hypnotized memory of being abducted by tall, chalk-colored beings with big, black eyes, and a separate memory of being raped by a tan-colored creature resembling a reptile.

Haley said the aliens take tissue samples and extract sperm and ova, and that she has seen human-alien crossbreeds aboard alien ships.

Davenport said as many as 2 percent of Americans may have had extremely close encounters with aliens. He said the entities may possess unusual technology that makes it difficult to catch or detect them.

"If my hypothesis is correct, they can warp space-time," Davenport said. "Meaning, if two people are standing there, one might see them and the other might not. Like those traffic lights that you can only see from one place." Haley said the aliens also are adept at erasing memories via telepathy and hypnosis.

Or perhaps, skeptics argue,

"abductees" simply have vivid imaginations — and a need to fit in.

"This is sort of a cultural-social phenomenon right now," said skeptic Frazier. "But is this something going on external to

McGee
CR: S. McGee
July 10, 1995
Bristol, TN
HERALD COURIER

Night lights:

Authorities have no explanations for unusual sightings

By MARK HYLER
Bristol Herald Courier

Authorities aren't sure what Jeff Scott captured with his video camera Saturday night — the Washington County, Va., man isn't exactly sure himself — but more than one local resident reported seeing a number of unusual red lights hovering in the sky near the Virginia/Tennessee line.

A dispatcher with the Washington County Sheriff's Office confirmed that there were a number of calls, "probably seven or eight," regarding reports of darting red lights in the vicinity of Denton's Valley east of South Holston Lake just after 10 p.m.

But what the lights really were is still a mystery at this point.

Scott, 32, who lives on Cave Creek Road near the lake, said his daughter and her boyfriend were in the backyard of his home when two luminous red objects slowly appeared from behind a ridge.

"They came in and told me, and I had her get the camcorder and record it," Scott said. "It happened twice — about 20 minutes after the first two came through, there were five more. When they came across the mountain they just stopped; one almost looked like it set down on the mountain."

After one of lights appeared to revolve around the others, then settle near the treetops, Scott said, the lights suddenly moved rapidly north toward Abingdon and out of sight.

Scott's film shows a number of reddish lights at a distance darting across blackness, but there are no discernible markings that would indicate what they are.

"It was the weirdest thing; they were just bright, solid red lights," Scott said. "We watched them for five or 10 minutes."

A spokesman at the traffic control tower at Tri-Cities Regional Airport in Blountville, who asked not to be identified, said there were no reports of aircraft in the area when the UFO reports came in to authorities. "The only thing we know is that the sheriff's department called and asked us if we had

any traffic up there, and we told them we had no known traffic in that vicinity," the controller said. "It could have been any number of things — they could have seen a military refueling operation way off in the distance, but we don't know of anything up there."

Hal Austin, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Morristown, said there was no unusual weather in the area Saturday night and no weather balloons in the region.

"The closest upper-air sighting (of a weather balloon) would have been in Wilmington, Ohio, north of Cincinnati," Austin said. "There was nothing like that in our area."

Kathy Gibson, who lives across the state line from Scott in Tennessee on nearby Denton Valley Road, also reported seeing the lights. "The neighbors called and I went out and looked — there were three of them in a row facing the hill behind us," Gibson said. "They were moving; you could see them sort of flashing."

Gibson's husband, Donald Gibson, says six years ago he saw similar colored lights, only much smaller, behind his car. "They were different, though — about the size of your fist — and they stayed right down along the road chasing behind the car."

Though the sightings reported Saturday night were near the state line and reported by resi-

dents in both states, the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department said they received no reports of the lights. Police in Bristol also received no calls about the lights.

Stacey McGee, founder of the U.S. UFO Information and Research Center in Johnson City, said his organization has been monitoring some reported sightings in the region over the past few weeks, but had received no calls about the lights Saturday night.

"Two or three weeks ago we began to receive some (local) reports of lights in the sky between 2 and 3 a.m.," McGee said. "Those were basically white lights that behaved in the same manner as described by the gentleman who reportedly made the sightings in Washington County."

McGee added that he has previously heard of other sightings in Northeast Tennessee that resembled the one Donald Gibson spoke of, in which smaller lights hovered close to the ground and even approached individuals.

"And in the last 10 months we've had a few daylight sightings reported of spherical objects in Jefferson County (Tenn.), where the discs hover momentarily then move off at incredible speeds, almost vanishing. The general theory is that this activity could be the military testing experimental aircraft, but we just don't know — it possibly could be extraterrestrial."

(alleged abductees') minds, or internal to their minds? I think the evidence is very strong that this is connected to their own imagination and psychology. It's another fad movement of the times."

Salida man reports and videotapes an apparent UFO

by Chris Hunt
Mail News Editor

Yesterday, Salidan Tim Edwards was just a casual believer in unexplained phenomena.

But then he saw a UFO. That's right, an unidentified flying object. A flying saucer.

"We observed it for at least an hour," he said. "It just hovered in the sky, directly west of the sun."

Some might say the 42-year old Salidan has spent too much time out under the sun, but he insists what he

saw, and what he captured on video tape, was not from this planet. "With binoculars, you could see the red and green revolving lights," he said. "It was the shape of a disk, and it moved incredibly fast."

Edwards, who lives on County Road 144 near Fairview Cemetery, said his six-year old daughter spotted the UFO first. "She said, 'Daddy, what's that up in the sky,' and I looked up and there it was." He was outside doing some work on his house's gutter when the sighting occurred.

Not sure what to do next, he called the National UFO Observatory in Seattle and reported his sighting. "They had calls flooding in from all over," he said. "They had calls from Montana and Pennsylvania from people who'd seen the same thing I did."

According to Edwards, the flying disk was enormous. "It was like a big slice of light about as wide as the full moon," he said. "It just hovered up there for about an hour, maybe more."

He guessed the UFO was about 60,000 feet from Earth because the regular jet traffic that criss-crosses the valley appeared to fly under the object. "But it could have been higher," he said. "It could have been 20 or 30 or 100 miles up for all I know."

Edwards' video tape of the UFO shows a single slice of light, horizontal to the camera lens. Occasionally, red and pale green lights appear to revolve around the object. The camera shows the UFO at eight times normal size. With the naked eye, Edwards said the revolving lights were harder to see.

Four people claim they saw the UFO, including his two daughters, his father, and himself.

"It was kind of eerie,"

MOUNTAIN MAIL, Salida, CO

Aug. 28, 1995

**"It was kind of eerie. I know it wasn't from this world."
—Tim Edwards**

Edwards said. "I know it wasn't from this world. I know I sound crazy, but I really believe it was from another world." Despite the ominous affect the alleged UFO had on him and his family, Edwards felt totally safe. "I was really excited just to get to see it," he said. "I don't think there was any reason to be scared. Actually I wish it

had landed. If it had landed, it would have covered the whole town of Salida, it was that big."

With a pair of binoculars, Edwards said he could almost make out individual light panels on the front of the saucer.

He wanted to get a look through a spotting scope, but the apparent space ship moved too fast to accommodate the sensitivity of the instrument. "One second it was right by the sun, and then the next second it was 30 degrees from the horizon," he explained. "It moved faster than anything on this planet can move."

Edwards wants to release the videotape to someone who can do a computer enhancement on it. "I think if this (videotape) were enhanced, you would be able to see the actual structure of the disk," he said.

Edwards admits, in the past, to watching television programs on UFOs and other unexplained occurrences, but he says he wasn't a wholehearted believer in them.

"I'm a believer now, let me tell you," he said. "I know that what I saw was not from Earth."

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Sept. 20, 1995

UFO

BY CAROLE BAKER

Multiple Sightings Over Pensacola Beach

The evening of August 29, 1995 proved to be one in terms of sightings of unidentified lights over Pensacola Beach.

A group of six skywatchers at Shoreline Park, including an out of town visitor from Washington D.C., had a sighting at 8:36 p.m. Appearing over the south end of the Bob Sikes Bridge an orb of amber/red lights was sighted that just blipped on and then blipped off again after approximately ten seconds.

Later that evening Jean Patina was looking at the stars from her balcony on Ft. Pickens road when at 9:35 p.m. she noticed a bright light flash high in the western sky just south of the position of Jupiter.

"It was at one o'clock high just south of Jupiter," Jean told me. "It was very bright and very high, and quite large, being approximately one quarter inch across at arm's length."

As Jean watched the light flash

on again two more times with quite long intervals in between as it progressed across the sky on a northerly track.

"I know what the strobes on planes and even what those rotating satellites look like when they flash, and it was definitely not either of those," Jean said.

She saw it flash on and off a total of three times and then did not see it again even though her view of the sky was clear and unobstructed. "It was just not there anymore," she said.

Jean is a regular skywatcher and has a good vantage point from her balcony and has seen other unidentified objects/lights.

To report a sighting, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. For information on the Project Awareness 1995 Gulf Breeze Conference to be held October 20-22, call Project Awareness at (904) 432-8888. Keep looking up!

OUTLOOK, Carmel, CA - July 6, 1995

Newly-formed UFO Study Group explores topic of alien visitors

By DELIN CORMENY

MERRIAM KATHALEEN says the first thing people notice about her and Ron Lampi is how "normal" they look.

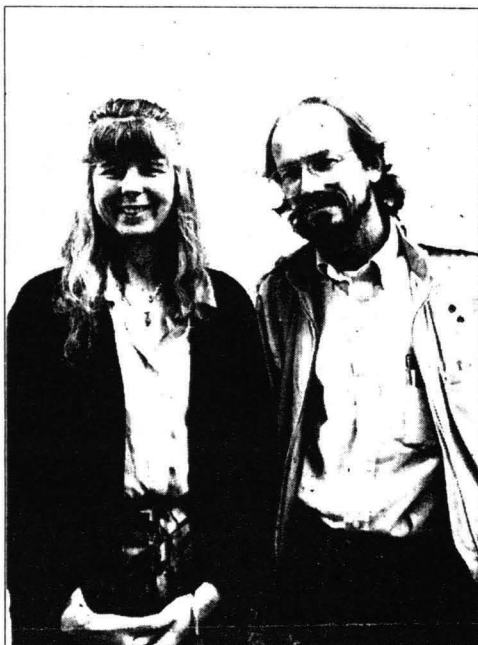
Kathaleen and Lampi are UFO study group coordinators for the Carmel, Monterey, Santa Cruz and Sacramento areas.

The groups meet monthly to discuss topics ranging from first-hand experiences to an alleged United States government cover-up to the impact of UFOs on spirituality.

"It's a reality other than our normal everyday reality, and it's breaking in," Kathaleen said. "We're getting visitors for some reason or another, and whether it's for positive or negative reasons, we don't know for fact. We're told both. ... We're finding you can't trust what they [the aliens] tell you."

The study groups started in 1992, after Kathaleen's experience and Lampi's curiosity brought them together.

"I'm a contactee," Kathaleen explained, "but I didn't realize it until 1993."



PHOTO/DELIN CORMENY

Merriam Kathaleen and Ron Lampi

She said that when she was 10 years old, she found herself in her backyard in the middle of the

"I was taken into the beam of light, then taken into the craft. It's all very fuzzy. They [aliens] were my teachers."

— Merriam Kathaleen,
UFO Study Group coordinator

night being drawn to a beam of light.

"I was taken into the beam of light, then taken into the craft," she said. "It's all very fuzzy. They [the aliens] were my teachers."

She said the aliens did not harm her, but taught her things like the make-up of the solar system instead.

According to Kathaleen, this knowledge has been stored in her subconscious and continually reveals itself like a time-release capsule.

"The reason I'm talking about it is because I'm now remembering there were many on the craft with me," she said. "At first I didn't want anything to do with it, yet it was so fascinating I couldn't turn my back on it."

She said that skeptics try to explain abductions by aliens as mass hallucination, but claimed that in the 1980s, one in 50 people in the U.S. had some sort of interaction with aliens.

"Even if it is mass hallucination, we have to ask ourselves what is going on to cause this mass hallucination?" she commented.

She said that since she and Lampi have been hosting the study groups, they have met between 50 and 100 people who claim to have been abducted or contacted by aliens.

"You can't ignore this subject," Lampi said. "The sightings are more extensive than we realize. This is something that could have a radical impact on our world."

The self-proclaimed New Age thinker said that he has neither encountered aliens nor witnessed a UFO craft, but became obsessed with the topic after curiosity led him to research it.

"It seems like the easiest explanation we have is that we have alien visitors," he said.

He said that he sees the approaching new millennium as an exciting transition and that the airing of people's paranormal experiences are a positive step forward.

He said the general feeling of UFO researchers is that a public disclosure from the government or other reputable organization about documented alien visits is not far off.

"The cover-up is cracking," he said, adding that "maybe in a year or two it will be open contact."

Kathaleen said that the general public is becoming more and more open and accepting of UFO experiences. She said the many abductees are not only coming forward with their stories, but are now asking for help.

These groups aim to do just that, the pair said.

The study groups are made up of six to 85 people, from all ages and all walks of life. There are about 300 people on the mailing list, and that number is growing quickly.

Kathaleen is a hypno-therapist who treats abductees, and Lampi is a poet and astrologer.

The Monterey UFO Study Group meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Pilgrim's Way in Carmel.

E.T. or hoax? Kodak can't tell

Decades-old mystery resurfaces with film

By WILLIAM PATALON III
STAFF WRITER

It's a 48-year-old puzzle that sounds like *Unsolved Mysteries*, *Close Encounters* and *The X-Files* all rolled into one. And both the George Eastman House and Eastman Kodak Co. can claim a bit part.

The puzzle is the rumored 1947 crash of an alien spacecraft in Roswell, N.M. UFO buffs claim the U.S. military recovered the craft's wreckage and the bodies of several space aliens, then covered up the affair by

Film excerpts on TV

The Fox Network will broadcast excerpts from the film as part of a documentary, *Alien Autopsy: Fact or Fiction* that can be seen in the Rochester area at 8 p.m. Monday on WUHF-TV (Channel 31).

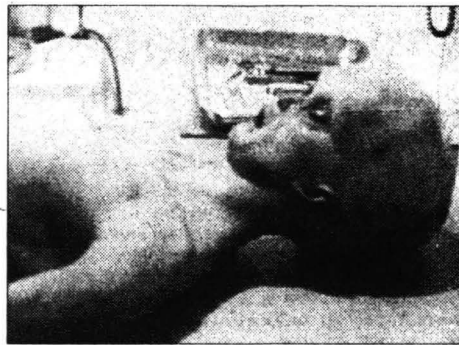
saying the debris was from a top-secret, high-altitude balloon.

Now some movie film purporting to show the extraterrestrial bodies undergoing autopsies has surfaced. A motion-picture expert at the Eastman House previewed a videotape of the film and a Kodak unit in Great Britain was given a two-inch strip of the film to authenticate.

"This is either the most extraordinary evidence of space alien visitation ever, or the most grandiose hoax of the 20th Century," said Robert Kiviat, the producer.

Paolo Cherchi Usai, senior curator of the Eastman House motion picture department, saw a videotape of the film. He's not sure what the film proves, but said it is "astonishing" because the bodies appear to be real and not stage dummies.

"My gut feeling is that this is not a fake film," Usai said. "By this I mean it is unlikely a reconstruction. What I see is something quite extraordinary, but I do not know what it is. Is it an extraterrestrial or is it a deformed person? I don't think this was staged."



Fox Broadcasting Co.

Piece of history? This frame is allegedly from some movie film purporting to show extraterrestrial bodies undergoing autopsies in 1947.

Several local residents think they spotted UFO Saturday

By JACK KING

Headlight staff reporter

Has Deming reached the *Outer Limits*? Two Deming men have reported seeing strange lights over last

"It was a ball of fire, red in the middle and orange around the outside. It seemed like one second it wasn't in the sky, and the next second it was." — Greg Granado

weekend, lights which both of them said could have been UFOs.

While neither man reported *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, both said it was definitely an experience out of the *Twilight Zone*.

