

UFO

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Dr. William C. Levensgood, a biophysicist from Michigan, performed a scientific analysis of plant samples from the Paulding County crop circle and found "significant changes" in the plants. He said the formation is authentic. Levensgood, who rarely travels to formation sites, and research partner Nancy Talbott visited the circle on Friday. Here, he examines some of the wheat. (Staff photo by Melinda Krick)



Friday was a busy day at the crop circle on the Arend farm southeast of Paulding. Not only were researchers at the site, but a film crew from the TV series "Sightings" (at left) taped interviews for a segment about the phenomenon that has drawn more than 8,000 visitors. Here, field director Chris Harty directs members of the Arend family during filming at the circle. (Staff photo by Melinda Krick)

Crop circle determined authentic

By MELINDA KRICK
Correspondent

UFO? Ion plasma vortex? Or another kind of natural phenomenon? Whatever the source of the mysterious crop circle that has drawn crowds to a wheat field in Paulding County, new evidence has ruled out one explanation: It's not a hoax.

On Friday, a film crew from the TV series "Sightings" visited the crop circle site on the Arend Brothers farm on County Road 126. (See related story.) At the same time, two researchers arrived to present the early laboratory results on the plant samples taken from the formation.

The visiting scientists were biophysicist Dr. William C. Levensgood of Grass Lake, Mich., and Nancy Talbott of Cambridge, Mass., both of the BLT Research Team. Their team has analyzed plant and soil samples from more than 200 crop formations all over the world since 1989. Of those, about 90 percent are found to be authentic. Sample plants have included wheat, barley, oats, corn, sweet flag, soy beans and meadow grasses.

PHYSICAL CHANGES SEEN IN PLANTS

"The point we want to get across is that physical changes *do* occur" to plants in crop formations, Talbott said. Based on the presence of those physical changes, they can rule out any faked formations.

Levensgood announced that his analysis of two samples from the Paulding County site "pretty much confirmed it's a 'marginal' formation - not a lot of damage to the plant and the cells of the plant ...

There's no question it's a genuine formation."

In his research on crop formations, Levensgood has noted specific findings in crop formation plants, as opposed to plants outside the circles. These changes include:

- alteration in the germination and development of seed embryos, largely depending on the stage of development in which the plants were affected. The seeds are sometimes non-existent, or cease development, or are stunted but have high germination and retarded growth. In late stage (as in this case), the seeds when germinated will often show accelerated growth, despite their poor appearance and low seed weight.

- alteration in plant stem node length and circumference. This is a primary criteria for determining an authentic formation. The changes can vary greatly, with up to 200 percent node enlargement found at one site.

- on the microscopic level, cell wall pit diameters in bract tissue

are observed to be significantly enlarged, as compared to "control" or normal samples.

TEST RESULTS

Levensgood said the samples from here show a "statistically significant" 20 percent stem node expansion. In comparison, the percentages average from about 30-80 percent in England. He added that a "significant change" was found about two-thirds of the way from center to edge of the circle.

Tests on seed germination will take three to four weeks because the seeds first must go through a dormancy period. Levensgood also will be performing analysis of soil samples. He said a final report on his findings should be completed in one to two months.

Before presenting his findings, Levensgood walked about the circle and examined some plants with a hand-held magnifier. He explained he was getting a general impression of the formation. He stressed that a person cannot just walk up to a circle and tell by looking whether

or not it's a real one. "There's no way to tell unless there's a qualitative investigation, in the lab," he said. Analysis of samples from purposely made formations have turned up no physical changes in the plants.

Levensgood said that a "second circle" reportedly found during an analysis of aerial photographs of the site has turned out to be remnants of a forest fire there many years ago.

EXTERNAL ENERGIES

If the crop circle is authentic, what caused it?

"When you put it all together, the logical conclusion is that there's a very powerful, transient energy" affecting the plant and expanding every cell, Levensgood said. He continues that the crops show evidence of being affected by external energies involving rapid air movement, ionization, electric fields and transient high temperatures, combined with an oxidizing atmosphere.

One naturally occurring and or-

ganized force incorporating each of these features is an ion plasma vortex. Microwave energies are known to be associated with ion plasmas.

He admits that there's no one-sentence explanation of the phenomena. Atmospheric-associated plasma formations may possibly originate in regions where there are indications of an energy exchange between earth's ionosphere and electric storms in the upper atmosphere.

Levensgood added that geometric formations seen in crop circles are also seen in plasma physics labs. No two formations are exactly alike.

SCIENCE FACT OR FICTION?

Also present on Friday were John Timmerman of the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) in Lima, and Roger Sugden, field investigator for the Texas-based Mutual UFO Network Inc. (MUFON).

Timmerman, who visited the site twice before, said he was "not really surprised by (Levensgood's) findings." He was delighted to hear that Levensgood would be involved, and hoped the energies expended on the investigation would show that the circle was something other than a hoax.

Timmerman added that he believes there will be many skeptics who will refute the biophysicist, but if someone will come forward who is equally qualified in training and experience, then their conclusions will be compared. "That's what science is all about," he said.

Regarding Levensgood's findings and the ion plasma vortex theory, Timmerman commented, "I don't know if this phenomenon and the UFO phenomenon are related."

Sugden didn't have a chance to talk with Levensgood at the site to discuss the lab results. Sugden said he was there for photography purposes and to deliver some early samples from the circle, and from one in Whitley County. Sugden said that MUFON is excited about the circle. "It doesn't happen that often ... In the United States, an authentic one is very rare."

Added Sugden: "People are afraid of the unknown, and this is a big unknown."

The Arends have estimated that more than 8,000 people have visited the circle since its discovery nearly three weeks ago. And people are still coming, as they were Friday when they saw a crowd milling around the site, some carrying video cameras. And despite scientific evidence to the contrary, many will still be saying it's all a hoax.

Circle captures national attention

By MELINDA KRICK
Correspondent

The crop circle near Paulding has captured national attention, ending up on radio and television across the country and even on CNN. This fall, the circle will be up for public debate again as it is profiled on a segment of the TV series "Sightings."

On Friday, a three-person crew from the series spent the day filming around the site. The episode will be shown on cable's Sci-Fi

channel. No date has been set.

During a break in filming at the crowded home of Eloise Arend, Sightings field director Chris Harty said she was "extremely impressed" by the Arend family's generosity in letting people see the circle, and by their eagerness to field answers, and explore the different options around what caused the circle. "They've been great about it," she said.

The crew filmed interviews at the site, with Don and Sue Arend,

Helen and David Carlisle, Mark and Sue Dobbelaere, Justine Holtsberry, and with Dr. William Levensgood and John Timmerman. (See related story.) They also filmed members of the Arend family at the circle.

In a telephone interview from California, Sightings segment producer Joyce Goldstein said this isn't the first crop circle the show has presented. They decided to do this story "because it's a good example of a circle in North America

and the reaction of the town, the shape and form, and its interest to scientists and others."

Despite the theory that the circle was produced by natural forces, Goldstein said that her series wanted to show what happens when a circle is formed, that there are organizations and specialists who are interested in investigating, and a protocol for obtaining samples.

Also, she added, "it's a mystery. No matter what anyone says, there's no definitive answer. It's open to interpretation."



J. D. DOOLEY/Democrat Staff

Lori Cordini is shown with some of the published UFO literature.

Group prepares for first contact as UFOs gain more credibility

By J.D. DOOLEY
Democrat Staff Writer

Lori Cordini believes that we are not alone. She believes, in fact, that the Earth is continually being contacted by extraterrestrials.

She says that she has had several such contacts, many here in Boone, and believes that others may have also.

These days many people believe that Earth is not the only inhabited planet in the extreme vastness of all space and that extraterrestrials may stop by on their interplanetary rounds.

The proof is all around, they say. Take the Nazca Plains in Peru, only noticed late this century. The remote Andean plains seem to depict an ancient runway hundreds of miles long.

Other items, such as cave drawings, and Aztec and Mayan ruins, seem to depict extraterrestrial visits long before the radio broadcast of

"A bright light lit up the sky. I called for my mother ... I was being sucked out a wall near a closed window."

- Lori Cordini

the War of the Worlds and subsequent UFO craze of the '50s and '60s.

Almost every civilization records contact with extraterrestrials or has descriptions of unidentified flying objects.

Recently, NASA scientists announced that life forms may have existed on Mars. Intergalactic speaking, that's right next door.

Many people have come forward with their tales. And Cordini has one. In fact, she has formed an intergalactic contact group in Boone to assist others who want to know more about the subject.

Lorraine Dvorak Cordini was raised in a small midwestern community. All her life she says that she has had the memory of "the night the sky lit up." She recalls a bright blue/white light turning a 1947 Fourth of July night into noon-time brightness.

That night has always haunted her. She knew that her mother was involved, but remembered little more. It wasn't until she underwent regressive hypnosis in June 1995 that the memories were retrieved and she now recants them as fact.

She said that over the years she had asked her mother what happened that night and her mother always told her that one day she would know.

When she underwent regressive hypnosis, she told the therapists the following story;

"My brother and I were laying on the floor listening to our large Philco radio. A bright light lit up

the sky. I called for my mother and she came running down the stairs, grabbed my legs and pulled. I was being sucked out a wall near a closed window."

"I felt like 'they' and my mother would pull me apart. The therapist interjected, 'You mean through the window?' I adamantly stated, 'No, through the wall.'

"My 8-year-old brother had a look of total terror on his face as he held on to my mother's skirt. I could feel what my mother was thinking. She wasn't afraid, but felt badly because she could not protect me or save me from whatever was happening."

That remembrance ended there, but there were several to follow.

Cordini says that her mother later described the occurrence without prompting.

"If you can't believe your mom," she says. "Who can you believe?"

Since what she calls her "awakening," Cordini has been getting the word out about contact with extraterrestrials.

"All of my contacts have been positive," she says. "If I can only say one thing it would be that it has been a very positive experience."

She says that the press has focused on the negative aspects of extraterrestrial encounters, such as reports referred to as abductions.

It is interesting to note that what Cordini says she remembers of July 1947 coincides with the most famous reported UFO incident to date, a reported occurrence that has come to be known as the Roswell incident.

The Roswell incident began on Tuesday July 8 in 1947, four days after Cordini's experience.

A colonel at Roswell Army Air

force Base announced to the press that the Army had recovered a flying disc at a site north of the town of Roswell, N.M.

By the time the press release was out, the remote crash site was already cordoned off by military police.

The military then said that the object was merely a small weather balloon.

Since that time, many, including military personnel, have come forward claiming that the debris uncovered in Roswell was that of an unidentified flying object.

Whether it was extraterrestrial or not has never been proven, but it did spark a controversy that still exists half a century later.

