

# UFO

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For The Inquirer / JOHN SLAVIN

Linda Moulton Howe, an author and filmmaker who has devoted years to studying evidence of space aliens, works at her desk.

## Space aliens visit to mutilate animals, an area researcher says. She seeks answers in outer realms

By Steve Ritea  
INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

WARWICK — In the photographs on her second-story landing, Linda Moulton Howe sees two worlds: the one she has lived in and the stranger, elusive one she has spent half her life trying to understand.

Somewhere between the picture of her brother's long-ago fifth birthday party and a fuzzy photo of lights hovering in the sky, the two worlds intersect in her gallery.

An author, documentary filmmaker and author of books on phenomenon related to flying saucers, Howe has made a life's work of an obsession that began at age 4, when she asked her parents for a telescope.

"I think," she said, "it's the biggest story of this century and all centuries."

On a wall outside her office in the township's Jamison section is a simple plaque that looks as if it could be a Lions or Rotary club commendation.

It is an award from the Mutual UFO Network, a Texas-based nonprofit group with 5,000 members.

Inside her office, letters from strangers have been taped up carefully around her door. "Are you the real Linda Howe?" one reads. "If so, please know that you are one of my heroes."

Howe said she receives almost 150 letters each week.

In a world where UFO abductions often are listed alongside Elvis sightings and miracle diets in supermarket tabloids, Linda Howe believes she is trying to lend credibility to a subject that affects a growing number of people while many others still roll their eyes at it.

"I never use the word UFO," she said. "It carries so much loaded and ridiculed baggage with it."

A graduate of Stanford University, Howe, 52, has been investigating strange lights in the night for almost two decades. Now she continues her work in Bucks County.

She is divorced and has a daughter living

in Montgomery County.

Across from a photo of Stonehenge in her office are boxes labeled "Crop Circles" and "Dreamland."

The latter is one of many names that UFO students give to what they believe is a secret Nevada military base where the government is investigating spacecraft wreckage and space-alien bodies. The boxes are crammed with files, fuzzy pictures and yellowed newspaper clippings.

A former TV journalist with three regional Emmys for documentaries, Howe later became a cocreator of Fox-TV's *Sightings* program and has produced several other documentaries and two books on the paranormal.

Her specialty is unexplained animal mutilations, a branch of X-Files-type research that Walter Andrus, director of the Mutual UFO Network, said provides "quite a gory job for a young lady."

One of her books, *Glimpses of Other Realities*, contains scores of graphic photographs of the mutilated animals.

Large publishing houses were so repulsed by some of the pictures, she said, that they refused to use them in a book. Howe published the book herself.

The pictures also appear in her other book, *An Alien Harvest*.

She sees those images as hard proof that aliens have been here.

"If I can bring credible science to look at this and say there is enough information and it is happening, then minds that say it isn't there [will] have to change," she said.

Howe has taken a long trip away from her girlhood days in Boise, where she was named Miss Idaho and went to the 1963 Miss America Pageant.

Howe said that in 1979, after spending more than a decade reporting on science and the environment for TV stations in Los Angeles, Boston and Denver, she started questioning the discovery of oddly carved cattle carcasses.

"My father said, 'You don't want to do a story like that. You're going to lose your credibility.'"

Howe doesn't think she has. "I'm the same journalist who did all the other work," she said. "And I don't see how a person turns away from investigating a subject just because it's considered socially unacceptable."

Howe believes the frequency and the similarity of the mutilations cannot be ignored. Over the last 30 years, she said, thousands of animals have been cut apart in a way that not even the most advanced medical instruments could accomplish.

Not everyone is quick to believe her.

"Anyone who advocates this should be ashamed of him or herself," said Joe Nickell, a senior researcher for the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, a nonprofit organization based in Buffalo, N.Y., that attempts to find rational answers for the unexplained.

Nickell, who said he didn't have a science degree but worked as a professional stage magician at the now-defunct Houdini Hall in Niagara Falls, said small, sharp-toothed animals are often responsible for eating away sections of a dead animal's body, giving the illusion that some strange, surgical procedure has been performed.

"All of those claims are nonsense," he said. "It's a crank idea suitable for militia types and UFO crazies."

But Howe said there's more evidence that can't be dismissed. In all of the areas where she's investigated mutilations, Howe said, people have seen glowing orange disks hovering in the night sky.

Even in Bucks County, where she moved in 1990, Howe said, she has interviewed people who have seen strange lights over remote stretches of countryside or found themselves struggling to account for chunks of lost time — periods in which she said they could have been abducted by aliens.

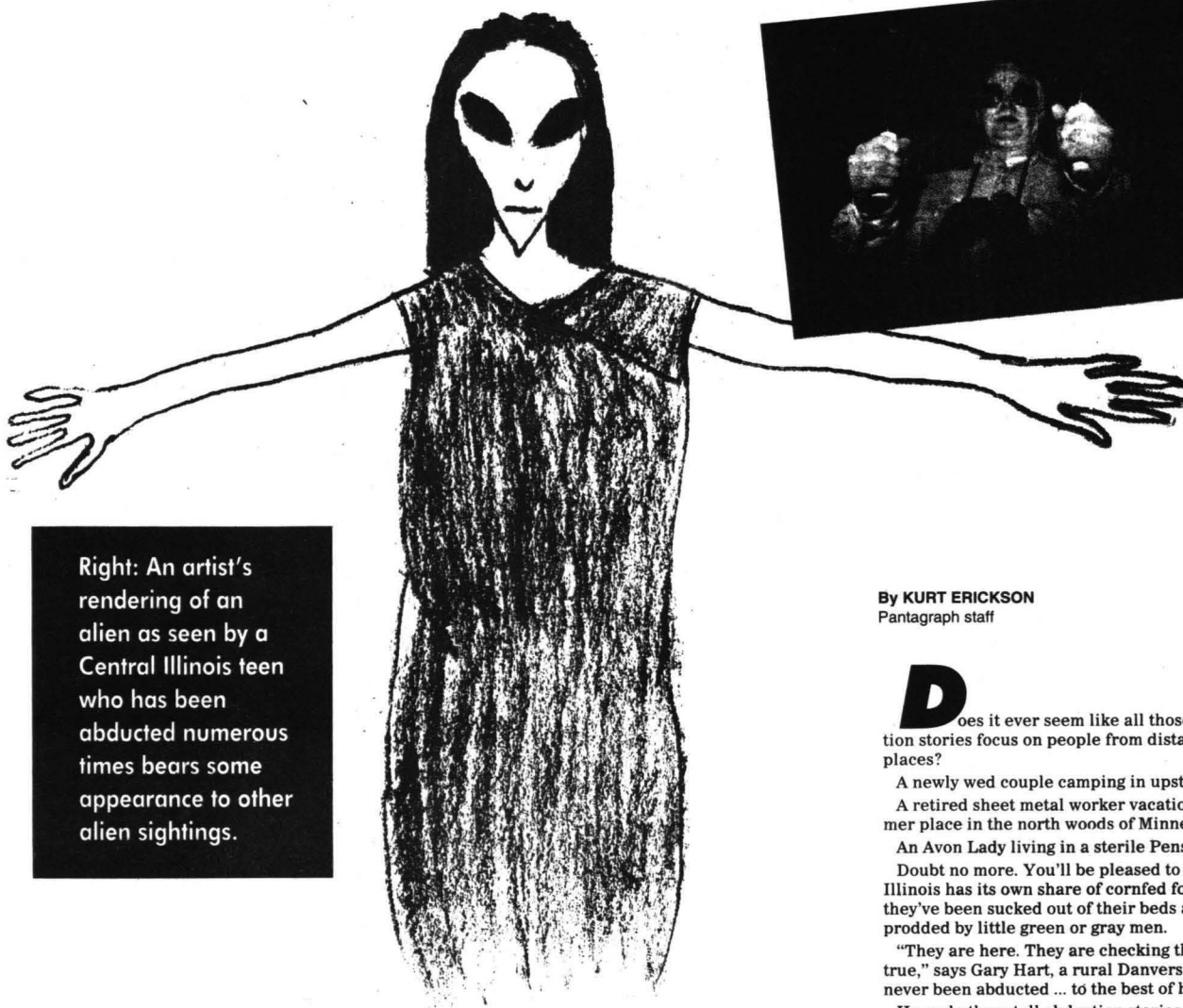
In the last month alone, Howe said, she has interviewed two people about their experiences.

And she believes them. "It's amazing what's out there," she said.



For The Inquirer / JOHN SLAVIN

In search of explanations, researcher Linda Moulton Howe sits in her Warwick office in front of editing monitors. Her specialty is studying animal mutilations that she says no earthly scalpel could do.



Right: An artist's rendering of an alien as seen by a Central Illinois teen who has been abducted numerous times bears some appearance to other alien sightings.



UFO expert Paul Russell demonstrated the use of dowsing rods. The rods respond to fluctuations in magnetic fields — a common occurrence during the presence of a UFO.

The Pantagraph/LLOYD YOUNG

By KURT ERICKSON  
Pantagraph staff

**D**oes it ever seem like all those alien abduction stories focus on people from distant, far away places?

A newly wed couple camping in upstate New York.

A retired sheet metal worker vacationing at his summer place in the north woods of Minnesota.

An Avon Lady living in a sterile Pensacola suburb.

Doubt no more. You'll be pleased to note Central Illinois has its own share of cornfed folks who claim they've been sucked out of their beds and poked and prodded by little green or gray men.

"They are here. They are checking things out. It's true," says Gary Hart, a rural Danvers man who's never been abducted ... to the best of his knowledge.

He and others tell abduction stories with a glimmer in their eye. Alien abduction, being the latest rage among the UFO crowd, is what everyone is trying to figure out.

It's a subject that takes the UFO phenomena to its logical end — if that is possible. As long as "they" are hovering around above us in their ships, they might as well check out the so-called dominant species. Right?

Clearly, there are many in the scientific community who dismiss the abduction rage as a product of fanciful imaginations. The overriding argument is that abductions generally happen to people who are sleeping, leaving critics to argue that abductions are merely dreams — albeit awfully weird ones.

Many of those telling abduction tales spoke only on the condition of anonymity. The following vignettes, using pseudonyms, are just a few of the stories going around among the contingent of Central Illinoisans who are keenly interested in abductions.

● Mrs. Green, not her real name, said she has been visited or abducted since the 1930s, when she lived on a farm in another Midwestern state. The Tazewell County resident said the last visit came in July, a few months after moving into a new house. "They let me know that they knew where I was," she said. Although Mrs. Green doesn't believe aliens have implanted her with any probes, there are two unexplained divots on her lower leg. "I don't feel any animosity from them, but I don't think they're up to any damn good."

● Mr. Blue, a Central Illinoisan who recently taped a segment on abductions for Danny Bonaduce's syndicated talk show, is abducted twice a year, if not quarterly. "I don't ever remember getting to the ship. I don't remember a medical examination but I have seen the control room in a ship. I get a chemical burn about the size of a cigarette burn all over my body, mostly on my ankles and my wrists."

● Mr. Blue's son, a teen-ager, also has been abducted many times. In one case, he assisted the aliens in an operation to insert an implant in a human. At a meeting of abductees in Missouri, the son met a woman from St. Louis, Mrs. Beige. Both, who had never met before, recognized each other from one of their abduction experiences. "He can mimic the sounds they make," Mr. Blue said.

● A woman in Bloomington, we'll call her Mrs. White, was recently visited by a group of four "little greys," which are UFO-speak for the kind of aliens that are short, putty-colored and have big giant eyes. Mrs. White awoke from her sleep to see the alien visitors placing her 4-month-old child back in the cradle in her room.

● A 12-year-old Central Illinois abductee, Miss Red, has drawn pictures of both the aliens and their ship —

(continued on page 3)

# **ALIEN**

# **ABDUCTIONS**

# **ON THE RISE**

# **IN CENTRAL**

# **ILLINOIS**



much to the chagrin of her parents. "Why would a 12-year-old girl make this up?" asks Paul Russell, head of a UFO study group in the Peoria area. "What possible motive could she have?"

• One member of Russell's group, whom we'll call Miss Purple, believes she was implanted with an alien monitor of sorts. She knows this because a small coil of wire fell out of her body one day.

So what's going on?

According to interviews with several UFO aficionados, most of the aliens do not get to Earth by sitting at the controls of a spaceship — a la Star Trek — and piloting it across space.

Rather, investigators postulate that aliens have figured out how to move across a series of interlocking dimensions, allowing them to pop in and out of our reality at their own will.

Exactly what the aliens are doing

here also is a matter of endless debate. Some believe they are trying to spread an ecological message that humans are destroying the earth. Others say it runs in the family, with many abductees saying grandmothers, daughters and sister also share their experiences.

Others believe they are here as a precursor to some huge change in our reality, a theory closely linked to the Biblical rapture, predicted by some to occur at the end of the century.

Connie Cook Smith, a Canton woman who says she was abducted by aliens, said those who believe in abductions and UFOs are like "16th century explorers intuiting that it is safe to proceed because the world is round, while most insist you are foolish because you will fall off the edge of an earth that is flat."

Smith calls the Mayan calendar "the most accurate time-record on earth." But, she warns, it stops at the winter solstice in 2011, only about 15 years away.

The implication: Time as we know it will end.

She believes the "end" will not be a doom-and-gloom event, but rather "like the end of a pregnancy, which means relief.

"The escalating episodes of UFO sightings, out-of-body trips, return-from-clinical-death experiences and angelic encounters are bleed-through events from where we're all headed," she notes.

Smith said she was abducted by aliens and given the sudden and uncanny ability to play music. She, and her husband, Mark, now perform for schools and other groups.

Mrs. Green doesn't believe any of those explanations. "That environmental stuff is a bunch of crap and that millenium stuff is rat hockey. The doomsayers go through this stuff every 100 years."

Mrs. Green, who described herself as a Republican farm girl, prefers to theorize that the visitors are time travelers returning to earth to pick up sperm and egg to reproduce.

Many have not had good feelings about their alien encounters. Re-

ports of being implanted with monitors and undergoing odd examining table experiences with aliens have left them drained, worried and unable to cope with everyday life.

According to Russell, those who have been abducted by any number of the 15 known alien types, cross cultural and economic lines, with abductees ranging from high-powered attorneys to middle class housewives.

This kind of thing bothers Francis Ridge, the head of the Mutual UFO Network's Indiana group. He is troubled by the sudden surge of abduction stories.

"As UFO investigators, we throw 90 percent of the sightings out as junk," he said. "You'd think there would be some correlation between that number and the number of actual abductions. I worry that people aren't being scientific enough about it."

"I don't believe abductions are happening at the magnitude people say they are," Ridge said.

## To determine if you're an abductee ...

Following is a guide created by psychologist Edith Fiore for people to use in determining whether they have been abducted by aliens. If you exhibit any of these signs, you may qualify as an abductee:

- 1) Missing time.
- 2) Nightmares or dreams of UFOs and/or aliens.
- 3) Sleep disorders.
- 4) Waking up with unusual body sensations.
- 5) Unexplained marks on your body.
- 6) Feeling monitored or watched.
- 7) Repeated sightings of UFOs.
- 8) Vague recall of a close encounter with an alien.
- 9) Unexplained healing.
- 10) Fear and/or anxiety of UFOs and/or extraterrestrials.

# UFOs familiar sight in Illinois night sky

## HONEST PEOPLE BEDEVILED BY SIGHTINGS

Between Pantagraph reports and those supplied by the UFO Filter Center in Mount Vernon, Ind., the following is a snapshot of UFO activity in Central Illinois for the past 100 years. Not all of the reports were investigated, meaning some could have been identifiable objects.

**April 1897** — Skywatchers in Bloomington, Clinton, LeRoy, El Paso, Arrowsmith, Delavan, Danvers and Minonk viewed unidentified flying objects during both night and day. Two sightings in Danvers, on April 16, were listed as Close Encounters of the Third Kind, in which the person saw aliens of more-or-less humanoid appearance, but didn't interact with the beings.

**Sept. 2, 1960** — R.G. of Bloomington reports seeing seven mysterious flashing objects in the night sky over the Twin Cities. Two days later, the Pantagraph reported a rash of "UFO parties" sprang up, with binocular-armed groups watching red, green and yellow blinking objects in the sky.

**Nov. 15, 1960** — Phone lines lit up as a bright object in the early morning sky over Bloomington appeared to crash in a number of areas. Two days later, a fast moving green light appeared to land in a field west of the Ralston Purina plant.

**Aug. 18, 1963** — An extra-bright "phantom light" hovering over the ground and stalking

the sky over Clinton. Days later, Twin City resident J.S. said a thin, brown plastic-like sheet landed in the back yard "from out of the sky."

**Oct. 8, 1968** — Lexington, Chenoa and Pontiac residents reported a bright object hovering in the sky.

**June 6, 1968** — Two lights that looked like acetylene torches streaked across the Bloomington-Normal sky.

**July 1, 1970** — A Close Encounter of the First Kind was reported in Danvers, in which a UFO was spotted relatively close by, but did not interact with the environment.

**July 7, 1970** — Reports indicate a humanoid alien-type thing was in Farmer City. Similar incidents were reported in Waynesville, Bloomington and around the Kickapoo Creek about one month later.

**Aug. 12, 1971** — Lights in the night sky were reported in Lincoln.

**Sept. 19, 1972** — In Woodford County, near Minonk, five UFOs caused several county deputies to rub their eyes in disbelief.

**Oct. 18, 1973** — Clinton patrolman C.W. swore the spots he saw in the sky were not airplanes, shooting stars or the result of "Demon Rum."

**Oct. 27, 1975** — Nocturnal lights were reported in Normal.

**June 16, 1976** — In Danvers, N.P. told police that two orange lights overtook an aircraft at a

people first reported over Washington eventually made its way east to Bloomington.

**May 11, 1964** — Farmer O.L. got a good look at a bright light in the sky over rural Normal. A second sighting was reported in Lincoln.

**March 23, 1966** — Saucer watchers in Normal said a ship flew over them, hovered near some trees and headed southeast over Bloomington. Over the next four nights, observers watched and chased the craft, which reached speeds of 80 mph. It disappeared near Danvers. People reported similar sightings in April.

**Aug. 12, 1966** — R.W. of Normal said two little white dots hung on the western horizon, went up, dropped back down and then went rapidly over the sky toward the eastern horizon.

**Jan. 9, 1967** — McLean County deputies received five calls early Monday of a "large ball of fire" and "lights" at four different locations.

**March 8, 1967** — Nocturnal lights were reported over Flanagan and Pontiac.

**April 4, 1967** — L.K. and son K.K. of Shirley, in the fields mending a fence, saw a lemon-shaped object blinking above their farm.

**Dec. 19, 1967** — An alien encounter was reported in Mahomet. No details were available, but the incident was listed as a Close Encounter of the Second Kind, which meant the UFO had contact with the environment, either by leaving an imprint or making a car engine stop.

**July 1968** — Nocturnal lights were reported in

rapid speed. He then saw four orange lights flying in a diamond formation.

**Nov. 6, 1976** — Bloomington resident M.S. saw something in the sky that grew bigger, then faded away.

**Jan. 21, 1977** — C.C. of Danvers told McLean County authorities that he saw a light falling earthward and then explode northeast of Danvers.

**July 31, 1977** — A cigar-shaped ship was reported in Normal.

**Jan. 11, 1978** — In Fairbury, G.D. reported seeing a UFO. No one in his family believed him.

**Feb. 2, 1978** — A bright light hovered over the Skelly truckstop in north Normal.

**Nov. 26, 1980** — In Will County and beyond, UFO sightings flooded authorities.

**Nov. 19, 1981** — Tazewell County police reported seeing a bright light with a rotating red light in the Tremont and Minier areas.

**May 20, 1984** — Logan County resident L.V. and others reported seeing a cigar-shaped object several times larger than an airliner descend in a northeast direction. Reports of similar magnitude came in from seven states.

**Feb. 6, 1995** — The National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle reported a Close Encounter of the First Kind in Bloomington. An object with lights hovered overhead, but did not interact with the environment.

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - May 21, 1996

# Man presents video footage of alleged UFO

**Jason Bunch**  
Record Staff Writer

fixed the camera on it," Leigh said.

It was shiny, round and large. It moved west, then east, then west again in a fluid motion without making a turn. It hovered over a tree for a few seconds and then continued on its westward path again.

More alleged proof of alien existence was presented in Roswell over the weekend by Jason Leigh of Cleburne, Texas. Leigh was at the UFO Enigma Museum Friday and Saturday armed with a videotape which he believes is hard evidence of the presence of UFOs.

The date was June 11, 1995. Leigh, an independent writer and director who is retired from ABC, was out filming scenes of severe weather and flooding which had swept through the Cleburne area, 33 miles south of Fort Worth, the night before.

"I was getting video of the flood when I saw this object with my naked eye and I just

The number of structural references on the tape help authenticate the video, according to UFO Enigma Museum Director John Price. At one point the object clearly moves out of the camera's view behind a house's chimney and emerges on the other side.

"With it going behind the home, you know the object is moving, and not the camera," Price said. "Some films are questionable in that regard, but this one is not."

Leigh said he also did a lot of fact-finding to make sure it was not a chartable earth-bound object he witnessed.

"I wanted to leave no stone unturned," Leigh said. "Not only did I have a reputation to keep, but I wanted to make sure it was for real."

Leigh checked flight records out of Cleburne and the Federal Aviation Administration

Operations Office in Fort Worth and found no flights over Cleburne on the day the video was taken.

He also confirmed through the National Balloon Base in Palestine, Texas, that the object was not a weather balloon, nor was it a meteorite or space debris, according to the U.S. Space Command Center.

"It took me a couple of weeks of phone calls and research, but I was able to discount any explainable reason for the object," Leigh said.

He also claimed to have no access to computer-animation material which would make the appearance of the object on the video possible.

"When people find out my profession, they think it is a hoax," Leigh said. "There is no way I could do that. The equipment needed to do something like that is so expensive that many television stations don't even have it."

Leigh also has footage which shows an enormous jellyfish-like object in the sky on the night of June 1, 1995. The video shows what appears to be two balls of light coming down towards earth from the object and a third ball moving up towards it. Leigh said the upward movement of the object discounts shooting stars and meteors. The sky is also clear, ruling out lightning.

Leigh's was not the only camera which recorded the event. A doctor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has footage of the alleged UFOs as well, Leigh said.

Price said he was intrigued by Leigh's video. "It is pretty impressive footage," Price said. "The quality was good and what was on the tape ruled out so many things like shooting stars."

# Looking for proof

*UFO field investigator searches for the truth*

By KEN FINK  
THE SUN HERALD

**G**ULFPORT - Is someone out there watching? Listening? Snatching people up for whatever the reason? The light, you see in the sky?