Deming resident Greg Granado called the Deming Police Department Saturday night with a report of seeing a light that, he said, left him feeling distinctly *Alien*-ated.

"It shocked me when I saw it. I didn't know what it was, and I still don't know what it was, but it was so strange that I called the police," he said.

Granado said he was on his family's front porch on East Maple Street Saturday night at about 12:30 a.m. He was talking to his girlfriend on the telephone when he

observed a ball of light suddenly appear high in the sky, he said.

"It was a ball of fire, red in the middle and orange around the outside. It seemed like one second it wasn't in the sky, and the next second it was. Since I was talking to my girlfriend, I guess it could have come over the horizon, but I didn't see it," he said.

"It flew straight across the sky from east to west like a plane, only faster, a lot faster. I was just amazed by its speed. Then it disappeared. It was there, then suddenly it wasn't. It didn't make an arc like it was disappearing over the horizon. It just winked out," he said.

"I talked to a police officer and he was pretty nice. He didn't seem surprised, or act like he didn't believe me. My family has teased me a little, but my grandmother said she wishes she had seen it, too," he said.

After Granado's sighting appeared in the police reports in Tuesday's *Headlight*, Jerry Hernandez called the paper to say he and his brother Steve Kucera also saw strange lights Saturday night at roughly the same time.

Hernandez, who lives north of Deming near Catfish Cove Road, said he and Kucera were driving home on Highway 180 Saturday night at about 11 or 11:30 p.m. when they saw what appeared to be headlights to

the northeast of them, about half a mile off the highway.

"There were two lights. They looked like truck headlights on bright. I didn't think anything of it until I realized they were too high to be a truck," Hernandez said.

"Steve said, 'Yeah, that's a truck coming off a hill,' and I thought that was it, too, but then I said, 'Hey, Steve, there're no hills out that direction,'" he added.

As Hernandez and Kucera watched, the lights seemed to bank slightly, tilting off the horizontal plane the way headlights might if the truck they were attached to turned a corner. Except, Hernandez said, there is no road where he and his brother were looking.

"I just shrugged it off until I saw that report of a UFO in the paper. I want to talk to the other guy, to ask him what he saw and when he saw it. I want to ask him if he's ever seen anything like that before. This isn't the first time I've seen something north of town that I thought could be a UFO, or maybe an experimental aircraft," he said.

Kucera said the lights were still there after he and Hernandez passed them on the road.

"I thought it was a truck driving on Diaz Farms, but then I realized it was too far out. I still think it was a truck, but I'm not saying," he added.

The Roswell mystery began in June 1947. As the story goes, Roswell rancher W.W. "Mac" Brazel found wreckage of a strange craft strewn across his field.

Brazel waited a few days and then reported the affair to the sheriff who in turn reported it to the nearby Air Force base. Witnesses say the military cordoned off the area.

The Air Force base actually issued a press release stating it had recovered a "flying disc" — a report carried by newspapers and magazines worldwide. But then the military recanted, saying the debris was from a weather balloon.

Kevin D. Randle, a writer who has spent years researching this mystery and who has interviewed hundreds of people, rejects the government's balloon explanation.

"There's no doubt in my mind that something crashed, no doubt in my mind that there was a military cover-up, no doubt in my mind that it was extraterrestrial in origin," says Randle, a former Air Force intelligence officer whose books include *UFO Crash at Roswell*.

But critics of UFO believers say no hard evidence has surfaced that could even remotely support claims that a spaceship — and not a balloon — crashed. Until now.

Kodak spokesman James Blamphin said he has been "inundated with calls" from newspapers, magazines and movie studios worldwide asking whether Kodak thought the film was authentic.

"The interest in this is ... nothing short of explosive," Blamphin said.

A French science magazine phoned Kodak. So did Dutch television. Paramount Pictures in the United States called 10 times seeking information after rumors circulated that Kodak had certified the film as genuine.

Unfortunately, Kodak raised more questions than it answered. The piece of film Kodak received was from the "leader" of a movie-film spool — and bore no images — which kept the company from making any concrete statements about the film's authenticity.

After studying some coding on the piece of film, all Kodak could say was that it could have been manufactured in 1927, 1947 or 1967.

The company recycles the codes every 20 years and the numbers the film leader carried were a match for any of those three years.

But that's not conclusive either, because the coding could have been copied from another piece of film, Kodak said. Because the leader carried no images, Kodak said there's no guarantee it was even attached to the alleged autopsy film.

Published reports say the two silent and grainy black-and-white films depict the space aliens as short beings with large heads, bulging bellies and six fingers at the end of long, spindly arms. Covering each eye in lizard-like fashion is a black shell.

One of the films looks like it was shot inside a tent lit by emergency lanterns and the other in an operating room, the reports say.

The bodies show signs of wounds from the crash and bleed when cut by a surgeon's scalpel, published reports in British newspapers say.

A British documentary filmmaker named Ray Santilli told newspapers he obtained the black-and-white movie from the cameraman who filmed the autopsies back in 1947. The cameraman has not been identified and Santilli has not let anyone examine the actual movie film.

Usai of the Eastman House said he would need to look at the actual film stock to ascertain whether it is real or fake. Faking such a film would have an immense cost. So even if the film is a hoax, it's a spectacular piece of work.

"If it really is, as claimed, an extraterrestrial, the event is spectacular," he said. "If it is something else, it is extraordinary anyway."

Randle, the UFO investigator and writer, has seen the video and agrees that it is extraordinary — an extraordinary hoax.

Without the cameraman to question, and without the film to examine, the whole affair "smacks of a hoax," Randle said.

And that would be too bad.

"The Santilli film is going to damage the whole case," Randle said. "If it is proven a hoax, it's going to blow up. People will say it's just one more example of the UFO community making stuff up about Roswell." □

AN OBJECTIVE LOOK

TIMES, Richmond, WA - Sept. 3, 1995

Bryan Reports on M.I.T. Conference Devoted to UFOs

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE FOURTH KIND: Alien Abduction, UFOs, and the Conference at M.I.T., by C. D. B. Bryan; Knopf, \$25.

Reviewed by
ROBERT A. LINCOLN

After going through *Close Encounters*, the reader will probably remain as skeptical or as convinced as before — but certainly he will be more knowledgeable. It is the first book to challenge seriously the conventional belief that the question of UFOs and extraterrestrial

beings belongs to the crazies and the tabloids at supermarket check-out aisles.

The book's base is the 1992 five-day conference at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the most prestigious scientific university in the U.S. *Close Encounters*' author is not an unknown already immersed in and warped by the subject, but an independent journalist/writer who has produced six serious books of fiction and nonfiction. Its publisher is a highly respected house long known in the publishing field. An M.I.T. physicist and a Harvard psychiatrist

served as co-chairmen of the conference.

To make sure of staying on the side of factual objectivity, *Close Encounters* early on notes that one co-chairman pointed out that M.I.T. did not sponsor the conference but rather endorsed the principle of unfettered faculty investigation.

At the book's close, after carefully reporting on the conference, his lengthy interviews with abductees, and his examination of current theories, author Bryan (a former resident of Richmond who lives in Connecticut) writes that he cannot "honestly

say I have come across any hard evidence of [extraterrestrials'] presence." Until there is proof to the contrary, however, he intends to keep an open mind.

Some of the material in *Close Encounters* is repetitive and wearing. Bryan's postconference interviews, particularly with two women who have reported UFO sightings and fairly regular abductions by strange gray beings with large heads and spindly necks, take up some 200 pages, or roughly 40 per cent of the book. Especially in the case of five hypnotic sessions for the two wom-

en, the presentation unnecessarily slows things down.

In the chapter on theories, Bryan writes that "for nearly 50 years now, neither the believers nor the skeptics have budged much from their original points of view."

While *Close Encounters* is unlikely to alter the picture, it is of value in showing that people of investigative attainment consider that UFO sightings and reports of abduction should be inspected.

■ Robert A. Lincoln, who is retired from the U. S. Foreign Service, lives in Northern Virginia.

Crazy or not, here come onions

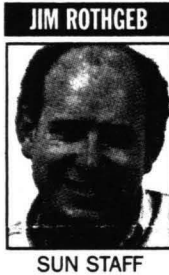
Right up front, I want everyone to know it's not the purpose of this space today to create a widespread panic.

No, sir. I believe in the undisturbed sleep of our young children just as much as the next person.

But something is going on here, earthlings, and I consider it my duty to inform you. It's just that columnistic license is necessary

here to maintain tranquility and avoid the WOWS—War of the Worlds Syndrome.

So let's just refer to this remarkable occurrence you are about to read about with some



JIM ROTHGEB
SUN STAFF

innocuous code name, like Uncle Fred's Onions.

Now I was made aware of these UF, uh, Onions, just last week by a caller who assured me he was not crazy and I have no reason to doubt him.

"Believe me, I grew up around airplanes and I know what I'm talking about," said the caller. "And what I saw out there last night was not an airplane."

It happened on Wednesday, Aug. 2, about 11:30 p.m. We actually had fair skies that night and hardly any urge to wear flannel pajamas to offset this balmy Northwest weather.

This fella said he was looking across Sinclair Inlet from the Navy Yard Highway, toward Manchester.

"There were some odd lights in the sky," he said, "something you wouldn't associate with ordinary aircraft. The first one had bright yellow and green lights and the second one was violet. At first I thought it was a helicopter but I've never seen one with lights like this."

Hmmmm, I thought. Could it be? Yes, I think so. This smells like a case of Uncle Fred's Onions.

Now normally I wouldn't give much attention to such a call. If we newspapers reported every Onion sighting we ever received, it'd be enough to make you cry.

But this one was different because just one day prior to this caller's sighting, an editor here at El Sol said she, too, had received word from a woman claiming to have seen, on an entirely different night, something we can only describe as Uncle Fred's Onions.

I must say there are countless reasons to doubt my editor's grasp on reality. But there is certainly nothing to make me suspect that what she heard on the phone isn't true, or that the caller was crazy.

Her story, as it was hearsayed to me, went something like this:

"The call came from a woman who lives near Manchester. She said she had been up late one night, talking to her daughter, and they saw some strange lights in the sky, coming from the direction of Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. The lights were very bright and I think she said they were red and yellow."

Official spokesmen at both the shipyard and Bremerton National Airport say they know nothing of these lights.

In fact, the guy at the airport wanted to know how to spell my name, probably so he could write a

WILDWEST

ALIENS AMONG US

Non-Earthlings seem to know Santa Cruz is the place to beam.

AS NIGHT FALLS and the half-moon glows, 13 free spirits convene at an isolated Santa Cruz house to debate the "alien problem."

Should we tolerate them, even those who kidnap and molest us? Are these uninvited visitors forcing us to change life as we know it? Is the change for our own good? Should we try to learn from these foreign cultures?

While they discuss, I ponder: Does Proposition 187—which prevents illegal aliens from receiving tax-supported services—apply to Martians, Vulcans and Klingons? Would their offspring even want to study math and science at our underfunded schools? If aliens communicate telepathically, should we require them to speak English as well?

While many Californians obsess over Earthly aliens crossing U.S. borders, this Santa Cruz debate involved those from a place beyond our depleted ozone layer. Or maybe not. There is the camp that believes unidentified saucers carry our great-to-the-10th-power grandchildren visiting from a future in which crossing dimensions of time is as common as flying over the International Dateline.

The group raised many possibilities in pursuit of an answer to the evening's discussion topic: Is alien contact meant to guide us ... or control us? That "contact" exists is a given with this crowd.

"Maybe they have come from the future to warn us to stop the destruction," said a man, whom I identified in my notes by his footwear, "Sandals," since only group member "Lee" and facilitators Merriam Kathaleen and Ron Lampi have told me their names. "Maybe they have come to save our genetic strain because we won't be able to save ourselves," said Sandals.

As I slouched on a living-room futon, it occurred to me that one never really knows what's happening in the house next door. While you watched televised ballroom dancing or scrubbed grout, the Santa Cruz UFO Study Group convened its monthly meeting at the bungalow-style home of Kathaleen and Lampi, and discussed reasons why many people—including most of the group's members—have been contacted, studied, guided or frightened by alien life.

Maybe I was expecting illuminated backyard landing pads, or at least a welcome sign saying, "Our home is our biologically controlled living pod," but the meeting was so low-key I had to double-check the address. It could have been an eclectic Tupperware party attended by business professionals, students and counter-culturalists—except they worried

about preserving our species, not leftovers.

A woman with a deep, gravelly voice reminisced: "In every account I've read—and I know because it happened to me—people experience hearing that 'crunch' when the implant has gone up the nose and into the brain. They may have taken away the pain, but you hear the crunch."

Readers may conclude that this woman has more problems with her brain than an alien implant, but a growing number of Earthlings believe in the possibility of life on other planets. One in 40, according to a Roper Poll, believes he or she has had contact with an alien.

Does this mean that any one of us, at any moment, may become guinea pigs in an astral experiment? And for what reason? Do future-seeing aliens have a benevolent motive we can't comprehend? Group members didn't agree. "When it goes against my will," Sandals said, "then it's wrong no matter the benefit."

Lampi challenged him: "So the rights of an individual are more important than the rights of an entire race? What if they can see into the future and they say these tests are for the good of your race?"

Group members pondered this hypothetical before a counterpoint was offered. "Did we first ask the Bengal tiger whether we could cage it and study it to keep it from becoming extinct?" asked "Tie-dyed," a woman. "Maybe when we start asking them, then they'll start asking us."

Good point, all agreed.

Kathaleen, an events planner and hypnotherapist, founded the study group two years ago to find kindred spirits in close encounters. Some members say they have seen ships from afar, some say they have been beamed up. Some, like Lampi, are believers on faith alone.

Through the group discussions, Kathaleen, 45, has been able to make sense of something she says happened decades before her long brown hair turned gray. She is just beginning to recall the occurrence, 35 years ago in her back yard on the west side of Santa Cruz.

"I remember walking toward a beam of light and I was taken aboard a craft," she says. "The reason I am willing to talk about it now is that I was on board with many children my age. I'm hoping others will hear what I am saying and it will jog a memory and they will remember."

Then she reveals her vision for an out-of-this-world discussion group, at a place that will have to be bigger than her modest house: "I would really like to have a reunion with those children."

TRACIE CONE is a staff writer for *West. Wild West* runs every other week. Folks who remember being on the ship, or people who just want to talk about UFO phenomena can contact Merriam Kathaleen at 425-4831. The group also holds occasional meetings in Monterey and San Jose.

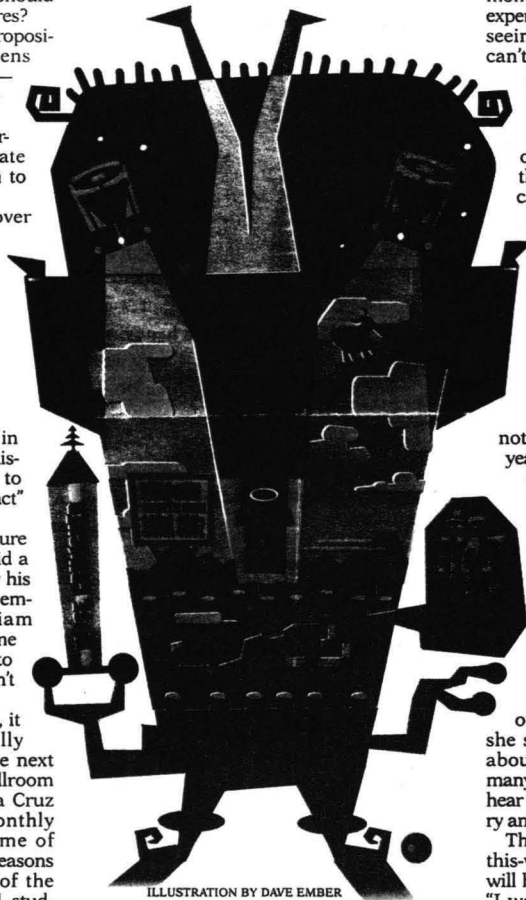


ILLUSTRATION BY DAVE EMBER

B Y T R A C I E C O N E

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Aug. 30, 1995

UFO

England's "New Crop"

By Carole Baker and
Ray Pollock

Photographs of some of the early season "crop" of crop circles in England were recently received by one of the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Research Team. They show that the complex designs in the cereal crop fields in England at the end of the 1994 growing season have continued into the 1995 season with many of the designs being larger and more complex than in previous seasons.