The credibility of such contacts is constantly called into question, however some noted scientists are becoming less skeptical.

In an April 1994 TIME magazine interview, Harvard psychiatrist John Mack went on record stating that some of the tales of UFO abductees may be real.

Still, it's hard for mainstream America to accept the existence of regular interplanetary visits.

But that doesn't faze Cordini, who is making herself available to provide information or support those who believe that they have encountered extraterrestrials.

And as for the people who may think the whole scenario is wacky, that doesn't bother Cordini.

"Some people have a hard time relating to it," she said. "But more and more people are coming to me with experiences of their own, respected people, even here in Boone," she said.

Cordini and the InterGalactic Contact Group can be reached at 262-5857



Carl Cordini illustrations

The above illustrations are from a book that Lori Cordini and her husband, Carl, are preparing on intergalactic contact. The top illustration depicts one of Lori Cordini's most vivid remembrances, that of July 4, 1947, when she says that the sky became brightly lighted and she was nearly pulled through a wall. The bottom illustration depicts a later contact with an extraterrestrial that has a reputation for being "not so nice" in contactee circles.

PROGRESS, Paulding, OH - July 17, 1996 CR: J. Hamm

Crop circle's origin still questioned

By DENISE GEBERS
Correspondent

It was almost a week since Mike and Sandy Dobbelaere flew over an Arend Bros., Inc. wheat field in Jackson Township and discovered a crop circle. Now, on July 10, the local TV and print media representatives gathered in the sunshine with FOX Network's EXTRA crew for the opinion of the experts.

Arriving on the scene just after 11:30 a.m. with Dan, Don, and Dave Arend were John Timmerman representing Chicago's Center for UFO Studies and Ohio State University wheat specialist, agronomist James Beurlein. In approximately 15 minutes time, the pair made ready for on-camera reports of their findings. In separate interviews, the two declared the Paulding County formation to be manmade.

"Somebody spent a lot of time to make a pretty picture for somebody to see," said Beurlein. "Right now it looks very much manmade."

Nearby Timmerman said, "Evidence supports that an object was moved around. It was probably created by some people having fun...You can read a couple books in the library to learn what you

need to know," he added. "I feel a little awkward being here."

He went on to demonstrate how a person can walk backwards between the rows without leaving a trail. Then he explained their theory. Timmerman said they think two men carried something, perhaps the kind of lawn roller one puts water in, into the field after locating the center of the two surface ditches. He said one person stood at the center while the second, using a wire or string to keep the radius right, rolled around the outside edge. He said this was probably repeated again and again until they reached the center.

He said this theory was reached by observing overlapping layers of grain stalks every three feet or so into the circle. He added the final small center circle was pressed down onto the adjacent wheat, crushing it.

Timmerman said the next phase of his investigation will be analysis of the samples. Dr. Beurlein will test one set of samples, while another set is sent to Dr. Levengood in Grass Lake, Mich. Dr. Levengood is a retired agronomist who has investigated over 100 crop circles. Timmerman said they will be looking for changes in the

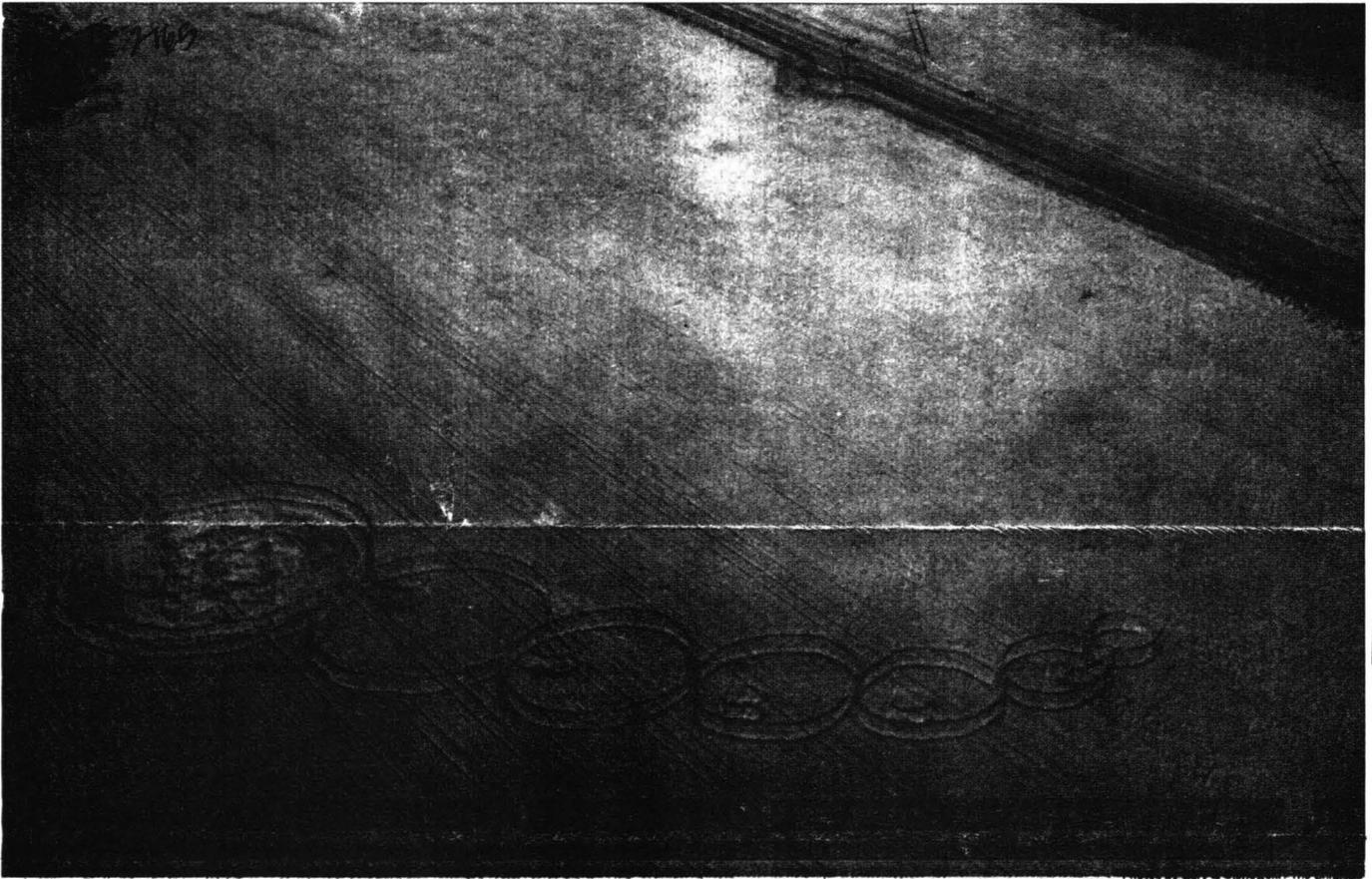
cellular structures in the samples. If oddities are found, further tests will be conducted. He expects results in a couple of weeks.

Reaction in the Arend family at the site was immediate. Denise Kohart wasn't sure what to think. "If it's such a hoax, how did they do it? They couldn't drop a roller from the sky. I think there's something strange."

Her sisters-in-law, Joanna Arend and Sue Arend, expressed feelings of upset and betrayal. "Why would someone do this to us?" Sue asked while husband Don said, "We thought all along that there was a good chance it could be manmade, or not. Hopefully this will slow the crowds down."

Before heading to another wheat field for harvest, Dan said, "I can't imagine who or why anyone would do it. I don't know why they waited five days to investigate."

BUT, there's more to the story...according to the family, Dr. Levengood is on his way to Paulding County where he will meet the crew from "Sightings." Look for them in Jackson Township on Friday (July 19)!



This is an aerial view of the crop circle in the wheat field of Hal Hamilton. Highway 6 is at the top of the photo. Dozens of people visited the site over the weekend after a picture was posted electronically on the Internet.

Crop circles intrigue many

Are circles message from superior beings or just vandalism?

By Tom Roeder
The Chronicle

Dozens of gawkers were drawn to a farm outside Chehalis over the weekend to decipher messages either from the stars or different dimensions left in a crop circle design in a field.

At Hamilton Farm on Highway 6 near Scheuber Road, seven interlocking circles had been cut into a 200-acre wheat field. The first six circles had an orb on the inside radius; the last circle contained an intricate flower pattern.

In July 1994, a similar occurrence took place on the same farm, leaving a pattern that looked somewhat like a guppy eating a large stick.

It is unknown what connection there is between the events, or who perpetrated them.

When news of the latest crop circles hit several pages on the Internet last Thursday, The Chronicle and the Twin Cities Chamber of Commerce each received dozens of calls asking for directions to the sight.

But how the circles were made is a bit of a mystery.

Hal Hamilton, who farms the land, said he thinks vandals trampled the ready-to-harvest crop forming the pat-

tern. The 1994 incident caused \$1,000 in damage. Last week's design caused an estimated \$500, he said.

Hamilton's version is the easiest explanation. Vehicle tracks could have been used (presumably by local humans) to gain access to the field and create the geometric pattern. From there it was a simple design, he said.

Others suspect forces from beyond this world.

Lord Ackbar, proprietor of The Guiding Star, a metaphysics store serving the psychic needs of Chehalis, said the most logical explanation for the circles is that a "hyper-magnetic field from deep in the earth's core" was used by "an intelligence beyond our understanding" to create the design.

Ackbar said this is instead of actually visiting earth, which the intelligence would consider dangerous.

"They are sending us messages because if an alien landed on the streets of Chehalis, they would probably shoot him and burn him," Ackbar said. He had a picture of the crop circle on display in his store Saturday.

Ackbar said the aliens that he represents as an ambassador to this planet had nothing to do with the vandalism. Folks from Orion communicate in dif-



Rick Major of Burlington, Wash., a member of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), takes samples of wheat Saturday from inside the largest circle of a crop circle design. The crop circle appeared last Thursday in the wheat field of Hal Hamilton off Highway 6 and Scheuber Road outside Chehalis.

ferent ways, he said.

UFOs are also suspected in the crop destruction.

Seattle resident Marilyn Childs, state director of the Mutual UFO Network, said a flying saucer created the circles. Childs drove to Chehalis to visit the site on Saturday.

Childs said a spacecraft shrouded in blue balls shot a blue beam into the field creating the pattern. Blue is important because green is generally used

for cow mutilation but not crop circles, she said.

"They shoot a mazer (a plasma beam similar to a laser, but beyond current science) into the field creating the design, it is a blue beam," Childs said. "It carries a very powerful energy."

Childs said the wheat contained in the crop circle carries with it healing powers that cured her of a debilitating

virus. "I had a 102-degree fever and a bad headache, but after I ate the kernels I felt great," she said.