J.R. Gillis wants to know.

Gillis is a field investigator for MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network, based in Seguin, Texas. He looks into local claims of UFO sightings and abductions, using a keen eye to detect hoax or realistic explanation. And the interesting thing? He stays pretty busy.

Why? People believe.

"The latest poll found that 50 percent of Americans believe in the possibility of life on other planets," he said. "Only 23 have faith in Social Security."

When Gillis entered high school, one of his teachers had served in the Air Force as a fighter pilot. The teacher told Gillis about the time he spotted a formation of UFOs. Gillis was enthralled.

"It just got me interested in the whole subject," he said. "I joined APRO, the Aerial Phenomenon Research Organization. I became a field investigator in 1971."

His devotion has spanned the decades. His enjoyment comes from not only trying to prove the existence of UFOs, but to disprove any hoaxes or explainable sightings.

"It's very rewarding," he said. "It can be hard work, but I get a lot out of it and I put a lot into it."

Gillis works in a tiny office in his trailer on Pass Road in Gulfport. On the walls hang renderings of aliens with their characteristic oval-shaped black eyes and tiny slits for mouths. A bookcase holds reference material on abductions, theories and investigative forms.

His wife, Barbara believes in the possibility of alien creatures, but she is not a member of any UFO organization. Gillis' son, Kenneth, an emergency medical technician on the Coast, is skeptical, Gillis said, but he keeps an open mind.

When Gillis isn't working as a cashier at the Isle of Capri Casino, he is reading, researching or interviewing someone who has seen what was referred to in Gillis' younger years as a flying saucer.

Gillis has many theories about the existence of UFOs, but at the same time he is a skeptic, balancing his views to remain impartial while investigating claims. His first responsibility is actually trying to rule out the possibility of a sighting being a UFO.

"Most of the reports we get, 90 percent are stars, or planets, or aircraft," Gillis said.

Of last year's seven cases, two turned out to be blimps, two were "unknown," one was an aircraft, one was a star and one was classified as an "abduction."

The abduction was the case of an 8-year-old Stone County boy who continued often drew pictures of aliens in his classroom. His teacher called J.R.

"What made this story convincing was that he has not slept in his room since this occurred," he said. "The child had made Cs and Ds in school. His grades went up after."

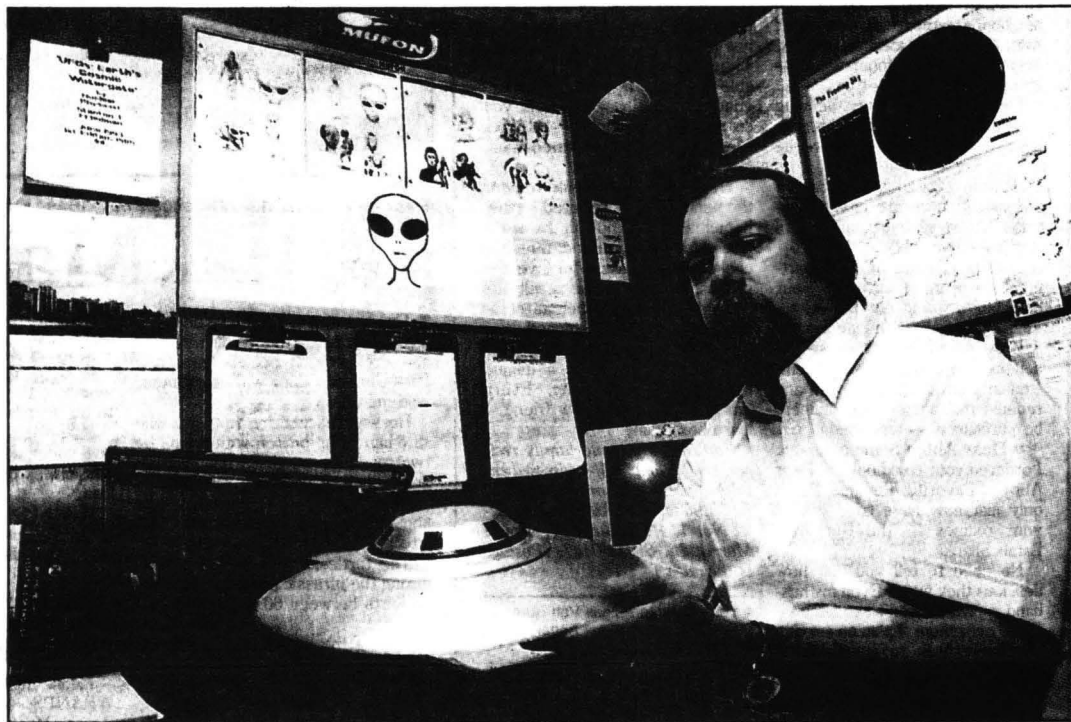
## So what's out there?

Ufologists, as UFO researchers call themselves, believe UFOs have been around forever. From there, many views differ. Are they from another planet? Are they experimental government aircraft? Do they come from beneath the sea? What do they want? Gillis abides by many theories and has many of his own.

"No one knows for sure what they are, where they come from, what they want."

We may never know," he said, offering a belief that the government at least knows something and may have even made contact.

"Most ufologists believe that before the turn of the century, some big event will occur that the government can no longer deny. They'll be forced to release documents."



PHOTOS BY VERNON MATTHEWS/  
THE SUN HERALD

▲ J.R. Gillis, a field investigator for the Mutual UFO Network, displays a model of a UFO he believes was retrieved by the U.S. Air Force. Gillis operates from an office in his Gulfport trailer home.

◀ The walls of J.R. Gillis' Gulfport home are adorned with drawings of aliens people have reported having contact with in the past. Gillis' tools of the trade include a camera, tape measure, research books, tape recorder and if the case warrants, hypnosis, by a trained professional.



## What to do if you sight a UFO

- Try to jot down as many details as possible
- Note direction of travel
- Note how you lost sight of the object
- If you have a camera or a video camera, try to photograph the object
- See if there are other witnesses around
- For sightings or abductions, call MUFON field investigator J.R. Gillis at 897-9012

The government plays a big role in Gillis' theories. He believes the government knows more about the Roswell, N.M., case than they have offered. The purported crash of a UFO and subsequent capture of two beings sparked interest in investigators and the public. The government claimed the craft was a weather balloon.

With so many sightings and incidents, why haven't "they" made contact openly? Perhaps they're afraid, Gillis said.

"The human race is hostile," he said. "We are killing each other off. They can see that. I think they've made contact, we just don't know it."

In many abduction cases, abductees report that aliens have taken semen and ovum samples. Gillis believes they may need that to keep their race going, a form of hybridization.

What's next?

Having worked with Gillis for two years, Don Hirth, another investigator, said he enjoys their working relationship. In Gillis, he sees understanding and objectivity.

"He's very thorough, open-minded, meticulous, probably more patient than I am in running down a clue or a lead," Hirth said. "He's on a good balanced path and it takes that to deal with this."

## A case study

Hirth and Gillis interviewed Mary Taylor, who went out to feed her dogs at her Stone County home and saw a UFO overhead.

"We saw a tremendously large object. It was just such a bright light coming straight across the top of us," she said. "It looked like it was flickering, then it moved. My husband told me to call the Sheriff's Department. Then we called J.R. We at least wanted to report it."

Taylor said Gillis came to her home, took pictures and interviewed her and her husband at length. Taylor said she had a friend who never believed in UFOs. When the friend woke up the next morning to feed his stock, he saw the same object.

"I didn't really want it there," she said. "It was so close. But I still wanted to see more. It just got too close for comfort. It's a weird feeling."

After reporting the incident and finding out that others had seen similar objects, Taylor said she finally felt like she was not the only one to witness a UFO.

(continued on page 5)



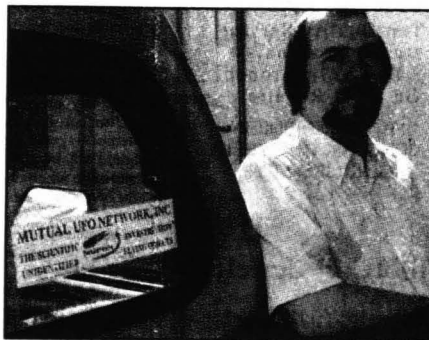
For Gillis, who has never seen a UFO, he will continue to pursue the stories of others who have.

"Actually, I'd like to be abducted just to see what actually goes on," he said. "From a researcher's point of view, it would be a wonderful experience. I'd be afraid and excited at the same time."

Ever give it up?

"I get the satisfaction of helping people and contributing to solving the UFO problem one day. I hope," he said. "But I'll stay with this until I die. The goal of every researcher is to find a clue that leads to the smoking gun."

**MUFON field investigator J.R. Gillis urges anyone who has seen or been abducted by a UFO to call him or his partner Don Hirth to report the incident. Gillis said he investigates all claims until they are resolved.**



## Profile

■ **Name:** J.R. Gillis  
■ **Age:** 45  
■ **Occupation:** Cashier at Isle of Capri Casino and field investigator for the Mutual UFO Network  
■ **Family:** Wife, Barbara; son, Kenneth  
■ **Residence:** Gulfport  
■ **Quote:** "No one knows for sure what they are, where they come from, what they want. We may never know."

DAILY PROGRESS, Charlottesville, VA - May 24, 1996 CR: B. Pittman

## They're here, to talk UFOs and other phenomena

By CHRIS SNOWBECK  
Daily Progress staff writer

Dan Smith enjoyed the lectures Thursday at a University of Virginia conference because they offered evidence of UFO visits to earth, and supported his belief that the mysterious sightings are premonitions of cataclysmic cultural change.

UFOs, or unidentified flying objects, portend "a change from modern materialism to post-modern immaterialism," said the unemployed physicist and academic from Baltimore.

Smith, 53, is attending the 15th annual meeting for the Society for Scientific Exploration, which continues today and Saturday. Information presented at the conference affirmed his belief that the government is suppressing information about space ships in order to maintain social order.

ference affirmed his belief that the government is suppressing information about space ships in order to maintain social order.

"The CIA is concerned that paranormal phenomena cause social unrest," he said. "The government is supposed to constrain consensus reality in certain ways."

Smith admitted that his views are probably more radical than those of the 106 other conference participants, but he said he appreciates the tolerant attitude of the society, which considers scientific investigation of anomalies and other phenomena not usually studied by scientists.

"We're willing to look at any more controversial ideas or observations or results without damning it to

*"The UFO subject is a kind of cosmic Watergate. Anyone who says there is no cover-up by agencies in the United States government isn't telling the truth."*

Stanton T. Friedman  
Society for Scientific Exploration member

hell," said Laurence Fredrick, an emeritus professor of astronomy at UVA and one of the local organizers of the event.

Topics of discussion in the three-day conference go beyond extra-terrestrial life, to consider alternative methods of healing, hypnosis and delayed recall and the impact of anomalous forces on random processes.

"We even have had talks on Big Foot," Fredrick said. "The guy who gave it didn't convince anybody."

The majority of the society's 548 members are academics or medical doctors, Fredrick said, though there some lack advanced degrees. While many have training in the sciences, other come with humanities backgrounds.

Unlike Smith, Fredrick said he has yet to find compelling any presentations on UFOs, but maintains a "skeptical interest" in the phenomena.

Fredrick got involved with the Society for Scientific Exploration when it was formed in the early 1980s. He had been secretary for the American Astronomical Society and the founders of the new society needed someone with organization expertise, he said.

Fredrick's interest in UFOs dates back to the 1950s when he was earning an advanced degree in astronomy and was working at an Arizona observatory.

"I spent 240 nights a year observing" the skies from an observatory, he said. At the time, people in northern Arizona said they witnessed UFOs right and left.

"But I didn't," he said.

Fredrick has occasionally seen things in the sky that he couldn't immediately explain, but he's always been able to figure out the phenomenon at a later date. He enjoys trying to find reasons that explain what causes UFOs in different situations.

For example, Fredrick helped deduce that a flurry of supposed UFO sightings in Texas many years ago were actually glimpses of car lights traveling on a mountain 20 miles away. In the late 1950s and '60s, people often mistook the planet Venus in the early morning sky for a spacecraft, he said.

Fredrick estimated that of those in attendance, about 70 percent are sympathetic to the ideas being presented by speakers while 30 percent are as skeptical as he is.

Society member Stanton T. Friedman, on the other hand, is skeptical of those who deny UFOs.

"The UFO subject is a kind of cosmic Watergate," he said during his address Thursday. "Anyone who says there is no cover-up by agencies in the United States government isn't telling the truth."

Friedman makes his living going from college to college, state to state, lecturing on UFOs.

"I did not think I would become an itinerant physicist," he said.

Friedman's scientific background includes a three-year stint studying physics at the University of Chicago along side Carl Sagan — who Friedman freely chastises for dismissing the idea that extra-terrestrials visit earth.

"[Sagan] says 'If aliens were coming down, they'd invite me to lunch,'" Friedman said.

The irrefutable evidence of such encounters, said Friedman and other speakers, came in a 1947 crash at Roswell, N.M. The government claimed that the incident involved a downed weather balloon, but the first press accounts on the accident and subsequent research indicates that the downed craft was a UFO, according to Friedman.

Patrick Huyghe, a free-lance writer, said not everyone in attendance agrees with the evidence presented in speeches. But, he added, "I think they're sympathetic to the efforts people are making."

Huyghe was looking for story ideas at the conference, which is the tenth such event he has attended. He said he was particularly interested in a presentation made by Bruce Maccabee of Sabillasville, Md., which purported to recording three different UFO sightings on video tape.

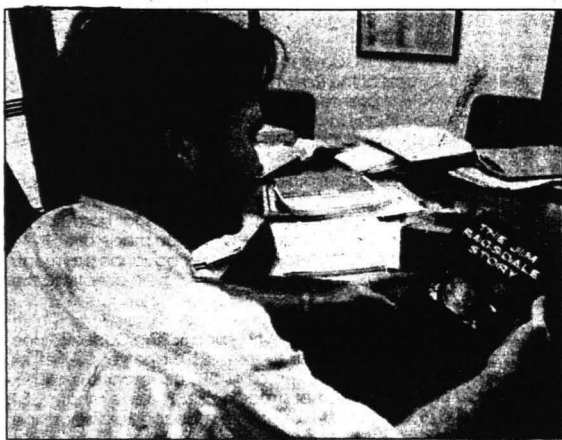
Richard Adams, an attorney and businessman from San Francisco, said he attended because he has an interest in scientific anomalies and parapsychology as well as philosophy and the nature of rationality.

As for Fredrick, even though he doesn't find compelling many of the UFO theories he hears, such as Friedman's views about the Roswell crash, he remains interested in society presentations.

"I say to people facetiously that I want to find a UFO so I won't have to worry about retirement [money]," he said of his continued interest.

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - April 28, 1996

## Book provides new information on UFO crash site near Capitan



Mike Pettit photo

Roswell Mayor Tom Jennings examines the first copy of the Jim Ragsdale story last week.

Jason Bunch  
Record Staff Writer

New information about an alleged 1947 UFO crash north of Roswell is available at the International UFO Museum and Research Center.

The crash Jim Ragsdale describes in the book, "The Jim Ragsdale Story," is not the famous Corona debris site located north of Roswell but a new impact site near Capitan Mountain off Pine Lodge Road about 50 miles northwest of Roswell.

Max Littell of the museum, at 400 N. Main St., said Ragsdale's story

was long overdue.

"This straightens out where the craft landed," Littell said.

"We all had a debris site, but no real impact site. Now we do. Jim Ragsdale and his girlfriend were there in the back of a pickup when the craft came in and impacted about 50 or 60 yards from where they were," Littell said. "This is his story about the impact site."

The girlfriend mysteriously died shortly after the alleged crash and some think her death was connected with what happened in 1947.

"She had a massive head injury and her pickup was wrecked, but it wasn't wrecked enough to cause the injury," Littell said. "She had some of the material with her that was never found. Ragsdale's daughter said that was why he never talked — he was paranoid."

Ragsdale kept the secret with him until November 1994 when he told his story to his daughter, Judy.

Littell said a videotaped interview with Ragsdale, taped five days before he died on July 1, 1995, would be available soon.

The book contains a documented letter from Ragsdale, interviews and insights from Littell, Judy, Walter Haut, Glenn Dennis and maps detailing the crash.

Copies of the book are available at the museum for \$14.95.

# Circle dots wheat field

By JIM LANGHAM  
Staff Writer

**PAULDING** — Usually, very few cars can be seen traveling on Paulding County Road 126 as it meanders through the prairie-like farmland between Paulding and Ohio 637. It is a stretch of vacant highway utilized mainly by farm machinery, pickup trucks and occasional visitors to the area.

That all changed this past weekend, however, when word got out that a crop circle had been spotted in a wheat field located just west of Ohio 637, approximately seven miles southeast of Paulding. The ground is farmed by the Arend brothers.

By Monday evening, lines of cars were bringing curious onlookers to the 93-foot circle; directional signs were being placed for visitors, and media hype was beginning to mount nationwide.

According to John Timmerman, vice president of public relations for the Center for UFO Studies, Chicago, the formation is consistent with other such appearances around the world. It is a perfect circle that measures 93 feet across at any given point. The wheat inside its circumference takes on the appearance of having been woven in counter-clockwise fashion, without any breakage to the stalks.

In addition, the circle is located between two drainage ditches located 350 feet apart. A measurement taken from the center of the circle to the ditches indicates that the distance to each drainage area is 175 feet from the center of the formation.

"I don't think it's a hoax," said Timmerman, who has studied numerous phenomenon of a similar nature over the years. "It wasn't formed by an aircraft or a wind vortex, such as would be created by a helicopter."

"Because of the counter-clockwise nature in which the wheat is laid out, it appears that whatever caused it was turning as it landed, whatever it was," added Timmerman. "Something caused that wheat to all fall in the same direction. What was it? I don't know what it was."

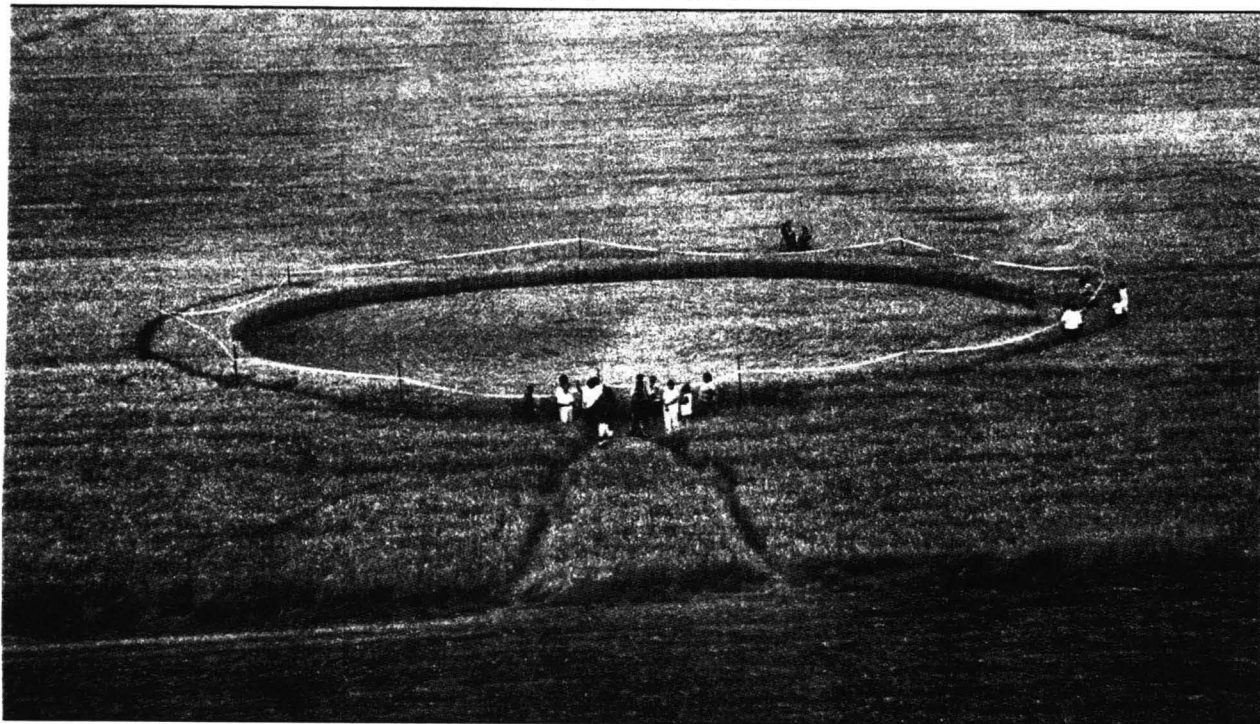
The story began late in the day on July 4 when Oakwood residents Mike and Sandy Dobbelaere were giving some friends an aerial tour of the area in their Piper Cub. As the plane flew over the area, Sandy pointed to some barns in the distance that impressed her because of their architecture.

"Just then I looked down and said, 'Oh, my gosh, it's one of those crop circles,'" said Sandy. "At first we joked about it, but then we decided to call (land-owners) Don and Sue (Arend)."

On Friday, Sandy went to the site to take pictures. At that time she was accompanied by Don Arend, who got his first glimpse of the circle.

"I was amazed at what I saw," said Arend. "There were no other tracks around it. I called Sheriff (Dave) Harrow and told him that we have something a little strange out here."

Harrow visited the scene to determine whether or not the formation was a case of vandalism.



Jenny Derringer/C-N Photo

**Crop circle:** Curious onlookers check out the 93-foot circle found in wheat field located on Paulding County Road 126

After determining that it wasn't, the Arends contacted Timmerman, who was on the scene within a few hours.

Don's brother, Dan Arend, admitted that he was a little skeptical when he was first informed of the phenomenon. However, a visit to the site quickly changed all of that.

"I was in awe immediately," said Don. "I realized then that we had better contact someone who had a little expertise in the area. I was convinced that there was no way that this could be man-made."

Arend said that it was impossible to determine when the formation occurred, but a close friend who flew over the farm on July 1 hadn't noticed anything out of the ordinary. Also, members of the family who planted a bean field close to the site on June 23 didn't notice anything.

Timmerman said that professional agronomists will visit the site later this week to take samples of the grain and soil for analysis. He noted that when results are made available, they will be released to the press.

One local resident who visited relatives in the area and saw the circle over the weekend referred to it as a "phenomenon that couldn't have been made by a person."

"I've been hearing about such things happening in England, but I never realized one would happen right under our nose," said Georgiana Wagner, of Defiance. "There must be something higher than us that knows how to do something so perfect."