Many seem to have a galactic relationship this year with depictions of stars and planetary arrangements, which mimic our

own solar system to some extent, but are different in the number of planets and their orbital patterns around the central star.

Still others show interlacing or other patterns which are more "decorative" than suggestive of galactic designs. The mathematical dimensions of many of the patterns seem to fit the diatonic musical scale, but there is little consensus as to the true meaning of these designs, or their purpose.

There exist videos showing small saucer shaped objects that seem to be participating in the formation of some of the designs. Orange red "lights" have also been captured on video in the skies above where the patterns have later been found. These lights are not dissimilar to those often observed in the skies in the Gulf Breeze area. Some of the small, simple circles such as those that were observed in the Shoreline Park area and on the ball fields at Gulf Breeze High School are more likely to be landing traces left by UFOs, however,

Colin Andrews, veteran crop circle researcher and foremost

authority on the crop circle phenomena will be a featured speaker at the Project Awareness Conference in Gulf Breeze on October. For those interested in reading more on this fascinating subject "Circular Evidence" by Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews is recommended.

To report a sighting, call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. For information on the Project Awareness 1995 Gulf Breeze Conference to be held October 20-22, call Project Awareness at (904) 432-8888.

Keep looking up!

17-page report on our two-minute conservation.

I told him J-I-M and then I assured him I am not crazy.

Unless someone tells me otherwise, I can only assume those strange lights in the night sky last week came from Uncle Fred's Onions.

They may even have been driven by someone with turnip-shaped heads.

So if anyone knows more about this, I'd love to hear it.

I assure you, I'm not crazy — just curious.

Look for Jim Rothgeb's column every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. He can be reached at 792-9213.

Haut gets private viewing of autopsy film

Public can see photos from the alleged autopsy footage at UFO Enigma Museum

Steven Paul Du Bois
Record Staff Writer

While Walter Haut's screening Monday of a film of alleged alien autopsies from the Roswell Incident is private, the public can still see photos taken from the footage.

Clifford Stone, of the UFO Enigma Museum, said he received the photos last week through the Internet and from friends who have seen the film in Europe. Some of those pictures are displayed at the Enigma Museum.

The 15-minute film Haut will view at the International UFO Museum and Research Center purports to show an autopsy of two alien bodies that were recovered from the alleged UFO crash northwest of Roswell in 1947, Stone said.

The film reveals hairless aliens with no nipples, six fingers on each hand, plastic-like caps over their eyes and organs and brains which are definitely



UFO researcher Clifford Stone describes photo reproductions of a film showing an alleged alien autopsy taken in 1947. The photos were

sent to Stone in Roswell through friends and the Internet and are displayed at the UFO Enigma Museum.

Mike Pettit photo

not human, Stone said.

The 150-minute film is being released in small segments by Ray Santilli, of England, who claims to have found the Roswell Incident footage while researching a film about Elvis Presley. Santilli said he purchased the film for \$150,000 from an old man who was at the Roswell Air Force Base in 1947. Santilli wouldn't reveal the old man's identity.

Congressman Steve Schiff, R-N.M., saw the film recently as part of his ongoing investigation of the Roswell Incident. Haut said he thinks he will be shown the film because he may help identify people in it.

Haut, who was a public affairs officer at Roswell Army Air Field in 1947, wrote the press release which announced the capture of a "flying disk."

Glenn Dennis, the local mortician in 1947 who nearly got into the operating room

TIMES-NEWS, Twin Falls, ID - Aug. 27, 1995

Investigator probes sky's odd happenings

By Vickie Quinley
Times-News correspondent

JEROME - Like Bishop, a former Jerome resident, uses his investigative skills learned while a student at the Central Bureau of Investigation school to unravel unidentified flying object sightings in Idaho.

Bishop is a member and field investigator for The Mutual UFO Network based in Seguin, Texas. This nonprofit, grassroots organization is dedicated to the scientific study and research of the UFO phenomenon worldwide.

In February, 1994, Bishop investigated the cascade of lights seen over Fairfield, Hagerman and Gooding. Several residents saw a red and blue strobing light. At first glance, the lights were thought to be a natural weather phenomenon, such as ball lightning, but this theory was later disproved. This case is still open and ongoing.

The second case is but a month old and has already been depicted on the television program "Encounters." Many residents of Post Falls saw a multitude of lights in the skies making patterns. After the police department investigated

the calls, Bishop was contacted.

A series of cattle mutilations have been reported along with the sightings in this particular case. In 1958, similar lights were seen all the way from Idaho to San Francisco. This case is also still under investigation.

"It's my job to disprove rather than to prove," Bishop says.

In the past 20 years, sky anomalies have been reported over Jerome, Picabo, Sun Valley, Wendell, Idaho Falls as well as Gooding, Hagerman, Fairfield and Post Falls.

Bishop and other members of the Idaho Mutual UFO Network have organized a discussion and research group that meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month. The meeting is held at Borah High School in Boise, and the public is welcome.

Bishop would like to educate serious-minded people in the Magic Valley to investigate sightings in this area. He can be reached at (208) 345-6174.

Of the sightings he investigates, 99.9 percent can be explained, he said. "But it's that .1 percent that is so interesting."

before being turned away, said he could identify the people in the film if local doctors and nurses worked on the bodies.

But Dennis contends out-of-towners were brought in to perform the autopsy on the aliens; local personnel were ordered to stay away from the base for two days following the alleged crash.

Stone said he has seen a lot of hoaxes in his years researching UFOs, but he is impressed with the latest bombshell to the hit the UFO community.

"I'm skeptical only in that they are too good to be true," Stone said. "If these films are hoaxed, then someone went through a lot of trouble, money and time."

Stone admits that an expensive hoax could yield handsome profits; the Fox Network, which plans to air the autopsy in August, is paying a "pretty penny" for the film and overseas sales could also be a financial boon.

"Some people will buy it because they want to believe and others will buy for reference," Stone said. "Even if I

know it's a hoax and a video comes out, I would definitely buy a copy for my research."

Stone said owning a phony alien video would help him uncover future hoaxes. Footage from obscure science fiction movies often appears as new research, he said.

William McDonald, concept designer for the "Roswell" movie, said from his Laguna Beach, Calif., home Thursday he and fellow UFO researchers, several of whom saw the film in London, believe it is probably a hoax.

"We, as a group, are assuming this is a well performed and very expensive hoax," he said. "That has been conducted utilizing very advanced make-up and prosthetic skills and procedures upon the cadaver of a young adult female who suffered from Down Syndrome and congestive heart failure."

"It's sick and it's legal," McDonald added.

McDonald, who emphasized his opinions are only preliminary, said the positioning of the alien's ears is strangely consistent with the testimony of several witnesses, but the mouth too closely resembles that of the "Stay-Puft Marshmallow

Man" from the original "Ghostbusters" movie.

Stone said the film Haut will see was shot in the interior of a barn. Santilli said it was a barn on Mac Brazel's ranch. Stone said the footage mostly shows one man performing an autopsy, an assistant and the body.

"You do see shots where there was more than just those people, but they are few and far between," Stone said.

Will Haut recognize anyone in the film at his private screening Monday?

"No," Stone said. "Because I don't think they came from his base."

McDonald said the film's lack of clarity could cloud Haut's ability to identify those filmed.

"The major problem with the Santilli material is that it is very out of focus and the camera movement is amateurish," he said. "And that is not consistent with the recording of any autopsy, either now or then."

"Therefore, until proven otherwise, we must assume this is a hoax and the lack of clarity and focus was intentional," McDonald said.

DAILY CAMERA, Boulder, CO - Aug. 5, 1995

Media biased on UFO issue

As an English teacher, I am acutely aware of the effect of language on people's perceptions and attitudes. An AP article (July 30) reported that "key military documents on the so-called Roswell incident, cited by UFO buffs as an alien crash, apparently were destroyed without authorization decades ago." The term "UFO buff" was used twice within this otherwise very informative article about permanent government records which should never have been destroyed. What is the intention behind the use of this term when referring to those examining the UFO phenomenon? And what is the association in the reader's mind when he or she reads the claims of "UFO buffs?"

In contrast to the trivial connotation of "buff," which according to the dictionary is defined as "an enthusiast or devotee," consider the more legitimate association with "researcher," defined as "one who undertakes a systematic and serious investigation." Had the article read, "UFO researchers contend that this was a coverup for the crash," would that have legitimized instead of trivialized this claim?

The media have constantly colored people's perceptions of the UFO phenomenon through the use of ridicule instead of objective reporting. Respected UFO researchers, such as Stanton Friedman, a nuclear physicist, have interviewed hundreds of witnesses, military and civilian, for over two decades in search of the truth and have published their findings.

Manipulating public opinion is not

new. If people want to continue to be conditioned to believe that the whole UFO question is ridiculous, that is their choice to be manipulated. However, if there are individuals who seek the truth and are willing to go beyond their self-comforting beliefs and assumptions, then I suggest they read further and inform themselves on this issue, probably the most significant event of our time.

DARLENE MITCHELL
North Boulder

Dentist saw UFO at 50 yards

EDITOR: Professor Koupelis and psychologist Kast are quite positive about the non-existence of UFOs. While on a fishing and camping trip to a remote area of Canada, I observed a UFO on the ground approximately 50 yards from me for an extended period of time.

When this illusionary, non-existing entity left, it crossed the path of Dennis and Wib Lohrey, who were coming back to camp in their fishing boat. It proceeded to follow them for over a mile, while positioned directly over their boat at an extremely low altitude.

Supposedly seeing is believing but not in all cases, if science hasn't progressed to the point of understanding strange phenomena.

Dr. Donald Kley, Wausau

CR: R. Heiden

DAILY HERALD, Wausau, WI - Aug. 31, 1995

Letters

UFO



BY CAROLE BAKER

BASKETBALL-SIZED RED BALL PUTS ON SHOW

At about 10:30 p.m. on Saturday evening, September 2, Donna and Jennifer were driving into Pensacola from Gulf Breeze over the three-mile bridge. Jennifer, the daughter of a regular Shoreline Park skywatcher and her friend were on their way to enjoy an evening in Seville Square. As they neared the Pensacola end of the bridge, Donna caught sight of a bright red ball of light sitting still and low to the ground along the tree line at the east side of the shoreline visible from the end of the bridge. As she watched, trying to determine what it could be, the light suddenly took off at quite a speed and raced down the treeline to the east, lower than the tops of the trees, then raced back to the west, toward its original position. As the light travelled it swung back and forth, "like someone swinging a flashlight around" Donna told me. "It seemed to swing in and out of the trees and then shot out over the water zig-zagging as it went and just

stopped out over the middle of the bay."

The whole sighting lasted some 15 seconds and Donna described the light as "a solid red ball of light the size of a basketball." During the sighting Donna tried to get Jennifer's attention, but since she was driving, she was unable to see it. "I never saw anything like it," Donna told me. "Surely someone else driving on the bridge or fishing there must have seen it too, you couldn't miss it!" In fact, if anyone else did see this interesting display on the evening of September 2, the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Group would like to hear from you at the number shown below.

To report a sighting, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline 438-3261. For information on the upcoming Project Awareness Third Annual Gulf Breeze Conference to be held October 20-22, please call Project Awareness at 904-432-8888.

For a complete brochure and registration form concerning the **UFO CONFERENCE:**

Call (904) 432-8888,

Fax (904) 438-1801,

E-Mail UMRB73A@PRODIGY.COM,

Write to Project Awareness, P.O. Box 730, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562.

THIS WEEK IN UFO HISTORY

Compiled by Carole Baker

The following are reports of sightings around the country and around the world that took place during the week of September 24-30, 1995.

FARMINGDALE, N.Y.
September 30, 1989

Twenty people on a bus witness different colored lights hovering above the ground near a lake for 3-5 minutes. Investigators found two circular patches of dead grass where the lights were observed. Three lampposts near the circle were found to be highly magnetized.

NEAR RAEFON, N.C.
September 30, 1992

A woman observed a grayish rectangular object for 22 minutes. It had six lights on the bottom. Trailing the object were 20 round, bluish white lights. (Copyright 1993 Mutual UFO Network, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Sequin, Texas 78155)

NEAR GASTONIA, N.C.
September 30, 1992

At 9:10 p.m. a man saw a cigar or oval shaped object with a bluish corona. It was the size of a house and was seen for approximately 25 seconds. There were two small disc shaped objects,

one in front and one behind it that were lit by a light from the larger object. (Copyright 1993 Mutual UFO Network, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Sequin, Texas 78155).

TILLAMOOK BAY, OREGON
September 28, 1989

At 8 p.m. nine people observed a circle of lights, each light appearing as a ring with a transparent center. The configuration was moving very slowly northwest over the bay. The total duration of the sighting was 45 minutes. (Copyright 1990 Mutual UFO Network, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Sequin, Texas 78155).

UFO's?

Too Good To Be True

By Ed Walters

For almost eight years the UFO sightings in the Gulf Breeze/Pensacola area have remained unsolved. Depending on your point of view, there are only two answers:

- (1) The UFOs are real and as yet still unidentified, or
- (2) The UFOs are not real; they are simply misidentified.

Many scores of witnesses have come forward to tell of seeing a wingless, soundless, flying object perform aerial feats apparently impossible for conventional aircraft. Even so, either of the above answers can explain these single witness and multi witness UFO sightings.

Scores of photographs and video tapes have been taken during local UFO sightings. If the photographs and video tapes show a distant glowing light, or the photographs show no structural detail, again, either of the above answers still apply.

But . . . what if . . . the photographs and video tapes show an "oop, there it is," "knock your socks off," flying, wingless, soundless object in broad daylight? But they would be wrong. The debate will continue despite any amount of definitive proof.

The reason for this is a psychological one (kind of a knee-jerk, human nature kind of thing):

The more Absolute the Evidence, The more It Cannot be Real, And Since It Can't Be Real . . . answer #2 applies . . . it must be a hoax. Why? Because, if UFOs were real, our government officials would tell us everything they know about UFOs, wouldn't they? Therefore UFOs can't be real, right?

So here is the dilemma. What is it so many people are seeing? What is it they are photographing and video taping? The photographs I took eight years ago and some more recently show "something" that looks like what "it can't be." I wrote two books about what so many of us have seen or thought we saw.

So, what is it? What was that spherical, silver object that shows so clearly in the picture I took on January 12, 1994. You know, that unbelievable picture that shows what "couldn't" be an F-15 jet fighter racing past in front of what "couldn't" be a UFO. The Air Force said the jet fighter was a Navy F-14. The Air Force said the non-UFO was "a bunch of weather balloons tied together."

Ah, now we are getting somewhere . . . "a bunch of weather balloons," great! At least it's an answer (even though it doesn't even come close to looking like "a bunch of weather balloons") instead of the usual "no comment."

Seriously, my point is this. There seems to be a normal reaction whenever clear, factual UFO evidence is presented. Which is, if the UFO evidence is too good, it can't be real.