Former Air Force Col. Ross Dedrickson, a member of a group based in England that studies crop circles, also visited the site over the weekend. He was contacted Monday to comment on the design.

Dedrickson said intervention by the government and other institutions attempts to undermine the truth about the circles.

"It is in the interest of the government and the media to pooh pooh it to suppress people's curiosity," said Dedrickson, who visited the circles from Bellevue. "This is real and it won't go away."

The Chehalis circle, at least, will go away. Hamilton said he plans to harvest the field today.

If it was aliens, or a life force from a different metaphysical plane that created the Hamilton farm furor, some locals would like to make contact.

Sheriff John McCroskey wanted the perpetrator to know that if a report is filed he will investigate, and if he finds cause he will arrest, no matter what planet or metaphysical plane the perpetrator is from.

"It could cause some jurisdiction problems," McCroskey said jokingly of prosecuting aliens. "But, we'd get them."

Corrine Potter, event coordinator for the Twin Cities Chamber of Commerce, said she wishes those creating the crop circles would first

pay chamber dues, and inform her of the events so she can better help the public.

"We had three callers first thing in the morning, and we didn't even know about the crop circles," Potter said. "We just had them call Ackbar."

Hamilton just wants his wheat crop left alone.

"I don't care where or what happened," Hamilton said. "I just would like somebody to pay for that wheat."

Man's disappearance stirs interest of UFO believers

By MARK SHAFFER
The Arizona Republic

PHOENIX (AP) — They came from outer space 20 years ago and hauled poor ol' Travis Walton away from the pine woods of the Mogollon Rim for five days.

Now, they're back, say some who study unidentified flying objects. This time, they landed only about 10 miles, as the UFO flies, from where phenomenon followers say Walton was beamed up by a blue light and immortalized in the 1993 movie "Fire in the Sky."

In the latest incident, last year, Devin Williams was hauling an 18-wheeler full of lettuce and strawberries from Los Angeles to Kansas on Interstate 40 in northern Arizona when something

strange, and perhaps tragic, happened to him.

Williams veered off the interstate at Winslow and sped 40 miles down Arizona Highway 87 to the Blue Ridge Ranger Station. Then, he barreled another 15 miles down a rough Forest Service dirt road, at times menacingly circling campers or running other motorists off the road, before getting stuck in mud near the edge of the Rim.

He got out of the truck, got on his knees and started talking to a tree.

Later, he waved a \$20 bill wildly in the air and threw rocks at people who tried to approach him. He pointed to a rock and said he was about to start a fire with it.

But it wasn't as much what he did as what he said later that got

UFO enthusiasts all excited.

One man approached Williams and asked him about his bizarre conduct.

"He said, 'They made me do it,'" said Bruce Cornish, a Coconino County deputy sheriff, adding that Williams didn't explain who "they" were.

Then, the 28-year-old truck driver disappeared, leaving behind his semi and two things he was said to never part with: a police scanner and his favorite hat.

He hasn't been seen for 14 months.

Some speculate that he lost his way while wandering in the woods and died of exposure. But that's not the type of scenario that has really loosened lips in Rim country.

Rather, more unworldly expla-

nations have circled about Williams, just as they have about Walton, a Snowflake resident who wrote about his 1975 experiences with alien creatures in a book later made into the movie. Walton said the aliens took him away for almost a week before dropping him off near a telephone booth in Heber.

"This is really kind of a curious incident," Walton said about Williams' disappearance. "Of course, we've been having all kinds of weird things up here.

"Three different people told me they saw a big, orange object hit the ground right before that big forest fire started over near Pinedale last month."

In other words: a spaceship crash. The Forest Service blamed a lightning strike for starting the

1,800-acre Cottonwood fire.

But Charlie Green of Tucson, who says he speaks with more than a modicum of authority after having 16 "alien encounters" during the past 55 years, sees a lot of similarities between the Williams and Walton cases.

"The whole crazy thing seems to tie in to what happened to Travis (Walton), but the thing that baffles me is that they always bring their victims back within a reasonable time," said Green, a Tucson insurance salesman and a member of a Texas group called the Mutual UFO Network.

Not that Green doesn't see a reason why Williams wouldn't be taken away for a while. There is a reason, and it has to do with the birds and the bees, he said.

"He's the right age. This all has to do with pure ol' semen," Green said.

"They take the semen from the males and the ovaries from females, and mix it with alien juice to make a half breed.

"But I still don't understand why he wasn't brought back."

Tom Taylor of Tempe, state director of the UFO network, says he understands. That's because he said Williams was never taken by little green men.

"We had someone research this thoroughly, and that was the conclusion," he said. "Just because he said 'they' doesn't mean 'they aliens.'"

Then, what happened to Williams?

Taylor said, "Only the gods know."

GAZETTE-TIMES, Corvallis, OR - Aug. 30, 1996 CR: J. Deardorff

Washington leads center's list in UFO sightings

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Washington residents are known for their love of nature, ability to withstand long, rainy seasons and now for reporting more unidentified flying objects than people living in any other state, the National UFO Reporting Center says.

Of course, it could be because the center is based here.

Center records from 1995 and the first four months of 1996 show that Washingtonians reported 263 UFO sightings. California was second with 168 sightings, Oregon had 67, Florida 41, and Minnesota 38. Washington, D.C., reported none at all.

Seattle reported nine UFO sightings in the first quarter of the year, the only major city to report any in that period. The most recent was at 9 p.m. Aug. 20, when witnesses from Seattle, Raymond and Bain-

bridge Island reported "an olive-green disk streaking from north to south."

Don Brownlee, an astronomy professor at the University of Washington, sounds skeptical of the reports.

"I've never seen one, so I don't really care much about UFOs," he said.

"Seattle has the lowest number of clear nights, so it's odd that UFOs are landing here. Seattle and Portland are among the most cloud-covered cities in the United States, so I find that suspect.

"Maybe the UFOs like Boeing or Microsoft. Or maybe the coffee."

UFO sightings were reported in 36 of the 50 states during the center's reporting period, said center director Peter Davenport.

One of the most interesting reports came via a 30-second tape from a Federal Aviation Adminis-

tration worker in Boston.

On the tape, two pilots report seeing a very bright light last year near Long Island, Davenport said. Both pilots said they saw a green tail passing by very fast from south to north about 10:20 p.m. on Nov. 17, 1995.

The object, spotted by Boeing 747 pilots for British Airways and Lufthansa Airlines, also was reported by 17 other witnesses in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maine, Vermont and an Air Force base in North Carolina. The sergeant on duty at the base said calls from several people reported one or more objects hovering near the base. Radar turned up nothing unusual.

While Washington ranked first, Davenport admits it's unlikely the state gets more UFO visits. Since the group is based here, more residents are aware of the center's hotline phone number.

Some send sketches and pic-

tures of what they've seen.

The nonprofit center receives six to seven calls a day, which are investigated by volunteers, Davenport said. The more credible ones are listed in the center's index.

The hot-line is well known to law-enforcement agencies, weather stations, military facilities, and FAA and NASA officials, who usually direct calls regarding UFO sightings to the number.

The center was established in 1974 by UFO investigator Robert Gribble. Its objective is to receive, record, corroborate and document reports of possible UFO-related events, including abductions by alien beings.

The staff, which includes Davenport and seven others, is on duty 24 hours a day.

Editor's Note: The National UFO Reporting Center can be reached at (206) 722-3000.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Aug. 14, 1996

UFO Sightings

Three interesting sightings were reported during the last week. Each was witnessed by several people and we have been able to interview most of the witnesses involved.

On Wednesday, July 24th, 1996 a couple were out in their yard near Tiger Point at approximately 11:15 p.m. Looking over the tree line to their east, they saw a very bright white light in the sky. "It was bigger than a star," one of the witnesses told me. We discussed the relative size of the object and it was determined that it appeared to be of the same size as Jupiter appears in the sky at this time of the year, and just as bright or brighter. "It caught my eye because it was moving, and I thought it could be a satellite or high flying jet," the other witness stated. The couple continued to watch and were quite surprised when the "star" blinked out, only to reappear two to three seconds later, at a higher elevation in the sky. It then moved in a vertical and diagonal pattern for several seconds, making sharp turns. "Obviously this was not a satellite or plane" the witnesses state. The

direction in which it was moving overall was from the south to north in the eastern sky. The couple watched for about two minutes before the object disappeared from view. They also mentioned that in August last year they had witnessed a light in the sky the size of a half dollar at arm's length, which shone a beam of light straight down to the ground.

On Tuesday, August 6th, 1996 a group of four skywatchers at Shoreline Park including a visitor from Atlanta witnessed two red light type sightings. They took place at approximately 9:00 p.m. and 9:02 p.m. The lights were seen in the southeast over Santa Rosa Island. The first one, being viewed through binoculars, was described as "a red light and an amber light right next to each other, almost touching, with an amber glow around them." These lights were viewed for approximately ten seconds and at an approximate elevation of forty degrees, just east of the water tower on the west end of Pensacola Beach. The second sighting appeared two minutes later, to the east of the first and

appeared to be "football shaped, and a very deep amber color". Again this was viewed for only approximately ten seconds before it just "blinked out".

Later on Tuesday evening, at approximately 11:30 p.m. three people drove to Shoreline Park in the hope of finding one of the skywatch group there. Casey and Elizabeth and their friend had seen something in the northwestern sky from their home in Tiger Point. "With the naked eye it looked like a bluish white light, but through binoculars you could see that it was a central light with a dark ring around it and then a ring of seven or eight lights around that which were twinkling with a turquoise blue color, red and white," Casey told me. The witnesses called one of the skywatch group and she left her home immediately and drove to the Bayfront in Pensacola hoping to be able to view the same thing from a different perspective, thereby offering the possibility of triangulation, but she was unable to see anything. Meanwhile, the three witnesses in Gulf Breeze drove to Shoreline Park. There they were able to get a clear view of the object in the sky to the northwest, which appeared from their viewpoint at about fifty degrees elevation, putting it well above the tree line on the north-

west perimeter of Shoreline Park. "We watched it the whole time as we drove to Shoreline Park," Elizabeth told me. "When we found no one from the skywatch group there, we asked a group of three teenage girls to view the object through our binoculars, and they also saw it. While we were watching the one in the northwest, we scanned the sky to see if there was anything else interesting around and in the southwest - out over Fort Pickens there was an identical object. We were quite amazed! They looked like a plate held vertically or like a wagon wheel in the sky. They were obviously not planes or helicopters," Casey states.