Among those visiting the site on Monday evening were Michelle Blatnik and Melanie Myers from Toledo. Both individuals had observed a similar phenomenon near Adrian, Mich., last summer. Blatnik noted that there were some striking similarities between the two.

"They were very similar, especially inside the circle," explained Blatnik. "In both circles the grain appears to be woven like a basket. Personally, I believe that there's something going on out there that we're not being told about."

"I don't know what did it, but one of the neatest things is the way these things bring people together," said Myers. "People who didn't know each other or whose paths wouldn't have crossed are meeting and talking. That's a pretty neat thing in itself."

## Hoosiers noticed a UFO

By JIM LANGHAM  
Staff Writer

**BERNE, Ind.** — When Dawn Sprunger left the home of a close friend in Bluffton, Ind., early on Saturday morning, the last thing on her mind was the existence of Unidentified Flying Objects. She hadn't heard anything about a crop circle in Paulding County.

But at 4:10 a.m. (5:10 a.m. EST), all of that changed. Approximately five miles west of this Adams County hamlet, editor Tony Mellencamp in Monday's *Berne Triweekly News*, local to be red and blue lights blinking

to her left. At first she thought the lights were coming from towers located in the area. However, when the lights continued after she passed the towers, she became concerned.

"I finally tried to get a good look at it and what I saw scared me," noted Sprunger. "It looked like a vertical jet, triangular in shape. At certain times you could see red and blue lights in it."

"When I came to a stop light in Berne it was in front of me. As I drove toward our house it was to my left," said the 19-year-old.

Sprunger said that she entered the house and went to bed, hoping that the sighting would just go away. But when she peered out the window a short time later, it was still hovering in the area. She awakened her parents, who also saw the object, and they telephoned law enforcement officials.

According to a report by news editor Tony Mellencamp in Monday's *Berne Triweekly News*, local police chief Merlin Bixler headed

east out of town where he spotted the object. Even though Bixler and three other officers were observing the object first hand, controllers at Fort Wayne International Airport indicated there was no sign of an object in the area on radar.

In the meantime, Berne Mayor Blaine Fulton, who had been alerted of the situation, was able to capture the possible UFO for several minutes on his camcorder before it finally drifted toward the east close to sunrise.

Officers then returned to the home of Sprunger to inform her that they had also seen the object.

Was there any connection between the Berne sighting and the discovery of a crop circle east of Paulding two days earlier on July 4?

John Timmerman, vice president of public relations for the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, said Monday that he wouldn't rule out that possibility. In fact, the closeness of the two appearances in timing, as well as geographically, more than captured Timmerman's interest.

"There had to be something that caused all of the wheat to fall in the same direction," said Timmerman. "That only happens when you have something in motion."

While Timmerman refused to identify either incident as official UFO activity, he noted that it's not unusual to have UFO sightings close to the appearance of crop circles. He also noted that the fact that none of the stalks of wheat were broken would seem to heighten the credibility of the situation.

Berne is located eight miles from the Ohio line, approximately 40 miles southwest of Paulding, in Adams County, which borders Mercer and Van Wert counties in Ohio. The crop circle, located on Paulding County Road 126, just off of Ohio 637, is located about 15 miles north of Van Wert.

What does Sprunger think about the whole thing?

"I keep wanting to say, 'Dawn, you're crazy,'" she said, "but it helps to know that the officers also saw it. I used to think that there was no such thing as a UFO, but not anymore. I believe there is life up there that could be interested in seeing what's going on down here."

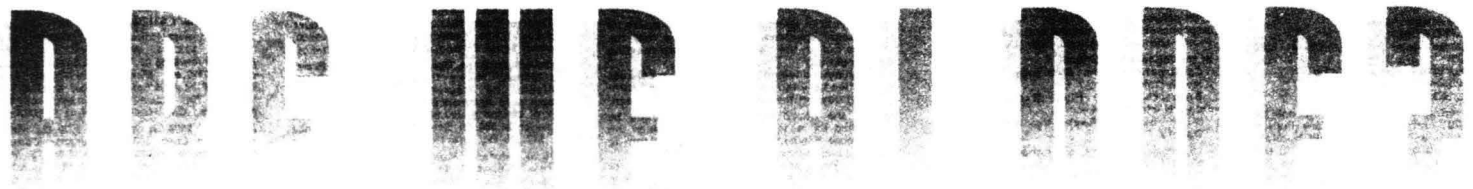
Sprunger said that she plans to visit the crop circle later in the week.



Jim Langham/C-N Photo

**PUZZLING IN PAULDING** — The mysterious crop circle near Paulding was discovered July 4 between two drainage ditches located 350 feet apart. A measurement taken from the center of the circle to the ditches indicates that the distance to each drainage area is 175 feet from the center of the formation. Here, Darcy and Laura Arend, daughters of Don and Sue Arend, who farm the property on which the circle appeared, examine the flattened crops.





## To many North Dakotans, the answer is no.

G. TROY MELHUS  
Bismarck Tribune

**T**he question whether we are alone in this universe, according to the folks in the new film "Independence Day," has been answered. Aliens are big, mean and they're intent on doing only one thing: exterminating the human race.

It's long been a Hollywood standard: fear of extraterrestrials sells. Yes, there's fluff. But for every ET, there's 10 "Aliens." For every "Cocoon" there are 10 "War of the Worlds."

So are there ETs? Are they friendly? Have they visited our planet?

The answer to all of those questions is yes, says Dr. John Hunter Gray, a retired professor and chair of the Indian Studies department at the University of North Dakota. Known largely for his work in Indian Studies and civil rights, Gray is also known as a national leading expert on extraterrestrial contact. In fact, for several semesters, Gray taught the course "UFOs, ETs and Close Encounters" at the university to record numbers.

He's spoken throughout the nation and state on his theories and has been featured on several television documentaries, including the CBS special "Visitors from the Unknown," for both his work, as well as his own 1988 close encounter that got him started studying the subject.

The Bismarck Tribune caught up with Professor Gray last week — two days before Independence Day, in fact — to find out what's fact, what's fiction, and just what the real story of UFOs in the world is.

**VOICES:** So what got you started in studying UFOs?

**GRAY:** Until March 20, 1988, I had no conscious interest in it. I think if someone would have asked me (if there was intelligent life out there), I'd have said I think it's very likely. I didn't find that difficult to imagine. But I hadn't read anything about it. I would say my interest was almost negative: if something on UFOs would come on the television, I would turn it off.

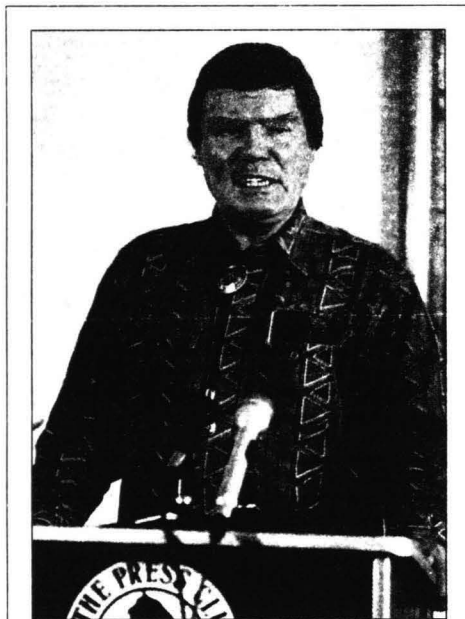


But on that morning, March 20, 1988, my then 23-year-old son (John) and I were traveling south through Minnesota to Mississippi and New Orleans when we were, what I like to call, 'gently diverted' into an obscure section of southwestern Wisconsin, where we had a very friendly encounter with a number of extraterrestrial people for well over an hour. In the course of that there were some medical things done which proved to be quite beneficial.

This was initially cloaked with amnesia, what is referred to in the field as "missing time." When John and I emerged we had no idea how we had gotten where we were. But we were off course. The next day we saw, in full consciousness and in broad daylight, a UFO approaching us. We were about the only vehicle on the road and it stopped, hovering, about 200 yards in front of us. It was saucer shaped, with a silvery, shimmering quality. There was no question about what it was. Then it shot off to the southwest. I've come to believe there were several reasons for that encounter. It was an appearance for our sake, it was done as a friendly gesture, and it was done to explain the baffling episodes of lost time. In due course, we both began to go through a very systematic recall of the encounter. This involved meeting with six to seven small people, between four to four and a half feet tall, with small limbs, large heads and very conspicuous eyes.

**VOICES:** Do you find a lot of people are skeptical when you tell them about this for the first time?

**GRAY:** We've been very open about it. And younger people, oh, from the mid-30s on down, are extremely open to it. We haven't had any problems with mos', be they conservative, old-fashioned, or religious. The only problem we ever have is with what I call very narrow-minded secu-



**John Hunter Gray**, a retired professor and chair of the Indian Studies department at the University of North Dakota, is considered one of the leading experts on the topic of extraterrestrials. He says reports of UFOs in North Dakota are very common.

lar humanists ... very narrow, scientific fundamentalists. Fairly recent polls have shown most people believe (in life on other planets). Most people see the ETs as friendly, but they're cautious. And in recent years, several things have happened: there's the 1947 Roswell incident, which has been very broadly accepted by most people in this country — along with its rather hysterical government coverup. In addition, there are more and more similar reports, from reputable people who aren't prone to gaze into the stars. Some talk openly about it; other's don't talk about it at all.

**VOICES:** So where did you go for information after your first sighting? Did you ever question yourself on its reality?

**GRAY:** There was never a question in our minds about it happening. It was very real. As a member of the American Society for Psychical Research, I'd learned over the years that about 90 percent of the books out there on ESP are nonsense. I assumed, and found to be true, that 90 percent of the books on UFOs are such nonsense, frankly, that you wouldn't want to read them. But I found some very solid books, began reading, and it went from there.

**VOICES:** So what are extraterrestrials?

**GRAY:** Very few people see them as scary. The reality is they're not angels, they're not devils, they're not psychic manifestations and they're not time travelers. They're people much like ourselves, observing earth heavily since about World War II. They'd been watching earth before then, but they were savvy enough to understand that the scientific advances from World War II would eventually lead to our entrance into space. This is a long-term education process, to prepare us for their presence. They come in and out very cautiously.

**VOICES:** So is there much interest in the Dakotas?

**GRAY:** In North Dakota there's a great deal of interest. When I speak in Western North Dakota communities, I'm told of several UFO encounters, often from very prominent people. I taught several versions and mini-versions of the class between 1990-1994, to more than 65 different majors. There's been no end to visitors. I'm often still getting reports. I get a lot of reports in areas southwest of

Williston, around the Montana/North Dakota border.

**VOICES:** People call you to tell you of their close encounters?

**GRAY:** A typical report will be something like a rancher in Hazen, calling at 2 a.m. to say he's seen a spacecraft not too far from his home. There are often reports of strange, burnt circles on the ground — not the crushed circles of corn, that's something else — often after seeing strange lights in the sky.

**VOICES:** How believable do you think these stories are?

**GRAY:** They're very believable, though, as a general rule of thumb, out of every 100 sightings, 90 percent of them can be conventionally explained — as anything from a weather balloon to aircraft to Venus. But 10 percent can't. Some people who call are obvious crackpots. When someone calls you up and it's inconsistent with other types of reports, and they're telling you they've had 14 encounters in one day, that's when you just listen politely and try to suggest counseling.

**VOICES:** From where are most North Dakota reports?

**GRAY:** I get a lot of reports in areas southwest of Williston, around the Montana/North Dakota border. There are a lot in Dickinson. I hear from a number of people from our region, in the central/western part of the state. There are a lot of reports from Manitoba and Minnesota, too.

As a general rule of thumb, geographically, sightings tend to be in more timbered sections. Maybe it's because central North Dakota is rugged, or isolated. Maybe the ETs feel more comfortable in this setting.

**VOICES:** What's the biggest one in North Dakota?

**GRAY:** There was a landing site circle on the Montana/North Dakota border that was said to be 100 feet across, but I didn't see it. That was about six and a half years ago.

**VOICES:** So is there any source that lists all of these?

**GRAY:** I keep some notes, but there have been so many sightings it would be impossible to chronicle them all.

**VOICES:** Why the mystery? Why don't aliens just come out to us?

**GRAY:** I often tell a story comparing it to a neighbor on your block. You're a polite neighbor, and everyone's been living on the block for a while, but the one neighbor on the corner, well, the place is kind of trashy. It's a wonderful neighborhood, and they're pretty good neighbors, but they're noisy as hell. But you never really say anything. Then their kids start to play out in the neighborhood, writing things on the sidewalk, spreading trash around. Then you reach a point. Do you get rid of them? Do you annihilate them? No. They're nice people. And everyone's been through tough times, and you do kind of like them. So rather than quarreling with them and confronting them directly, the rest of the neighborhood just comes out, to let their presence be known, with the hopes of eventually letting them know we all want a clean neighborhood.

**VOICES:** So we're the trashy neighbor?

**GRAY:** (Laughs)

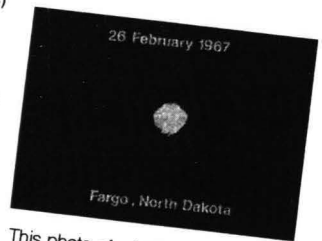
We're the trashy neighbor.

My feeling is that ETs would like as much time as they can to sensitize us to their presence. We probably won't have contact until a time that we're ready to enter outer-space in high numbers. It's a ways off.

**VOICES:** And it will be friendly?

**GRAY:** It will be friendly. They won't be our saviors and they won't take us over. If ETs were bent on taking us over — and frankly, I can't imagine any rational beings that would want to at this point — they'd have done it centuries ago. Why wouldn't they do it when we simply had the equivalents of sticks and stones to defend ourselves?

Do you want to talk more about extraterrestrials? You can contact him directly, if you'd like, at 307 North 49th



This photo of a UFO was taken in Fargo in 1967.



**A**re you looking for UFOs on the web? Really you needn't look any further than the website for the film "Independence Day," which has links to more than two dozen various UFO sites, at <http://www.id4.com>.

Of the nation's leading experts on UFOs, Stanton Friedman, has a page at

<http://medianet.nbn.net.ca/ufo/index>

The site includes monthly updates of the world's most interesting sightings, and a UFO Q&A.

There's the Ultimate UFOlogist's page, at <http://ourworld.compuserve.com:80/homepages/AndyPage/>, which includes information on some North

Dakota sightings, at the Minot Air Force base within the last two decades.



# Unexplained circle found in wheat field

Print investigated as UFO site, hoax

By Jim Woods  
Dispatch Staff Reporter

PAULDING, Ohio — Curiosity seekers are flocking to see the unexplained circle in a Paulding County wheat field.

The circle is about one-quarter mile off Paulding County Road 126. The wheat within the 93-foot circle is bent in a counterclockwise fashion.

Similar circles found in other parts of the world have prompted speculation that they are created by extraterrestrials or other unexplained forces.

The Paulding County circle was first spotted from the air by Mike and Sandy Dobbelaere of Paulding, who flew over the field July 4. They couldn't get it out of their minds.

"I couldn't sleep that night," Mrs. Dobbelaere said. "I told Mike, 'That was too weird. We need to go back and take a picture of it.'"

Paulding County Sheriff David Harrow was called to the field Saturday. He had yellow crime scene tape placed around the circle.

"If it's a hoax then it was well-thought out, planned and executed," Harrow said. "If it's not a hoax, then your guess is as good as mine."

The wheat field is part of 4,800 acres farmed by Daniel Arend and his brothers Donald and David.

"I don't know what it is. I don't think anybody did it as a joke. I think it's some kind of phenomenon," Daniel Arend said.

Arend said he and his brothers are allowing onlookers to observe the circle. They have even posted no-smoking signs.

"It's getting pretty overwhelming. We're trying to farm here," Arend said.

John P. Timmerman, treasurer of the Chicago-based J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, traveled from his home in nearby Lakeview, Ohio, to examine the site.

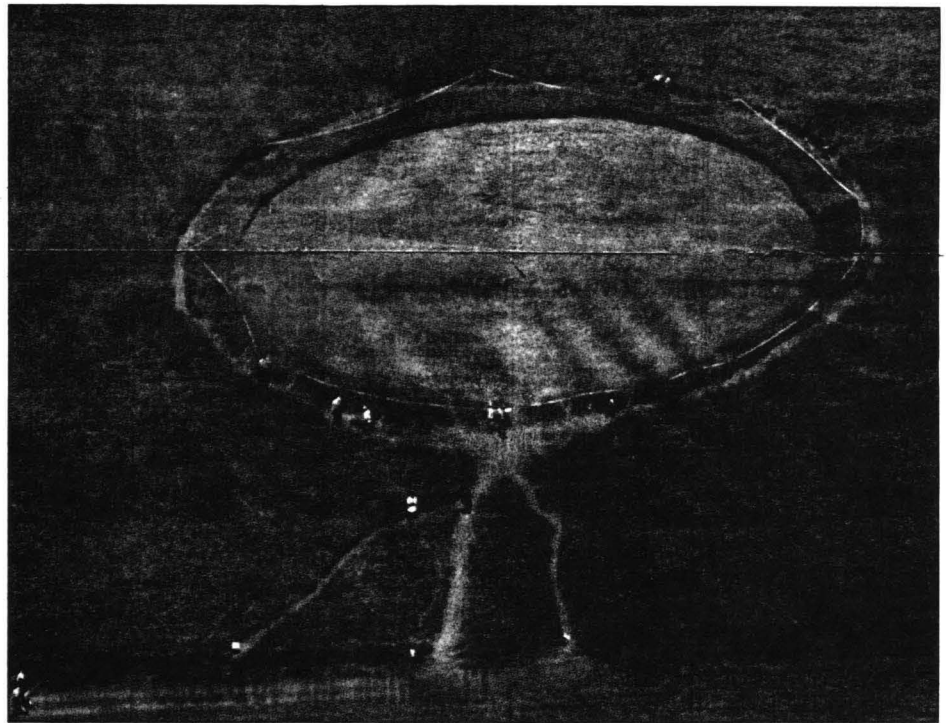
Timmerman said he has seen similar phenomena in fields in Saskatchewan, Canada, and New York. He said he believes the indentation was made by an object from the air because there is no path through the field to the circle.

"The way that the wheat surrounding the circle stands undisturbed, I don't think it could have been made by a helicopter," Timmerman said.

"I don't believe it's a hoax because there is no evidence that would cause it to appear to be a hoax."

Timmerman said he will take an agriculture professor from Ohio State University to the site today to take soil samples.

Natalie Arend, Daniel's wife,



Associated Press

People are flocking to see a 93-foot circle that appeared in a Paulding County wheat field.

said she's fielded calls from others who want to investigate the site. She said she finds the phenomenon puzzling.

"I think it's something that was created by forces unknown. It's not a hoax," Mrs. Arend said.

She said she had read about unexplained circles appearing in other farm fields. She said she's beginning to believe that the marking could have been made by a UFO.

"It would be interesting if another circle appeared. I don't think it's here to hurt anybody. I think they're here to observe and understand," Mrs. Arend said.

Dawn Sprunger of nearby Berne, Ind., went to the farm yesterday to observe the circle, wondering if it could be connected to a UFO she sighted Saturday.

Sprunger said a cone and triangular-shaped object with red and blue lights followed her home. She got scared and called 911 at 4 a.m.

Berne Mayor Blaine Fulton said two Berne police officers and a deputy sheriff saw the same object. Fulton said he took video of the object, which was shown on a Fort Wayne television station.

"I don't know what it was. Maybe it was a hot air balloon," Fulton

said.

People who visited the field yesterday seemed dumbfounded.

Marlene Tempel of Paulding County said she believes in UFOs but wondered if the circle could have been made by an upside down helicopter.

"If it was it would still be there," said her husband, Bob Tempel.

Randy Robinett, a farmhand, said he was skeptical at first.

"That was until I looked at it. It's awesome. It's definitely not man-made."

OBSERVER, Charlotte, NC  
July 6, 1996

## Greensboro symposium draws UFO believers

By STEPHANIE BANCHERO  
Staff Writer

**GREENSBORO** — They call themselves "The Believers."

They talk of aliens, abductions and aberrations. They've collected data about faces on the planet Mars and hovering saucers.

Hundreds of them are gathering in Greensboro this weekend for the 27th annual International UFO Symposium. They'll share personal experiences and scientific data to prove that we are not alone.

"There's no ignoring or denying the overwhelming scientific evidence," said Vincent DiPietro, engineer at the Goddard Space Flight Center, an arm of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Greenbelt, Md., who will lecture about the Face on Mars.

"There are other forms of life out there."

Sponsored by the Mutual UFO Network, the three-day convention is expected to draw almost 1,000 people from as far away as China and Russia. Engineers, chemists, physicists and doctors will discuss "medical and surgical aspects of UFO abductions," and "the significance of multiple participant abductions."

The science-fiction interest generated by the summer movie "Independence Day" has boosted the believers' confidence.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - June 19, 1996

## UFO Sightings

### Colorful UFO darts over gulf waters

By Carole Baker

The following is a report written by Art Hufford detailing an exciting sighting at Perdido Key.

On Sunday, June 2, 1996, around 9:30 p.m., a woman and her parents observed a multicolored UFO dash about out over the Gulf of Mexico. They were out on their deck at the Eden Condominiums at Perdido Key, about 15 miles west of Gulf Breeze, Florida. While watching a beautiful moon rise in the eastern sky, they first noticed a bright, steady white light to the right of the moon; this light remained stationary for a few minutes and then blinked out.

A few minutes later, they observed a bright, flashing white light suddenly appear to the left of the moon. At first they thought it must be an airplane, but when clusters of steady red, blue, and white lights appeared around the pulsing white light, they became curious and started watching the UFO through their binoculars.

Next the UFO began to make rapid, darting movements...up, down, right, left...pausing in a stationary position between each darting movement. These quick, erratic motions continued until the UFO zipped rapidly from the eastern sky to a position due south of the Eden Condominiums (out over the Gulf of Mexico). After hovering

there for several moments, the UFO darted suddenly straight toward the Condominium; the woman's father, a former flight pilot, was so startled by this dash toward them that he dropped his binoculars. The UFO then stopped again while still a mile or two off shore, before beginning a slow, steady movement toward the northeast, passing to the left of the witnesses.

At this point in the sighting, the UFO was still displaying multiple red, blue, and white lights and the single, bright white flashing light. The witnesses never heard a sound coming from the UFO, although during a portion of the sighting, they did hear a jet fly overhead; the witnesses were quite confident that the jet sound was definitely not coming from the UFO. Also throughout the sighting, the family's German shepherd dog was going

wild....running, barking, and just behaving in a totally abnormal manner. Finally the UFO moved over land a little to the northeast of them, dropped low around the Theo Baars Bridge, and then rose rapidly high in the sky and out of sight.