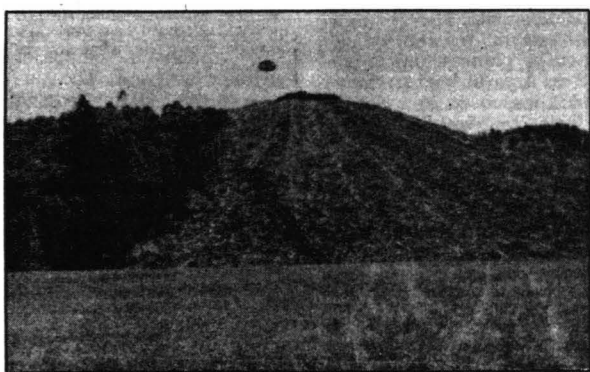
Not so long ago, on July 21, I witnessed several "fly-bys" and captured them on video. The UFO can be seen clearly entering the field of view, crossing halfway (camera was on full zoom) and reversing direction. Below the UFO can be seen and the Gulf Breeze shoreline, the Santa Rosa sound, and the 40-foot tall trees that cover Shoreline Park. The UFO briefly cast its SHADOW on the trees that line the beach. What does that mean? The UFO is real; and the shadow proves it.

UFO witnesses, UFO photos, UFO videos, shadow evidence, etc. etc. . . . So what do you think? Is it all too good and too much to be true? or are we witnessing an historic event?

Join me in considering the possibilities. Based on the worldwide distribution of The Gulf Breeze Sightings and UFO Abductions in Gulf Breeze, thousands of UFO witnesses continue to send me their sighting reports, their UFO photographs and videos. The evidence is overwhelming - but it is not too good to be true. It is too good to be ignored.

LEWIS RIVER NEWS, Woodland, WA - Aug. 30, 1995

Imagine: UFO? or photo glitch?



Don and Delores Kallio, Woodland residents, were out and about almost a month ago near their place on N.E. Cedar Creek Road interested in snapping photos of some recent logging. Using video and a 35-millimeter camera, they shot several pictures of their travels.

When they received the developed pictures, one showed what appears to be a hovering object near power lines. Nothing turned up on video.

The hill where the logging tracks were photographed is about nine miles east of Woodland on N.E. Cedar Creek Road.

The timing of this picture coincides with reports of unidentified flying objects brought in to The Lewis River News almost a month ago, and in the same general area - within a square mile.

The Kallios are believers. Don Kallio said he witnessed several shiny, flying disks in the area that

originated in about the same spot and flew behind Mount St. Helens in 1947. Delores said she had a sighting in the late summer of 1953 - same area, same type of UFO's flying in a "V" formation.

In a discussion with The Lewis River News almost a month ago, Peter Davenport of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle said there was a rash of reports coming from the Portland/Vancouver area, as well as the Midwest.

Also, part of the description of the UFO's sighted here was "glowing blue object." In the color photograph received at The Lewis River News, the object is blue and seems to glow from within.

However, it has been suggested by some Lewis River News staff that this is merely a water mark.

Imagine, UFO - Unique Photographic Obscurement? . . . or flying saucer!

POST-GAZETTE, Pittsburgh, PA - July 30, 1995

An educated UFO believer

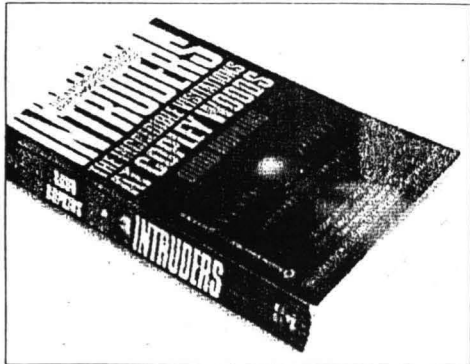
I am writing in regard to a July 9 article having to do with the UFO cover-up plot ("Many in U.S. Believe UFO Cover-Up Plot"). After reading it, I found it to be very insulting, and so did other people whom I showed it to. How could a poll find whether a high school education has any importance on those who believe in the existence of the UFO phenomena? I have been a believer in the existence of UFOs since I was 14 years old, and now I'm far beyond my high school education, and in my second year of college. Those whom I associate with who also believe in the phenomena are either in college or are college graduates.

For the sake of skepticism, there are

professors who have written entire books on the subject, and have showed interest as to whether they exist or not. Organizations and centers have been set up in various locations around the world, and run by scientists who have devoted their lives to the subject. These people are more than high school educated.

I would not like to think that the only people who believe in the UFO phenomena are those who have a high school education, nor would I like to be stereotyped as a gullible illiterate for my belief in the phenomena. They need to reconsider their poll. "The truth is out there," for those who want to read it.

DAVID A. ZUSINAS
Sheraden



FRED ROLLISON / Staff

Books, like the ones above and bottom, have been a big source of information about UFOs.

The voice of 'experiencers'

Rising interest in UFOs no longer makes believers feel like strangers in a strange land

By Wanda Lesley Owings
STAFF WRITER

Small gray beings who visit in the night? Telepathic conversations with aliens? Medical examinations aboard an alien spacecraft?

It sounds all too bizarre — the stuff of tabloids and TV talk shows.

Yet hundreds of people — "normal, healthy, sane citizens from all over the country," as one therapist and researcher describes them — say they have had such experiences.

"They often feel traumatized, confused, upset," says John Carpenter, a Springfield, Mo., licensed clinical social worker, hypnotherapist and researcher in the field of UFOs and alien abduction. "They have symptoms such as insomnia, nightmares, flashbacks."

And, they are very reluctant to come forward, he says.

Carpenter, who has interviewed more than 100 subjects who have described such experiences, is one of seven researchers scheduled to speak Aug. 5 during a UFO and Alien Abduction Research Conference at Roper Mountain Science Center in Greenville.

Organized by a member of the Upstate S.C. UFO and Abductee Support Group, the conference also will feature UFO researcher Dr. Richard J. Boylan, a clinical psychologist from Sacramento, Calif., as well as individuals whose stories of contact with extraterrestrials have been featured in books and on television.

Boylan, in a telephone interview, recalls the frenzy and mockery that followed UFO sightings in the late 1940s. "There were jokes, cartoons. People laughed at it in a nervous and tense way."

"Now," he says, "there's a much more sober treatment of it."

Boylan and Carpenter are among researchers included in a new book by respected journalist C.D.B. Bryan, best known for his 1976 Vietnam book, "Friendly Fire."

Bryan's just-released "Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind," which details, from a journalistic perspective, the goings-on at a 1992 scientific conference at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is devoted to hearing the stories of people who said they had been kidnapped by aliens.

Since 1992, the public's interest and media attention given to the topic have increased tenfold, says Boylan.

"It's like night and day. Now, you can't go a week without seeing something on television, and there's a fair amount of print."

Carpenter says the seemingly large number of people now describing contact with aliens is a "reporting phenomenon," and he compares it to what happened when society finally began validating reports of sexual abuse of children.

"Skepticism has reigned so loudly for so many years," he said in a telephone interview. In the past, people who said they had contact with extraterrestrials were considered "crazy," he said.

"Now, psychiatrists, psychologists, therapists are involved and are saying, 'Hey, they aren't crazy.' It's made people more comfortable in coming forth."

"Many of these cases are 10 to 15 years old," Carpenter says of the interviews he has done in the past seven years. "I had one woman who sat on it for 40 years. She never knew who she could talk to."

The conference organizer, who requested that her name be withheld because of fear of public ridicule, says she wanted to give local "experiencers" — as those who report contact with aliens are called — an opportunity to meet and to hear experts speak in an atmosphere free from the mockery of skeptics.

A housewife, she began experiencing strange events in her own life several years ago. She says she has awakened with inexplicable markings on her body, including bruises, an incision, a black eye and a swollen face, and she has, at times, seen in her home the small gray beings described in detail by other experiencers.

"These occurrences that take place are not logical," she says.

"You don't know where to put them."

Carpenter says that people who describe themselves as "experiencers" or "contactees" are uneasy witnesses who come to terms unwillingly with their extraterrestrial encounters.

"I can't think of a single person I've interviewed who wanted the experience," he says. "People only see them on TV or at a conference after they have worked through years of these feelings. There are many who will never let you photograph them or use their names."

Nearly all are "everyday people" who "believed this whole thing was a bunch of baloney; they thought it was a farce, tabloid stuff ... until they found themselves in the middle of it," he says.

Boylan says people who have such experiences "go through shock ... and wonder for their own sanity."

The Greenville conference organizer says the inexplicable experiences in her life made her feel "overwhelmed with fear." Reading books on the subject and talking with others who had similar experiences gradually "gave me a sense of control back in my life, because I started understanding," she says.

"I don't know why this is occurring. We don't have all the answers."

Researchers Boylan and Carpenter point to common themes that emerge in abduction reports.

■ The beings are most often described as small, gray, hairless creatures with large heads and large, slanted, almond-shaped eyes.

■ Witnesses often report a bright or blinding light.

■ Abductees may describe being "floated" up to a dull gray, disc-shaped craft.

■ In the craft, a medical examination may take place.

■ Nearly all say the beings communicate with them telepathically.

"All hear thoughts in their head," says Carpenter. "No one ever hears spoken voices, beeps, groans, robots, nothing."

■ Experiencers often report "missing time," usually an hour or more for which they are unable to account.

Carpenter is particularly interested in cases in which two or more people report being abducted together. He has investigated 15 such cases in recent years, interviewing the subjects individually, under hypnosis.

"It's fascinating when two, three or more people independently come up with bizarre tales that match," he says. "They give real overlapping experiences, so that you get it told from different perspectives."

"The significance then becomes phenomenal when you not only have them matching each other's stories, but also matching the unpublished details of other reports. 'When you get cases like that,' he says, 'you get a real chill.'"

Also speaking at the conference will be Debbie Jordan-Kauble, whose abduction experience was profiled in Budd Hopkins' best seller, "Intruders," and in a 1991 CBS miniseries by the same title.

For information on how to attend the conference, or for information on the UFO and Abductee Support Group, call 675-9328.

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - July 6, 1995

UFO Encounter is a success

SANTA FE — The Roswell UFO Encounter '95, held July 1-2, can be counted a success.

"Visitors came from as close as Artesia and as far as South Africa," said Mayor Tom Jennings as he stamped hands at the entrance to the Arts and



Jay Miller

Inside the Capitol

Crafts festival at DeBremont Stadium.

Encounter organizer Stan Crosby said about 9,000 people attended. That was less than the 20,000 hoped for the first year effort but the weather did not cooperate. Late afternoon thunderstorms chased participants from the festival area and an evening electrical storm postponed a laser/light and fireworks show from Saturday to Sunday.

But the weather may have been appropriate considering the same sort of conditions 48 years ago are thought to have had a bearing on the crash of an unidentified flying object into a ravine on the ranch now owned by Hub Corn, 35 miles north of Roswell.

Festival activities included lectures by noted UFO researchers Stanton Friedman, Linda Moulton Howe, Donald Schmitt and Kevin Randle. Each lectured three times during the two-day event. They all made themselves available for questions throughout most of the festival.

Other events included a costume contest, a float race, a planetarium show and a tour to the crash site. The Goddard Planetarium presentation, written by planetarium director Bess Amaral, was an even-handed lesson on how not to get fooled by Identified Flying Objects.

Secretary of State Stephanie Gonzales kicked off the weekend with a proclamation. Gov. Gary Johnson also was in town, although mostly for a triathlon at Bottomless Lakes State Park west of the city.

Some of the UFO researchers cautioned that Roswell shouldn't get caught up in promoting the festival merely to help the community. They stressed that the purpose of the weekend was to further knowledge of what happened at Roswell in July 1947 and to help the government remember why it once claimed to have "captured" a flying saucer.

And all the while these experts were promoting the heck out of themselves and their books.

Although the ufologists agreed that something major happened at Roswell, they differed on what it may have been.

One thought an alien craft might have gotten tangled with a military balloon over a ranch near Corona. Another thought two craft might have collided over the ranch, causing a debris field. One then landed in the St. Augustine Plains while the other crashed north of Roswell. Another thought the spacecraft's drive system may have exploded.

Friedman feels it more likely that a craft landed near Magdalena than near Roswell and was hushed up while attention was focused on Roswell. He also figures the craft and alien bodies weren't taken out of state, but were handled at New

Mexico installations.

White Sands Missile Range was the nation's rocket test facility, under the direction of Werner von Braun. Los Alamos had the nation's leading scientific laboratory. Many research and development activities were being conducted at Kirtland Air Force Base and Alamogordo Air Base.

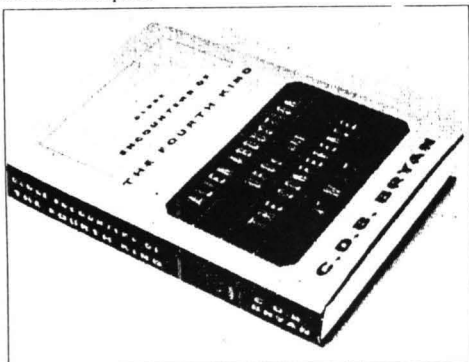
In short, New Mexico had all the facilities needed to analyze whatever it was that fell from the sky that night.

Friedman says the evidence points to top military brass coming here immediately following the incident, rather than the conventional story of the remains being transported elsewhere.

The researchers agreed that U.S. Rep. Steve Schiff's requested General Accounting Office search for government records relating to the Roswell Incident would be finished no earlier than mid-August, instead of the predicted June date. They all commended him for his courage and persistence.

This year and next are envisioned as warmups for the 50th anniversary of whatever it was that caused all the commotion in July 1947. And there may be changes.

Perhaps the biggest surprise to festival organizers was the sparse local turnout. Roswellites seem a little embarrassed, or maybe even turned off, at all the attention they receive for something that seems a little weird.





[All foreign clippings courtesy of Timothy Good, unless otherwise credited.]

Is anyone out there, Phil?

It's a big day today for Philip Mantle and his fellow sky watchers when Sheffield becomes the temporary centre of the UFO universe. Stephen McClarence reports.



Philip Mantle: "People expect us to be eccentric professors — I'm a family man with children and an ordinary job."

Sci-Fi Weekend (August 28) — has been bought by Ray Santilli, a British video producer who is in Sheffield this weekend to introduce extracts from it. He will doubtless have to fend off claims that it is a fake, a complete hoax.

"When you look at the autopsy, there's a telephone in the background with a curly flex," says Philip Mantle. "People have said curly flex didn't exist in 1947. But we checked it out and found it did. Though it wasn't common."

The accusations and counter-accusations have reached inter-galactic intensity. The questions are sometimes bizarre. Was US President Harry Truman at the autopsy? Has the Archbishop of Canterbury had a private screening? As one national newspaper asked earlier this year: "Is this a case of little green men or big green dollars?"

Philip Mantle is keeping an open mind. "I've taken a neutral stance right from the very beginning. If someone out there has hard evidence that this film is a fake, we'd like to hear from them. The subject matter is highly controversial to start with — and when someone claims to have a film of it, that's even more controversial."

So controversial, in fact, that Jenny Randles, who describes herself as Britain's

only professional ufologist, says the film's supporters have "signed a pact with the Devil".

Ms Randles, whose *Encyclopedia of the Unexplained* is published this month, is expected at the conference, but relations with some delegates may be strained. She has resigned from BUFORA's council because she reckons that the Roswell film undoes 20 years' work by serious ufologists to shed their cranky image.

"I can see where people get that cranky idea from," says Philip Mantle. "People expect us to be eccentric professors — and I'm a family man with children and an ordinary job in printing."

He may be an expert on "abduction phenomena", in which people claim to have been abducted by aliens, sometimes to space-ships. But he is wearing comfy navy blue slippers and, no, he does not look cranky.

His interest in UFOs dates back to 1979 when he saw an odd orange light in the sky. He contacted BUFORA. "I thought I'd sort it out in a couple of months... and that's turned into 16 years."

He and BUFORA colleagues investigate sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects and photographs that sometimes appear to show Unidentified Flying Lampshades.

The emphasis, he says, is on Unidentified.

About 95 per cent of sightings can be routinely explained — aircraft, balloons, stars, planets, tricks of the light. It's the other five per cent that fascinate the ufologists.

"The will to believe is very strong with some people," says Philip. "With others the will to disbelieve is just as strong. They won't bother with the evidence. And there are people in all countries who feel there are governmental cover-ups."