Of particular interest is that the witnesses state that you could clearly see a dark space between the central light and the outer ring of lights. Whether this was a solid, dark part of an object, or a patch of sky is difficult to determine. "You could definitely see darkness between the center light and the outer ring of lights on both of these things," a witness stated.

They watched the first object for over thirty minutes and the second object out over Fort Pickens for between ten and fifteen minutes. The object in the northwest disappeared for approximately eight minutes and then

reappeared in the same position in the sky but at a slightly higher elevation. "As far as we could tell, the one in the southwest remained stationary. Also through my binoculars I saw, on the southwest, a blue beam shoot out of the left side. The only way I can describe it is like the blue of a flame from a butane lighter. It shot out horizontally to the left."

Both of the objects appeared to be the same size, and configuration, and although it is hard to judge size the witnesses determined that to the best of their reckoning they would say the objects appeared to be approximately a quarter inch or a little less across at arm's length with the naked eye. We must bear in mind that the full moon is the size of an aspirin (just under a half inch) at arm's length, and this is a good rule of thumb to use for comparison in determining the size of an object viewed by someone else.

If anyone else witnessed these sightings, please report them so that we can compare information. The hotline number to report any sightings or unusual experiences and for information on skywatches and local meeting is (904) 438-3261. Keep looking up!



Joe Howell/News-Sentinel staff

A balloon painted with an alien face marks the entrance to the spot at Cloudland Park where UFO enthusiasts gathered Saturday to discuss experiences and interests in UFOs.

UFO watchers eye Roan Mountain sky

Enthusiasts gather to compare notes

By Jesse Fox Mayshark
News-Sentinel staff writer

ROAN MOUNTAIN, Tenn. — If there's anything waiting in the skies above Cloudland Park, it's hidden by the foggy sheets of gray that give the mountaintop hiking and camping grounds their name.

But Stacey McGee, seated in a folding chair on a stone-tiled lookout deck, doesn't have to see anything to know it's there.

"UFOs are probably present all the time, but we're just not aware of it," he says in a soft, matter-of-fact voice that invites neither argument nor ridicule.

"I have felt all my life that I have been watched by UFOs," McGee, 26, a native of Lime-

stone, Tenn., is founder and national director of the United States UFO Information and Research Center in Johnson City. The center had its third annual skywatch and picnic Saturday at Cloudland.

With spacey New Age music pulsing from a small sound system and a cool breeze drifting down the mountain, McGee recounts the personal experiences that led him to found the center in 1994.

For years, he thought his earliest encounter came sometime between the ages of 7 and 10 while riding in a car. He had an urge to look out the back window, and turned to see a diamond-shaped light fixed in the sky.

"In my mind, it was as if this object and myself were in synch,"

and a woman in black biker gear show up and stand attentively at the back.

Jim Clifford, a fiber-optic cable worker for an Atlanta company, says many more people have an interest in UFOs — or even experiences with them — than are willing to talk about it.

"They're really shaken up about it deep down, but they cannot, even to their wives, they cannot open up about it," he says.

Clifford and another attendee from Atlanta, Mark Ausmus, say they're organizing a local UFO group in Georgia.

"We want to get people with Ph.D.s involved," says Ausmus, a computer programmer who can quote from memory dozens of government documents pertaining to UFOs.

McGee points to the success of movies like "Independence Day" and TV shows like "The X-Files" as evidence of the public's ongoing fascination with UFOs.

That's confirmed by Malone Young, a seasoned Roan Mountain man who wanders into the skywatch site out of curiosity. A lifelong resident of the area, Young said he hikes the mountain year-round.

"I was always a believer in that stuff myself," he tells McGee. "I grew up on Buck Rogers and all that. . . . It seems like there must be more to life than just us, don't you think?"

But McGee is careful not to overstate his case. He's pretty sure strange things have been happening just out of reach of human understanding for centuries, but he doesn't pretend to know what they mean.

"For a person to state that a UFO or their occupants are here for one reason, or the occupants themselves are one way or another, are negative or positive, is a little presumptuous," he says.

"All we can say is, they are."

(423)743-2100 - Info Hot/line

Nude Not Alien To Roswell

Penthouse Star Looks Like N.M. Movie Prop

By LESLIE LINTHICUM
Journal Staff Writer

Nude photos of a Roswell resident are featured in the September issue of Penthouse magazine, which has been a hot sales item in the conservative town.

The photo spread purports to be exclusive documentation taken by U.S. Army personnel of the autopsy of an alien recovered from the crash of a UFO near Roswell in 1947.

Penthouse publisher Bob Guccione says in the magazine that the photos were taken from 49-year-old film footage and that he obtained them from an unnamed party. He identifies them as "incontrovertible evidence" of the existence of alien life forms.

But the people who run the International UFO Museum on Main Street in Roswell recognize the naked, milky-skinned star of the photo spread as a local — the alien model that lies on a gurney in one of the museum's displays.

"We have no question whatsoever that it is the prop," museum director Deon Crosby says. "The hospital gurney, the fingers bent exactly the same, the pock marks on the face — everything is identical. Anyone can tell it's the same. We've had a lot of people calling and saying, 'That looks like yours.'"

Crosby should know. She has a copy of the thick Penthouse, filled with the more usual content of photographs of ~~naked~~ women, at her side. Buying the magazine was a first for her and many others in the Bible Belt seat of Chaves County.

"Even in Roswell," says Crosby, "Penthouse has sold out."

Joining the Roswell museum is ParaNet, a communications network devoted to the paranormal. Michael Corbin, president of the Denver-based company, compared the Penthouse photos to videotape taken of the Roswell museum display and concluded they are the same.

He devoted a radio show to the topic because, he says, "It irritates me. People are going to buy Penthouse and say, 'Oh my God, here's the smok-

ing gun.' This is the type of thing that muddies the legitimate research."

The alien autopsy model on display at the museum is a prop from the movie "Roswell," which told the story of a reported alien aircraft crash on the plains northwest of Roswell in 1947. Debris and bodies were reportedly taken from the crash site by Army officials, tested and autopsied and kept secret. The Army maintains the debris came from a fallen experimental weather balloon.

The cover of Penthouse touts "The Alien — World's First Authentic Photograph." Inside is a four-page spread of grainy close-ups of a bluish-skinned body of indeterminate gender, including one full-frontal nude shot. The magazine says the spread is "perhaps history's most important photograph." The figure has the characteristic large round head associated with most descriptions of space aliens.

Where the pictures came from — and whether Guccione was the victim of a hoax — remains a mystery.

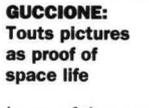
Guccione could not be reached for comment on the photos, according to his spokesman. Guccione says in the magazine that the photos come from a film taken during autopsy of the creature. They belong, he says, to the daughter of a German-born scientist who worked on secret U.S. government projects, including investigating the Roswell crash.

The scientist gave several frames of the footage to his daughter and she dealt with Guccione when she decided to make the footage public, he said.

The Roswell museum is free and open to the public and visitors are encouraged to photograph exhibits. It is also very busy. Thirteen thousand people signed the museum's guest registry during the 49th anniversary of the crash in July. Anyone could have photographed or videotaped the dummy, Crosby said.

"Pictures are taken of this little guy all the time," says Crosby.

GUCCIONE: Touts pictures as proof of space life





The Spice Rack

by Dortha Schaefer

A resident of Payne reports a strange happening on the night of July 3, the fateful night when, maybe, some alien force made a crop circle near Paulding. The next day it was discovered that all three TVs in her home weren't working well.

One in the kitchen was still usable, but the other two, one in the living room and one on the front porch, declined to operate. Later in the day, two of them started working well again, but the third one had given up the ghost.

What also seemed strange was the little trick played on her by the bedroom electric clock. It had jumped ahead an entire hour and had not been touched by human hands.

It is again working normally as before, after resetting.

Researcher finds natural explanation for Paulding's puzzling crop circle

BY AMI EDEN
BLADE STAFF WRITER

PAULDING — When a crop circle first appeared in a wheat field on Paulding County Road 126 about three miles east of U.S. 127, many believed the town had been visited by aliens. But two investigators who inspected the circle said it probably was manmade.

So were earthlings or martians responsible for the circle seen by a local pilot on July 4 in a field farmed by brothers Dan, Don, and Dave Arend?

Neither, according to William Levensgood, a biophysicist from Grass Lake,

Mich., who has spent the last seven years studying unexplained crop formations.

"The data certainly indicates that this is a natural phenomenon," said Dr. Levensgood, a member of the three-person BTL Biophysics Research Team that has created a protocol for investigating crop formations involving a series of plant and soil tests.

Preliminary tests of wheat samples from the circle revealed an 18 to 26 per cent enlargement of the stem nodes, according to Dr. Levensgood. These increases, Dr. Levensgood added, could not have been created by human beings.

James Beuerlein, a member of Ohio State University's crop science depart-

ment, and John Timmerman, a Lakeview, O., resident associated with the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, inspected the site on July 10 and agreed that the circle was probably a human prank.

Dr. Beuerlein recently announced that germination tests revealed no differences between wheat samples from within and outside the circle. However, Mr. Timmerman said, Dr. Beuerlein's tests were different than Dr. Levensgood's.

"I began by feeling that it was undoubtedly a hoax," said Mr. Timmerman, adding that he and Dr. Beuerlein had never seen a crop circle before they saw

the one in Paulding. "It was harsh to jump to that conclusion without waiting for [Dr. Levensgood's] report."

After visiting the circle, Dr. Beuerlein and Mr. Timmerman said the combination of an uneven surface and uniformly bent grains ruled out an alien landing. If the crop circle was caused by a space ship, they argued, the wheat stems would have been broken in different locations.

Before he can evaluate the theory that the circle was a natural phenomenon, Mr. Timmerman said, he will need to become better acquainted with Dr. Levensgood's work.

Dr. Levensgood said he believes a highly charged, microwave-emitting, gaseous ball, known as plasma, that fell from the sky was responsible for the Paulding crop circle.

The gaseous ball possibly was attracted by magnetic deposits or anomalies beneath the earth's surface, he added.

Nancy Talbott, BTL's spokesman and financial backer, said the group believes the plasma ball was formed in the earth's upper atmosphere and may have been caused by a meteoric explosion, air pollution, weather conditions, or changes in the ozone layer.

Microwaves from the hypothesized plasma ball created a quick and intense burst of energy that created the crop circle and caused the swelling of the stem nodes, Ms. Talbott said.

LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT, Conway, AR - Aug. 21, 1996

New series 'Dark Skies' brings more TV paranoia

By DENNIS ANDERSON
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The producers of "Dark Skies," NBC's scary alien invasion drama series, want to escape the extraterrestrial shadows cast by "Independence Day" and "The X-Files."