A few minutes later, they noticed a small dot of white light to the left of the moon; this time through binoculars they noticed two blue flames shooting out from the dim white light (possible jet engine exhaust?); this final sighting just slowly faded into the distant sky and never displayed the erratic, quick motions of the earlier UFO.

If you have any additional information on this or other sightings, or have some other UFO experience to report, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. Keep looking up!

"They used to call me a crackpot, a kook," said George Fawcett of Lincolnton, who founded the N.C. MUFON chapter. "But there's been a big change in public perception. They no longer ask, 'Are they real?' They ask, 'Where was the last UFO seen?'"

Vendors hawked stuffed "humanoid" dolls, flying-saucer earrings and alien-embazoned ties.

"There's no reason not to get our message out there by selling T-shirts and hats," said Jim Tucker of Clearwater, Fla., who says he was abducted by aliens in the 1960s. "We want to convince as many people as possible that there is extraterrestrial life out there."

Convincing wasn't necessary among the small groups gathered at the Holiday Inn Four Seasons.

"There was this huge orange light with four blinking lights around it, and it just sat there for 35 minutes above my house," 15-year-old Kenneth Thompson of La Grange, Ga., told a rapt crowd.

MUFON, the largest UFO research organization, boasts 5,000 members worldwide. They publish a monthly newsletter, hold conferences in almost every state and, via the Internet, share research material and personal experiences.

"When you've spent so much time outside the mainstream of those who don't believe, you tend

to form a close family," said Harold Eadie of Hendersonville, who became a believer after a professor told him of his alien experience. "We support each other because we know the truth."

CR: G. Fawcett



## 1995 Ohio Sightings

Southwest Ohio UFO sightings logged in 1995 by Norwood-based Associates for Scientific Knowledge:

Feb 15	Hovering lights	Hueston Woods
March 27	Shadowy blur	Owensville
April 5	Black object	Colerain Township
April 7	Dome-shaped object	Owensville
April 10	Lights in sky	Cincinnati
April 17	Hovering green lights	Cincinnati
April 19	Unusual sound	Cincinnati
May 15	Black boomerang	Lebanon
May 26	Cigar-shaped object	Cincinnati
June 16	Brilliant lights	Williamsburg
June 29	Triangular object	Cincinnati
July 15	Triangular lights	Cold Spring, Ky.
Aug. 21	Disk	Alexandria, Ky.
Aug. 25	Triangular lights	Perintown
Sept 7	Two triangular craft	Cincinnati
Sept 9	Triangular lights	Cold Spring, Ky.
Sept 18	Disk	Sharonville
Sept 23	White light	Owensville
Sept 29	Triangular light	Newtownsville
Oct 10	Missile-shaped object	Warren County
Dec 27	Lights	Williamsburg
Dec 28	Four lights	West Chester

— The Associated Press

## Salida's 'close encounter'

By Patrick O'Driscoll  
Denver Post Staff Writer

**SALIDA** — Don't expect to see "Independence Day" invading one of this town's two movie theaters for another three or four weeks yet.

This is a box-office backwater to the folks who make slam-bang summer mega-blockbuster thrillers like "Independence Day," in which space aliens light up Earth like a box of fireworks.

On the other hand, when you already have been visited by spacecraft, perhaps Hollywood's science-fiction heavens can wait.

Ho-hum. Salida already had its own fairly close encounter with otherworldly phenomena last summer.

On Aug. 27, 1995, local restaurant owner Tim Edwards says he caught a lab-certified UFO on his camcorder — in broad daylight, no less.

Faster than warp speed, life around this central Colorado mountain town — population 5,292 — got a tad extraterrestrial.

While locals watched the skies and debated the authenticity of the unidentified flying object on Edwards' backyard video, the episode became front-page news. The Mountain Mail, Salida's daily newspaper, later ranked it No. 3 on its list of 1995's top stories.

Within 24 hours of Edwards' video encounter, Denver television news crews star-trekking south to interview the ordinary-guy operator of the Patio Pancake Place.

Then came a crew from "Sightings," syndicated TV's purveyor of all things paranormal. Meanwhile, word of the Salida event beamed through cyberspace as plugged-in believers downloaded details from UFO home pages on the Internet.

"Ufologists" suggested Salida was a "stargate," an intergalactic vortex for alien comings and goings. After all the town's name is Spanish for "gateway" or "exit."

Colorado Central Magazine, an irreverent local monthly, couldn't resist publishing an "exclusive picture" of a saucer flying saucer on the Salida skyline, above a billboard with an arrow and the words, "ATTENTION UFO PILOTS: THIS IS SALIDA — CRESTONE IS THAT WAY," referring to the San Luis Valley town that's a hangout for New Age cultists.

Inevitably, Salida's El Vicino brew pub tapped in with a new "Alien Ale." Ads showed the classic 1950s movie spaceman Klaatu and his robot-sidekick Gort over a caption saying, "We're here for the beer."

Just as inevitably, the cosmic hubbub has died down. Now, some of the local scuttlebutt suggests that maybe Edwards concocted the whole thing just to get attention.

"I've had a few people look at me kind of weird. I'm sure they probably talk behind my back," he said recently. "But in this town, there's a lot more believers than there was."

Edwards, 43, was a guy who liked to party hearty. But after the UFO sighting, he said he tapered way off. He took on the faraway look and sound of a true believer — not unlike the spaced-out Richard Dreyfus character in "Close Encounters of the



The Denver Post / Karl Gehring  
Tim Edwards searches the skies above Salida. With him is his daughter, Brandy, 8, and dog, ET.

Third Kind" (minus the living-room mountain of mud and garbage).

"The first three weeks I was an emotional wreck," Edwards said. "Everything else seemed so trivial. ... My family couldn't understand my obsession with it."

Edwards' living room has a big TV set, two VCRs and a shelf where his 16 hours of UFO footage share space with daughter Brandy's videos of Pinocchio, Casper and the Muppets.

On-screen, the home-video UFO image is weird: a gyrating, pulsating cigar of light, darting and hovering in the southern sky, beyond the roof edge of Edwards' house.

The audio track is weirder: mundane background noises of a summer Sunday — guns popping from a nearby shooting range, a freight train wailing as it passed, an unseen plane droning as it landed at the little airport west of the house.

"Dad, can a spaceship grow bigger like that?" 6-year-old Brandy — who first saw the UFO — is heard asking off-camera as the picture jiggles and zooms in and out.

"It ain't no kind of aircraft, I'll tell you that," Edwards' voice says later. "There ain't no little airplane that moves five miles in two seconds."

Subsequent reports claimed that 21 people in 13 other Colorado locations saw the same phenomenon within 48 hours of Edwards' sighting. So did people in five other states.

Within a month, an Arizona-based video-technology laboratory that specializes in studying UFO footage reported what believers had hoped — that what Edwards taped was not of this world. Village Labs estimated the UFO was a mile long, 60,000 feet or more up in the sky, darting and dancing at 10,000 mph.

"I am 100 percent convinced that this is a craft from another world," said Village Labs' Jim Dilettoso.

UFO debunkers are 100 percent convinced the cigar-shaped apparition is intergalactic hokey.

"To paraphrase Sigmund Freud, sometimes a cigar is just a cigar," said Larry Sarnier of Loveland, a member of Front Range Skeptics, unofficial party poopers of UFO mania.

Sarnier said Edwards' encounter "seemed to be such a run-of-the-mill case" that his group has paid it scant attention. "It's remarkable how in these cases you get such poor evidence" — grainy, jittery, out-of-focus footage. "He spent an hour with a camera in his hand and had only six minutes' worth? Uh — typical."

About a month after the first sighting, Edwards said he taped more celestial oddities near the "solar coro-

na" — inverted V-shaped "craft," small white globes shooting from the sun, "angel hair" formations.

Invariably, the footage invites wide debate and interpretation. Debunkers dismiss the images as only spiderwebs, flying insects and windblown tufts from cottonwood trees. UFO fans consider them yet more proof.

The Village Labs report sent Edwards off on a fresh round of interviews last fall. In November, his down-to-earth manner — and his video — made him the star of the fifth annual convention of the International UFO Congress.

It was held — where else? — in the Nevada desert near "Area 51," the remote, supersecret U.S. military base that gets star billing in the "Independence Day" storyline. Edwards drove out for a look along two-lane Nevada 375, which tourism-minded state officials renamed "Extraterrestrial Highway."

Edwards said the general public "has been so tranquilized into believing that we're the only ones in the universe." He suggested that recurring mass-media images of UFOs — from a recent spate of space alien-themed TV commercials to movies such as "Independence Day" — are part of "a major conditioning process" to prepare earthlings for definitive news that somebody else really is out there, and coming to see us.

"Everything's coming together at warp speed; 1996-97 will be the year the government admits we are not alone," he said. "There's something very major going on up there."

At the Patio Pancake Place, a glass-encased "U.F.O. REALITY: UPDATE" bulletin board shares the front-door breezeway with the pay phone and stacks of tourist brochures. Inside, Edwards will sell you a thick packet of news clippings, press releases and other papers about UFOs.

But otherwise, he has "backed out a bit" from heavy involvement in the cause. "It's been a very stressful and emotional period," he said.

But he remains "100 percent convinced" that what he saw and videotaped is from out of this world.

But Edwards added that he can't imagine so violent a scenario as the "Independence Day's" spaceships bombing major cities to smithereens when alien visitors make open appearances on Earth.

"These beings are so advanced, they don't need to take over our planet. I believe hostility is their last intention," he said. "The extraterrestrials don't scare me at all. I've been more scared talking to the press."

"There were many people who saw the meteorite flashing through the sky from south to north. The last people to see it were a number of folks around Leesport. To them it appeared to be heading earthward. No one north of the Mohrsville area saw it, which appears to be proof enough that it was a meteorite."

Or some other sort of UFO?

Bill Uhrich is an Eagle-Times photographer whose journal appears alternate Mondays. To comment or offer suggestions, call Eagle Link at 376-8000, category 3010.

BILL UHRICH



## The night of strange sightings

June 6, 1996; Wednesday morning; almost 70 degrees, sunny, perfect spring day.

Lots of things to catch up with this morning.

I'm finally getting around to talking about the occurrence near Leesport the night of Sept. 28, 1953.

About a month or so ago I wrote about bolides, or large meteors, that have been seen in Berks County. The bolide that appeared the night of April 25, 1966, was especially spectacular.

But something strange happened that September evening in 1953.

This is beginning to sound like a Charlie Adams' Berks the Bizarre tale.

A wire story published in the Sept. 29, 1953, Reading Eagle read: "Hundreds of residents of eastern Pennsylvania and south Jersey reported seeing a brilliant, cigar-shaped object streak though the northern skies last night. Witnesses reported that the object was visible for a full half-minute and moved at supersonic speed."

But it wasn't until the afternoon of Oct. 8 that the people of Berks County learned of the mysterious event through a front-page story in the Reading Eagle.

Be aware, however, that this story appeared beneath one headlined: "Woolly bear predicts mild winter here."

I'm going to digress for a minute. Although it sounds a little ridiculous for the woolly bear prediction to make front-page news, I'm all for it.

I think we lose something of our local culture when we disregard the folklore that has been part of us for so long. The woolly bear doesn't make front-page news anymore, but I am rooting for the 17-year cicada to be plastered out front very soon.

The woolly bear story in part said: "Interviewed in his native habitat in Rockland Township, Mr. Berks Woolly Bear, in his own manner, forecast that the season's severest weather will be concentrated in the first three and last two weeks of winter."

### Back to the meteor.

The Eagle reported that one of the items Chief J. Fred Huff submitted in his monthly report at a meeting of the Union Fire Company, West Leesport, read: "Cornfield fire; no damage. Caused by falling meteorite."

The story goes on to say that the fire took place early in the evening of Sept. 28 after hundreds of persons saw a blazing ball of fire zoom across the twilight sky.

A number of people, headed by Otis S. Rothenberger, assistant secretary of the company and retired principal of Ontelaunee High School, had been searching the area where the meteorite came down in hopes of finding a frag-

ment of the meteorite.

Rothenberger reported at the meeting: "I am convinced that the object completely disintegrated after burning a swath through a cornfield on the farm of William Kissinger, near Mohrsville."

"There must have been a tremendous heat," Rothenberger said. "The path which was burned was about 50 feet wide, or 30 rows of corn wide, and approximately 300 feet long."

"Then the meteorite must have become airborne again. About 50 feet beyond, it must have disintegrated. There were dozens of burned patches, indicating the meteorite exploded, shattering flaming fragments."

ENCOUNTERS

# Abductees aren't as alone as they think

By Zack Van Eyck  
Deseret News staff writer

Think of all the things you've had to tell your mother, then imagine having to tell her this:

"Mom, I've been abducted by aliens."

She'd probably laugh in your face.

Dana Redfield's mom did. Only Redfield wasn't kidding. And her mother was the one person, she thought, who would understand and offer support during the most traumatic period of her life.

"I had a very big rejection from my mother, and we had been almost symbiotic in our relationship for years. It hurt very much," said Redfield, a 52-year-old Moab resident convinced she has had contact with extraterrestrials, at least on a subconscious level, since childhood.

"I was warned by (UFO) investigators not to discuss these things with family and friends. I thought I could tell the people closest to me and they'd believe me, but I found out."

Redfield's relationship with her mother is still strained, but she feels she's come a long way in dealing with what is still happening to her. She is a published author and is considering a nonfiction book about her experiences, perhaps similar to Whitley Strieber's best-selling "Communion."

In the meantime, Redfield keeps journals of her paranormal existence. The frequent visitations, which she calls "nocturnal encounters," are often preceded by a physical light and sound display in her bedroom while she is awake. Soon after, she slips into a sleep-type state and awakens to remember information about such topics as spiritual evolution and Earth changes.

Through hypnotic regression, a method of investigation criticized by mainstream scientists, Redfield recalled being aboard what may have been an alien spaceship. She remembered being inside a room with a high-domed ceiling and being medically examined by small grey creatures and a taller praying-mantis-like being.

She has awakened with physical scars, and one morning found a small round object under the skin on the back of her hand. She thinks the object may have been implanted during an abduction experience. It disappeared a few days later, apparently dissolving into her body.

Writing it all down has been good therapy for Redfield. She has corresponded with other alleged abductees — referred to as "experiencers" by politically cor-

## Woman recalls encounter with 'greys'

Here is Mary's account, remembered while in a hypnotic state, of what happened one morning when a bright light descended in front of her car as she and her son drove home on 2000 East in Salt Lake County. Her story begins after the car came to a stop:

"One of those greys stepped into the light, and it was like the light was not light. It was a fluid, liquidy light. I looked over at my son, and I saw one looking in his window. The next thing I knew I was out of the car. Seven or eight (greys) were around the car, and two were beside me. A couple were familiar to me, but one was very familiar. He assured me we were OK."

"We were then standing in the light under the ship. I just remember a big belly above the ground, I'd say 15 to 20 feet (above). The next thing I knew I was in a hallway. They took me into this big empty room, then the table came out of the floor on one center post. I'm laying on the table. There's one (grey) up by my head, one by my hip area. That one I recognized and he's taller, about 5 feet. The other one was shorter and he was mean-looking."

"The tall one had a long thin instrument and he put that up my nose and my nose was bleeding, and it was running down my cheek. I was upset. They flat don't care. They didn't wipe it off."

"The next thing I know I'm in the field. They're gone, it's dark and my only thought is to, I think they told me to 'go home now,' and that was my drive, to go home."

Mary said she now feels more comfortable about what happened. She has less fear, although she still has questions about what it all means.

"I think people should prepare themselves because I sense that something is happening — something is coming," she said. "But it's not bad, it's good. We're all going to know I think real soon."

rect UFO researchers — but still isn't sure what it's all about.

"It's a mystery to me. I'm just trying to understand it step by step," she said. "Whatever is working with me is of a higher spiritual level. But it's not like it's all sweet. It's extremely challenging."

Redfield may feel alone at times, but she is not. Alien abduction has been the subject of research by a number of UFO organizations, independent writers and college professors, including Harvard University's John E. Mack and retired University of Wyoming psychology professor Leo Sprinkle.

Whether due to a collective neurosis or actual otherworldly contact, these researchers have concluded, the number of people who believe they've been abducted ranges in the thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, just in the United States.

"We've started a data base. It's definitely in the many thousands, but we don't really have any accurate number yet," Richard Hall, chairman of the Fund for UFO Research Inc., said from his home in Maryland.

Hall has worked with more than 100 alleged abductees but does not use hypnotic regression. The people he has interviewed remember enough about their experiences to be terrified and confused.

"It's so shocking to them. They think they're cracking up," Hall said. "I would say, by far, more are frightened out of their wits and

consider it a very bad and disturbing experience. A small minority of 10 to 15 percent find something positive" in being abducted.

People who have AIDS, are physically disabled or suffer chemical dependencies may also feel shunned by society. But at least there are support groups and governmental agencies they can turn to. Abductees lack similar resources.

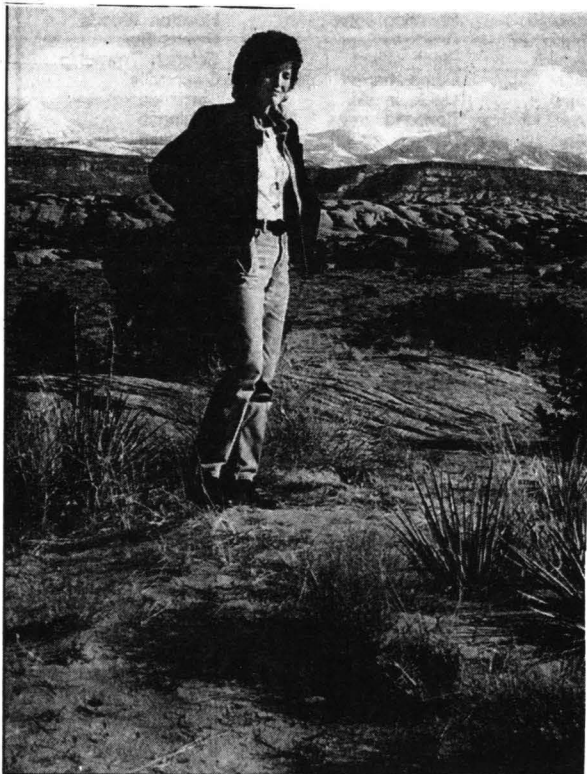
The Mutual UFO Network is a worldwide organization with local representatives, but it caters primarily to those interested in the scientific exploration of the UFO phenomenon. It offers little solace to abductees.

Trying to fill that void is Joanne Farley, a 55-year-old Murray resident and a member of MUFON. She decided Salt Lake-area experiencers needed someone they could talk to. She contacted Mildred Biese, state director for MUFON, and volunteered to meet with abductees seeking help.

In the past few years Farley has met informally with nearly a dozen local people who believe they've shared the same mysterious experience. She's spent countless hours hearing their stories.

"It's more than dreams. I know this is going on, but they come off as other-dimensional, altered reality-type experiences," Farley said. "Anyone who looks into this knows something strange is going on."

Farley said she allowed the Deseret News to use her name in this story because she feels it's impor-



Dana Redfield says she's had contact with aliens since childhood.

tant for the public to know human-alien interaction is taking place. Having heard so many abduction tales, however, she understands why those who've gone through such ordeals are reluctant to talk publicly.

One of the women Farley has worked with agreed to an interview but asked that she be referred to only as Mary, which is not her real name. Her true identity is known to both Farley and Biese, as well as to Budd Hopkins, an author of several books on alien abduction memories as retrieved through hypnotic regression.

Mary, a Salt Lake County resident, says she experienced an unusual encounter with a bright light in 1984. Mary and her young son were driving south on 2000 East early one morning after visiting her brother when the light descended in front of them.

"It was so bright it was like a wall. I couldn't see anything," Mary said.

For a long time she couldn't remember much more than that. She remembered driving home and going straight to bed.

"It took months and months for us to even talk about that night, and we're very close, we're best friends," she said of her son.

A year later, Mary had an accident and struck her head. She went to a local hospital for X-rays and was told she had a small metal object in the center of her brain. Neither Mary nor her doctor knew how the object got there.

A copy of the radiology consultation form was given to the Deseret News. It refers to the object as "an oval metallic density" which the physician noted as "unusual" and "worthy of pursuit."

Several years passed before Mary and her son discussed the bright light again. Last year, however, Mary began thinking about the event almost daily. "I think I'm meant to remember now, I really feel that," she said.

On advice from Biese, Mary wrote Hopkins earlier this year and asked if he thought she'd be a good candidate for a hypnotic regression. A few weeks later he came to Salt Lake City to perform regressions on both Mary and her son.

Mary was able to recall being taken aboard a craft and undergoing some type of medical procedure. The beings responsible for the abduction were the so-called greys — the big-headed, bug-eyed aliens prevalent in media accounts. UFO researchers, writers like

Hopkins and Strieber, and university professors like Mack and Sprinkle all have their theories about what the greys, and the other strange creatures recalled by abductees, are up to.

"I think UFO activity is part of a larger educational program," Sprinkle said. "This program involves not only UFOs but out-of-body experiences, near-death experiences, visions, crop circles, Bigfoot — a variety of strange and puzzling events. The purpose is to help us learn how to move from being planetary persons to becoming cosmic citizens."

Reports about greys performing thorough physical examinations and taking both eggs and semen from humans has led some to conclude that a mass genetic experiment is under way — perhaps an unselfish rescue effort to preserve the human species from self-destruction or maybe a last-ditch attempt by a dying alien race to save itself by creating part-human, part-alien hybrid bodies.

Those and other equally far-out theories, readily available in local bookstores, rarely merit debate by mainstream scientists and academicians. When they do receive scrutiny, it is usually in the form of attack.

The work of Mack and Hopkins, and the validity of the hypnotic regression technique, were targets of ridicule on the PBS television program "Nova" earlier this year. The broadcast suggested untrained hypnotists were essentially putting ideas into people's heads. Mack came under fire from his superiors at Harvard but managed to keep his job.

Redfield believes those who dismiss alien abductions as figments of someone else's imagination simply don't want to consider that life from another planet or reality may already be interacting with earthlings.

She doesn't think anyone would make up an alien abduction story just for the attention, as some debunkers suggest. It's not the kind of attention you'd want, she said.

"I really think this is something we all have to face," Redfield said. "People are in the Stone Ages on it. They don't want to believe it. They're threatened by it. It's just human nature. . . . But I think we are being prepared."

Farley agrees. "Believe me, there are going to be paradigm shifts if all this is true," she said. "It's going to shatter everyone's reality." And for some, reality has already been shattered.