"Bear in mind there are still organisations in America who believe the Americans never went to the Moon. They believe it was all done in Hollywood."

UFOs can sometimes become an alternative religion, he thinks. "There's a decline in conventional religion and it could be that, as we approach the Millennium, the New Age, people are replacing it with something else, something that removes us from our mundane existence. If we're on the edge of global catastrophe, it could be reassuring that the Space Brothers could come and save us."

His wife arrives and the architect talks extensions.

Without Consent, Philip Mantle's book on abduction phenomena written with Carl Nagaitis, costs £14.99 from BUFORA Ltd, 1 Woodhall Drive, Batley. *Encyclopedia of the Unexplained*, by Jenny Randles and Peter Hough, is published by Michael O'Mara Books at £15.99.

NORTHERN ECHO, Darlington, England - Aug. 23, 1995



SPOTTERS: Ian Pyle, 11, Lee Mountford, 14, Tony Griffiths, 15, and Steven Pyle, 15, in hope of a UFO re-run

Picture: MIKE GIBB

Boys' alien encounter in Ferryhill

IT had a dome-shaped top, a saucer-shaped bottom and zoomed across the horizon with an alarming whooshing noise.

But now the big questions is: what exactly did four County Durham youngsters see?

The bizarre encounter happened on Monday night when the lads from Ferryhill in south Durham were camping.

They were on fields at the rear of Corscombe Close, Ferryhill, at 9.55pm when they saw what appeared to be a UFO flying across the horizon.

Tony Griffiths, 15, of Widcombe Walk, was the first to notice "bright lights".

He alerted his three companions, Ian Pyle 11 and his brother Steven, 15, and Lee Mountford, 14, of Babbacombe Drive, who all saw the fast-moving object.

Ian Pyle, 11, of Corscombe Close, who was visiting his brother during the camp, said: "It was unbelievable. It definitely was not a plane. It was nothing like it."

Tony said: "It had a dome top and a saucer shape around the bottom. It was lit up all the way round with beams of light

shining from the front and was making like a whooshing sound."

The boys said the object moved quickly, dropping out of sight like a falling star.

Teesside Airport said it had not received any reports and Gloria Dixon, North-East co-ordinator for the British UFO Research Association, said: "You can see various things which look very unusual at times, but which can be explained. Nevertheless, I would be interested to speak to them."

A spokesman for County Durham Police said: "This is a report which is alien to us."

Who saw mystery light over Ridgeway?

EVERY year my husband and I come to Dorchester and Weymouth for a holiday. Last week we spent a delightful few days in Weymouth enjoying the glorious weather and countryside.

On Wednesday evening, July 26, we were driving back to Dorchester at about 11 o'clock and shortly after we went round what I believe is locally called the Ridgeway hairpin bend, we could see up above the hill, quite close to the road a reddish light.

It appeared to be large and round and was hovering some distance above the ground, flickering somewhat. It looked rather odd. My husband thought that it might be a radio pylon, but I am sure that it moved around.

Next morning on our way to Weymouth we couldn't see anything like a radio mast on the side of the hill that could explain the light.

As we drove up the Ridgeway hill on Wednesday evening there were other cars following us and more coming down the hill. I wondered if anyone else had noticed the light.

A lady we met in Dorchester told me that a resident had seen something similar last summer.

Mrs P. ASCOT,
The Firs,
Highfield,
Southampton.

SHOCK
CLAIM:
alien spotter
Larry Dean



UFOs CIRCLE BRIGHTON AS POLLUTION RISES

SHROPSHIRE STAR, Wellington, England - Aug. 24, 1995

Cylindrical object hovering in glowing green haze

Police trio spot a UFO mystery

Three police officers saw flashing lights of a different kind today when they were on patrol in the Midlands.

The uniform officers were in Aldridge at 1am today when they saw a cylindrical object with a glowing, green haze hovering over the Great Barr area of Birmingham.

They immediately rang Walsall police station in Green Lane before contacting an UFO investigation unit in Birmingham.

Today the force helicopter was circling the area to look for burnt areas or something which could explain the phenomenon.

Police are playing down the sighting saying it may have been caused by meteor activity.

But research astronomer Dr Robin Catchpole at the Royal Greenwich Observatory said the night skies had been quiet this week and he could not think of any logical explanation.

A police spokeswoman said three on-duty officers reported seeing the haze.

They investigated the area but could not find anything.

ADNEWS, Willenhall, England - Aug. 3, 1995

Soldier sees a saucer!

Aliens do exist and have come to Earth to monitor us. That's the firm belief of soldier Rob Cleverdon.

His whole family saw a saucer over their Brereton home just two years ago. Yet, despite holding Ministry of Defence documents which confirm there was an unidentified object in the sky but fail to explain the March 1993 sighting.

Instead, 32 year old Rob claimed he was 'fobbed off' with a number of other excuses.

"They refuse to accept there's something out there," he said. "It's just a big cover-up."

Explanations for the sighting, which was also spotted hundreds of miles away on the same night, were laser beams, low orbits, satellites or reflection from the clouds. Even a leading ufologist failed to put his finger on the out-of-this-world appearance.

Rob, a Territorial Army member, said the craft was spotted over his home, at The Green, on a balmy March evening. It stood out in the light from the full moon, he said.

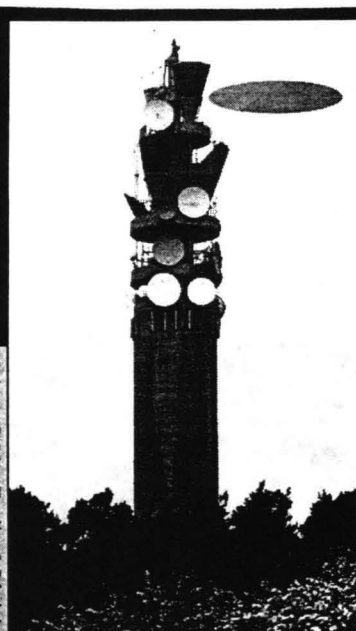
"My daughter went out on the yard with the dog and came running back inside screaming. Myself, my wife, my sister's boyfriend and my son all came out and saw it, too."

He said the object which lit up the sky had a bright, creamy light and was the shape of two saucers side by side. And it had a source of light underneath it.

"It was about 300 metres wide by about 150 high," he said. "It was hovering above the sky before we watched it just shoot out of sight. It was gone within a matter of seconds."

The saucer was spotted several miles away on the same night, including by military police at RAF Cosford. Rob had even checked with airport authorities. There was no record of aircraft flying out at that time.

"It travelled across the coast - up to 400



EXCLUSIVE

by MARK SHIPP

miles - in just a few minutes."

More recently, David Kinnear and wife Amanda, of Hill Street, Cheslyn Hay, spotted a beam of light only two weekends ago, as they made their way back from a wedding reception.

They were driving along a country lane, from Hawkins Drive, when the object appeared in the sky.

"My wife was driving and when we both saw it looked at each other. My wife said 'please don't say you saw that,' but I had. She just drove off like a maniac."

Now, the 29 year old father-of-four said he will never drive along that stretch of road at night again. "It was so spooky," he said. "It was after midnight and a clear night. It was just a white ball of light and slowly made its way out of the sky."

HIGH pollution levels have caused an increase in the activities of UFOs over Brighton and Hove.

One expert is convinced that alien beings are visiting us more often because they want to help us solve the problem of pollution.

The startling claim was made this week by Larry Dean, 41, director of investigations at Saltdean-based UFO spotters Skysearch.

by CHRISTINE DAY and LAURA MILES

Mr Dean has been monitoring the rise in the number of sightings of strange objects in the sky.

Puzzled residents in Brighton, Portslade and Rottingdean have told him of pulsating red lights and cigar-shaped aircraft.

Mr Dean believes that aliens have been around for many thousands of years and are here to help the planet in a time of crisis.

"They are trying to make their presence known to us so that we become more aware of them. I believe they are visiting the earth to solve the problem of pollution."

He says the visits are leading up to a mass close encounter.

"They are helping to make us aware of possible mass landings in the future, so sightings and contacts are seen as positive events."

"Their technology is far in advance to ours and if they had wanted to harm us they would have done years ago."

Mr Dean has recently recorded many sightings in the Shoreham area backing on to Chancerybury Ring.

"On July 26 a group of lights were reported in the sky changing from red to blue to green to white. They pulsed and then blinked out. It was not conventional aircraft or a helicopter."

"On August 1 a cigar shaped object was sighted by a woman in the sky over Portslade. She said it was big and electric yellow in colour. It just blinked out and vanished."

"Earlier, on April 11, a motorist was in a queue of traffic near Brighton racecourse when his attention was drawn to a white streak in the sky."

"Within seconds it turned into a triangular shaped object and then separated into two spheres, one large and one small."

"There was no sound at all. People were looking up into the sky in astonishment."

On the same night, he said, a hotelier reported following a UFO in his car near Chancerybury Ring.

"It seemed to keep pace with his car and then headed towards Brighton. He saw it at about 10.30pm when a woman in Rottingdean saw a UFO move towards the racecourse. So we have two separate witnesses on this one."

Mr Dean said that at the same time as a crop circle appeared at Denton Corner this summer a Newhaven town councillor spotted a large, flat, hexagonal silver object in the sky.

The councillor, Jill Dawson, said: "It was travelling in the most bizarre manner and was totally silent. I don't believe in aliens and that kind of thing, but I would like someone to explain what I saw."

● If you have seen UFOs above Brighton and Hove, contact Mr Dean at Skysearch, PO Box 2507, Saltdean, Brighton, BN2 8NE.

BERKHAMSTED & TRING EXPRESS,
Hemel Hempstead, England
July 14, 1995



A UFO expert says people in Tring and Berkhamsted should turn their eyes to the sky after these crop circles were spotted near Kings Langley on Sunday.

Simon Shavelar, of Associated Research, said: "When corn circles occur strange lights are often seen in areas close by. There have been odd power cuts in Tring in the past and I would advise locals to be on the look out for unusual lights in the sky."

The circles were spied by John Berry, of West Valley Road, Apsley, on Sunday morning.

He said: "I've never seen anything like this before. I was amazed."

"They are centred perfectly between the tractor lines. I don't think UFOs would measure up like that. It would be very hard for someone on foot to get across from one to the other without flattening the crop."

Crop circles have caused fierce debate. Simon Shavelar admitted 60 to 80 per cent are hoaxes but says the remainder are a fascinating mystery. John said: "It's difficult to know what to believe."

CR: M. Deschamps
Aug. 11, 1995
TRENTONIAN, Trenton, Ontario, Canada

Flashing light seen in the sky

By Don Newlands
Special to The Trentonian

Is a UFO keeping tabs on southern Ontario?

A strange object appearing in the night sky has been reported by observers from Ottawa to Rochester NY — including Trenton — and along the north shore of Lake Ontario.

The object, which appeared in the south west sky, about 20 degrees above the horizon, was first reported by Don Henderson in Cobourg at around 10:30 p.m. August 9.

According to Henderson, the object remained visible for three hours.

Henderson said the object appeared to be stationary and was flashing red, yellow, green, blue and white.

Henderson, a one-time field engineer with Ontario Hydro, said he had never seen anything like it.

"I wanted others to confirm what I was seeing...I hesitate to call it a UFO," said Henderson.

Through an amateur radio link-up, Henderson was able to confirm his observations with other amateurs in the area.

A radio operator camping on a lake near Ottawa reported sighting the object and watching the strange flashing colors.

The object was also observed by tower staff at on duty at the CFB Trenton.

They also reported that a similar object had been observed 180-degrees to the North East.

Some observers, among them amateur astronomers, suggested that the object may have been a star and the flashing colors were caused by heat deflection and a layer of smog.

Terrence Dickinson, a leading authority and columnist on astronomy in Canada, has suggested that the pulsating colors were caused by the intersection of the Jet Stream into the observer's line of sight, thus creating a prismatic color change.

Dickinson, thought the effect was created by the starlight from Antares, the brightest star situated in the constellation Scorpio.

He also noted that the stars on the night of August 9 were vigorously twinkling, which he said generally indicates a turbulent jet stream is present.

Others reported that several of these objects had been observed earlier in the week.

SUSSEX EXPRESS, Lewes, England - May 26, 1995

Did aliens make giant crop circle - or just pranksters?

CHARD & ILMINSTER NEWS, Somerset,
England - July 5, 1995

Night lights set off UFO probe

UFO experts are combing hills and valleys west of Chard this week for signs of alien visitors, reports ANDREW HEAVENS.

Flying saucer watchers jumped into action after a Chard man claimed two sightings of a strange bright object.

The first time it passed just metres over the car in which he was a passenger.

James Cox, 18, was in the car on a 11pm drive out of Chard towards Cotleigh.

He said: "As we were driving along we saw something light behind a hedge. Then a massive light came right over the top of the lane and over the car."

James, a Holyrood upper-sixth former, described the light as a horizontal line, blinding bright, coloured electric blue-white.

There was a strange "rumbling" sound as the lights passed slowly overhead. "It wasn't a machine like engine sound."

The lights seemed to go down into a field.

But when James, the driver and another passenger drove round the corner to get a better look, they found nothing.

Sue Hembury-Kellow, investigating the sighting for the Somerset UFO Research and Investigation Network, said: "It all hangs together. It doesn't sound like a meteor. It would have been going somewhat faster."

Just Sunday night, she heard similar reports of horizontal lines of light in Llangollen, Wales.

The next sighting was 3 am two days later, on Sunday June 25.

James was walking back from a party along Chard's Glynwood estate. They were near the Elizabeth Way turning when they looked towards the town centre.

"It was far off to the right, there were lots of lights in the sky, all following one light about 80 ft up."

The lights disappeared behind a building.

The UFO Research Network is now ruling

out all natural explanations for the sightings before they go any further.

Mrs Hembury-Kellow has interviewed James at his Sopers Field home and plans to take investigators out to the two sites this week.

Commander Vic Sirett, from RNAS Yeovilton, confirmed there were no aircraft airborne at the time.

He said: "It was very close to the summer solstice. People do do funny things around Glastonbury and surrounding area around the mid-summer period."

UFO experts were bracing themselves for an explosion of sightings this summer, to equal 1994 when parts of Somerset became flying saucer hot spots.

Then around 300 people claimed seeing strange lights. And no less than 70 of them defied explanation.

The UFO network is appealing for anyone else who saw anything around Chard to get in touch. There is a 24-hour hotline on 01823 491068.

A GIANT crop circle has appeared in a field of oilseed rape near Lewes.

Now locals are wondering whether they have been visited by aliens - or have simply been the victims of a practical joke.

The 95ft diameter circle, with two outer rings, arrived out of the blue at Southeast Farm, Southeast.

Andy Thomas from Lewes, one of the first to spot the circle, is convinced it is genuine.

"We have examined it and sent samples to America for laboratory analysis," said Andy, editor of Sussex Circular, the crop circle magazine.

"We are quite sure it was not made by people. If I had to hazard a guess, I would say some form of intelligence is behind it."

"It is the first Sussex crop circle to be seen this year - and the earliest one we have had in many years. I am

very excited by it."

But farmer's wife Audrey Brickell was less enthusiastic.

"It's a hoax, isn't it?" she said. "It would be nice to think there are UFOs about, but I don't think so."

"The rape must have taken some pulling down. It's sturdy stuff."

"We've had some nice scientific people up here, taking samples. They seem dedicated people."

The mystery circle appears on a sloping field facing east. It can be best seen from the other side of the Ouse Valley just north of Tarring Neville.

● Andy has produced a video of crop circles in Sussex. The one-hour documentary takes in sightings at East Dean and Birling Gap. Copies can be obtained from Andy, telephone Lewes 474711.

MATLOCK MERCURY, Derbyshire, England
July 28, 1995

UFO SPOTTERS SPACED OUT BY SIGHTINGS

MYSTERIOUS flying objects around Arbor Low near Monyash, have been reported by 18 different people.