You wouldn't know that from the television ads that aired during the Olympics, which were all too eager to connect the success of "Independence Day" to the looming menace of "Dark Skies," set to air at 7 p.m. CDT Saturdays this fall, beginning Sept. 21.

"The comparison game is fine in that it drums up business, but I've been working on 'Dark Skies' for a decade," executive producer Bryce Zabel says.

"It's the unification theory of UFOs with one global explanation ... and the unification theory of conspiracies," says Zabel, who created the show with writer Brent V. Friedman.

The series, which weaves recent history with UFO mythology, weaves in such things as crop circles, cattle deaths and saucer sightings, along with the U-2 incident, the Cuban missile crisis and the assassination of President Kennedy.

Actor Eric Close plays John Loengard, an idealistic young Kennedy-era congressional aide. His girlfriend, played by Megan Ward, is a White House staffer who sneaks secret envelopes to Jackie Kennedy.

The New Frontier couple quickly find themselves on the run from slithery extraterrestrials and slimy agents of Majestic-12, an agency so secret even Bobby Kennedy doesn't know about it.

Or is that slithery agents and slimy extraterrestrials?

In any case, Zabel really believes there's been a government cover-up about UFOs. The cover-up, he theorizes, began with that now universally circulated 1947 incident at Roswell, N.M., the Lourdes and Mecca for UFO believers.

Weather balloon? Get out. They found a saucer, Zabel believes.

"I've read enough deathbed confessions, enough documents, enough witness testimony to feel pretty strongly about it," he says. "It makes entirely consistent sense why the government chose to cover up."

Two years after the devastation of World War II and in the opening stages of a Cold War and nuclear standoff with the Russians, how could the government



Megan Ward and Eric Close, actors in NBC's scary alien invasion drama series, "Dark Skies," are set for the series premiere airing Saturdays beginning Sept. 21. Ward plays a House staff worker and Close plays an idealistic young Kennedy Democrat era congressional aide. (AP Laserphoto)

go public about the existence of flying saucers? Zabel asks.

"They had to keep it buttoned up, and did it for good reasons, but year after year, it became harder to come clean," he says.

Zabel also really believes his show has something new and different to present about the distrust of government and our continuing fascination with strange visitors from another planet.

"Independence Day" is about aliens kicking down the front door with ray blasters," he says. "Dark Skies" is about aliens trying to come in through the back door, with guile and stealth which, to me, is a lot scarier."

And the invitation to comparison with Fox's popular "X-Files" series?

Well, the couple on the run in "Dark Skies" are not the quirky,

paranormal investigators Scully and Mulder, so adored by legions of so-called X-philes who discuss them endlessly on the Internet.

The pair played by Ward, formerly of "Party of Five," and Close, of "Sisters," are a couple of nice kids in a bad jam. Sort of a John Boy Walton and his girl go meet the monsters.

"My characters are not dispassionate," Zabel says. "They are passionately involved with each other, and with the world. I think 'Dark Skies' has a chance to be an action show with heart."

The CNN journalist-turned-TV producer believes his young couple may win audience hearts. He's done it before, writing for "Lois & Clark," the Superman-based romance about that strange visitor from another planet.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - July 31, 1996

UFO Sightings

Orange Amber Disc Sighted

by Carole Baker

I was driving from meeting other skywatchers at the Beach for dinner on my way to Shoreline Park to skywatch for the remainder of the evening. It was Saturday, 20 July 1996 at 8:50 p.m. I stopped at the gas station at the junction of Gulf Breeze Parkway and Shoreline Drive for some bottled water and then proceeded down toward the Park.

Anyone who has ever visited Shoreline Park to skywatch will be familiar with the landmarks on the left side of Shoreline Drive. I had passed the apartments, the library and municipal building and was coming upon the ball fields on my right. There is a small hill there and as I crested the hill before me in the sky I saw a large round disc. The disc was approximately two inches across at arm's length and appeared to be close by. In fact, it appeared to be over the road between the turning to Shoreline Park South and the Recreation Center on the right. The color was bright almost indescendent amber-orange. There was a distinct edge to the circle and color remained steady and strong. There was a "roiling" effect within the disc. I checked the time, checked in my rear view mirror quickly, not wanting to take my eyes off the disc. There was a car some distance back and no other cars coming toward me. I had slowed down considerably, but considering the short distance the disc appeared to be away from me, I was coming rather close to it. Since I was alone, it was my hope that I could reach my fellow skywatchers, already at the skywatch site in Shoreline Park to my south or that the car behind me was someone who would catch up to me so that I would have another

witness.

Unfortunately, after eight to ten seconds the disc disappeared in an instant. There was no sound associated with it, or it's leaving. I had both front windows of my car rolled down, since the air-conditioning does not work. The disc just "blinked out" and there appeared nothing remaining in the sky where it had been. I turned left down the hill into Shoreline Park South, I must confess at great speed, I stopped my car, leaving the lights on and the engine running and inquired excitedly if any of the ten or so skywatchers gathered there had seen it. "Seen What?" they asked. When I related the sighting, the group admitted that, as usual, they had been looking to the south, east and west, not the north. (If you have visited Shoreline Park, you'll know that there are some very annoying bright street lights along the northern perimeter of the park which make viewing in that direction almost impossible).

In discussing the sighting with the group, it reminded a couple of us of the sighting of November 21st, 1995 where several skywatchers had witnessed intense "balls" of amber light.

As for the car that was driving a short distance behind me, I lost track of it. It was not someone who was on their way to the skywatch. I feel that since the disc was so low in the sky, not a thumb-nail's height above the tree line, that the driver of this vehicle could have avoided seeing it. So, if you were driving on Shoreline Drive that Saturday evening and saw something odd, please call the hotline.

To report a sighting or unusual experience, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. Keep looking up!

Penthouse to publish 'genuine' alien photo (And, yes, it did pose in the nude)

HAS Penthouse publisher Bob Guccione fallen prey to one of the oldest hoaxes in modern history? Or has the man simply lost his mind?

In an attempt to capitalize on the current UFO craze, Guccione will publish in his upcoming September issue of Penthouse magazine, what he claims are the "first photos of an actual alien!"

To promote his controversial magazine's 27th anniversary issue — which hits newsstands next week — Guccione paid an undisclosed sum (rumored to be anywhere from \$50,000 to \$200,000) for three photographs allegedly taken by the U.S. military in the late 1940s of an apparent autopsy of an alien from outer space.

available for free viewing by surfers on the world wide web.

"I am absolutely 100 percent convinced in their authenticity," Guccione told The Post yesterday in an interview.

"I am convinced that these are genuine photos, but the government will never admit it because to do so would acknowledge a coverup of the existence of life beyond our solar system," said the publisher who compares the importance of his three space-creature pictures to the equivalent of finding an "actual photograph of Jesus Christ hanging on the cross."

Guccione claims that the pictures are "snippets" taken from a secret military film of an actual autopsy of an alien in the late 1940s after an alleged spacecraft crash in Roswell, N.M.

The pictures, Guccione told The Post, were sold to him a few months ago by the daughter of a "German scientist" who secretly worked on the Roswell project. He said, "due to death threats she has received," the seller of the photos must remain anonymous.

Meanwhile, sources at the National Enquirer say they

turned down similar pictures recently. Those shots, however, were black and white not color like Guccione's.

The timing of Penthouse's publication of the alleged alien autopsy photos, comes on the heels of the current UFO craze that is sweeping the nation.

In recent weeks, both Time and Newsweek and other media have published extensive stories on investigations into the possibility that the Earth has been visited by life forms from outer space, not to mention the record-breaking success of the new blockbuster motion picture, "Independence Day 4."

Due to the "sensational" nature of the alien photos, Guccione has not only upped the print run of his September issue by 500,000 additional copies, but each and every copy will be enclosed in a special "peek-proof" shrink-wrapping.

Asked if the alien photos will be featured in his magazine's famous centerfold spread, Guccione said, "No. But I can tell you the alien IS nude."

The alien issue comes during difficult times for Guccione.

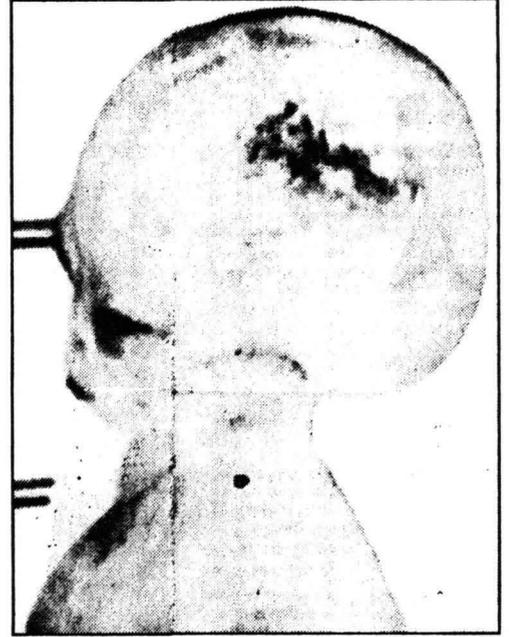
At the beginning of the year, he was forced to shut down two of his respected mainstream titles — Omni and Longevity — and fire dozens of staffers.

His own auditor said the Guccione skin trade empire was in danger of collapsing, and showed its first losses in 31 years, hitting \$9.47 million last year.



BOB GUCCIONE
A believer.

The auditor, Grant Thornton, also gave an ominous warning just three months ago that Guccione's company, General Media Inc., may face difficulty continuing "as a going concern."



EARLESS ALIEN IN TOPLESS MAG: Financially challenged Penthouse tycoon Bob Guccione Sr. claims this is the Roswell alien.



Maureen O'Brien is the author of the article 'Warning: Sightings at UFO museum' in the Daily Record.

Guccione says he completely believes that the photos are real, despite sources who say the so-called "alien" pictures are totally bogus and have been floating around for years and are currently

"I am convinced these are genuine photos, but the government will never admit it."
BOB GUCCIONE

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - July 5, 1996

Warning: Sightings at UFO museum

ANDY GROSS
RECORD STAFF WRITER

Giving new meaning to the term alienation, Roswell UFO Encounter '96 began in earnest Thursday with at least 615 persons visiting the International UFO Museum & Research Center.

"We're busy," said museum volunteer Pearl Stoll, "it's getting bigger and bigger each year. It's bringing a lot to Roswell."

As the popular book says, men may be from Mars, and women may be from Venus. But according to Stoll and fellow volunteer Paula Allen, visitors from the museum can be from just about anywhere — except outer space, at least for now.

"We get some strange looking people coming through here," Stoll said with a laugh, "but they're all from earth. We even got people from Hong Kong."

Witness Douglas Chan, who hails from Hong Kong and was visiting Roswell with his sister Candace.