## UFO forum meets weekly to share experiences

Jo Baeza  
The Independent

PINETOP-LAKESIDE — The UFO forum at Journey's End in Pinetop Monday was almost like an AA meeting.

No one seemed to have a last name. It was painful for people to talk about past experiences, especially abductions. The two-hour session focused entirely on one subject, UFOs.

The only thing everyone seemed to agree on is that UFO sightings along the Mogollon Rim are increasing. Whether it is because more people live in the area now, or because there are more UFOs is anybody's guess.

One woman who has moved to the White Mountains recently said, "I haven't met anyone who didn't believe in UFOs for a long time."

UFOs are just that — Unidentified Flying Objects. What they are and where they come from depends on whom you talk to.

One speaker, a local man named Todd, brought Polaroid® photos he said he took of two UFOs on Joe Tank Road near Show Low. Todd also said he has been in contact with aliens because he is psychic.

One member of the audience is recording sightings in the White Mountains and Mogollon Rim. She said her family has had contact with aliens for generations.

Some believed and some were skeptical, but no one ridiculed.

The hostess was Victoria, who operates Journey's End, a shop filled with crystals, stones, CDs and tapes, handmade leather things and books, lots of books, on the paranormal.

She believes the film, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" was very close to the truth and that people she refers to as "our alien brotherhood" are here to help humans find our way, "to stimulate the spiritual part of us, to help bring about the harmonic convergence."

Many of those attending the meeting believe whatever is happening to our world in relation to the rest of the universe will be revealed soon.

In the end, there were more questions than answers, but it was a start. More meetings will be held on Monday nights at 7 p.m. until there are no more questions.

As they say on "The X Files," "The truth is out there."





# FOREIGN NEWS

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

WALL STREET JOURNAL, Princeton, NJ - June 28, 1996

## Aliens Land in Brazil In Desperate Need Of a Good Shower

Tale of Stinky Extraterrestrials  
Stirs Up the UFO Crowd,  
Which Smells a Conspiracy

By MATT MOFFETT

**Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**  
VARGINHA, Brazil - The incident that made this town a hot spot in the intergalactic search for intelligent life started quite innocently. On a Saturday afternoon stroll in January, a trio of young women decided to take a shortcut home through a vacant lot. In a clump of weeds, the three said, they encountered a creature like nothing they had seen before.

"It wasn't a man or an animal - it was something different," said one of the women, Katia Andrade. The being had oily, brown skin and rubbery limbs, she said. Three rounded protrusions sprouted from its oversized head. Standing out in a different way was the creature's odor: One ghastly whiff weakened the knees. As for the stranger's demeanor, the women unanimously, if tactlessly, agreed: It was "muddle-headed." When the creature wagged its big noggin dizzily in their direction, the three women ran off.

Word of this encounter, spreading rapidly through the coffee bars where Varginha's 120,000 inhabitants trade gossip, would soon meld in the public imagination with other unusual occurrences: sightings of a strange cigar-shaped flying object, a mustering of troops and vehicles at a nearby infantry base and a peculiar bustle at the municipal hospital. Goaded by self-styled UFO savants and a ravenous national media, residents rather matter-of-factly embraced a stupefying conclusion: Several aliens from a wayward space ship had been captured and brutalized by troops from the Brazilian army.

### Creature Feature

Bristling denials from the military, which once compiled a lengthy record of abuses against the terrestrial population, have only served to inflame public suspicion. The upshot: The army and the now-famous space aliens find themselves locked in a pitched battle for the hearts and minds of this provincial community. Doltish and malodorous though these space celebrities might be, mere men in uniform are proving no match for the first creatures of any kind from Varginha to land on a national magazine cover.

"For extraterrestrials they may not be much, but they are the biggest thing we've ever had in Varginha," says a young woman named Nilda, scanning the night-time sky from a downtown park bench. Had the armed forces not interfered, she says, locals might have scrubbed the visitors up, taught them the language, in sum, made something of them. "But they never had a chance," Nilda says with a sigh. Her anger at the military's alleged inhospitality sparked a tiff with her boyfriend, a private in the infantry.

### Mystic Point

The army finds itself besieged on several fronts. A local mystic predicts that Varginha will suffer some kind of cataclysm this September as retribution for its blitzkrieg on the interplanetary visitors. An armed-forces news conference marking "Victory Day" in World War II degenerated into a shouting match between a general and a television reporter pressing him about the extraterrestrials. An official briefing to debunk UFO conspiracies was overshadowed by an auto mechanic's claim to have seen yet another weird cylindrical aircraft, a cosmic encounter he re-enacted with the aid of an aluminum coffee thermos.

To some extent the army is paying for past sins. During an oppressive 20-year dictatorship ending in 1985, the Brazilian military eliminated any number of earth-bound political enemies by "disappearing" them. If the army was capable of liquidating human beings without a trace, locals ask, why couldn't it carry such a "dirty war" to outer space?

In truth, the current, cash-strapped incarnation of Brazil's army poses little threat to anyone, least of all an enemy that

might have ray guns. In some training exercises Brazilian troops have been reduced to pointing their rifles and shouting "bang" in order to save ammo.

At the army base near Varginha, an inquiry concerning the extraterrestrials is received warily by a private, who turns it over to a sergeant, who then passes it along to a major. From there the matter is sent back down to another sergeant, who hands the question over to Capt. Eduardo Calza, the outfit's sad-sack spokesman. "You know, I used to get calls about the base talent show," he says.

### The Official Explanation

Capt. Calza says he can't vouch for what the three women saw in January. But the activity on the base that fateful weekend, he insists, was anything but otherworldly: New inductees to a sergeants' training school went on parade and a truck convoy was driven to the repair shop. Concurrently, at the town hospital, trucks delivered new cardiovascular equipment and an ambulance dropped off an exhumed corpse - a human body, officials insist.

"Sure, tell us another story," says Vitorio Pacaccini, the bearded, effusive UFO investigator at the eye of the Varginha storm. Based upon interviews with supposed eyewitnesses, Mr. Pacaccini has pieced together what he considers to be a more plausible reconstruction of January's events: A small alien craft on an unknown mission over Varginha crashed near the city limits, sending its crew of smelly, spaced-out extraterrestrials ambling about the town. Subsequently, Mr. Pacaccini maintains, military death squads in camouflage fatigues hunted down the visitors, poked and prodded the corpses at the municipal hospital, and then shipped them off to parts unknown. "It's very straightforward," he says.

Mr. Pacaccini's brand of hucksterism is characteristic of the frontier atmosphere in a town where the architecture is of the Quonset-hut school and the newspaper is staffed by a lone reporter. Since the initial sighting, Mr. Pacaccini, a longtime UFO buff, has essentially abandoned his job as a business consultant to provide one-stop shopping for visiting journalists.

To date, Brazil's leading television magazine has done three programs here. A two-hour nationally televised documentary on Varginha pulled in so many viewers on a recent Saturday night that it was repeated in its entirety the following weekend. Two of the women who made the initial sighting now demand \$200 for each interview.

### Allen Playground

With an eye toward promoting Varginha, city fathers are thinking of building a park in the creature's honor. Deputy Mayor Paulo Vitor Freire says: "We would never have imagined that so many international organizations take interest in cases like ours."

Yes Varginha, there is a support group known as Abductees Anonymous and a research organization called Operation Right to Know. Stanton Friedman, a Canada-based UFO expert, says Varginha has the makings of a "cosmic Watergate."

If anything, the case may be suffering from eyewitness overkill. By now there have been so many sightings of the creature - seven at last count - that it is unclear how all of these beings could have fit into the minivan-sized spacecraft that was spotted here in January. "Lots of us get into cars with five or six other passengers in them," Mr. Pacaccini retorts, drawing a down-to-earth analogy. True, but usually on short trips; seldom when driving to another galaxy.

Mr. Pacaccini's most tantalizing proofs are videotaped statements by two young men in civilian clothes who claim to be members of the military detail that disposed of the alien visitors. It is impossible to determine the tapes' authenticity, however, since Mr. Pacaccini won't reveal the men's names. He says they fear reprisals.

There is also a troubling lack of physical evidence, unless you count descriptions of a paw print seen by one witness. The print is said to resemble what a human hand would look like with the palm flat, and a space opened up between the ring and pinky fingers and the other three digits. Fans of the old Star Trek series may sense a stirring of recognition. It looks remarkably like Mr. Spock's Vulcan salute.

COURIER, Inverness, Scotland - Feb. 6, 1996 CR: A. Trottman

## Family grab video shots of UFO



□ Pauline MacKay and her children Kevin (9) and Pamela (6) show our photographer where they spotted the UFO.

A BLACK Isle family claim they have captured a UFO on video.

Playgroup playleader Pauline MacKay of Drumsittall said yesterday the alien craft was in the sky near Inverness for almost two hours and her husband managed to get a brief video of the strange bright light.

The close encounter happened a week past Sunday but the family have kept their secret quiet until now.

Mrs MacKay was picking up her twin 12-year-old sons Alan and Andrew from the local village hall when she spotted the shining object in the clear star-lit sky above the Beaulieu Firth.

At first she thought it was an aeroplane when she saw a red tail light, but was puzzled because it didn't move.

Mrs MacKay then collected her boys and pointed the UFO out to

them. She said: "It had three lights and stayed in the one place. It made no noise at all. As I went home, it was hanging over the Beaulieu Firth and had changed to a half-moon shape. But we could see small circular lights on the outside of it."

"It was really eerie, I felt as if we were being watched. Then it came in close and changed shape again."

"I got home and called my husband, Peter, who took the video camera out, but it seemed to fade into the distance as he tried to zoom in and get a close-up shot of it."

Mrs MacKay, who is also mother to nine-year-old Kevin and six-year-old Pamela, said the video footage showed the shining object clearly, although it did not pick up the stars in the sky.

She added: "It seemed to pulsate, shrinking to the size of a ball-point

pen dot to the size of a button on a remote control. It will be interesting to see what it is like when it is blown up."

And Mrs MacKay is convinced it was a visitor from outer space, rather than a weather balloon or a terrestrial aircraft.

She added: "I work part-time at Eden Court Theatre in Inverness and was talking about it in the restaurant when one of my work-mates mentioned seeing the very same thing."

"She said it shot off at high speed which seems to explain why I saw it in one part of the sky, and then in another a few minutes later after I picked up my sons."

"There is no doubt in my mind that it was a UFO."

Another UFO sighting this weekend over Ullapool was dismissed as an escaped publicity balloon from the film premiere of "Loch Ness".

BERROW'S WORCESTER JOURNAL, Worcester, England - Feb. 2, 1996

## UFOs seen by city folk

WORCESTER people are not alone, if a spate of reported UFO sightings in local skies is anything to go by.

As detailed in last week's Journal, a former CID policeman is hot on the trail of a curious flying saucer, which apparently buzzed city roofs way back in 1976.

John Hanson, of Alvechurch, who retired from the West Midlands force two years ago, is keen to find as many witnesses as possible for this craft, because its reported details are so impressively consistent.

And following last week's Journal exclusive, five people have come forward with their own tales of the Worcester flying saucer.

John Hanson said: "One man telephoned and talked about a

circular disc seen over the roofs of Worcester in the St Johns area."

"Two ladies also contacted me about UFOs seen in the Worcester and Malvern areas."

By  
GARY BILLS

But the two most remarkable reports appear to support each other.

A former pupil of Chase High School, Malvern said he saw a silver spinning UFO on a hot June day in the 1970s.

The witness said the saucer-shaped object was grained with rings, like an old style frying pan, and flipped over to its back and zig-zagged.

Incredibly, a different witness contacted John Hanson and also said the craft he saw

had "rings in the aluminium."

This witness also said the saucer-shaped object flipped over and zig-zagged, and added that there appeared to be a slight point to the top of the UFO's dome.

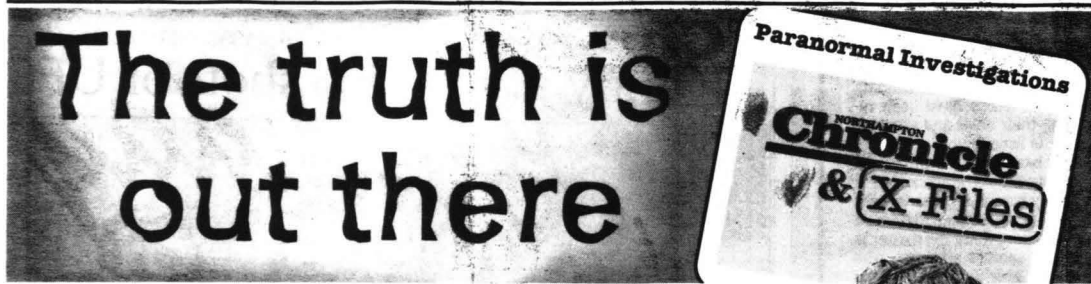
As stated in last week's Journal, the flying saucer apparently seen over Worcester in November 1976 was about 16ft in diameter, and giving off, perhaps through a window, an unearthly white light.

John Hanson said: "The sighting was unusual, because the object flew so close to the roof-tops."

John hopes to print his sightings in a new book on Worcestershire UFOs, and anyone with related information should phone him on 0121 447 7091, or the Worcester Journal on 01905 610171.

CR: V. White

DO flying saucers really exist? Are aliens watching us from another planet? In the second part of the *Chronicle & X-Files*, **RUTH SUPPLE** speaks to Northampton people who have had a close encounter of a most unusual kind . . .



# Tripping the light fantastic

**P**UBLIC relations man David Abbott stands by his belief that UFOs exist. The former *Chronicle & Echo* journalist used to give talks to Northampton groups about the existence of flying saucers. And, although these days he does not have any active involvement with UFO groups, he does believe in them. He explained: "I saw something strange a long time ago when my wife and I were in Sardinia and never found out what it was."

"I do think UFOs exist, there's no doubt about it. The body of evidence in the past 40 to 50 years - and going back in time - indicates there are such things. "In 80 to 90 per cent of times there is an explanation, but there a very strong hard core of 10 per cent or so sightings that are different and there is no rational explanation for them."

Bryan Burchell has never forgotten the cigar-shaped object he reported in the skies of

Northamptonshire 25 years ago - but he still does not know what it was.

In October 1971, Mr Burchell told the *Chronicle & Echo*: "I was sitting alone in my living room at 2.30am."

"Suddenly the room was filled with a red glow."

"For some reason I thought it was the brake lights of a vehicle outside and I got up and went to the window."

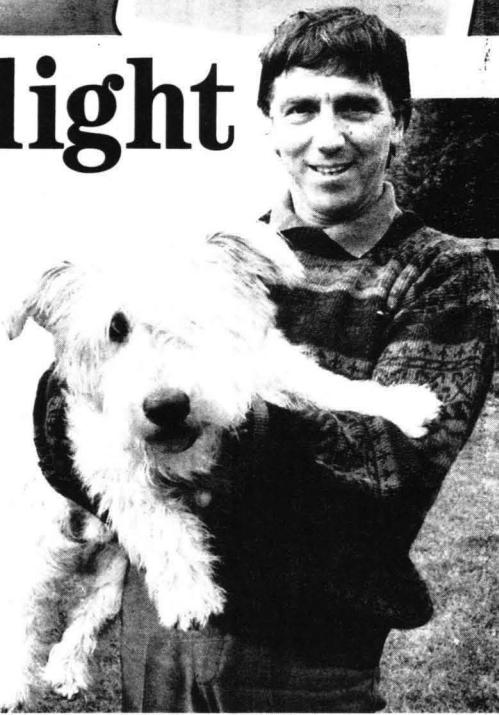
"Looking out, I saw this object in the sky."

"It was very deep red in colour and looked like a barrage balloon that they used to use in the war. It was in the far distance and it seemed only about two feet across."

"As I stood there, it seemed to be coming closer and I rushed outside and watched as it came nearer and got bigger."

"In the centre of its deep red shape there seemed to be what looked like a frosted glass area with a white light shining from within it."

Mr Burchell, 55, of Grenville Close, Daventry, said he took photographs of the object, but



● I BELIEVE - David Abbott and pet dog Max

they've mysteriously disappeared.

"I've never forgotten it," he said. "But nobody ever turned round to me and said what it was."

"UFO is a very misleading word - because it just means something that's not been identified - you could say a piece of

newspaper in the air was one.

"But, if you ask me whether I believe what I saw came from another planet, then that's a different thing altogether."

"And I have to say I don't know - it's a possibility."

**FACTS & FIGURES**

- In a good year there can be as many as 100 sightings over Northamptonshire
- Flying saucers appear to fly in straight lines in lanes
- Sightings are reckoned to reach peaks in five to seven year cycles
- UFOs have been claimed to be doing 1,200 mph
- It is reckoned there is a direct path between Wootton Bassett in Wiltshire, a hotbed for UFO sightings, and Northamptonshire
- Hundreds of lumps of metal spin regularly around the world including satellites, space probes and space debris
- Often UFOs turn out to have a simple explanation - from police helicopters to weather balloons, laser shows and planets

**UNIDENTIFIED flying objects (UFOs) have been spotted in the skies of Northamptonshire for decades. Here is a round-up of reports of strange saucer-like shapes sighted in the county:**

● Oct 1952 - Flying cigar seen passing over Northampton. Could it have been a weather balloon?

● July 1954 - Villagers report flying saucer over Woodford Halse and Byfield.

● Dec 1956 - Two men see a flying object heading toward Corby. Explanation offered: it's a small cloud, separated from the main formation and coloured by the setting sun.

● May 10 1957 - Hundreds of people near Kettering to Welford Road report seeing a UFO.

● Oct 22 1957 - Several people see a bright object in sky over Northampton between 4.30pm and 5pm. Possibly 'Venus or an aircraft breaking the sound barrier'.

● Sep 1959 - Reports of huge white circle in the sky over Delapre Abbey.

● Aug 1960 - Bright object reported over Westone and Little Houghton. Later dismissed as a US space balloon.

● Mar 1961 - Rocket-shaped object over Kettering, Wellingborough and Daventry. Air Ministry says it was a meteorite breaking up.

● Mar 1962 - Bluey-white light with orange flames reported over Little Houghton.

● Aug 1965 - Bright red object flying over Kingsley and Chapel Brampton. Astronomers say it is Echo Satellite II.

● 1965 - Reports of white lights and a red fireball from people in Yardley Hastings and Daventry. Astronomers say it

is Venus or a satellite.

● Feb 1966 - Blue flashing star-shaped light reported by residents of Templar Drive, Kingsthorpe. Sighting dismissed as flashes from the top of an electric train.

● July 1967 - Ministry of Defence makes inquiries after three strange lights reported descending towards south-west of Northampton.

● Oct 1967 - A 'flying cross' reported over Daventry. Royal Observatory says the object is 'non-astronomical'. Also, a 'silent orange cigar-shaped object' reported over Abington on two nights.

● Nov 1967 - Cross-shaped object over Great Billing and Weston Favell.

● Nov 1970 - Three large circular objects moving rapidly across Hardingsstone.

● Mar 1971 - Circular object sighted over Northampton, heading to Hardingsstone at "enormous speed". All have "terrific green glow."

● Oct 1971 - Strange red object over Daventry and Northampton.

● July 1972 - Red glowing object seen over Daventry.

● July 1975 - Reports from Duston of strange sounds in the sky, 'like a rotary noise'. Someone claims to have seen it through a telescope and reckons it is a kite with the plastic responsible for the noise.

● April 1976 - Pink lights in sky over Kingsthorpe.

● May 1995 - Karate teacher Peter Calver sees a flying object along the A43, toward Northampton. British Fire Ball Society say it is a falling meteorite.

● Nov 1995 - Two separate sightings of lights - one over Yardley Hastings, the other above Derngate.

## YOUR VIEW

INTERVIEWS BY RUTH SUPPLE

Do you believe in UFOs?

Yes, I do

That's always difficult. I'd never say I don't believe in them, but they've never been proven

No, I don't

I have an open mind on it. I wouldn't say I believe in it, but there are a lot of questions unanswered

Have you ever seen a flying saucer?

No

I've never seen one

No, never

I've not seen one - but I would love to

Do you believe life exists on other planets?

Yes. I think it's extremely arrogant to assume we can be the only life form

It's a possibility

No. I'm a real sceptic and don't believe there is life elsewhere

I think it's very closed-minded to believe we are the only people who exist

What do you think about people who claim to have seen a UFO?

I think some people are hoaxers, but there are some genuine beliefs that people have seen a UFO

I'd never say they were total planks, they've got no reason to tell lies

It's each to their own, I suppose

Generally, the evidence leans to them and I think they believe it

### GILLIAN REYNOLDS' CHOICE

*Gosling in a Flap*  
Radio 4FM: 10.00 - 10.30 am  
In the middle of another Radio 4 season, *Journeys Into Space*, here's Ray Gosling with an interesting footnote. In 1977 there were 45 separate UFO incidents reported within a 30-mile radius of Haverfordwest. One woman saw a man in a space suit, another reported a strange object in her garden. The press laughed at her description 'like a giant turned-up jelly mould'. But some little boys who also saw a UFO still believe, nearly 20 years on, that what they saw was real.

### Further sightings of strange lights

VISITORS from outer space have put Caldicot on their tourist map it would seem, with further sightings of strange lights being reported.

A Caldicot resident who does not wish to be named, rang us to say she had seen a large orange light, in the sky "twice the size of a Jumbo jet and moving off in the direction of Caerwent."

The lady who lives in the Park Road area saw the object on Thursday and Friday morning while it was still dark outside, and called her daughter, aged 6, to witness it.

"The object made no noise and was shaped like a giant bulb and it definitely wasn't a plane," said the startled lady.

EVENING NEWS, Edinburgh, Scotland - Jan. 25, 1996

### Police in UFO inquiry

POLICE are investigating a report of a UFO seen hovering over a remote East Lothian reservoir.

A young farming couple from Gifford claim they watched the flying object for more than an hour as it hovered over Hopes reservoir.

They described it as a silent ball of light which changed shape and had flashing red, blue, green and purple lights.





**MATTHEW WILLIAMS** is a former civil servant who claims to have seen secret documents acknowledging the existence of 'flying saucers'. Staffordshire Times reporter **STEVE SHARMA** went to meet him to discover if the truth really is out there...

**DO YOU believe in UFOs? If not why not?**

While there are millions of sceptics worldwide who dismiss UFO sightings as sheer lunacy and the result of an over active imagination, others will argue that the truth is out there and far too frightening ever to be made known to you and I.

There are many who make their living studying UFOs and similar phenomenon.

And they will tell you that UFOs are real, the government, politicians, scientists and the military all know they exist but they don't want us to find out.

**"I think I had stumbled upon something I was not meant to see."**

Why not?