The sightings of triangular shaped objects prompted Quest International to send investigators down to the site to check out the reports.

Quest International investigates all unusual encounters, whether UFO's, corn circles or abductions.

Eight investigators travelled to the site several days later. One of the reported seeing a triangular shape object, around 40 to 50 ft long.

More sightings were reported from

Matlock to Bakewell on July 23, this time two more triangular shapes were seen in the sky.

Witnesses said these could be seen from Ashbourne and the object flew over pylons.

Contacted

A spokesman from the group said the Ministry of Defence and local military bases are usually contacted about the sightings, but will not comment.

If anyone has seen any UFO's in the sky call Quest International on 01756 752216 or Chesterfield 471742.

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK
Sept. 12, 1995 CR: J. & L. Nicholson

No-show space aliens disappoint Bulgarians

The Associated Press

SOFIA, Bulgaria — Talk about foreign aid.

Lured by three self-styled mediums, about 1,500 people gathered at an airfield in northern Bulgaria on Monday awaiting the arrival of eight space ships piloted by extraterrestrials, police Maj. Stoyan Marinov said.

Among other things, state TV reported, the mediums promised that the aliens would help this poor Balkan country pay its \$12.9 billion foreign debt.

The crowd gathered in Shtraklevo, 200 miles northeast of the capital, Sofia, after three local women — Radka Trifono-

va, Zdravka Krumova and Ekaterina Nikiforova — declared that space ships from distant galaxies would land at 11 a.m.

The mediums, wearing identical dresses they had sewn for the occasion, waited along with the crowd.

Nothing came.

Bulgaria's BTA news agency said that 30 minutes after the scheduled arrival, the three told the crowd that warplanes flying in the region were scaring off the aliens.

Police had to usher the women away from the angry crowd, although Marinov said there was no violence.

SCOTSMAN, Edinburgh, Scotland - Aug. 18, 1995

Councillor hits back at ridicule over alien story

By John Smith

ZAL-US does not exist - official. And any suggestion that colourful councillor Billy Buchanan was visited in his office in Falkirk's municipal buildings by an alien bearing this name could invite a lawyer's letter.

The man who has done more than anyone else to put his beloved Bonnybridge on the map as a UFO hotspot is fizzing at the ridicule he claims has been heaped on him.

Yesterday he threatened to sue several newspapers for reports which he says had undermined what was intended to be a serious meeting in Falkirk town hall on 9 October about UFO sightings.

Mr Buchanan's insistence that he had never mentioned the name Zal-us, or suggested a dark-suited man who visited him at Falkirk was other than an earthling, is correct.

Malcolm Robinson, of Tullibody-based Strange Phenomena Investigations, whose magazine *Enigmas* sparked off the reports with its reference to the visitor as Zal-us, said yesterday: "I don't know how the name Zal-us crept into the article, although I will take full responsibility for it."

"I would never in a million years deliberately put some false data in *Enigma* just to jazz something up." Asked if he had

spoken recently to Mr Buchanan, Mr Robinson replied: "He's been on to me every day. I've apologised to him."

He said Mr Buchanan had indicated his visitor had "incredible knowledge" about mankind, and would divulge this, and the reasons for so many sightings of UFOs in the Bonnybridge area, at the town hall meeting.

Mr Robinson said that he was inclined to the view that the mystery visitor was "a big wind-up" arranged by somebody who knew the councillor.

He added: "But the man could be who he says he is - or someone who is spreading disinformation on behalf of the Government to take the heat away from sightings of military objects."

Mr Buchanan told *The Scotsman* yesterday that his visitor was an Edinburgh resident, Geri Rogers; he and other UFO experts would be speaking at the town hall.

"He told me he was part of a British group researching the Council of Nine, and would be telling everyone what should be done to prevent catastrophe on a world scale."

"I couldn't understand much of what he was on about, but he deserves to be listened to, like the other speakers I have invited."

"There are some people who have thrived on all this - especially some of my fellow councillors. But all I want to do is get an explanation for this UFO phenomenon."

EVENING SENTINEL, Stoke-on-Trent, England - July 10, 1995

Was it an orb, was it a plane?

TWO friends watched in amazement as a bright red light flashed across the sky in front of them.

The 'orb-shaped' UFO had been hovering low above the ground when it suddenly shot off.

"It moved so fast," said eyewitness Lee Oakes, 20, of Weldon Avenue, Weston Coyney.

Travelled

He was walking with his friend, Mark Hollinshead, also 20, of Bath Street, Longton, late at night through Caverswall.

Lee said: "I thought at first it was a plane, but it moved so fast."

By Roger Houldcroft

It must have travelled three miles in a second. It did not make a sound.

Within minutes three military type jets shot across the sky as if in pursuit.

His friend, Mark, said: "I could see a flash of red and then green lights. Whatever it was moved really fast."

Eric Morris, director of the British UFO Studies Centre based at Winsford, said other almost identical sightings had been reported in Nottingham, Wales and Chester.

"We have had several similar incidents when it has been reported that military jets appeared to pursuing some sort of craft."

He said he had heard the Government may be carrying out secret tests on an experimental craft which has also been undergoing trials in Arizona in America.

Mystery

"We do not really know what they are. It is a mystery," said Mr Morris, who will give a talk on Wednesday on UFOs to members of the Green Dragon Mysteries Society in Leek at 7.30pm at the Swan pub in St Edward Street.



► SIGHTING: Taxi drivers Michael McMahon and Mike Swatridge.

Picture: Malcolm Nethersole

Cabbies' UFO shocker

TWO cabbies watched open-mouthed as a mysterious glowing ball of light with a long tail sped across the sky above Southampton.

Michael McMahon and Mike Swatridge were on the late shift for Streamline Taxis when they spotted the low-flying UFO.

Mr McMahon said: "It was fantastic. I've never seen anything like it before."

By James Chapman

It was a shining ball of light moving horizontally across the sky. It was shifting so fast, it was unbelievable."

The pair gazed as the object — which they described as nearly as big as the moon — zoomed across the city docks early yesterday morning, before veering off north in the direction of Winchester.

"I've always kept an open mind but there was no way this was a plane or a shooting star," said Mr McMahon.

As the UFO swerved, they noticed red and green lights inside the main body.

Mr McMahon, of Mendip Road, Millbrook, Southampton, added: "It just baffled me — I was thinking about it all night. I was absolutely gob-smacked."

Immediately the two men phoned

Hampshire police to report the sighting. This morning officers were still investigating the cause of the UFO.

Hampshire UFO expert Lucy Pringle said: "The fact that they did phone the police adds credibility to their story because it shows they were genuinely frightened or puzzled. I can offer no explanation for this sighting."

"But it does seem UFOs are attracted for whatever reason to this part of the country."

EVENING NEWS, Edinburgh, Scotland - June 3, 1995



RON HALLIDAY: He is investigating woman's 'yellow lights' report.

UFO expert probes sighting

A TOP UFO expert is probing another strange sighting in the night sky over Edinburgh.

And Ron Halliday — the chairman of Scottish Earth Mysteries Research — is looking for more witnesses after a fast-moving craft was spotted on the outskirts of the city.

Currie woman Morag Hay "gasped with astonishment" when she looked out of her window just after midnight on Wednesday.

"I saw two exceedingly bright yellow lights coming towards me," she said.

Amazed

"At first I thought it was a huge plane — but it was too bright, too fast, and too big."

"Also it was flying too low, and there was no noise."

"I was very surprised and I bent down to pick up my binoculars."

"However, when I looked up again I was even more amazed — because there were no bright lights coming towards me."

"Whizzing off in the other direction I could see only one bright light getting smaller and smaller before it disappeared."

BATH & WEST CHRONICLE, England - Aug. 5, 1995

NEW THEORIES: author makes government whitewash claim

Crop circles mystery grows with UFO link

By Christopher Hansford

THE CROP circles that every summer for the past 10 years have filled the fields around Bath are directly linked to the UFOs that caused a worldwide sensation around Warminster in the sixties, claims a new book.

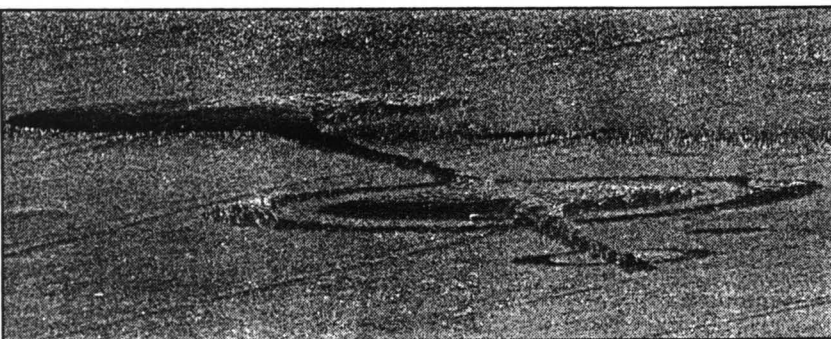
German UFO researcher Michael Hesemann has written the book, called *The Cosmic Connection* (priced £12.95) which is published this week by Gateway Books of Wellow, near Bath.

For years the circles and UFOs have been thought to be two quite separate phenomena. Now, for the first time, the two mysteries have been brought together following years of painstaking research. This shows that crop circles are linked to both ancient mystical sites — particularly in the west of England — and that the appearance of circles nearly always follows activity by unidentified flying objects.

The areas around Bath have been central to both the UFO and crop circle controversies. In the sixties the attention of the whole world was focused on open ground around Warminster and people came from miles around to see the strange objects and unexplained lights in the sky.

Then a decade ago simple circles began appearing in the fields of Wiltshire near places like Avebury and Stonehenge.

Over the years their design



■ PHENOMENON: a crop circle near Newton St Loe in 1991

grew more and more complicated as 'experts' struggled to find a solution to the puzzle.

In 1990 public speculation reached fever pitch. Michael Hesemann puts forward the theory that a series of Government-orchestrated hoaxes was introduced to dampen down the interest.

It did just that but the circles, ever more complicated, have gone on forming, says Hesemann. However, hoaxes are still around such as the one which has recently appeared near the Westbury White Horse.

But despite all the efforts of the hoaxers and a vigorous policy within science, government and the press to dismiss them, crop circles won't go away. Sightings of the markings are now worldwide

and continuing to appear in crops as far apart as Siberia, Argentina, Saskatchewan and Queensland.

Hesemann says there has recently been a resurgence in UFO sightings in many parts of the world. Last year the Belgian government — said to be the first to break the worldwide collusion to keep the lid on all UFO research — openly discussed the latest 'flap' over the Ardennes.

There has recently been growing evidence of anomalous aerial phenomena associated with crop circle formations. Many observers in Wiltshire have seen UFOs around the time and location of a circle formation.

Now Hesemann looks at the evidence for both crop circles and

UFOs and demonstrates that they have many features in common. He also shows some of the reasons why conventional science is unable to deal with either of the two mysteries.

Publisher and crop circle expert Alick Bartholomew says that the crop circle trend now is for there to be fewer of them but more complicated in design. Early ones this year were in Hampshire but there have now been many in Wiltshire including one embodying the design for nuclear danger at Avebury.

He says that although there are hoaxes, that is not the point. "We have to accept that these very beautiful circles that cannot possibly be man-made are still appearing."

Object in sky puzzles student

WHO'S Afraid of Virginia Woolf? turned into What Are Those Big Orange Lights In The Sky? for a Colchester student early yesterday.

Rachel Lowden was happily watching Richard Burton and Liz Taylor giving their all in the film of Edward Albee's masterpiece when her cat gave the first inkling that all was not as it seemed.

"The cat ran to the window and started acting strangely — you know, the way they do when they've seen something."

When Rachel got to the window of her home in Valley View Close, Highwoods, she saw two big round orange lights apparently hovering over the trees of the country park nearby.

Moved

Much larger than aeroplane lights, the lights sent down beams to add to the ghostly atmosphere. "I'm not a believer in these things," said Rachel, "but it was just the way it moved which was abnormal."

Now, Rachel, a 20-year-old sociology student, would like to know if anyone else saw the lights — or has a logical explanation of what happened.

If anyone else saw the lights at about 2.20am yesterday, call the EADT Essex Newsdesk on (01206) 571251.

EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES, Ipswich, England - July 19, 1995



POST, Yorkshire, England - Feb. 25, 1995 CR: B. Chapman/COUD-I

Experts on trail of mystery ape which could be the 'missing link' to humans

Richard Grange

WILDLIFE experts are hot on the trail of a mysterious ape which is said to live in the forests of Sumatra and could prove to be man's closest relative.

Called the orang pendek — or "small man" — the one-metre-tall ape is unusual in that it walks on two legs rather than four, and unlike other primates it never climbs trees.

Although the existence of the ape is yet to be accepted by scientists, wildlife experts are taking the claims seriously and backing attempts to find it.

British researcher Debbie Martyr first spotted the animal after a gruelling three-month expedition into the mountainous jungles of the Kerinci Seblat national park in Sumatra.

Now she is returning to try to take the first photographs of the creature.

She said: "The first time I saw the orang pendek I shook like a leaf. It came after three months of immense tension and incredibly hard work."

"It's an extremely strong and very graceful animal and when I saw it my initial thought was how beautiful it was."

"It was also very moving to see something which you feel is so close to man and yet at the same time so alien."

The ape is thought to be roughly a metre tall and with a coat of dark grey hair, or black flecked with grey. It feeds on ginger plants, fruits, termites, freshwater crabs and nestling birds.

To move around it forms trails through dense thickets, thereby avoiding other game trails, open spaces and contact with human beings.

Villagers living in the area say they have long known about the creature's presence but all attempts to trap the animal have met with failure.

Dutch settlers who inhabited the area during the 1920s also left records of sightings of the ape.

Ms Martyr is hoping that modern technology will enable her to succeed where all others have failed, and intends to use pressure-pad-triggered cameras to photograph the ape.

She also hopes to use a special type of sticky tape to "snag" samples of hair which could then be used to create a DNA profile of the animal.



'Strong and graceful': An artist's impression of an ape which is believed to live in the forests of Sumatra and could be man's closest relative in the animal world. Picture: BBC Wildlife / Alan Marks.

"At the moment I am expecting the expedition to last for eight or nine months, which should give us a good go at finding the orang pendek," she said.

The expedition is being funded by the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society, the world's oldest international conservation organisation.

The head of corporate

affairs at the society, Dugal Muller, said: "What we have heard about the ape is both interesting and encouraging. Consequently we are carrying out an initial exploration and validation exercise."

The expedition has also received the support of some academics.

The director of the Cam-

bridge University Wildlife Group, Dr David Chivers, said: "Although I am a little sceptical, the evidence for its existence is far more substantial than for something like the Yeti or the Loch Ness monster."

"It is a bit strange that no one has been able to photograph or tape-record it but the number of sightings has been enormous."



SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Aug. 26, 1995 CR: G. Conway

BERMUDA TRIANGLE

Underwater gases cited in probe of hotter climate

TOM WILKIE

The Independent

LONDON — Many dark secrets lie within the Bermuda Triangle, according to modern myth, but its demonology has now taken an ultra-modern twist: Could it be a cause of global warming?

Lurking in the upper few hundred metres of sediments at the bottom of those mysterious seas, scientists believe, lie strange ice-like substances known as "gas hydrates" — ice made up of methane and water.

Later this year, scientists plan to send the international ocean-drilling ship, *Resolution*, to probe the depths of the sediments for these hydrates.

The connection with the greenhouse effect is that methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, 20 times more effective than carbon dioxide, and that hydrates represent the largest reservoir of methane on earth. Their effect can be enormous: The release of one-thousandth of the global hydrate reservoir would be equivalent to the whole of humanity's output of carbon over the past century.

The Bermuda Triangle is an area of the Atlantic Ocean where ships and aircraft are supposed to have vanished.