"I read about UFOs 20 years ago and what happened (in Roswell) and I always wanted to see the crash site," he said, while adding he believed in extraterrestrial beings, but noted he doubted aliens advanced enough to travel across time and space would suffer a mechanical problem and crash.

While some of the 600-plus visitors came in conjunction with UFO Encounter '96 activities, and others came out of curiosity or as a stop on the road to other places, there was a unifying

theme. **To be in the UFO Museum on July 4 was to be among the believers.**

"I believe there is something there. I'm coming more and more to believe it," said Allen, who has been at the museum for the last year and a half.

Ditto for Shelley Fallon, an artist who designs UFO posters and creates UFO sculptures. Wearing a pair of silver boots that looked like they might have been purchased in another galaxy, she said she based her designs on an actual sighting she said she witnessed at age 9 in Charleston, Rhode Island.

"Oh yes, without a doubt I

PROGRESS, Paulding, OH - July 17, 1996 CR: J. Hamm



A reliable source reports that UFOs are not new around Paulding. She says many have been sighted in the past years hovering around the huge pit north of town.

believe," Fallon said, while describing the sighting as both frightening and fascinating.

John Sam, and his 12-year-old son Kris who hail from Pahrump, Nevada, were also at the museum Thursday. To hear them tell it, the trip was something of a bus man's holiday for the two.

"We see a lot of weird things in Pahrump," John Sam said. "Yeah, a lot of it," Kris echoed, while mentioning he and his brother had seen a "ball of fire."

John Sam said he did not think it unusual that Roswell would use the UFO culture as a tourist attraction.

"I don't think it's a selling point," he said with an edge, while adding his wife had "experienced an abduction."

Indeed, Kris Sam said he was busy studying the artists renderings of aliens because he was "trying to help my mom see the one she's seen."

The Roswell International UFO Museum & Research Center will be open from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. today and Saturday, and will begin new hours Sunday.

According to director Deon Crosby, the museum will be open daily from 11 a.m. till 5 p.m. beginning Sunday.

It's only a movie (isn't it?)

■ Aliens are among us in this summer's mega-blockbuster hit film, 'Independence Day.' It's a premise that some people accept as fact, not fiction.

By GREGG PATTON
Sun Staff Writer

As box office receipts would attest, millions of people seem to love the new science fiction fantasy "Independence Day."

It is also true that many more are viewing it as something other than pure fantasy. They would tell you it is fiction based on fact. In other words, they believe the premise that there are aliens among us.

Here on earth, these people are known collectively as the UFO community. These are people who do research, seek encounters or simply believe in the existence of extraterrestrial visitors. And they are definitely among us.

Some of them like the movie. Some don't. But most of them are seeing it from an angle that non-believers never consider.

"This movie just touches the tip of the iceberg," said Dave Aaron, who may be the foremost UFO-ologist in the Inland Empire. "There's much more out there the movie doesn't get into."

"But it may be a way for the government to prepare us if, God forbid, something like (an invasion) was to occur."

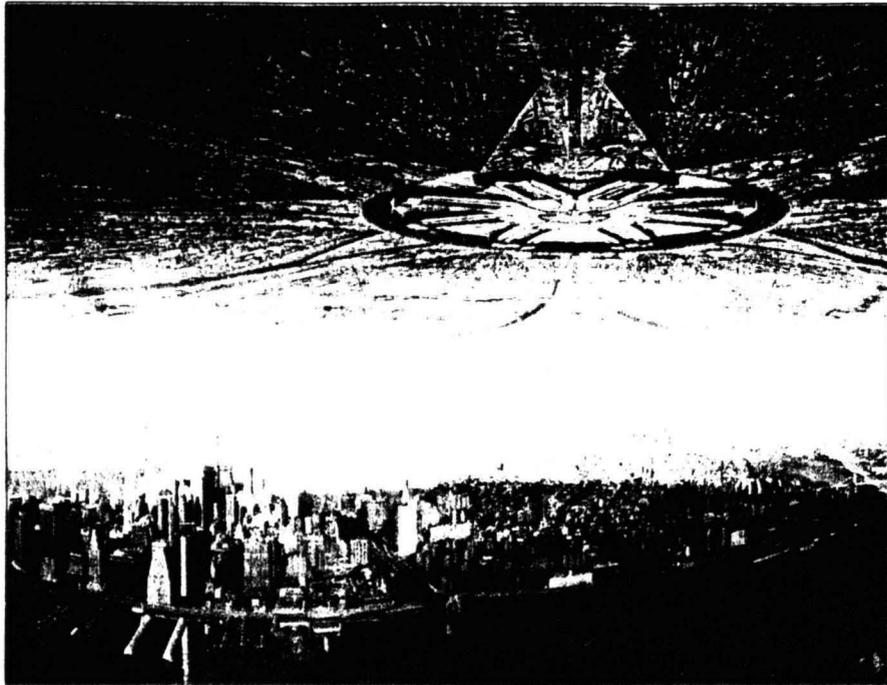
Aaron is also known as "Video Dave." Out of his Yucaipa home, he runs the UFO Audio-Video Clearinghouse, a business that has provided video footage of alleged UFO sightings to hundreds of TV and Hollywood films, documentaries and news programs. Aaron, 53, dates his interest in UFOs to his own contact with a strange craft 32 years ago.

He is a believer who turned his hobby of collecting videotape (49,000 hours, he says) of sightings into a business. "Independence Day" has been a financial bonanza to him — he assisted eight pre-movie projects for various television shows as the hype built up.

"People call me a UFO expert," says Aaron, adding with an ominous grin. "I say, 'It's not me. It's the guy who's driving.'"

The movie has generated a tremendous amount of Internet activity, too, partly because UFO phenomena is already one of the Net's hottest chat topics. The search engine Infoseek turned up 635 Web sites devoted to UFOs. Yahoo, another Web page locator, found 173 sites.

Dozens and dozens of Net articles from UFO buffs lampooned the movie, pointed out factual errors, urged a boycott and critiqued it. One writer



New York City receives an unexpected visitor in 'Independence Day,' this summer's blockbuster film.

'ID4' offers sci-fi sense of deja vu

By SUSAN WLOSZCZYNA
Gannett News Service

Did the new E.T.-goes-ballistic blockbuster "Independence Day" seem familiar to you?

It should.

From hovering spaceships ("Close Encounters of the Third Kind") to mid-air battles (the "Star Wars" trilogy), "Independence Day" is as dependent on references to other sci-fi films as it is on mass destruction.

The most obvious: When Jeff Goldblum logs onto his laptop and the readout announces, "Good Morning, Dave." The homage is to HAL, the computer in "2001: A Space Odyssey."

More difficult to catch is Goldblum's steal from "Jurassic Park" — "Must go faster" — when he and pilot Will Smith escape through the mothership's narrowing exit.

Explains Goldblum, "We tried a bunch of

stuff like, 'Hey, come on. It's closing,' and 'Go, go, go.' (Producer-writer) Dean Devlin eventually said, 'What is that thing you said in "Jurassic"? Do a little of that.'"

As for the imitation HAL voice, that's Goldblum, too. Other in-jokes:

■ The "virus" that hits the invaders is a twist on the bacteria in "The War of the Worlds."

■ Randy Quaid's booze-loving crop duster borrows from "Airplane!" when he says, "I picked a hell of a day to give up drinking." Plus, his flyboy heroism recalls Slim Pickens' nuke ride in "Dr. Strangelove."

■ The prone Statue of Liberty apes "Planet of the Apes."

■ Goldblum's motion sickness and his swaggering stroll through the desert with Smith is straight from "The Right Stuff."

But one gag is "Day's" own. The credit disclaimer: "No animal or alien was harmed in the making of this film."

hinted at a conspiracy — a subliminal campaign directing Americans into theaters for an insidious, unknown purpose.

One Web page, the Area 51 Research Center, was inaccessible because of the overflow of movie-generated traffic one week after the movie opened. Seekers were urged to "try tomorrow."

Area 51, of course, plays a prime role in the movie. In the UFO community, Area 51 is known as the U.S. Government's worst-kept-secret military base. Located 90 miles north of Las Vegas, the very real but officially unacknowledged base attracts legions of civilian visitors who

are curious about "dark" military testing, UFO activity or a combination of both. For years, they have scaled nearby ridges to peer into the facility.

Ralph McCarron of Sherman Oaks is a film editor, an independent video producer and an Area 51 expert. He says he is "looking for the needle in the haystack" by monitoring activity at the base, rumored to be a collection area for crashed spacecraft. The "needle" is irrefutable, hard evidence of aliens. He says he works with other researchers who are pilots, military people and aerospace workers.

"There are plenty of loonies

in the UFO field," said McCarron. "I'm not a loony. I check out everything I hear."

As for the movie, he said, "Kids love it — it's a special effects movie. But it's hard for me. The story is weak and the Area 51 stuff is very lame."

In a way, though, he said, the popularity of the movie may help his cause — getting the government to reveal everything they know about contacts with other civilizations.

"Polls tell us that 50 percent of the people think the government is hiding UFO information," he said. "For the UFO community to be taken seriously, (that support) helps."

John and Sue Candelaria, a Yucaipa couple who recently bought property in Rachel, Nev., near the Area 51 site, are also believers. They claim to have spent numerous nights watching the skies there and have not been disappointed.

"The first night we were out there, we saw something going around and around and it wasn't a plane or a helicopter," said Sue Candelaria, who said she and her husband have followed discs and been followed by discs.

"Some people make fun of you when you tell them. But so many people believe in UFOs now that I don't worry about it anymore."

Said John Candelaria, "I know we're not alone. I'd bet my life on it. The universe is too big."

The Candelarias liked the movie — as entertainment. But John, a Caltrans employee, thought it was too bad the government "hasn't told what it knows about alien technology because the spacecraft in the movie were using our physics, not theirs. I've seen (craft) stop on a dime and turn at right angles."

And Sue wasn't happy that they depicted the aliens as being aggressive, earth-destroyers.

"That would mean they're like humans," she said. "When I'm (in Rachel) watching the sky, it's really beautiful. I don't feel any fear of them."

Using the Good Guys vs. Bad Guys theme, of course, is stock Hollywood method. It provides conflict, drama and a satisfying resolution. UFO buffs love pointing out the obvious discrepancy: With the technology to come here, aliens could have destroyed us long ago. UFO buffs don't see aliens as purple people eaters.

Lloyd Cotter, 74, of Grand Terrace, describes himself as a "semi-retired psychiatrist" who has made contact with an alien species called "small grays" through patients he has treated. He claims his patients have used out-of-body techniques to visit other worlds, exchange places with aliens and communicate with them. He says "grays" are benign, even protective of humans. Thus, he dismissed the movie, which he doesn't intend to see, as "of little value. We shouldn't be afraid of what's portrayed."