Matthew Williams worked as a civil servant for a number of years.

His fascination for the unknown, flying saucers and crop circles intensified as he came into regular contact with what he calls "evidence of UFO existence."

And just as Agent Mulder is regarded as an outcast in the hit sci-fi TV series The X-Files Matthew's determination in following his own interest, in discovering the truth about what he saw and what he read only served to isolate him from his contemporaries - he was fired.

**"Why do you think most UFO sightings are recorded near to military units?"**

"I think I had stumbled upon something I was not meant to see," he said.

"I saw documents acknowledging the existence of UFOs. There are tunnels that stretch for miles underground all over England that are used to develop and experiment with unusual new aircraft.

"There are military bases around the country that are building these machines as we speak. Why do you think most UFO sightings are recorded near

# Is it one big conspiracy?

to military units?"

Twenty-four-year-old Matthew also testifies to his own close encounter which took place in Wiltshire back in 1993.

Parked on top of a hill overlooking the county, the UFO spotter suddenly became aware of what he describes as a "little bright light getting bigger" in his rear view mirror.

Thinking it was another vehicle

**"There was no noise, just this light hovering about 60 feet above me in the air."**

making its way to the popular tourist spot Matthew paid little attention to it, until the light grew bigger and brighter.

Getting out of the car Matthew turned to face the strange light and remembers feeling exhilarated at the scene before him.

"It was fantastic," he said. "There was no noise, just this light hovering about 60 feet above me in the air. Suddenly it just seemed to shrink and before I knew what had happened the light had switched off, like some sort of lamp, and all I could see was this

**"The level of conspiracy among those in power is so large it controls society,"**



■ The truth is out there ... Matthew Williams claims to have seen documents acknowledging the existence of UFO's. His fascination with the subject and desire to discover the truth led to his dismissal from the civil service.

rim of light in the sky which then shrank in size, flashed across the sky and disappeared."

Matthew tours the country lecturing people on the facts he says he has unearthed about UFOs.

He claims there is an international cover-up by the

United States and Europe who will not admit publicly the scale of UFO sightings which is "beyond belief."

Using slides and video footage he takes his audience on an investigative journey to a number of secret locations and what he calls "UFO facilities" highlighting

**"All I could see was this rim of light in the sky which then shrank in size, flashed across the sky and disappeared."**

examples of when and where flying machines have crashed and how "people in high places are keeping it quiet."

"The level of conspiracy among those in power is so large it controls society," says Matthew.

"You only hear what they want you to hear, see what they want you to see. If the truth was ever made public knowledge it would change the face of society and community life as we know it."

So next time you're gazing at

**"You only hear what they want you to hear, see what they want you to see."**

the sky at night and you think you've seen something strange, something that cannot be explained, think again.

Everything you see, hear, smell or touch can be explained. It may not be a logical explanation but to those in the know, those doing the talking, it is as close to the truth as you are ever likely to get ... just ask Matthew Williams.

**Have you experienced anything unusual?**

Staffordshire UFO & Crop Circle Discussion and Investigation Group would like to hear from people who have experienced anything 'out of the ordinary.'

Based in Rugeley, the group meet each month at the Aelfgar Centre to discuss the phenomenon of UFOs and the various other mysteries that affect mankind such as crop circles, the supernatural and alien abductions.

Irene Bott is the co-ordinator of the group and interested parties should contact her on (01889) 576771.

And if you have a story to tell about unusual lights in the sky or similar experiences please ring Staffordshire Times reporter Steve Sharma on (01827) 308014.

## UFO 'sighting' in Woodford Green

A FAMILY who had a close encounter of a very strange kind are urging Woodford Green residents to watch the skies.

The Marney family, of Lambs Meadow, spotted a mysterious flying object in the sky on Sunday night.

Mum Julie told the Guardian that while her family watched TV at about 8.30pm, the lounge was suddenly bathed in bright, pink light. So she ran to the window to see what it was.

What she saw - with her husband John, 34, and kids Jamie, eight, and Victoria, three - could have been a scene from TV's The X-Files!

Julie said: "I looked out and saw these red lights. There was a long shape with bright red lights all around the side.

"It went across to the back of my garden to the top of the houses there, then the light changed to a silvery colour and it moved off towards Charlie Brown's roundabout. It made

BY ROYSTON ROBERTSON

no noise at all." Now she is urging people to speak out if they also spotted the strange sighting, or can offer an explanation - though she has no doubt in her mind that it was alien visitors.

"I think it was a UFO. I can't think of anything else that it could be," she said.

Her husband's account is a similar one. He also saw a red light which turned into a clear light, floated above the houses then sped off.

But John, who is a builder, is less convinced that it was aliens. "I thought it was a flare or a firework until it stopped above the houses. But I'm quite sceptical really. I don't believe in UFOs myself."

Roy Lake, chairman of London UFO Studies, a group set up to investigate sightings of extra-terrestrial crafts, said: "It is very interesting that that the room was bathed in light. We have not had a report like that for many years.

"Some of the reports like this turn

### WE'RE NOT BARMY - SAY THE MARNEYS



Have you spotted anything like this?

out to be airships but as far as we know there are none above London at the moment. It will be interesting if anyone else has spotted this."

Julie said she doesn't want people to think she was "a loony" and added that all of her family saw the strange craft, even her youngest daughter.

"I didn't have any drinks at all, not even any sherry in my trifle!" she laughed.

**Sightings of UFOs up 200% in a year, expert reports**

Reuters

SANTIAGO — UFO sightings around the world have risen more than 200 percent in the past year, a Brazilian expert said at a conference in Chile.

Ademar Gevaerd, editor of UFO Magazine, was quoted in the Chilean daily La Tercera as saying Friday that "There are places where there has been a 400 percent rise. This means a true wave of UFOs visiting Earth, and I have more than 100 slides to prove it."

The conference, organized by La Tercera and the Group of UFO Researchers, opened Friday and is expected to close today.

# Flights of fancy?

JAMES ADAMS discovers that UFO sightings should be taken seriously

Ministry of Defence that day was the nature of the witnesses: dozens of policemen, an aviation expert, a security patrol at an RAF base, a family of five — sober citizens one and all. A later investigation by the MoD

revealed that there were no Nato aircraft in the area of the sightings that night and no possibility that the witnesses had worked together to invent the story. The event became the subject of earnest yet inconclusive

memos that are now gathering dust in the MoD file labelled UFO.

For decades, the idea of visitors from outer space has been a headline-writer's dream and an opportunity for Hollywood to indulge in the wild fantasies that have made heroes out of ET and Captain Kirk. But behind the flip headlines is a wealth of facts that are less easy to dismiss. There are thousands of examples of ordinary citizens with no interest in aliens seeing UFOs, and there is a long history of government investigations into the phenomenon, most of which have failed to find a plausible explanation.

For Timothy Good, a leading expert on UFOs, and the author of *Beyond Top Secret: The Worldwide UFO Security Threat* (Sidgwick £16.99), the evidence is so convincing that he has no doubt not only that UFOs exist, but that spacecraft have been captured by the Americans and hidden for decades while the Pentagon tries to replicate the technology available to the space travellers.

As he readily acknowledges, this is a difficult case to make. Certainly the CIA has investigated UFOs, but it is hard to believe that if alien spacecraft had crash-landed they would have done so only in America. It is also impossible to accept that if a spacecraft was in American hands word would not have leaked out and some of the supposedly

miraculous technology would not have reached the Pentagon.

Overall this is a fascinating and well-documented book that makes a convincing case. The evidence that Good has amassed is too overwhelming to ignore and it is clear a more open debate is long overdue.

It has been difficult for people such as Good to find respectable allies, and it is striking therefore that his book has a very supportive foreword from Lord Hill-Norton, former Admiral of the Fleet. Further backing comes from Nick Pope who has written about his experiences as the MoD's own UFO investigator in *Open Skies, Closed Minds* (Simon & Schuster £14.99).

Pope's is the first book on UFOs from someone with inside knowledge and access to Top Secret material. The MoD tried to stop this book, but those expecting shocking revelations will be disappointed. It is a simple story of Pope's journey from UFO agnostic to becoming a convert to the cause and most of the stories are told in more detail in Good's book.

Both Pope and Good suffer from the same problem: it is an "Us and Them" UFO world. They both want to believe in aliens, conspiracies and downed spacecraft hidden in secret locations. But the facts only support hundreds of unexplained sightings over the past 50 years. As Hill-Norton rightly says, "The UFO phenomenon is a very real one, and one which now demands the closest attention."

James Adams's recent thriller, *Hard Target*, is published by M Joseph

For 30 minutes in the early morning of March 31, 1993, hundreds of people in Britain and Ireland reported seeing an extraordinary sight in the sky. Some saw two bright lights, together with a third fainter one, flying in perfect formation; others saw a huge diamond-shaped object, measuring 300ft across, flying at low levels and emitting a strange humming sound. What distinguished the reports that came flooding into the



GHOSTBUSTERS: Sisters Joanne and Sarah Bishop willing to investigate the inexplicable.

# Star-gazing sisters

"Scientists and governments refuse to accept these things happen, or if they do they are not revealing the answers" — Joanne.

by Carol Staples

THEY'RE ordinary girls.

But sitting with them in the lounge of their home in Westhorne Avenue, Eltham, we're having a far from ordinary conversation.

We're talking UFOs. Aliens and ghosts.

You'd be amazed what happens in extra-terrestrial Eltham.

Street lamps switching off for no reason, daylight discs and flashing white lights veering across the sky, and the ghost of a little boy who haunts a family in Motttingham.

All unexplained phenomena. And all investigated by Joanne and Sarah Bishop of the Eltham Supernatural Phenomena Research and Investigation Team.

They've honed up on the subject (read all the literature, scientific data and research documents) to boldly go as Eltham ghostbusters, space explorers and UFO investigators.

And they're joined by nine other members of ESPRIT on their mission impossible.

Ultimately the group's aim is to increase public awareness and to act as a feeder group by informing national and international organisations of their findings.

"It's in the public's interest to know what's going on," says Sarah,

an 'A' level student.

"Scientists and governments refuse to accept these things happen," adds Joanne, 22. "Or if they do, they're not revealing the answers."

The sisters say the group has investigated 19 reports of unexplained phenomena since March, 12 of which were UFO sightings.

That's apart from the bloke who called them up to say he'd been abducted by aliens.

Sceptics might say the most inexplicable fact of all was that they listened to him in the first place.

"We do believe he saw a UFO," said Sarah, "but he showed no emotion at all about being taken. And alien abduction is a very traumatic experience."

Nevertheless Joanne and another ESPRIT member "whose expertise is hypnotic regression" investigated the story.

"We took him back," said Joanne, "but his story was full of contradictions."

The group gives all claims of unexplained phenomena a sympathetic ear opening it up to ridicule.

To counter this, it publishes all its findings, theories and conclusions backed up by evidence.

"If people think we're a bunch of loonies, then stay away from us," says Joanne, a Home Office employee. "We're not forcing our views on anybody."

The sisters' most exciting experience happened in July when they were part of a circle that gathered on Oxleas Woods to "skywatch."

They say a gigantic white light soared over their heads travelling at a speed of some 1,290 miles an hour.

After submitting a report, they were later congratulated by the Director of Quest International.

"People talk about UFOs and immediately think of alien spacecraft," said Sarah. "But a UFO is literally an unidentified flying object whether it's terrestrial or extra-terrestrial and that's what we saw in the truest sense of the word."

"We're not saying aliens are visiting Eltham. All we're saying is there are things in the sky that can't be readily explained."

Call ESPRIT on 0181 850 8964 or the Mercury newsdesk on 0181 692 1122 with your out-of-this-world experiences.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - June 13, 1996

# B.C. leads Canada in UFO sightings

One skeptic says the West Coast mindset includes a strong belief in paranormal activity, while a believer says the results demand more research.

BRENDA BOUW

Vancouver Sun with Canadian Press

Flying saucers are British Columbians' cup of tea.

Hundreds more B.C. residents have claimed to have seen unidentified flying objects in recent years than have people from other provinces, says a new report on extra-terrestrial activity in Canada.

The report, released recently by astronomer and science writer Chris Rutkowski, shows that there have been 455 reported sightings of UFOs in B.C. since 1989, compared to 284 in Ontario and 205 in Manitoba.

So does B.C. get more visits from UFOs? Or are British Columbians simply a little more creative in their thinking?

Barry Beyerstein, a professor at Simon Fraser University and chair of the Society of B.C. Skeptics, said the answer is a bit of both.

"It's a West Coast phenomenon for sure," Beyerstein said. "It's something about the mindset of the population that the belief in paranormal activity is higher here."

So whether it's the weather, the water or the mountainous terrain, Beyerstein said we on the West Coast are well-known for our stories of having seen extra-terrestrial visitors.

And it's not just the stereotypical science nerds or farm wives on their way back from the outhouse who spot the flying saucers.

"All kinds of well-educated, intelligent and non-intoxicated people, including policemen, doctors, dentists, you name it, have reported in all sincerity what couldn't possibly have been the case."

Although he's labelled a skeptic, Beyerstein doesn't rule out the possibility that there are aliens out there — somewhere. "However, I'm not about to believe they are contacting and impregnating people on this planet," he said.

But Michael Strainic, national director of MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network, is a believer.

"I'm very skeptical of the skeptics," said Strainic.

In fact, Strainic said his research on the subject indicates Rutkowski's number for sightings in B.C. is low.

"There were at least 400 reports here in 1993 alone," Strainic said.

He said those reporting the sightings range from people who say they've seen a white ray of light in the sky to those who claim to have witnessed alien abductions.

Strainic also said the types of sightings have changed over the years.

"It's no longer just the classic flying saucer disc any more. There are also triangle, platform and boomerang shapes being reported," Strainic said. "The phenomenon isn't static."

Rutkowski's report claims the number of sightings is one the rise, which he said indicates a need for more research.

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada  
March 21, 1996 CR: G. Conway

# DO ALIENS FLY IN BALLOONS, TOO?

Canadian Press

OTTAWA — A man says a UFO spotted in west Quebec was probably his balloon.

Paul Bauer said he and his wife released the silver helium balloon from their apartment balcony Sunday. It said Happy St. Patrick's Day.

The balloon matches the description of a small silver "UFO" spotted Tuesday by Hector Brochu at a lumber yard in Waltham, Que.

But Brochu insists what he saw was from outer space: "It was a kind of star with four points. It landed. If it was a balloon, it would not have taken off again. There was like a life in there."

SOMERSET CO. GAZETTE, Taunton, England - Jan. 26, 1996

# UFO seen by student

□ A STUDENT'S sceptical view of UFOs was shattered by a close encounter as he cycled home from college.

Mark Peach, aged 16, came within yards of "a glowing orange sphere" hovering about 100 metres above the ground in a field near Rowford, north of Taunton.

UFO expert, Sue Hembury-Kellow, says his description fits in with other sightings from people reporting orange spheres in Somerset, including at Trull, on the Quantocks and at Thorn-falcon.



# Jim claims to have sky mystery on film

JIM Leng believes he has video footage of a UFO above his home. He was filming what he believed to be an approaching aircraft with its landing lights on when it disappeared from view.

When Mr Leng, 33, of St Benets Way, Tenterden, viewed the film, he saw what appeared to be a streak of light shooting off at right angles. He has sent a copy of the tape to Gloria Dickson, an investigator with the British UFO Research Association.

Before seeing the tape she said: "Ninety-five per cent of UFO sightings have normal explanations and the camera certainly does lie."

"But there has been an enormous upsurge in reports, including a bright white light at Rochester which also shot off at right angles only five days before the Tenterden report."

She said many sightings turned out to be laser show effects, which were visible 30 miles from their source.

"Laser lights bounce off the clouds and look very peculiar."

Tenterden police say they received no UFO reports on the night of Monday, November 27, when Mr Leng claims to have seen unidentified object.

Mr Leng would like to hear from anyone who has seen anything unusual over the town.



LIGHT RIDDLE: Jim Leng shows the video film he made of the UFO

## Lithuania puts police on alert for UFO

MOSCOW, June 26 (AFP) - AN unidentified flying object (UFO) was sighted by two Lithuanian policemen near their capital Vilnius, putting the city's entire force on alert, Russian news agency Itar-Tass said today.

The policemen say they saw a round, shining object on the main Vilnius-Miadininkai route, at around half past midnight 10 km from the capital city near the village of Nemejis, which was flashing and hovered 20 to 30 metres (65-95 feet) above the ground.

"At the same time, you could hear a strange sound - like electricity crackling", they said.

The policemen approached the UFO after watching it for almost half-an-hour. When they were some fifty metres from it, the object started to move upwards and away from them into the air, then accelerated towards Vilnius, Itar-Tass quoted the policemen as saying.

The entire Lithuanian police force in the area was subsequently put on alert.

Van loads of Rapid Reaction Force police and tracker dogs arrived on the scene, but the UFO had disappeared. Police conducted tests on the area's ground composition, measured the air's radiation, and took sound recordings, while the police dogs remained unstirred by anything.

The grass in the area for 10 metres around where the UFO was sighted was visibly flattened.

Vilnius police chief Valentinas Ioukhnivitchous announced on the Lithuanian Radio today that the two policemen who had made the sighting were of sound and honest mind, Itar-Tass added.

SAUDI GAZETTE, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia - June 27, 1996

LOUGHBOROUGH ECHO, Leics., England - Feb. 9, 1996

## 'UFO seen' on night of green glow

AN UNIDENTIFIED, oval craft was seen in the sky on the same night that Loughborough was lit up by a baffling, emerald glow.

And a witness has described the strange craft as giving off a vivid, green light!

News of the sighting has reached the *Echo* from Joyce Tomblin, of Willoughby on the Wolds.

An amazed Mrs Tomblin described what she saw from the window of her Main Street home as "a brightly illuminated green oval shape with white, flashing lights on its underside."

Even stranger is the fact that her sighting took place on the same night (January 8) that scores of *Echo* readers reported a ghostly, green glow in the sky over Loughborough.

Mrs Tomblin added: "When I saw it, it was travelling quite quickly in a northerly direction."

"It was spectacular to watch as it was giving off a translucent, bright green light. It looked like an air balloon or an airship."

"I have not seen anything like it before or since and, unfortunately, I did not have my camera to hand or I would have taken a picture of it."

Since reports first emerged of the mysterious, emerald glow, the *Echo* has been inundated with theories for the strange phenomenon.

But, so far, none of them has proved to be watertight.

But, if you saw an object resembling an airship on the night in question - or giving off a coloured glow at any other time - please contact Jo Headley at the *Echo*, tel (01509) 232632.

# THE MARTIANS ARE SPYING ON US

ALIEN EXCLUSIVE  
BY MIKE HAWKINS

**SPACED-OUT** Crawley folk are being infiltrated by ALIENS who are gearing up for an extra terrestrial invasion.

So says a top UFO watcher who also reckons the space-hopping Martians are:

- Studying our air travel by spying on planes over Gatwick
- Trying to tell us that we are destroying the planet
- Going to show us how we can stop wars and pollution.

Larry Dean, who runs the Skysearch agency, said: "We've had an incredibly intense period of sightings recently, almost a mini-wave of them."

He says towns like Crawley could be targeted by the little green men just to let us know they are out there.

"It's called awareness, where extra terrestrials make a lot of contact before they show themselves properly," he said.

Recent daylight sightings have included cylindrical objects, saucers, lights and flashes in the sky and wedge-shaped ships.

"Over the next four or five years we're going to see a lot more close encounters so that we will get accustomed to their presence."

The space invaders are going to teach us and not destroy us.

"They are not here to harm us, they may have an interest in our health and in what we are doing to the planet."

"They are monitoring all aspects of our life including our air travel and pollution levels and recording

our reactions to them."

Folk have been abducted - but not for medical experiments, he says.

"People are being shown war and pollution on a big screen and when they come back they're often filled with a new awareness."

Larry, who spotted a silver and black wedge-disc over Chantonsbury Ring in October 1994, added: "I want to know how we can offer our hand out - we could learn a lot from a more spiritually advanced civilisation."

### News X Files

**August 10 3-4am:** A woman on a plane from Portugal to Gatwick filmed a strange white light which came from nowhere and then vanished.

**August 15:** A woman walking her dog at 2.30am in woods near Crawley saw a huge green flashing light moving above her at low altitude.

**August 21:** A commuter going to work on a bus near Crawley spotted a silver cigar-shaped space ship.

**October 7:** A sky-blue coloured space ship shaped like a ring doughnut was seen close to the area at 6.30pm.

**November 4:** Two motorists on the A23 at 2.45pm saw a sinister egg-shaped object hovering over trees with white, blue and orange patches over its surface.

● If you have a tale for our X Files phone us during office hours on 01293 526474.

WESTMORELAND GAZETTE, Kendal, England - Jan. 12, 1996

## Have the X-Files flown in to visit Lakeland?

A MYSTERY cigar-shaped object in the skies over Silverdale startled an elderly motorist driving along a narrow country road on the night of Tuesday, January 9.

Frank Bolton, 60, of Gibraltar Road, Silverdale, is convinced the high speed object he saw was a UFO and was adamant that it was not a plane, jet or helicopter.

"I've never seen anything like it before. I don't know what the hell it was," exclaimed Mr Bolton, who admitted he had been quite shaken by the experience. "I don't believe in flying saucers or UFOs. Now I've got my doubts."

Mr Bolton said he was driving along the road between Beetham and Silverdale and was rounding a bend near Slackhead when he saw the object about a quarter-of-a-mile away travelling at speed over some fields.

He watched it for about four seconds before it disappeared from view.

"It was half as big as an aircraft and the main thing about it was that there was a row of green lights which in a way did not seem really attached to it," said Mr Bolton, adding: "The green lights on the top seemed to light up the underside revealing a metallic shape. One

or two of the lights were flashing and there was a bright white light at the rear."

Mr Bolton said it emitted no noise at all and claims someone else must have seen it when it appeared shortly after 10pm.

According to the police at Lancaster and Kendal, no-one had reported seeing a mystery object in the skies on Tuesday night and Tony Dodds of the Grassington-based UFO monitoring organisation, Quest, said that there had been no calls to his hotline.

"There has been quite a lot of UFO activity around the country but we have not had anything from your area," Mr Dodds told the Gazette.

NEWS, Crawley, England - Jan. 10, 1996

# UFO scare - the story continues

MORE WITNESS REPORTS

BY ROYSTON ROBERTSON

SEVERAL people have admitted seeing a mysterious flying object in the sky above Woodford Green, after reading about a family's close encounter in the Guardian.

Tracey Haynes, 26, of Debden Close, contacted us after mum-of-two Julie Marney appealed for other residents who witnessed the bizarre object to come forward.