The voyage of the *Resolution*, partly sponsored by Britain's Natural Environment Research Council, is to measure more precisely the amount of gas trapped in hydrates, how they got there, and their effects on the sediments.

Some think gas hydrates may be the villains of the triangle, for they are capable of releasing huge volumes of methane, bursting as bubbles to the surface. The gas is asphyxiating and could cause crews to lose control of aircraft, and the outbursts could create enough turbulence to send a vessel to the bottom.

There are, however, two snags. The first is that no more aircraft and ships have "disappeared" in the Bermuda Triangle than might be expected for a region with that pattern of weather and ocean currents. Secondly, gas hydrates have been found in marine sediments in all the world's oceans.

SKAMANIA CO. PIONEER, Stevenson, WA - Aug. 23, 1995

Bigfoot, legendary ape or human?

Is Big Foot human or ape? That's the question facing the jury at a mock-trial to be conducted by members of the Western Bigfoot Society this weekend.

The "trial" is planned to begin at 10 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 27, as part of the fourth annual Bigfoot Daze celebration at Bigfoot Park in Carson, located at 1.84 Metzger Road (follow signs).

Former Superior Court Judge Bernard Heavey will preside over the proceedings and the six-man jury will be selected at random from audience volunteers.

The trial centers on a Skamania County ordinance protecting Bigfoot. The law reads that if one of the creatures is killed

and is proven to be an ape, the crime is only a misdemeanor.

But, if the creature should prove to be human, the ordinance declares the culprit is to be charged with murder.

On trial Sunday will be "killer" Larry Lund (a.k.a. Sasquatch Sleuth) who will arrive in a patrol car with lights and siren blazing.

His opening statement will explain his motivations for killing the legendary creature.

Countering will be Peter Bryne, long-time naturalist, big game hunter turned conservationist, author and director of the Bigfoot Research Project in Mt. Hood, Ore.

"Prosecutor" Nancy Logan of Los Angeles will try to prove

that Bigfoot is human. Nancy is trained as a court translator for the state of California and has published a book on Bigfoot.

"Defense Attorney" Rip Lyttle (bachelor of arts in American Studies from Oregon State University) will call witnesses that support the idea that Bigfoot is an ape, and his client should be charged with a misdemeanor.

Other witnesses will be called to support both sides in the case and the jury will be called upon for its decision.

A lunch break that day will feature free (while it lasts) Yeti Spaghetti, Bigfoot Hamburgers and Abominable Potato Salad.

On Saturday, Aug. 26, visitors to Bigfoot Daze can enjoy

field trips from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., to see many of the natural wonders in the area, and include a visit to the new Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center.

From 6 p.m. to midnight Saturday evening, the live music of "All Strung Out" and "Taylor Brothers" will entertain crowds.

Local Bigfoot expert Datus Perry will speak from 9 to 10:00 a.m. Sunday and, following the trial, those attending may enjoy a fun-filled afternoon of horse-shoes and volleyball.

The Bigfoot Daze festivities are sponsored by the Western Bigfoot Society and Harry Schumacher, owner of Bigfoot Park.

For more information call Bigfoot Park at 427-4441.

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK - Oct. 1, 1995

CRATER MYSTERY

Scientists in Brazil's northeastern state of Piaui are baffled by a crater that was punched into the tropical rain forest shortly after witnesses reported seeing a bright light streak across the sky. Researchers are uncertain whether the crater, 16 feet wide and 32 feet deep, was left by a meteorite or a piece of a comet. Physicist Paulo Frota of the University of Piaui believes it was caused by a block of ice from a comet because the surrounding vegetation is not burned and the crater's rim is not raised. An independent researcher was scouring the site in hopes of finding traces of the object that fell from space.

CR: J. & L. Nicholson

BIGFOOT

Casts of three large human-like footprints were made by U.S. Forest Service personnel in June, 1982, in southeastern Washington State. The fine-grained soil preserved many impressions of dermal ridges and sweat pores. Careful study by dermatoglyphics experts shows these impressions are perfectly consistent with the friction skin found only in higher primates. The foot size of 37.5 x 17 cm rules out any known primate; the nonopposed first digit indicates a hominid. Physical circumstances suggest a body weight of 300 to 400 kg. It is believed that all possible methods of faking this evidence have been considered, and ruled out.

— Grover S. Krantz, Anatomy and Dermatoglyphics of Three Sasquatch Footprints, 1983. International Society of Cryptozoology
BY GREGORY H. BURTON
Staff Writer

My brother and I were captives to our imaginations. In the dark recesses of an early Saturday winter morning we'd huddle over the television and get the bejesus scared out of ourselves by Dracula, Frankenstein and the Wolfman.

The Loch Ness monster was every bit as real as the Pyramids, neither of which we had ever seen.

The world provides more mystery than truth for children, and it seems as we grow older truth only bargains for brief periods of reflection between deeper and more tragic mystery.

Age cultivates skepticism and mysteries lose their luster.

That's why people like Grover S. Krantz, an anthropology professor at Washington State University, is perhaps more important to adults than children, although his work provides hope for us all.

Krantz, 63, has been an avid believer since "the spring of 1970" of the existence of Bigfoot, or Sasquatch, a bipedal (walks on two feet) primate he says likely ranges throughout the Northwest, Asia and other forested parts of the world.

Bigfoot and Krantz are in the news again, as they are often when another back woods sighting has occurred.

Saturday in the Blue Mountains between Washington and Oregon, 25 miles east of Walla Walla, former U.S. Forest Service employee Paul Freeman says he spotted for the fourth time in his life a tall, hairy creature—Bigfoot.

Freeman says he will send hair samples and plaster footprint castings off to Krantz so they can be documented and continue the line of evidence in support of the largest of forest mysteries.

Krantz has casts in his office from a 1982 sighting by Freeman in the same Blue Mountain region, and wrote about the anatomical significance of the prints in a journal of cryptozoology in 1983.

In Krantz's WSU office there are reams of paper on cryptozoology (the study of yet to be discovered species) and smatterings of articles on Bigfoot.

But the written documentation does not hold sway over the molded and plastered.

Down one wall of Krantz's cavernous office are 10, 20-foot long shelves crammed with Bigfoot castings. Abutting those are nine shelves full of animal skulls plus one gigantic reproduction of a Bigfoot skull that Krantz says is just one possibility of the truth.

Krantz himself is a tall hulking man, whose great gray beard plasters his face. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of California at Berkeley, where he lived for 13 years until 1966 when he took a teaching position at the University of Minnesota. He came to WSU in 1968, and finished a doctorate degree in anthropology begun at UM.

He says he first heard about Bigfoot in 1965 following several reports that a man by the name of Bob Titmus had made a discovery of large footprints near Bluff Creek, Calif.



Geoff Crimmins

(Top) Grover Krantz, a professor of anthropology at Washington State University, holds a plaster casting of a footprint he believes was made by an adult male sasquatch. The casting was made in 1963 at Bluff Creek, Calif., by Bob Titmus. (Bottom left) Bob Titmus made this casting of a footprint believed to have been made by an adult female sasquatch.

Titmus made footprint castings in 1963 and 1967, but perhaps the most famous piece of Bigfoot lore taken from Bluff Creek is a 58 second clip of film shot by Roger Patterson that appears to show a 6 foot tall brown, hairy creature traipsing through the woods.

I saw this film as a child. So did my brother. It was as real to us as sunshine.

"It was a neat idea, but I was skeptical of the whole thing," Krantz says. Then in 1970, the professor began studying some footprints from northeastern Washington, especially a print called "Crippled Foot."

Krantz says the anatomical exactness of that print, which included precise locations for the heel and center of gravity of a very large bipedal animal, wiped any further doubt from his mind.

"In the spring of 1970 I changed from 10 percent sure to 100 percent," he says. "These are real, no way around it."

Krantz estimates there are 2,000 Bigfoot in the Northwest and perhaps 20-30,000 worldwide. He has seen plaster castings from China and Russia and travelled there to converse with other Bigfoot experts.

What separates Krantz from Patterson, a small time rodeo rider who died in 1972 and Titmus, 77, who was a big game hunter and taxidermian, is science, which oftentimes creates more mysteries than it solves.

Krantz discounts UFO's and the Bermuda Triangle as not very likely, although he says he gets a kick out of them. He is a professor of anthropology who wrote his thesis on the origins of man.

"I wanted to know how this discovery was pertinent to human evolution, if not human folklore," he says. "Somewhere in our past our ancestors divided, one went bipedal, one not. Then they divided again, one got big, one got smart."

In other words, humans and Bigfoot are different sons of the same mother.

"It's a good deal more complicated than that, but that's the main point," Krantz says. "What's the link between monkey's and man? It's the apes and they're not missing."

Freeman, who went on his most recent woodland expedition with Walla Walla resident Wes Sumerlin and former state game department employee Bill Laughery, says he spotted a nearly 8-foot-tall Bigfoot with footprints that were 15 inches long and 7 inches wide.

Krantz says he eagerly awaits the evidence, although he and a few other "Squatchologists" have learned to be skeptical of Freeman.

"They think Freeman has faked some, and I agree," Krantz says. "Some also think he's faked them all, I disagree. I think most of his footprints are real."

Trying to predict if a Bigfoot will ever be captured, he says, is impossible.

"It might not happen in your lifetime or mine, or the definitive specimen may have been taken yesterday and we don't know about it yet."

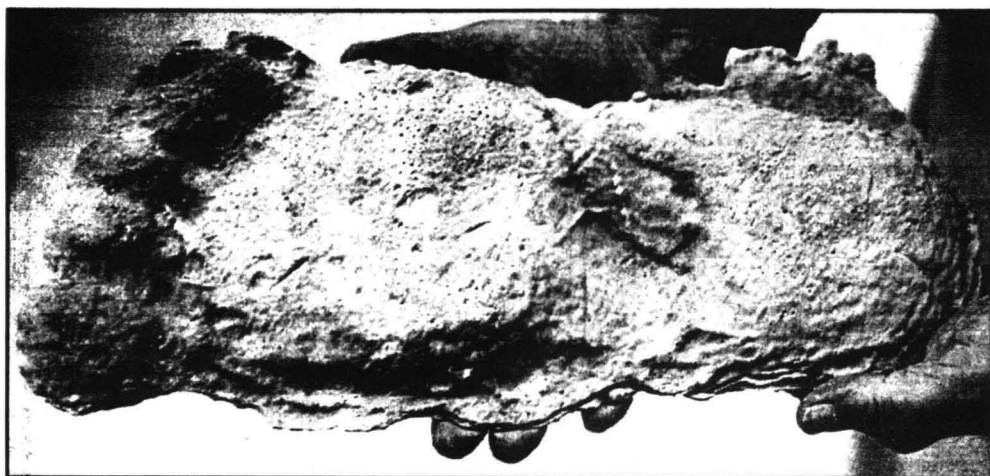
He predicates his defense of the doubtful scenario that no skeletal remains have ever been found of Bigfoot by pointing out that finding a bear skeleton in the woods that hasn't been shot by a hunter is just as rare as finding Bigfoot evidence.

Some of his footprint evidence must be true, he maintains, because most hacks don't have the scientific wherewithal to fake anatomical specifications to such an exactness.

Continuing in that vein he quotes a famous Sherlock Holmes line: "When you've eliminated the impossible, whatever else remains however impossible must be the truth."

"Sasquatch is ridiculous," Krantz says, "however the alternative is impossible. That's the conclusion I came to in the spring of 1970 and I haven't discounted it since."

For that, Mr. Krantz, my brother and I thank you.



Bigfoot sighting reported

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WALLA WALLA — A man who frequently has claimed to have encounters with Bigfoot says this time he's got witnesses.

Paul Freeman, a former U.S. For-

POST-INTELLIGENCER, Seattle, WA - Aug. 9, 1995 CR: J. Taverner

est Service employee, said he and two other men saw a tall, hairy creature Saturday in the Blue Mountains, about 25 miles east of Walla Walla in the Mill Creek watershed.

Freeman, who claims to have spotted a similar creature four other times, brought back part of a tree he says Bigfoot twisted, some hair samples and two plaster footprint molds.

He will send the molds and some hair to Grover Krantz, an anthropology professor at Washington State University who has investigated Bigfoot claims.

Freeman went on the expedition

with Walla Walla resident Wes Sumerlin and former state Game Department employee Bill Laughery.

The trio said they first spotted signs of the creature's presence: a strong odor, small twisted trees with clumps of long black hair and large footprints, 15 inches long and 7 inches wide.

Then, through the dense timber, they saw Bigfoot, almost 8 feet tall and a hairy tan-brown. Laughery said.

Although they had still and video cameras, the three said they were unable to capture the creature's likeness because of lack of light in the dense timber.

'Sprites' a puzzle in the sky

By Steve Lipsher
Denver Post Staff Writer

For decades, pilots refused to talk about the strange, luminescent creatures dancing on the tops of thunderclouds, for fear of being grounded.

Ephemeral and wavering, the pinkish-red, jellyfish-like blobs were discounted as tricks of the eye associated with lightning strikes in the night sky below.

But new research, centered in Colorado and unveiled at the massive earth sciences conference in Boulder, indicates that the recently discovered "sprites" could drastically affect travel and space exploration and play a crucial role in the chemistry of the upper atmosphere.

"We don't know exactly what they are, and that's why they're worth looking into. It's a totally new phenomenon," said Walter Lyons, a Fort Collins meteorologist presenting cutting-edge sprite research at the general assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, held this week and next at the University of Colorado.

In essence, sprites are tremendously charged blobs of electricity that hover and dance thousands of feet above giant thunderstorms.

"They're huge. They can be extended to 100 kilometers in height, and their horizontal dimensions can be almost as broad," Lyons said.

Sprites are closely associated with extremely powerful bolts of conventional cloud-to-ground lightning. Notably, however, sprite-generating lightning is positively charged — unusual, since 95 percent of lightning has negative polarity.

Because they last only for a split second, sprites are difficult to see with the naked eye and even tougher to comprehend.

"You have to know where to look and what you're looking for, and then you have to believe what you're looking at," Lyons said.

"If you do know what to look for, it would be like a big hunk of an aurora flashing on and off."

The first sprites were documented accidentally in 1989 by a satellite and identified by researchers Eugene Wescott and David Sentman of the Geophysical Institute of Alaska.

For the next four years, that proved the only confirmed observation. Then, researchers began using low-light video cameras to scan the night skies above thunderstorms.

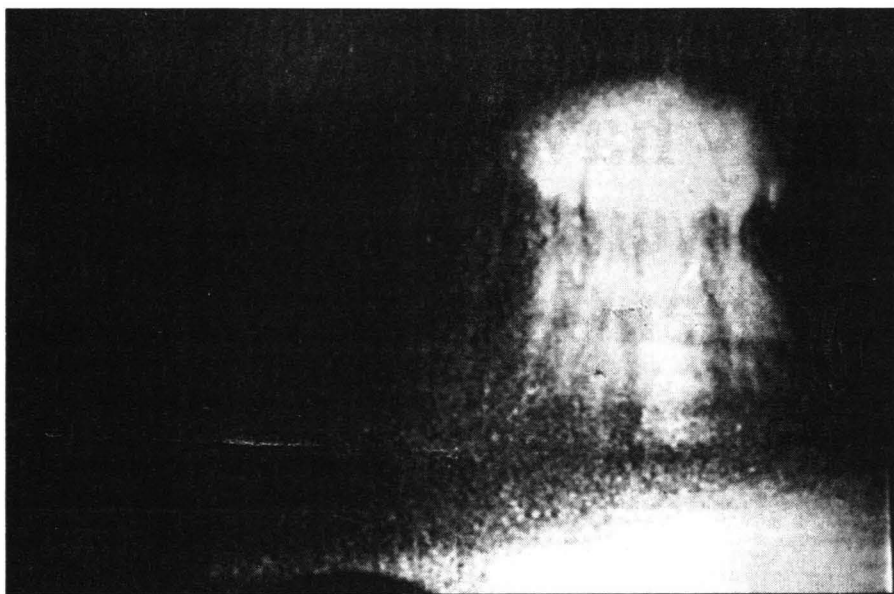
Now, researchers in Fort Collins watch sprites over Lubbock, Texas, and other towns as far as 600 miles away.