Just as he isn't afraid of skeptics from the scientific community from which he comes. He "expects ridicule," he says. But he adds, "Not all scientists are so hard-shelled that they refuse to believe everything they can't see or measure."

When it comes to "Independence Day," of course, most of the measuring seems to be in the millions of dollars. The only thing for sure is that the ticket costs the same whether you believe or you don't.

Patton is a Sun staff writer. Readers may write to him at The Sun, 399 N. D St., San Bernardino, Calif. 92401, or fax to (909) 885-8741.

Butte crop circle is still drawing interest

By GREG WEES
News Regional Editor

Interest continues to grow in a crop circle that sprouted Sunday night in a Boyd County barley field.

County Sheriff Duane Pavel has been contacted by national authorities who have re-

searched the enigmatic phenomenon.

One of the researchers, Joe Nickel of Buffalo, N.Y., sent a fax to the sheriff summarizing his book's contention that all crop circles are man-made.

But Pavel said he is sending samples of the barley and soil

to another man, W.C. Levengood, a retired professor from Grass Lake, Mich., who takes the opposite view. Levengood's claim is that such circles are largely the products of an unknown form of atmospheric energy.

And another professor, from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, plans to visit the site west of Butte to collect samples, Pavel said.

Motorists are also stopping to see the circle, which is on private land. Souvenir hunt-

ers have caused some destruction of the circle, too, Pavel said.

The sheriff said he has an open mind on what occurred in the field.

"As of Tuesday night, I have received two reports from people 13 or 14 miles apart about the lights and noise they heard Sunday night" in the vicinity of the crop circle, the sheriff said Wednesday.

Someone at the Butte golf course heard a noise similar to an engine revving. As the indi-

vidual drove away from the course, she saw in the distance two big lights with two smaller lights underneath, Pavel said.

That report corresponded with that of another motorist, who looked in his rear-view mirror to see lights.

"He thought a combine was going to run over him," Pavel said. But the lights disappeared.

UFO Sightings

UFO formation sighted over Gulf Breeze

By Carole Baker

On the night of Thursday, June 6, 1996, a group of ten regular skywatchers were gathered at their usual observation spot in south Shoreline Park, Gulf Breeze. It was a very pleasant evening with extremely clear skies. Everyone was commenting on how clear the atmosphere was and how many stars could be seen that evening. We were all wishing someone had brought out their telescope. It was around 68 degrees and there was a 5-10 mph wind from the south-

west. There had been very little aircraft activity during the evening.

At approximately 9:05 p.m. a skywatcher noticed an extremely bright white light which she first thought to be a satellite, about five degrees above the horizon to the southwest. The light was very bright, pure white and about an eighth of an inch across at arm's length. Further observation seemed to rule out the satellite theory. The object appeared lower in the sky than most satellites observed from this position, was

larger and brighter, and was travelling in a direction that was extremely unusual for a satellite.

Other skywatchers got the object in focus through their binoculars and one person noticed another, dimmer light in front of the bright one. In fact, there were eight dimmer lights in front of the bright one. These appeared to be flying in a formation which spanned about forty degrees of the sky at one time, strung out in a row. Flying from the southwest to northeast, these objects passed directly overhead of the skywatcher's position. The objects were equally spaced, appearing approximately three inches apart at arm's length with the first eight appearing as smaller, or dimmer, and the last (ninth object), larger and

brighter. These were clearly observable as individual objects flying in formation, not lights on a huge object, since the stars around them could be clearly seen as they passed, and there was no visible connection between them. The dimmer lights were lost to view as they entered the "noise" from the lights on the north side of Shoreline Park, but the bright light stayed visible until it was lost from sight, passing below the tree line to the northeast. All observations of satellites have involved them "dimming out" as they pass out of the sun's rays and into the umbra of the earth's shadow. This was clearly not the case here.

This was a very unusual sighting for Gulf Breeze and everyone witnessing it was very excited to

have seen it. The distinct impression was one of a "formation flight" with eight smaller craft escorting a larger one. It took four minutes for the larger object to pass from five degrees above the southwestern horizon to the point where it was lost to view behind the treeline in the northeast.

If anyone else was "skywatching" on this evening, possibly looking at the stars and planets with a telescope, and happened to catch this array within their view, please let us know.

To report information of this or any other sighting or unusual experience, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. Keep looking up!

On June 12 at approximately 10:40 p.m., a good three weeks before anyone had seen the summer sci-fi blockbuster, "Independence Day," some light appeared in the sky over Lemon Grove and Spring Valley that no one has yet been able to identify.

A half-dozen witnesses say they saw a metallic-looking object that glowed in varying degrees of intensity. A small band of lights around the circumference moved in a rotating sequence. At one point, the object glowed so close and bright that the witnesses could not look straight at it.

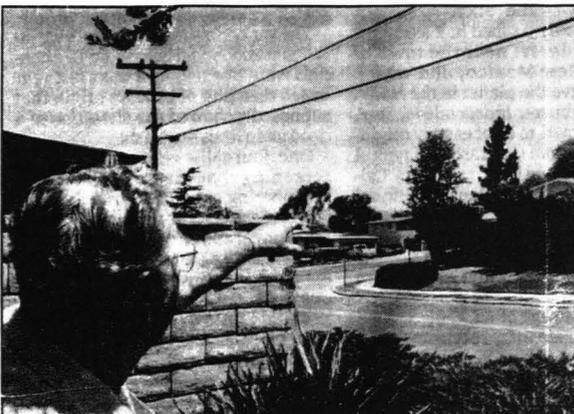
Plotting the reports that came in to local television stations and the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network — MUFON — San Diego hotline, the orb seems to have flown from a point over eastern Lemon Grove to Spring Valley and then southward where it was spotted by San Ysidro residents.

MUFON investigator Eric Herr, an inventor who's lived in the Rolando neighborhood west of La Mesa for the last 30 years, has been interviewing witnesses about the June 12 incident. Was it a private airplane? A miniature hot air balloon? A trick of the light?

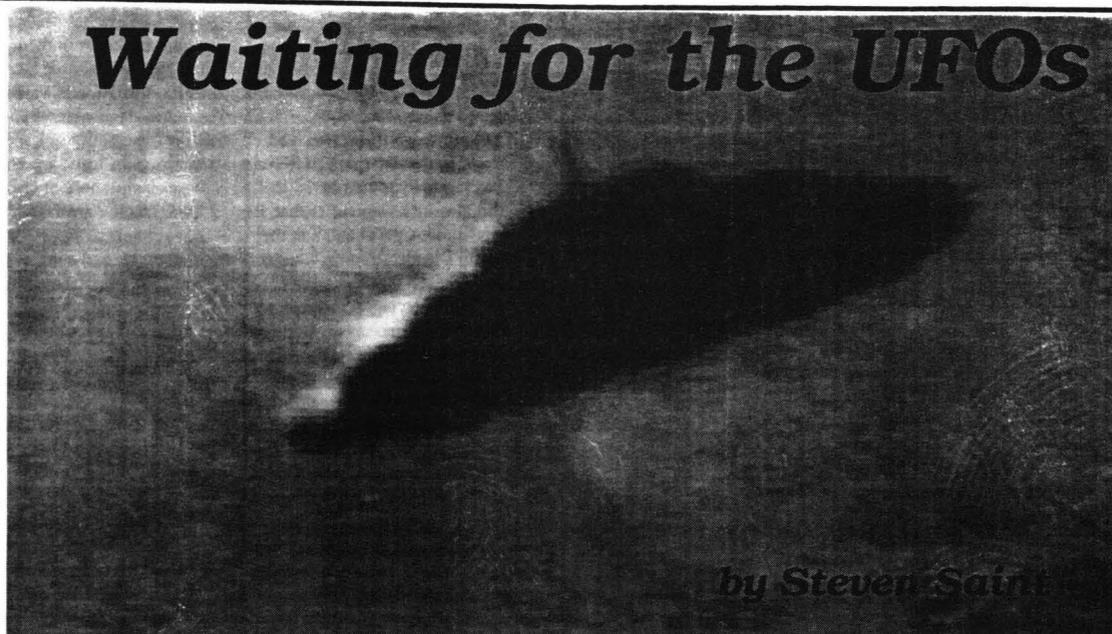
Until someone figures that out, the phenomenon will remain an "unidentified flying object" — a UFO. East County has had plenty of UFOs over the past 30 years, perhaps more sightings than any other part of San Diego County.

"We get consistently good reports from Spring Valley," says Herr, whose reports are eventually sent to Dallas, Texas, home of MUFON, a grassroots association of science-minded people willing to investigate UFOs in their spare time. "I've often wondered why Spring Valley should have virtually all the reports from San Diego County."

CE I The June 12 UFO sighting falls into the category of "Close Encounter of the First Kind," a term coined by the late astronomer J. Allen Hynek in his book, *The UFO Experience*. Hynek was hired by the Air Force in the 1950s to help explain the growing number of UFO sightings. Hynek and his academic colleagues were able to trace the various reports to normal events such as Venus, weather balloons, conventional aircraft and pranksters.



Bill Gilchrist remembers seeing two orange orbs over Lemon Grove in 1966.



Waiting for the UFOs

by Steven Saint

When the Air Force team couldn't explain at least one-fourth of the sightings, Hynek believed it was only scientific to continue documenting UFO phenomena. The Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) in Evanston, Ill., has been databasing investigations for almost 25 years.

A Close Encounter of the First Kind (CE-I) is a visual encounter within 500 feet. There is no interaction with either the environment or people, something like Bill Gilchrist's sighting in Lemon Grove 30 years ago.

Gilchrist still lives in the house a stone's throw from Monterey Heights Elementary School. It was after sundown on Dec. 19 when Gilchrist noticed his dog was barking excitedly in the backyard bordering Canton Drive. He went out the front door and headed around the house.

From the corner of his yard, he saw two orange orbs hovering in the sky somewhere beyond the school. It was hard to tell how far away they were. They were perfectly stationary, about the size of tennis balls, one at a slightly higher elevation than the other.

Gilchrist says he called to his wife, Fay, to come out and see. She joined him and they decided quickly to find some binoculars. By the time they glanced up again, the objects were gone.

Gilchrist says he didn't mention the experience to anybody due to the numerous kooky stories in the media. But soon after, he read about a woman in Las Vegas asking people to report their sightings to her. He called the number listed in the paper and told his story,

which somehow ended up in the database at Hynek's CUFOS.

"I wish I could tell you I saw rings around the globes, but I didn't," he says. "They didn't move and I couldn't tell if they were two blocks away or 15 miles."