Mrs Marney and her family, of Lambs Meadow, claimed last week that they had all seen a long shape with bright red lights in the sky.

This week Miss Haynes said she too saw the object, while she was doing the washing up.

"I saw a cerise, pinky glow, with a little silver tint on one side. It was high up in the sky when I saw it. At first I thought it was a plane going over but it didn't move," she said.

"I said to my boyfriend: 'I think I've seen a UFO!'. But he just laughed and said I was mad."

Mrs Susan Jaeger, 41, of Chigwell Road, South Woodford, said she and her husband Robert, 43, also saw the strange object.

They saw it at the same time as the Marney family - around 8.30pm on Sunday, January 28 - and Mrs Jaeger's description is eerily similar to the family's.

Mrs Jaeger said: "My husband and I were sitting in the living room watching TV and the light shone the whole house out. It was a really bright red, a cerise colour."

"We went to the window and as it passed low over our roof the lights went silvery-white."

"My husband said: 'Perhaps it was a flare', but there were no flames or smoke. We just didn't know what it was."

Mrs Jaeger said her husband is sceptical at the suggestion that the object was some kind of extra-terrestrial craft but she added that she is open-minded.

"There must be something out there," she said.

Mrs Marney said this week: "I'm glad somebody else saw it. I'm definitely not going barmy!"

She said she had played the incident down for her young son Jamie, eight, who also saw the object - but Jamie replied that he felt lucky as he will probably never see anything like it again.

COURIER, Inverness, Scotland - May 7, 1996 CR: A. Trottmann

# UFO 'sceptic' adds to list of North sightings

By Hector Mackenzie

AN Inverness man who describes himself as "the world's number one UFO sceptic" has boosted the Highland Capital's growing status as something of a centre for strange sightings.

And curiously enough, experienced weather observer Stewart Stirling's unexplained sighting dovetails almost exactly with specific eye-witness reports covered by the Courier last week.

Emergency services were inundated with calls from baffled members of the public seeking explanations for bizarre night-time activity in the Highland skies last Wednesday. Scientists confirmed a meteorite shower may have been responsible for some of the sightings - but were unable to offer reasonable explanations for other eyewitness reports.

Newtonmore man John Martin was amazed to see a bright light zooming across the sky towards Aberdeen - moving too quickly and noiselessly to be a plane.

Coastguard officer Barry Skidmore appeared to see a similar sight at exactly the same time on Wednesday night. Mr Skidmore, an air-

craft enthusiast who lives in Inverurie, also ruled out the possibility that he had seen a plane and said what he had observed was travelling much quicker than any jet would.

And now Mr Stirling, an RAF Kinloss weather observer who lives in Inverness, has further fuelled interest in the UFO debate by coming forward with an apparent sighting closely matching those of the other two men.

Mr Stirling, who has 20 years' experience as a weather observer, contacted the Courier after reading Friday's report of unexplained activities in the Highland sky.

He said: "What I saw appears to lend some credence to what the others saw. I was coming home towards Holm Mains on Wednesday night when I saw something in the sky at about 250 feet."

"It couldn't have been a jet or a meteor. If it had been a plane, I would have heard it. It was also travelling in too much of an erratic course

and taking turns too sharply for it to have been a jet. In my opinion it was something that needs to be explained."

Added Mr Stirling: "I'm the world's number one sceptic when it comes to UFOs and things like that. Usually if there's something on television I'll just switch it off. I'm not suggesting what it might have been - all I'm saying is that it needs explaining."

His curiosity was further aroused when his daughter reported having seen something similar. The sightings came at around 10.20pm on Wednesday night, dovetailing with the other eyewitness accounts.

Amy MacAskill, of Pinmore, Barbaraville, on the Black Isle, rang the Courier to say: "I saw exactly the same as that man from Newtonmore. I could almost say 'snap'."

Mrs MacAskill said she had been sitting in the dark, watching TV, with the curtains open on her patio door. "I was chatting on the phone to my son Ronnie, the golf

pro at Royal Aberdeen, and I said 'You'll never believe this, but I've just seen a UFO.'"

"It wasn't a jet. Jets are back and forth here all the time for the bombing range at Tain, and I know it wasn't a jet. I could not believe the speed or the size of it and there was no noise."

"There is a bright star in the sky just now but this was four times as big as that, and it had what looked like a tail behind it. I wouldn't have said anything about it but after I read the story in the Courier I thought I had to corroborate what the Newtonmore man said."

UFO researcher John Jenkins, who last month appealed to Courier readers to relate any credible UFO sightings to him, was intrigued to learn of the latest developments around the Highland Capital. He said he would maintain a watching brief on the situation.

Moray Firth Radio in Inverness was also inundated with calls last Wednesday. The latest activity follows a number of unexplained sightings in the area over the past couple of months.

SOLIHULL NEWS, Birmingham, England - Jan. 26, 1996



■ REPORT by  
NEIL WHELAN

A REAL life 'X' file has been opened after an unidentified flying object was spotted over Solihull.

Witnesses described 'an oval-shaped object with four red lights and two blue lights along both sides, which made a humming noise', when they reported the sighting to Quest International, a group which records and investigates sightings of strange phenomena.

Investigator, retired policeman, Jack Hanson claims the object - seen over the Coventry Road, near Birmingham International Airport on November 19 last year - bears striking similarities to a sighting near Sidmouth, Devon, also last year. However, Mr Hanson is convinced the object was not an aeroplane.

He said: "Two different witnesses saw the same object on the same night and it was moving around slowly for two hours from around 1.30am."

He said: "An object bearing the same description was also seen in Trow Hill, Devon in late October last year. The witness

## Searching for Solihull X files

Have you seen a UFO over Solihull? Write to UFO Solihull News, 150, High Street, Solihull.

there described the same oval shape and lights and said it was about 30 feet across."

"There was no way for any of the witnesses to know what the others had seen."

Mr Hanson said he always aims to find a scientific solution to the objects spotted over the region before saying there is a possibility they could be extra-terrestrial craft.

"Around 50 per cent of the sightings can be explained as meteorites, airships, weather balloons and search lights but that still leaves 50 per cent of sightings unexplained with the truth still out there," he said.

Mr Hanson said: "People know that television programmes like *The X-Files* and *Star Trek* aren't real, so when

they see a real UFO they do get scared. One man I spoke to still gets nightmares even though he saw a UFO 30 years ago."

"People are also scared to come forward in case they face ridicule. The idea of flying saucers and little green men is still a taboo subject in many people's eyes and witnesses don't want to get laughed at."

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority said the object was unlikely to be an airship or balloon because of the location's proximity to Birmingham International Airport and the time of night the sighting was reported.

But he said: "We didn't receive any reports from pilots using the airport saying they had seen anything unusual in the air that night."

Anyone who thinks they have seen a UFO can contact Jack Hanson and Quest International on 0121 447 7091.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C. Canada  
April 6, 1996 CR: G. Conway

### Son of E.T.

If you're looking for E.T. Jr., head to Ecuador.

The newspaper *Expresso* quotes what it calls an expert who said 11 Ecuadoran women have been made pregnant by extraterrestrials. The newspaper tells the story of a woman called Titina, who says the E.T.s are men with grey skin.

According to the account, the far-out pregnancies grow to term in just three months, at which point the women undergo a sort of *Star Trek* caesarean section.

So, what happens to the human-E.T. infants?

According to the newspaper account, they're beamed to a planet called Zeta Reticulis.

Associated Press

EVENING NEWS, Scarborough,  
England - Feb. 22, 1996

## Sighting of UFO dismissed

THE RAF has dismissed a Scarborough man's claim that he saw a UFO.

Steve Larkin of Shirecroft, Eastfield, was looking out for a comet when he swears he saw a spaceship fly over Oliver's Mount.

He says he caught sight of an object in his telescope which was over

100ft long, covered in lights and flew over the Mount flanked by two other flying objects.

He said: "I thought it would have to be a Lancaster bomber to be so big but it was a UFO or spaceship."

A spokesman from RAF Fylingdales said: "If he could estimate the length and see it flying that low it was definitely not a spaceship."

"The likely explanation is it was a fuel tanker which is large and has several lights visible when it is refuelling other craft."





# Aliens mutilating cows, ranchers say

■ **Mystery deaths:** "Livestock publications don't tell ranchers this is going on," a rancher says.

By **ROCKY BARKER**

The Idaho Falls Post Register

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho — Running cattle on the Western range is getting harder every year. With drought, low prices, wolves, bureaucrats and environmentalists, it's a wonder ranchers can still make a living.

Then there are the aliens.

Don't laugh. Rancher Jean Barton isn't, anyway.

Barton, of Red Bluff, Calif., is one of hundreds of ranchers who have found their cattle dead and mutilated over the last 25 years. The phenomenon is a recurring theme in the new West that logic hasn't been able to totally explain.

Barton's involvement with mutilations began Oct. 16, 1995, when she and her husband, Bill, were checking their 60 head of cattle running on the Lassen National Forest in Northern California.

What they found were two dead cows with their sex organs cored out. The ears were gone and on one a section of hide had been peeled away, exposing the teeth and jaw.

"They were so straight and smooth," Barton said of the cuts. "There was no blood dripping."

Both cows had been in excellent health and had recently calved. When their veterinarian, Richard Meinert, examined the pair, he could find no exact cause of death. Both had lost significant blood but there was none around the carcasses.

He concluded the animals may have been tranquilized and blood-letted after being first "compromised by weakness."

The Barton case appears to be

the classic cattle mutilation. The evidence does not suggest predators. So who or what did it?

"Your guess is as good as mine," Barton said.

In December, Oregon rancher Tim Howard lost a pregnant cow to a similar fate 100 miles north in Klamath Falls. A calf was found mutilated in Paisley in April.

Barton now knows all the stories because she decided to speak out. She knows some people will think she's a kook, but the president of the California Cattle Women thinks this issue is too important to ignore.

"Livestock publications don't tell ranchers this is going on," she said. "Most ranchers who have it happen to them don't want to bother with the media."

Cattle mutilations have been attributed to everything from satanic cults to the long-haired hippies down the road. The phenomenon started getting attention in the 1970s when a rash of mutilations all over the West caused law enforcement officials to hold a conclave in St. Anthony, Idaho. The governor of Colorado issued a statement decrying the mutilations.

Since then, another cycle of reports erupts about every five or six years. The last one was in eastern Idaho in 1989-90, with more than 30 cases of mutilations reported from Bear Lake to Rigby.

Boise native Linda Moulton Howe has become somewhat of an expert on the topic. She has been collecting reports on mysterious animal killings since the 1970s, when she was a reporter for a Denver television station.

In her book "An Alien Harvest,"

she says extraterrestrial aliens are responsible and that the federal government knows it.

"I've talked to dozens of eyewitnesses who have seen silver discs landing in their fields," she said in a telephone interview from her home in Jamison, Pa.

Ranchers have told her about "nonhuman creatures," carrying away their cattle.

Most people will find it hard to believe such stories without the proof that never seems to turn up. And many cases of mutilation can be attributed to predators, mostly coyotes, who have a taste for the softer flesh of cattle often missing from mutilated stock.

In 1975-76, Idaho Department of Fish and Game warden Joe Curry examined several cattle in Fremont County that were supposed to have

been mutilated. He concluded they were killed by predators.

"I personally didn't see anything that looked like it was mutilated by a human being," Curry said.

Rigby veterinarian Ferrin Kinghorn responded to several reports of mutilated animals in 1990. He came to a similar conclusion.

"The ones I saw there could be a logical explanation," he said. "But I don't want to leave the impression there aren't mutilations. I'm sure there have been some."

That leaves the mystery that keeps stories like this alive. It keeps Jean Barton watching the Western skies and telling anyone who will listen to pay attention.

CR: J. & L. Nicholson

## TOURIST TRAP

The alleged habitat of the famed Yeti, or abominable snowman, will become a major tourist attraction in China next year, the official Xinhua news agency reported. The government recently launched a promotional effort aimed at Chinese and foreign travel agencies in an effort to attract visitors to the Shennongjia region in central Hubei Province. Government scientists have been searching the region since last year in an unsuccessful effort to find the creature. The only solid proof of the Yeti's existence is thousands of giant footprints, the largest measuring 16 inches long, as well as reddish brown hairs collected by some villagers. A recently opened park dedicated to the Yeti, as well as a new nature museum and a botanical garden will be the main destinations for visitors.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON DAILY, Seattle, WA - May 7, 1996

# Experimental College offering class based on the paranormal

By **D.J. ANKNEY**  
DAILY STAFF

The X-Files came to campus Saturday.

And it didn't require a film crew. "The Real X-Files" is a new course in the Experimental College.

The course, taught by former journalist and long-time paranormal investigator Sean MacKenzie, is based on the popular television program. However, the course will not be limited to the show. It's being taught with the goal of giving students the tools and ability to conduct investigations of their own.

"We're going to talk about everything under the sun that science can't explain," MacKenzie said. These mysterious events are what MacKenzie refers to as Fortean phenomena.

The term comes from a man named Charles Fort, who, at the turn of the century, was one of the first to investigate and document the paranormal.

"He documented cases from the sudden, mysterious disappearance of individuals in front of multiple witnesses and rains of frogs to sea serpents and ghosts," MacKenzie explained. "Basically, anything seemingly anomalous."

"We've expanded on his work to include UFOs, alien abduction, cattle mutilation, spontaneous human combustion and psychic phenomena."

He stressed, however, the class isn't about explaining these events, merely documenting them.

"I'm not going to suggest to the students what they believe or what they shouldn't," he said.

The course emphasizes determining what makes a valid anomaly and the verification of events.

"In the Roswell case [an alleged UFO crash site in New Mexico], for example, you had a newspaper headline citing multiple witnesses and government sources," he said. While that doesn't prove that an alien craft crashed in the desert, according to MacKenzie, it does verify that an anomalous event of some kind did occur.

He relies on his background as a journalist in his investigations.

"Attribution is very important," he said. "If you receive a story from a friend

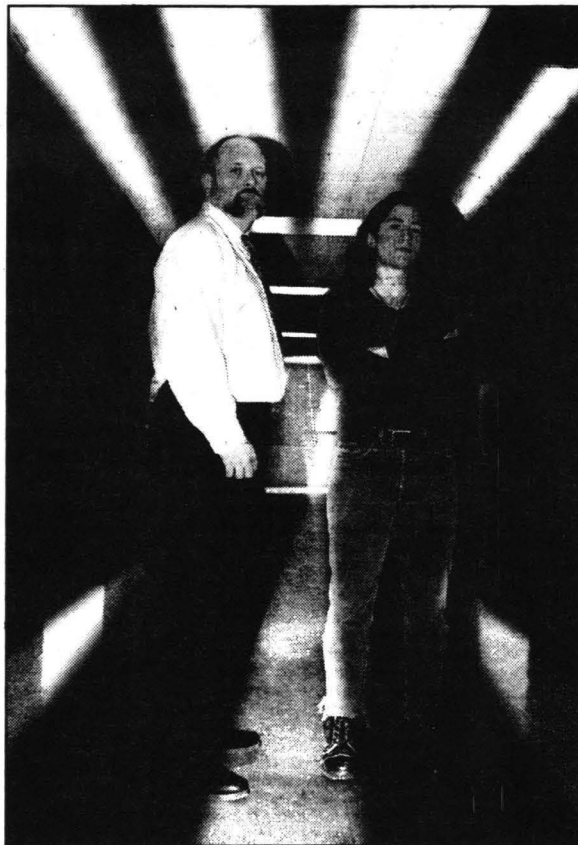


Photo Illustration by NOVA JACOBS/The Daily

**Instructor Sean MacKenzie (left), former journalist and veteran paranormal investigator, teaches a new Experimental College class dealing with inexplicable phenomena. He strikes a pose here with Alice Lancaster, one of his students.**

of a friend of a friend, it's probably just a folk tale. But if you have multiple reliable witnesses, it's a totally different matter.

"I plan on helping the students separate the signal from the noise."

As sample investigations, he looks toward local occurrences, including the infamous Harvard Exit ghost and a UFO sighting near Monroe.

"There's a lot of ground to cover. I hope to give the students just enough to forge ahead on their own," MacKenzie said.

Among the skills he hopes to

teach are tracking down leads and witnesses, and obtaining government documents.

He also plans to introduce students to the numerous Internet resources that have appeared recently.

Despite his experience in the field of paranormal activity, he said this isn't a course in exorcisms or "ghost-busting."

"Insofar as exerting an effect upon a ghost — I leave that to somebody else," MacKenzie said.

The course will be repeated during the summer quarter.

JOURNAL-BULLETIN, Providence, RI - June 27, 1996

# Block Ness Monster is Narragansett bound

■ Block Island resident Lee Scott is shipping the 11½-foot carcass to aquatic experts he hopes will identify it.

By **JIM BEARDSWORTH**  
Journal-Bulletin Staff Writer

BLOCK ISLAND — The Block Ness Monster is making its way toward the mainland — and it's taking the ferry.

But have no fear. The remains of this unknown aquatic entity will be securely packed in ice.

Island resident Lee Scott has literally taken the matter into his own hands, in hopes he can put an end to the mystery of the sea creature that has this town abuzz.

Scott said he went out to the breakwater in Old Harbor Tuesday and took the remains home, hoping to ship it to the National Marine Fisheries Laboratory in Narragansett, where it could be examined.

"I got the Block Ness Monster in a freezer and it smells like a dead sea monster," Scott said. "I have it coiled up."

"It was on the dock and no one was coming to pick it up," he said.

Scott said he plans to pack it and put it on the Block Island Ferry within the next day or two so experts can determine just what the creature really is.

The remains of the creature were

pulled up last week, just south of the island, by fisherman Gary Hall. Since then, the beast has attracted a crowd of more than 1,000 people armed with cameras, who have been checking it out day and night.

In the process of removing the remains, Scott said he measured the beast and found it to be 11½ feet long, with approximately 96 cartilage vertebrae. And all that was left was a head and a backbone.

He said that, due to the large crowds coming out to view the creature, something had to be done to help keep it intact.

"Not only is it hard to identify, but you want to make sure you preserve it in case it is something bizarre," said Scott, 49, who calls himself a recreational fisherman and conservationist.

While there has been talk the remains could be that of a deep-water eel or a shark, Scott says that some people are speculating it could be a sturgeon.

"That's the closest thing people are homing in on," he said.

Lisa Natanson, fisheries biologist at the National Marine Fisheries Laboratory, said that based on the description she has heard, it could be a sturgeon. However, Natanson said, she will have to take a look at the animal to be sure.

"We'll try to figure out what it is," she said

CR: J. Trainor

# Bigfoot evidence to draw crowd

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEWCOMERSTOWN, Ohio — Does Bigfoot exist?

Don Keating thinks so. And he wants everyone to believe.

He plans to show films and tell of his own Bigfoot sightings at the eighth annual Bigfoot Conference today in this eastern Ohio community of about 4,000.

The Tri-State Bigfoot Study Group hosts the meeting, which is expected this year to draw about 50 people, including some who doubt Bigfoot's existence.

Keating, the group's chairman, said the goal isn't to convert the doubters.

"The conference is not to convince people Bigfoot exists in Ohio or anywhere else, for that matter, but to present alleged evidence that it may exist," he said.

Keating said he has twice seen a creature he believes to be Bigfoot — once in 1985 and again in 1987.

In 1985, Keating, along with about four others, was in an area where a sighting had been claimed, he said. He and the others heard a "heavy walking sound" and the sound of limbs breaking. About 30 to 35 feet

away, he saw a creature that looked about 8 feet tall.

It was hairy and light-colored, he said.

In 1987, he caught sight of a creature from about 400 yards away, Keating said.

At the conference, Keating will show a video of what appears to be a Bigfoot walking along a country road. He will also report on new sightings across the country.

The meeting is open to the public. Art Caruso of Youngstown

will speak about his investigations into alleged Bigfoot sightings in extreme northern Ohio since late 1993. He also will show pictures of what he says are Bigfoot's footprints found in northern Ohio.

PLAIN DEALER, Cleveland,

OH — March 2, 1996

CR: B. Robbins

TUCSON WEEKLY, Tucson, AZ — May 30-June 5, 1996 CR: S. Atlanti

# HELLMONKEYS FROM BEYOND!

By Gregory McNamee and Luis Alberto Urrea

## Chupacabras Comes to the Sonoran Desert!

**A** MONSTER IS winging its way over Tucson. It's out there, prowling the night sky, ready to strike without warning.

Or so say excited reports from various quarters of the city over the last few weeks, reports that have enlivened local news coverage and the police beat alike in the normally lackluster days of early summer.

The sightings of this monster have been few but consistent, yielding descriptions of a creature that combines the features of vampire bat and kangaroo, with just a hint of armadillo thrown in for good measure. Said a Mexican search-and-rescue worker who spotted it at a reservoir near Agua Prieta, Sonora, in a splendid instant of non-Linnean classification, it was "like a turkey or a kangaroo, but it had a beak because it flew."

Until recently, the creature kept itself south of the border, busily doing unholy damage in the Republic of Mexico. In one place it visited recently, the small town of Villalba, Veracruz, 20 roosting chickens were found slaughtered, their chests perforated as if by some huge talon. Victor Santiago, Villalba's chief of police, said, "We have no explanation, because it is difficult to catch a chicken that's asleep in a tree. It's a very strange case. A very complicated case."

In the neighboring barrio of El Tuque, 16 ducks were similarly massacred, while farmers throughout the Pacific coast state of Jalisco have been reporting animals slaughtered by the hundreds in the last few months.

Just weeks ago, the monster was reported to have been captured in the tiny *ejido* of Alfonso Calderón, Sinaloa. When a team of government researchers arrived in the remote hamlet, the creature had disappeared, but not before biting a young woman on the arm. It flew away, the villagers said, north toward Arizona.

It didn't waste any time buying trinkets in Nogales. *El Chupacabras*, as the creature is known, supposedly made its evil way to Tucson, where it reportedly landed behind a small rise off Tanque Verde Road. According to a spokeswoman for the Tucson chapter of MUFON (the "Mutual UFO Network"), the

monster was observed coming out of the sky one mile east of Wentworth Road. It had an "eight- to 10-foot wingspan, a two-foot beak, was about five feet tall, and looked furry," she said.

It was also blue. The beast quickly went to work elsewhere in the Old Pueblo, attacking the Espinoza

Lately, it appears, the *chupacabras* has acquired a taste for human blood as well, giving the tale—one that has quit Puerto Rico for the broader climes of continental North America—a dark new twist.