"They are not at all as rare as they were thought to be," Lyons said. "We've actually recorded on video up to 250 in one night during a thunderstorm over the high plains."

"The real story is that science ignored anecdotal reports of these things for over 100 years," Lyons said. "It was clear that people have been seeing these things since at least 1886. But they were treated as rarities or peculiarities. We now know hundreds of pilots who said, 'Oh, yeah, we've seen them.'"

Because of the state's high vantage point and the frequent "supercell" thunderstorms that develop over the plains, Colorado is the sprite capital of the world.

Last month, Wescott and Sentman brought



A low-light video image taken during a storm over Colorado's eastern plains last August shows a 90-kilometer-high sprite, in the shape of a mushroom cloud.

Special to The Denver Post
Forensic Meteorology Associates Inc.

a team to the University of Denver's observatory on the top of 14,264-foot Mount Evans to record sprites, and Lyons leads a team watching the mysterious blasts from a platform in Fort Collins.

"Sprites are just one of a whole class of weird things we're finding up there. There's a whole zoo," Lyons said.

Another creature is known as a "blue jet," an even more powerful bolt of lightning, topped with a faint blue flame, that shoots straight up more than 30,000 feet above the cloud tops.

"There have been planes flying at high altitude that appear to have been nailed from below while flying over thunderstorms," Lyons said. "In one case, it punched a fairly big hole

through the fuselage. There was another report of a (observation) balloon that was fried at 129,000 feet above a thunderstorm."

While today's commercial aircraft typically wouldn't be flying in the turbulent air over thunderstorms, military aircraft, spacecraft, and eventually, high-flying commercial planes could be subjected to the wrath of blue jets and sprites, giving the research a practical immediate application.

And in a broader context, scientists are curious about the role of sprites in the environment.

Because of their heavy electrical charges, sprites are thought to be significant factors in the chemistry and electric balance of the upper atmosphere, said Robert Stencil, a DU as-

tronomy professor who directs the Mount Evans observatory. He postulates that sprites follow the electrical paths left by incoming cosmic particles.

"If we're ever to understand the global weather system, it's clearly connected with the larger space environment," he said.

While lightning has been implicated in the formation of life on Earth, researchers wonder if sprites similarly factor in the gases of the mesosphere, 30 to 50 miles above ground.

"What consequences do these have on the chemistry of the upper atmosphere?" Lyons asked.

"This is a whole new wild card. With the concern over global climate changes, with the ozone layer, we don't know how they fit in."

What became of kangaroo?

Webster cops: sightings down

By MARY E. McCRAK
Staff writer

What's up with the Webster kangaroo?

It seems the marsupial that was spotted leaping around earlier this month has said its last "g'day mate" to the residents of this lakeside town.

Since two residents reported seeing a kangaroo bounce around their yards July 6 and 7, police have received a few more calls from residents who also claim to have seen a kangaroo. But no leads have panned out, said Lt. Robert Steinorth of the Webster Police Department.

"There was a lot of talk about it in the beginning," Steinorth said. "It used to be you couldn't go anywhere without being questioned if we caught it."

But now, besides an appearance in the parade during the annual Firemen's Carnival, no town officials have seen the cruising kangaroo.

Actually, that was a guy in a suit at the parade. The "real" kangaroo apparently has made its way somewhere else.

Steinorth said the reported marsupial probably was a young deer who was hopping about on its hind legs because its front legs were injured.

Still, Carol Catalino of 607 Bay Road, who issued the first sighting on July 6, swears it was a kangaroo standing about eight feet away from her when she went out to get her mail.

A day later, Margaret Casciano reported seeing a kangaroo in her yard at 208 Shorewood Drive.

Catalino said she knows it wasn't a deer, which also frequent her yard.

"I made eye contact with this thing and my brain was becoming like a computer. 'What is this thing?' I finally shouted it out, 'It's a kangaroo,'" she said.

Catalino, who takes care of children in her home, said she and the children went to her back yard and saw the kangaroo from behind, spotting its long, thick brown-cream-colored tail.

"That's when I really knew it was

a kangaroo," she said. "We just watched it bound away."

An Australian friend who lives in Webster gave Catalino a kangaroo crossing sign from Australia. The triangular yellow-and-black sign reads "Next 8 km" under a picture of a kangaroo.

Catalino said she didn't think it odd that she was face-to-face with a kangaroo. She just assumed it had escaped from a traveling zoo, fun camp or someone who hadn't registered the animal.

"I haven't seen it again, not even in my dreams," she laughed.

And although she has a wooden kangaroo plaque on her front door that her husband, David, bought for her at the Corn Hill Arts Festival, Catalino isn't sure whether she'll put the kangaroo crossing sign outside her door.

Her 15 minutes of fame are over, she said, except that some strangers still drive by and ask her if she's seen any more kangaroos.

Does she mind the notoriety that came with being a kangaroo spotter?

"I'm not sure if I like it or not," she said.

Crookston says it's the place for Great Plains Sasquatch center, plans to create one

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CROOKSTON, MINN. Bigfoot is planning to settle here — sort of.

City officials plan to create a life-size, furry statue of the Great Plains Sasquatch and an information source for one of the world's most famous legendary creatures.

"We've always had the ox cart as a mascot," said Don Holbrook, executive director of the Crookston Development Authority. "But we're not unique. We don't have lakes and that kind of thing, that other cities in northern Minnesota

have. We just decided to create something."

Local people came across the idea while cruising the Internet via computer. They read about all of the research being done on Bigfoot sightings throughout North America and the world. They also learned that there are more than 450,000 Sasquatch watchers in the United States alone.

Holbrook is working with a professor at the University of Washington who has been researching the sightings and the legend.

Although Bigfoot sightings most often have come from mountain-

ous areas of the Pacific Northwest or north of the Canadian border, there have been some from the Great Plains, Holbrook said. He knows of one in Indiana.

For that reason, he said, Crookston isn't an illogical choice for a Great Plains Sasquatch museum.

The 8-foot-tall Sasquatch will be a physical rendering, using taxidermy to recreate the human-animal that researchers have been studying.

Casts of footprints found at some sightings in North America will be put on display. The Sasquatch information center will have other Bigfoot artifacts, with a map of some of the more famous sightings in North America and the world.

Officials hope the project, estimated to cost less than \$10,000, eventually will be on display at the Polk County Museum along U.S. 2 near the east edge of town.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada
Aug. 19, 1995 CR: G. Conway

Airborne Search



The world's only government-sanctioned search party for "Big Foot" is gearing up for a new survey that will link high-tech aerial equipment with observers on the ground. Earlier searches this summer spearheaded by Wang Fangchen, of the 30-strong team from China's Committee for Research into Strange and Rare Animals, failed. While residents in Hubei Province have reported 114 sightings and collected hair and footprints from the suspected "Abominable Snowman" during the past 40 years, no such evidence was found by the team. They will now deploy balloons equipped with infrared-sensing instruments 500 metres above the forest. "Any activities conducted by large-bodied mammals would be recorded by the apparatus," Wang told reporters.

Aliens may have created universe, says US scientist

By NIGEL HAWKES

THE universe may have been created by intelligent beings living in another universe, according to a distinguished cosmologist.

Professor Edward Harrison of the University of Massachusetts makes the suggestion to explain why our universe is so precisely suited to the evolution of life. If only a few of the fundamental physical constants had been different, he points out in the *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society*, life could not have evolved at all.

"We do not know why natural qualities such as the strength of gravity, the speed of light, the electric charge on the electron and so on have the values they do," he writes. "Yet the slightest variation of their values would result in a barren universe without stars or light. Why are they precisely adjusted to give rise to life?"

There are, he says, two answers to this question. One is that a supreme being —

God — designed the universe in just the form needed for life. But that answer precludes further rational inquiry.

An alternative explanation is the so-called "anthropic" principle, which says that the universe is the way it is because we exist, and that if it were any other way we would not be here wondering about it. However, "many people find this a clever but unsatisfying answer".

A third possible answer is that our universe was created by comprehensible beings of superior intelligence living in another universe — a universe compatible with their existence and therefore, like ours, finely tuned for life.

"We are beginning to see how universes can be created," Professor Harrison says. "A small amount of matter — roughly 10kg — at very high energy is forged into a black hole. Under the correct conditions, the interior of the black

hole inflates into a new universe that endures for billions of years, spans billions of light years and contains billions of galaxies."

At most, he argues, human intelligence is only one million years old. "If we can already see how in principle universes can be created, then surely our descendants in the far future will have the knowledge and technology to design and create them."

Parent universes, by means of their intelligent inhabitants, give birth to offspring universes, which tend to resemble their parents. Not all offspring universes are exactly alike because of small variations in the constants of nature.

Among these offspring universes, Professor Harrison argues, some are more fit than others for originating and nurturing life to an advanced level of intelligence. The most fit are the most reproductive; the least fit are lifeless and unproductive. Thus we have a process of "natural selection".

Professor Harrison, British born but a long-time resident in America, is the author of several books, including *Cosmology and Darkness at Night*. His analysis will be seized upon by those who feel that life on Earth is so freakish a circumstance that it could not have arisen by chance. This includes most Christians and some scientists.

Professor Harrison quotes Albert Einstein as saying: "The most incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it is comprehensible." The answer to this old philosophical problem could be that it was created by beings with minds similar to our own.

At present, there is no way of proving or disproving his suggestion, but it should provide a good debate for philosophers and cosmologists.



Einstein: philosophical about the universe



Picture of huge footprint was taken by local teen's aunt. Inset in lower left is a computer enhanced image.

Hikers spy REALLY big foot

By JIM TANKERSLEY
Of the News-Register

For Josh Gillette, smelling is believing. On a recent hike, Gillette, a junior-to-be at McMinnville High School this fall, found evidence of Bigfoot, including footprints, noises and a foul odor.

While hiking with his aunt and friends Scott Johnson and Travis Shaw near the Molalla River, Gillette decided to venture away from nearby fisherman in order to find a more remote hiking area. The group drove five to ten miles up river, before parking and setting off up a remote cliff. At the top, Gillette said, they discovered an area of broken branches and trampled bushes and trees. There, they found a strange kind of feces, unlike that of any animal that the group had ever seen.

The environment around the top of this hill, Josh said, was completely void of life. No birds could be heard in the trees, a rarity for any Oregon forest. Small animals, likely to inhabit such an area, were absent as well. After the hike, Gillette speculated that this was due to Bigfoot's eating habits.

The hikers continued on. At one point during the walk, one of the boys threw a rock. As it struck a nearby rock, the group heard a noise, which Johnson described as high-pitched and "like nothing that I've ever

heard before."

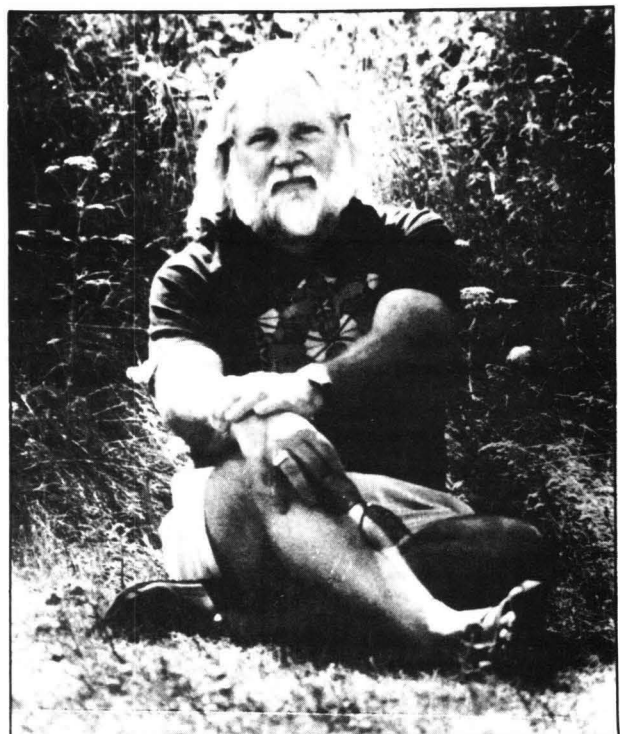
This noise, Josh's aunt said, matched that of a sound she had heard on television a few weeks before, during a show about sasquatch. On that show, the sound was identified as one that had been recorded as a sound of Bigfoot. At this point in the hike, Gillette said, he first began to think that Bigfoot was nearby.

Intermittently for the next few minutes, the group again heard the sound. They followed it into the woods, off the trail. By now, Gillette said, he began to get nervous. "My heart was racing and the adrenaline was flowing," he said.

In a clearing in the woods, Josh found the most telling evidence to that point: the foul smell that Bigfoot is rumored to carry hung in the air. Then, as the group headed back, they found a footprint on the side of the road, which Josh's aunt photographed (shown right).

Now, Josh is a full Bigfoot-believer. He's preparing to return to the area, but this time, he plans to be more prepared. He said that he'll carry something to protect himself. Though sasquatch has never been reported to hurt a human, Gillette said, it's better to be on the safe side. And he was a bit anxious during the first trip.

"At the time," he said, "we were pretty scared."



BIGFOOT READING — Robert Michael Pyle, author of *Where Bigfoot Walks: Crossing the Dark Divide*, will read from his book on Tuesday, Sept. 26, 7 p.m., at CAST's Performing Arts Center. This free presentation is one of Waucoma Bookstore's reading series.

Photo by Christopher Simons

NEWS, Hood River, OR - Sept. 20, 1995

Tuesday event

Bigfoot reading due

Bigfoot fans won't want to miss a reading of *Where Bigfoot Walks: Crossing the Dark Divide*, by noted author Robert Michael Pyle.

Pyle will appear Tuesday, Sept. 26, 7 p.m. at CAST's Performing Arts Center, Fourth and Cascade. This is another in Waucoma Bookstore's popular reading series. Admission is free.

The author, who holds a doctorate in ecology from Yale University, was awarded a Guggenheim fellowship to investigate the legends of Sasquatch.

Pyle trekked into the wilderness and discovered a possible fossil footprint. He searched out Indians who told him of an outcast tribe, the Seeahltks, who had not fully evolved into humans.

Pyle attended Sasquatch Daze in British Columbia, where he met scientists, hunters and others who have devoted their lives to Bigfoot.

He sought out rumors, eyewitness accounts and authoritative reports, such as the Army Corps of Engineers survey that concludes, "Bigfoot's existence is not unlikely." And he examined the tabloid stories, such as "Bigfoot Baby Found in Watermelon: Has Elvis's Sneer."

Locally, Pyle spent time exploring the Indian Heaven Wilderness area and interviewing Peter Byrne, director of the Bigfoot project

headquartered at Parkdale.

In his book, Pyle presents a dramatic narrative exploration of both the phenomenon of Bigfoot and the nature of human belief — particularly the need to believe that something is out there beyond what we rationally know.

Author David Quammen says of Pyle, "Robert Michael Pyle is a serious and respected ecologist who tells us that, based on his scrutiny of the evidence, Bigfoot lives — as a mythic icon of wilderness in the Pacific Northwest, and maybe also as a relict species of primate."

Quammen adds that "Where Bigfoot Walks is a charming book, filled with perceptive questions, provisional answers, and a respect for the mystery of landscape."

Pyle states, "There will never be a last word on Bigfoot."

Pyle is the author of eight books, including *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies* and *Wintergreen*, which won the John Burroughs Medal as the best natural history book of 1987.

Where Bigfoot Walks, published in July by the Houghton Mifflin Company, sells for \$21.95.

Pyle, a resident of Gray's River, Wash., will be available to sign his books at a reception following his Sept. 26 reading at the Performing Arts Center.