Tokyo has its Godzilla, Loch Ness its sea serpent. And now Mexico, and lately the Sonoran Desert borderlands, has a monster all

**In 1990, a 21-year-old woman from Mesa, Arizona, awoke in the night to discover she had half an ear missing. Rising from her blood-soaked sheets, she saw what she called a flying reptile winging its way across her lawn.**

family of North Palomas Avenue. "It had big red eyes, a pointy nose, pointy ears, and a wrinkled face," said Joe Espinoza, after the beast allegedly hopped in an open window and sat on his son—and, he added, it "smelled like a wet dog." An aunt was called in, aunts being the ghostbusters of choice in Mexican American households, and she immediately identified the footprints as those of a *chupacabras*. Tucson Police officers were more skeptical: They said the prints were those of the three-year-old boy himself.

*Chupacabras* means "goat sucker." (Miami Herald columnist Dave Barry suggested it was also Puerto Rican slang for "attorney.") On the island of Puerto Rico, where stories of its activities first arose, it has been held responsible for a bloody wave of nocturnal terror, slaughtering whole herds of cows, chickens, and sheep. Last Halloween, as reported in the daily tabloid *El Vocero*, the beast "sucked dead" 20 parakeets. In an assault reminiscent of that on the Espinoza household, the monster was also reported to have jumped in a window and "murdered" a stuffed teddy bear, which it then covered in a "puddle of slime." Before escaping back out the window, the *chupacabras* left a "rancid piece of meat" on the sill.

its own, giving joy to demonologists, UFOlogists and teratologists throughout the region.

**A** S IT TURNS out, the *chupacabras*—or something very much like it—has been seen in Tucson before.

Native Tucsonan Rick Scherb, the owner of R&P Auto, recalls, "When I was a kid in the '50s, we used to hear all these stories about a goatsucker thing, only this one was half kangaroo rat. It supposedly would come up the Santa Cruz from Nogales and get anyone out wandering at night. The story disappeared in the '60s, but now it's back."

While it was around, other stories have it, the "goatsucker thing" chewed up flocks across southern Arizona, leaving carnage in its wake.

Joe Urrea, a lifelong resident of the Tucson area, had a run-in with the creature in the 1950s, when his family was homesteading outside of Oracle. One day when he was playing in the yard, Urrea says, the door of the outhouse creaked open. There, to his surprise, lurked a tall kangaroo. It peered out around the edge of the door, then beckoned him to come forward. Urrea believed the creature meant to do him harm. He ran, and never saw it again.

Killer kangaroo sightings continued through



the '60s and '70s here and elsewhere. (A photograph of one standing in a Nebraska cornfield made the rounds of strange phenomena publications a few years ago.) These sightings are not isolated; in fact, evil 'roos are a lesser-known staple of American folklore, and they crop up with remarkable regularity across the decades, as in the case of the blood-drinking kangaroo that supposedly terrorized southern Tennessee in 1934. The creature's depredations were eerily similar to *el chupacabras*, marked by dead cattle, mutilated animals and other victims of its frightening nocturnal forays. It munched on scores of dogs before bounding away "as fast as lightning," as one eyewitness reported.

That the creature has not been spotted for so long does not much bother devotees of cryptozoology, the supposed science of "hidden biology." One member of MUFON cheerily remarked that the creature has a 30- to 70-year life cycle, which would handily explain its intermittent comings and goings—and its sudden reappearance as well.

That reappearance in the form of the *chupacabras* has led to much talk within the

(continued on page 19)



UFO community, some of whose members see in the creature the hand of some special evolutionary power that may or may not have extraterrestrial origins. John Green, speaking at a recent MUFON gathering in Tucson, believes that within "the hoaxing, hysteria, and exaggeration, there is a core of fact" in the matter of the *chupacabras*. Green, who holds a doctorate in plant genetics, postulates there are several possible sources for the *chupacabras*, a creature whose reality he does not doubt.

The first is in genetic mutations—"the raw tools of evolution"—among bird species, which he believes have already yielded such creatures as the gryphon, a four-legged mutant raptor immortalized in heraldic crests and coats of arms.

(Someone in the audience was heard to say, "It's a pissed-off bat.") The second is in a weird race of aliens who are just beginning to make themselves felt. "If humans descended from killer apes," he asked, "is it possible the *chupacabras* is their killer ape?" Still another is the pterodactyl, the prehistoric winged creature that, so some fans of bizarre phenomena maintain, survived the worldwide demise of the other dinosaurs. "Bats and pterodactyls," Green comments,



"could live together in the rainforest canopy, and most people wouldn't know the difference."

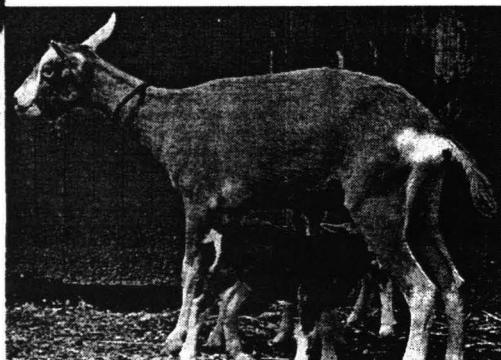
With pterodactyls, Green hits on a magic word. Pterodactyl stories have long punctuated the folklore of the American Southwest, emerging long before scientists had even given a name to the long-extinct flying reptile. On April 26, 1890, for instance, the *Tombstone Epitaph* reported two cowboys had discovered and shot down a creature, a "winged dragon," resembling a pterodactyl, but on a massive scale. The cowboys said its wingspan was 160 feet, and that its body was more than four feet wide and 92 feet long. The cowboys cut off the end of the wing to prove the existence of the creature, but the rest of the body apparently disappeared—as, evidently, did the wingtip.

On September 14, 1983, a paramedic named James Thompson was driving alongside the Pecos River Gorge of West Texas when a creature buzzed his car. It had, said Thompson, "a five- or six-foot wingspan and a rough gray hide," much like, yes, a pterodactyl. Local legends have sprung up along the Rio Grande of a "Big Bird," one that matches Thompson's description of the creature.

And in 1990, a 21-year-old woman from Mesa, Arizona, awoke in the night to discover she had half an ear missing. Rising from her blood-soaked sheets, she saw what she called a flying reptile winging its way across her lawn. Mesa police had no comment, except to say "there was just no logical explanation" for her misadventure.

**L**ATELY, IT WOULD appear, the pterodactylid kangaroo creature has been on the move—but only where people speak Spanish.

The folk origins of the *chupacabras* are murky at best, but they seem to emerge from the collision of indigenous Taino Indian myths about a vampire-like reptile with ancient European



stories about the goatsucker, a kind of bird that at night would descend to drink the milk of sleeping ruminants, spooking the flocks in the process; shepherds in antiquity would attribute a goat's non-productivity during the day to this nocturnal milking. (For unknown reasons, ornithologists have named a set of bird species *caprimulgidae*, meaning "goatsuckers" and including nightjars and poorwills, among other non-demonic birds.)

The *chupacabras* legend was first related in the Puerto Rican hamlet of Orocovis. From there the story made its way to the market town of Canóvanas, and thence to the Dominican Republic and, carried by immigrants and travelers, to Colombia, Venezuela and Costa Rica. It traveled as well from rural Puerto Rico into *borriquenho* urban centers, and thence to the off-island communities of Miami and New York.

There the story collided with long-circulating tales of the Jersey Devil, a creature originating in Lenape Indian myth. The Jersey Devil's favorite haunt appears to be the backwoods Pine Barrens of New Jersey. That legend had enough currency that an enterprising businessman made a small fortune at the beginning of this century exhibiting a supposedly captive Jersey Devil to crowds of eager onlookers. It developed, however, that the Devil was actually a kangaroo painted green, with false wings attached to its shoulders.

Many swear to the Devil's existence, however. One is John Irwin, a summer park ranger in the Wharton State Forest of New Jersey. Irwin was patrolling one night in December 1993 when, he claimed, "He noticed a large, dark figure emerge from the woods. It stood like a human, over six foot tall, and it had black fur that looked wet and matted." The Forest Service report of the incident went on to state, "John sat in his car only a few feet away from the monster. His initial shock soon turned to fear when the creature turned its deerlike head and stared through the windshield. But instead of gazing into the bright yellow glow of a deer's eyes, John found himself the subject of a deep glare from two piercing red eyes."

The Jersey Devil—for such it was deemed to be—seemed to be "contemplating some hellish decision," in the words of the report, but then disappeared into the woods.

Introduce the Jersey Devil to a rural Caribbean vampire, and you have the makings of the modern *chupacabras*, an astonishing example of ancient folklore dusted off and remade to fit the specifications of the present day. And folklore it is, says Sergio Castillo, a producer for TELEvisa, the Mexico City-based network that has largely been responsible for the goatsucker's current level of notoriety, thanks to its incessant broadcasts of monster-related stories. The whole business of the *chupacabras* "is pure fairy tale," Castillo remarks—but a profitable one, drawing in hundreds of thousands of avid viewers.

For UA folklorist James S. Griffith, the growth of the legend is a marvelous thing to behold.

"What we're seeing partway through is the start of something new," Griffith says, "and that is folklore or popular belief spreading through electronic devices, something akin to the *War of the Worlds* business of the '30s. That was a hoax taken literally. This one is a folk invention spread by TV and radio,

with or without tongue in cheek. The story is being transmitted all over the Spanish-speaking world, and with it belief—and some panic—is also spreading."

Griffith believes the origins of the *chupacabras* story lie in the mysterious stock killings that occasionally plague herdspeople around the world, killings most often attributed to wild dogs. "Anglo-Americans have mysterious stock killings, too," he remarks, "and we often wind up attributing them to Satanic cults and such. We're comfortable with the notion of things among us that look like us, but are not us. Mexicans and *puertorriqueños*, I think, are more comfortable with the idea of a mysterious animal that may or may not be extraterrestrial. What I'm interested in seeing is whether the *chupacabras* in the borderlands is going to join legendary animals like *la corua* (a water serpent), *la onza* (a bearlike cat) and *el carabunco*, a little four-footed animal, sometimes with wings, with a light in its forehead, that a lot of people say they've seen in fields in northern Sonora."

Thanks to heavy-rotation electronic broadcasting, the *chupacabras* story has taken on a life of its own, and it is sure to spread: first to Hispanic communities in Colorado, Illinois, the Pacific Northwest, and then outward to merge with tales of sasquatch, winnetou, squonk, and whatever else it meets. As it travels, the story will surely acquire all kinds of new twists, an evolutionary mutation all its own.

"Everybody is using the *chupacabras* for their own purposes and that's just wonderful," Griffith says. "The humorists are having a ball, the journalists are having more fun than anyone, and people are selling T-shirts and souvenirs and making money as the story grows. And the people who want to be scared get to be scared, too."

**F**AIRY TALE OR no, they're having a field day with the *chupacabras* in Mexico, where some wags aver the creature is really the disgraced ex-president Salinas de Gortari trying for a comeback after having robbed the country blind during his term.

In Rocky Point, vendors are walking the beaches selling the dried exoskeletons of skates as the corpses of baby *chupacabras*. In Agua Prieta, where sightings of the *chupacabras* have been legion in the last few



**Griffith believes the origins of the *chupacabras* story lie in the mysterious stock killings that occasionally plague herdspeople around the world, killings most often attributed to wild dogs.**

weeks, street vendors are selling blood-red fruit drinks with the winking promise that they contain the vital essence of *chupacabras*. And the vendors of Mexico City, not to be outdone, are selling "chupa sandwiches," filled with mystery meat drenched in ketchup.

On the East Coast, the *chupacabras* and the Jersey Devil are now enshrined on T-shirts depicting their joint adventures, a team of anti-superheroes made for the 1990s. There, too, new tales of the Jersey Devil are making the rounds, a phenomenon that seems directly linked not only to the emergence of the *chupacabras*, but also to an episode of the supernatural TV series *The X-Files* devoted to the Jersey Devil.

The rest of the world seems eager to catch up. Zanzibar, for example, has developed a particularly horrifying variant on the *chupacabras*. Known there as the *popobawa*, the monster seems to be a kind of baboon with bat wings. As reported in *The Guardian* in October 1995, however, *popobawa* has two unique features as yet unseen on this continent: He has a single glowing eye and he sodomizes men in their sleep. Zanzibar's men were not amused and went so far as to hack an unfortunate fellow to death when they suspected he was the monstrous creature in human form. In another twist, the island's head minister accused the

opposition party of creating the *popobawa* for political gain, while the opposition immediately accused him of being the monster.

*Chupacabra*, *popobawa*, pterodactyl, E.T. There's much hay to be made in Tucson as well. In a town already full of monsters, the king-hell father of them all has touched down. ☐

PLAIN DEALER, Cleveland, OH - May 28, 1996 CR: B. Robbins

## In search of life on other planets

Are there intelligent beings living on planets orbiting other stars? Is there any way to find out? Those questions were considered by a group of distinguished scientists at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, W.Va., in November 1961.

Their deliberations focused on the features deemed most important to the existence of other technologically advanced civilizations that might be capable of sending or receiving radio signals. These included the likelihood of planetary systems around other stars, the probability that a planet could have

physical conditions conducive to the origin and persistence of life forms, the fraction of life-bearing planets where intelligent life could arise, etc.

These estimates were combined by astronomer Frank Drake into an equation that could be used to calculate how many technological societies might be found in our galaxy. It has served ever since to guide Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence or SETI projects. At the time, Drake estimated that up to 500 million Earthlike planets might be found in the Milky Way.

Of all the factors in the equation, the most difficult to tie down was the "longevity factor," the length of time a civilization capable of interstellar communications could be expected to survive. Although this factor was critical to assessing the chances of making contact with extraterrestrials, conferees felt no confidence in their ability to estimate it reliably.

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### SCIENCE NOTEBOOK



Ron Haybron

(continued from page 19 - PLAIN  
DEALER, Cleveland, OH - May 28, 1996)

*Homo sapiens* took 4 billion years to develop from first life, yet our capacity to communicate with other worlds is only a few decades old. If the lifetime of technical civilizations is short, it is entirely possible that the galaxy has seen many thousands of intelligent races evolve, flourish for a cosmic instant and then disappear.

With only Earth history as a guide, the scientists recalled that past human civilizations had invariably fallen from war, disease, climate change, overpopulation and environmental degradation. They could find no reason to suppose that such catastrophes would not eventually play out on a global basis, resulting in a collapse of organized society and perhaps even the extinction of humankind. Whereas in earlier failures survivors could move on to new lands, we have run out of frontiers. We have nowhere to start over.

From records of their deliberations, it is clear that the Green Bank experts were preoccupied with the possibility of a globe-shattering nuclear war as a result of the Cold War with the Soviet Union. There seemed to be general agreement that catastrophic conflicts were a principle threat to technological species.

One participant conjectured that if a civilization could survive for even a short time after developing weapons of mass destruction, it might last a long time, perhaps for the life of the central star. Curiously, no one at Green Bank emphasized an overexploited, degraded environment as a principle threat to technological civilizations.

One aspect of the enthusiasm for SETI among these scientists was the conviction that the difficulties faced by any technically advanced civilization would be the same as for any other, so that if we did make contact with another intelligent race, it could be taken as evidence that they had solved the problems we face. One expert asserted that such contact could increase our own longevity through the assurance that solutions exist.

In the years since, SETI has received scant attention. But a key theme defined by the Green Bank conference stands: If an intelligent life form develops and reaches a level of technical achievement that enables interstellar communications, it will almost certainly have to deal with the kind of problems we face — a burgeoning population and a threatened environment.

Thus, the importance of SETI may extend beyond simply satisfying scientific curiosity.

Haybron is an associate professor of physics at Cleveland State University.

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, London, England - May 26, 1996 CR: T. Good

# Bigfoot discovered out picking violets

## APE MEN

Paul Sieveking

**O**VER THE past three decades in the American north-west, there have been hundreds of sightings of a furry, muscular primate known as "Bigfoot"; but physical evidence for the creature's existence — blurry video footage, recordings of howlings, and casts of large footprints — has been ambiguous and less than convincing. A possible breakthrough might now be in the offing.

Last summer, odd screams were heard up in the Blue Mountains round Walla Walla in south-east Washington state. Cattle and wildlife began behaving oddly, as if disturbed by something. On August 4, Wes Summerlin, a local resident, drove up into the mountains with Paul Freeman, a veteran Bigfoot hunter, and Bill Laughery, a former game warden.

They hiked in off Mill Creek Road and started climbing. Then Summerlin got a "whiff of something, like somebody skinning muskrats".

They were in an area where they had seen Bigfoot tracks before. Summerlin and Laughery reached a clearing, where they found a number of small trees twisted and broken, so fresh they were still dripping sap. There were large clumps of long hair, some black, some dark brown, caught on the trees where they were broken. They both caught sight

of a seven-foot ape-like creature and heard the screams of two others.

The creature was observed through binoculars at a distance of 90 feet, eating yellow wood violets. The trackers also found droppings two to five inches long, full of half-eaten carpenter ants, and fallen trees that had been pulled apart for the ants inside.

The hair clumps have been given to Frank Pourier, chairman of the anthropology department at Ohio State University, who is using a DNA test developed by the FBI for analysis of hair strands that lack the roots normally needed for identification.

If the clumps turn out to come from an unknown primate, Pourier will compare them with a single hair reputed to be from the Chinese "wildman" given to him by Chinese peasants during a 1989 expedition.

The latter does not match any known primates, according to a chemical analysis performed at Shanghai University.

The hunt for China's wildman has been pursued since 1959, with more than 200 reported sightings. Footprints, samples of hair and

faeces have been obtained, but no creatures captured or photographed. The latest publicised sighting was in September 1993, when a group of Chinese engineers saw three of them roaming the trails of the Shennongjia National Forest Park in western Hubei province.

On October 27, 1994, the Chinese government set up a new body, the Committee for the Search of Strange and Rare Creatures, one of whose aims was to investigate wildman reports. Its members included scientists from the Institute of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Palaeoanthropology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The largest cast of a supposed wildman footprint is 16 inches long, leading to the assumption that the creatures could weigh as much as 660lbs (47 stone) and stand more than 7ft tall. The committee has studied eight hair specimens, believed to have come from animals ranging throughout China and Tibet. None, they say, comes from humans or any known animal. The hair varies from black, collected in Yunnan

province, to white from Tibet, to the reddish brown of the creatures seen by Hubei villagers.

A 30-strong expedition to find a wildman set out for the mountains of Hubei on April 7, 1995, led by Professor Yuan Zhengxin, chairman of the new committee.

"I am certain that within three years we will have captured one of these wild men," he blustered.

The China Travel Service in Hubei offered 500,000 yuan (£37,000) for bringing in a live wildman, £3,700 for a dead specimen, up to £2,960 for photographs or video recordings, and £740 for hair or faeces.

On July 11, the news agency Xinhua announced that most of the expedition members had returned to Beijing empty-handed, but stated: "There are clues that the mysterious animal is still roaming in the forest. The evidence is under analysis."

As with the Ohio tests, the results of the expedition have yet to be published.

□ Paul Sieveking is editor of *Fortean Times*

## Mexico Hears a Sucking Sound

### People in Fear, Media in Frenzy Over Reports of Predator

By Molly Moore  
Washington Post Foreign Service

MEXICO CITY, May 10—First came the reports of goats, then lambs and roosters, massacred in the night and drained of their blood. The only evidence of their attackers: large fang marks on the animals' necks.

Within days, a farm worker in the western state of Jalisco appeared at a village clinic with bite wounds. His assailant: a beast standing three feet tall with a huge snout and dark, velvety skin.

It has the fangs of a vampire, the wings of a bat and the personality of an extraterrestrial. And now there are sightings everywhere, all across Mexico—in dusty farm villages in the northern desert, in the gulf port of Veracruz, even on the ranch of Guanajuato state Gov. Vicente Fox.

"Goat-Sucker Fever Sweeps the Nation," declared the front page of the Mexico City Times Thursday morning, along with an artist's conception of the bug-eyed, winged, demon-like animal that is spreading hysteria—and skepticism—across the land.

Accounts of close encounters with the goat-sucker, which began with reports of farm animal slaughters and have spread to fantastic tales of human confrontations, are filling Mexico's



BY LOURDES AGUILERA—THE MEXICO CITY TIMES

Is this the dreaded killer of Mexican animals?

newspapers, headlining the nightly television news and swamping call-in radio shows.

Like Big Foot, Nessie and the yeti before it, no one's bagged—or even photographed—the goat-sucker, or *chupacabras*. But the government became so concerned about quelling the mania that the state of Sinaloa ordered a zoological task force into the field to find the mystery animal.

On Wednesday, the government task force issued its report, which reads like a bad science fiction novel: There's no goat-sucker, but pollution is now so bad that it's driving ordinary animals mad, giving them the behavioral trappings of crazed alien creatures.

"We have ruled out the theory that the attack on sheep and goats was carried out by a super-

natural being or a blood-sucking bat," said Javier Delgadillo, a scientist on the task force, in releasing his team's results. "One explanation for these attacks could be that animals—bats, pumas, dogs, etc.—have been driven mad by the devastating effects of poisonous gases and toxic wastes on nature. Perhaps what is happening now with the goat-sucker is nature's way of making us pay for the constant damage we have inflicted on the environment."

Ernesto Enkerlin, a wildlife biologist at the Technological Institute of Monterrey, offered the News of Mexico City a more plausible theory: "This is a sign of collective psychosis. I don't know if it's the [economic] crisis or what, but this is an exaggerated amount of noise about a fairly common occurrence."

The fairly common occurrence, that is, of wild dogs or wolves preying on farm animals. In fact, veterinarians who examined some of the dead animals said that the body tissues around the fang marks were devoid of blood, a common occurrence in bite cases, while plenty of blood remained in other parts of the corpses.

Those examinations, however, have done nothing to squelch the explosion of new reports.

Jose Rodriguez, from the town of Chimalhuacan in the state of Mexico, gave the "Naked City" TV program this chilling tale of a near-encounter inside his house:

"It was early in the morning. I heard a noise like a wild turkey screeching and running around. I was too scared to go and investigate. I was afraid I was about to come face to face with the son of Dracula."

Rodriguez said the goat-sucker fled before he could see it, leaving only a greasy footprint on a living room chair.

Abigail Paxon, a 25-year-old nurse from Mexico state, claimed Wednesday night that her arm was severed by a giant bird that swooped into her house.

Other unconfirmed and unreliable reports placed the goat-sucker in a schoolyard in the Mexico City suburb of Iztapalapa.

Reports of the goat-sucker have surfaced periodically in Mexico and several other Latin American countries for the last 20 years, most recently in Puerto Rico.

But at a time when Mexico hasn't suffered a significant political crisis or even a resignation in weeks, chances are that the goat-sucker owes his long life this time to new organizations sucked dry of news.