Gilchrist has seen a lot in his time. He was a private pilot from 1952 until his mild stroke in 1988. After a brief stint in the Navy during World War II, he served in the Army's Counter-Intelligence Corps during the Korean War. Nowadays, he spends months bird-hunting in Mexico.

He knows the difference between red and green running lights, landing and taxi lights and rotating beacons. He's seen the tricks light can play, reflecting off low scud in random patterns as the uneven clouds sail past.

"I'm not a UFO buff and I think a lot of these stories are brought on by too many piña colodas or the tenth beer of the night," he says. "I can tell you what I saw for that 1 1/2 minutes was not like anything I'd ever seen before or after."

Other known CE-Is in East County include nocturnal lights over Spring Valley on Nov. 25, 1974 (a ruby-red mass of lights flying west, dropping three oval-shaped objects) and lights over La Mesa on Aug. 16, 1978.

More intriguing, perhaps, is the CE II: close encounters that leave physical evidence to study and measure. When Eric Herr heard bright lights had been seen on June 12 near Crane Street in Lemon Grove, it came as no surprise. The most famous

UFO in East County landed near Crane Street in 1973.

CE II Judy Fergus grew up on Crane Street but had moved out to her own place in Ocean Beach when she heard the news. Her mother, Harriet Midose, called excitedly about a spacecraft landing in the field behind the Von Willer's house.

Fergus went right over. The Von Willer house, now owned by a Native American



Judy Fergus revisits the site of Lemon Grove's 1973 "crop circle" on Crane Street.

lady named O'Brien, had a swimming pool in back bounded by a waist-high, red brick wall. Beyond the wall was a large field that opened to the north behind a four-plex of pink bungalows and ran down the hill to the nursery on Sweetwater Road.

Judy ran down to the field through the high grass, almost as tall as she at five feet. There she saw the circle, a place where the grass was matted down in a counter-clockwise swirl.

Apparently the other night, Nov. 16, 1973, two 11-year-old boys living in the pink apartments were out playing in the field. As they passed a clump of bamboo,

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9 - REVIEW, Lemon Grove, CA - July 11, 1996)

they encountered a dark, disk-shaped object about 12 feet in diameter with a round dome on top. They watched it for about five minutes and then one of them — Daniel Flemming or Richard Thiel — rapped on the thing with his flashlight, producing a metallic sound.

Suddenly, red light poured out of the dome on top and the object started to rise out of the grass. A row of green lights began to blink around the perimeter and the rotating object made a sound the boys described as "wooo shooo wooo shooo."

They ran, panicked, feeling like their legs were under water. The object flew off to the south.



Carolyn O'Patry and Bob Hairgrove hope to use high-powered flashlights, tapes and good vibes to flag down a UFO.

Fergus' mother lost her TV reception around 7:20 that night. The phone went dead. MUFON member Eric Herr, on the scene within days, confirms that nine neighbors reported TV static at that time. However, a second MUFON investigator, Don Carr, could not find any residual magnetism on the nearby chain-link fence or piece of pipe in the field.

Herr says the swirl in the grass was not as impressive as the two D-shaped holes, six inches wide and six inches deep.

Fergus remembers it differently. She discovered that if she stood by the swirl and threw her father's nails at the metal top on the Von Willer's back fence, they would stick like magnets. (If she missed, the nails went into the pool, prompting Mrs. O'Brien to tell them to stop throwing things.)

Men in suits were combing the Midose cellar, looking at the phone wiring. Fergus recalls they identified themselves as UFO investiga-

tors from Oklahoma. She also remembers stories that the electrical box across the street from the Von Willers had caught fire and caused the power problems. She said sheriffs had reported seeing the craft on Sweetwater Road.

Herr says a couple nights later, three Crane Street residents reported a second landing. This time it was a small, metallic saucer about three feet in diameter with legs some 12 feet long. One witness said the lower half of the probe would become transparent or invisible every 30 seconds or so, as the lights from the nursery down the hill would periodically shine through.

Twenty-three years have

passed and the grass behind where the Von Willers and O'Briens lived is still matted. Crane Street will soon be plowed under to make way for Highway 125.

"I didn't talk about it for a long time," says Fergus. "What really jarred me was seeing my first crop circle on TV. Then I remembered that field. It was exactly what had been behind the Von Willers."

CE III

Hynek called reports of contact with UFO occupants "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," the term borrowed by Steven Spielberg for his famous film. While stories of abductions have become increasingly popular in the last 10 years, neither MUFON nor CUFOs have any reports of contact in East County.

Bob Hairgrove and Carolyn O'Patry would like to change that. They are members of the

Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence — CSETI (pronounced "See-setty") — a group determined to make contact with whatever's out in that sometimes wild blue yonder.

Hairgrove and O'Patry both decry the war-like aliens portrayed in "Independence Day," preferring Spielberg's earlier film visions of harmonious first contact and the lovable extra-terrestrial, E.T. Their quest for a CE III has taken Hairgrove to the wilds of Dulzura and Joshua Tree, and O'Patry to Area 51.

Hairgrove is a freelance title investigator living in La Mesa. As a child, he remembers seeing a triangular light drop out of the Arizona sky beyond the horizon. He ran in to tell his parents he'd seen a falling star.

In the early 1990s, he read about triangular-shaped UFOs and suddenly remembered that shooting star. Soon after that, he read about CSETI and met the group's leader, trauma-ward surgeon Steven Greer.

"We're trying to make contact," Hairgrove says. "In the past, people were passive, wondering about what they'd seen in the skies. Now, we're signaling back."

Hairgrove and company conduct "field work" in which they spend the night in a remote area, sending out three types of signals: sound, light and thought. The sound is usually a tape recording made during the formation of a crop circle (a sound which O'Patry describes as a like a cuckoo clock). The group uses high-powered flashlights to signal. They also perform "thought sequencing," in which they visualize the galaxy, the Earth and their position on the globe.

Hairgrove says these night excursions usually produce anomalous lights, not unlike the First Kind encounters of June 12. They've even had a stationary light repeat back to them the flash pattern from one of the flashlights. But no contact.

If it ever happens, Hairgrove says he's ready to leave friends and family and climb on board.

"I would have no second thoughts," he says. "I would not do it for selfish reasons: it would be to help mankind learn more and open a bridge. Someone needs to step forward and if I had the opportunity, I would."

O'Patry's urge to step forward



Suspicious about secret activity in Area 51 went ballistic in 1993, when the government annexed another 4,000 acres of desert to keep the public away from Groom Lake.

took her from her home in Jamul to Area 51, a rumored secret military installation in the middle of the Nellis Air Force Range 95 miles north of Las Vegas.

The name "Area 51" comes from designations on old maps of the Nevada Test Site. There is a base on the shore of Groom Dry Lake that the government does not publicly acknowledge. Experimental aircraft such as the U-2 and SR-71 have been tested there.

O'Patry heard about it on a radio program out of Las Vegas. On Nov. 21, 1989, a physicist named Bob Lazar claimed he worked in an Area 51 installation called S-4, where he was hired to help "back-engineer" a captured alien spacecraft.

Lazar said the disk was equipped with three gravity amplifiers which allowed the craft to bend the time/space continuum and travel vast distances in a short time. He and his team were to replicate the technology, and Lazar got so excited, he eventually broke his secrecy oath and told a few close friends. When his superiors learned of the breach, Lazar decided to go public rather than disappear.

O'Patry drove out to Rachel, Nevada, soon after the radio broadcast, back before Rachel's Bar & Grill was renamed "The Little A'le' Inn."

Her 1991 trip was more eventful, meeting Area 51 celebrities like Lazar. Bill Cooper and Norio Hayakawa at a symposium at the Inn. The group went out at sundown to the lone black mailbox marking the turn towards the hills and the restricted border.

O'Patry rode out with Cooper, who claims he uncovered a One-World conspiracy while working in naval intelligence in the early 1970s. The CIA, Council on For-

eign Relations, Trilateral Commission and aliens are all involved. Cooper stopped just short of where the road crossed government warning signs to film and shoot pictures.

About 8:30 p.m., Cooper had failed to find the public access road that runs in closer to Groom Lake, so he parked by a cattle feed station and prepared to hike. Suddenly, O'Patry felt the urge to turn around. She heard a brief rumbling sound from the south, over the Tikaboo Valley. Was it thunder?

"Without any further sounds, I saw four star-sized lights instantly appear in a vertical row — one after the other — just below the cloud cover," she says. "Just as suddenly, they appeared to be four bright-orange, moon-sized disks moving towards us."

Cooper was shouting and they fumbled with cameras and binoculars. Another set of three objects appeared to the right, becoming bright orange as they came near and then headed down over Tikaboo. A new object appeared, fading in and out of view as it crossed the sky. As it seemed to swing in an orbit overhead, another light appeared from the opposite direction. The two objects seemed to merge before zig-zagging out of view.

O'Patry returned to her job at the El Cajon Courthouse, resolved to be an ambassador of goodwill should a UFO actually make a CE III contact. Since then, she's appeared on "Encounters" and "The Other Side."

"If you're coming from fear — which is where 'Independence Day' is coming from — you'll attract that," she says. "My fantasy is when the spaceship lands and they say 'Take me to your leader,' we'll say: We are the people! We are the leaders!"

NEWS SENTINEL, Fort Wayne, IN - July 10, 1996

UFO, like one in Berne, spotted in Fort Wayne sky

From Staff Reports

An unidentified flying object similar to the one spotted in Berne on Saturday was seen in Fort Wayne on Tuesday morning.

Karen Evans, who lives in the Time Corners area, said she was locking up her house about 1 a.m. when she saw the object. It had twinkling red, blue and white lights, she said.

"It was just kind of hovering way up in

the sky. I was waiting for it to move, but it didn't. It was just hanging there," Evans said.

On Saturday, Dawn Sprunger of Berne reported to police that an unidentified flying object with red and blue lights followed her while she was driving home. The UFO later was seen by her father, three police officers and Berne Mayor Blaine Fulton, who captured it on videotape.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Aug. 15, 1996

Roswell UFO of 'earthly origin'

The Daily Telegraph

LONDON — The "alien" spacecraft that supposedly crashed half a century ago in the desert near the town of Roswell, New Mexico, and which helped to save the planet in the Hollywood blockbuster *Independence Day*, has been shown to be of earthly origin.

Wreckage from the crash is of typical terrestrial composition, said Larry Callis, a scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory, who analysed the fragment for the Roswell UFO museum.

His tests showed there was a roughly 50-50 mix of copper and silver in the fragment.

Most significant of all, Callis used a technique called mass spectrometry to find the ratio of two forms of copper that showed the metal is the same as that found on Earth or in the rest of the solar system.

"From a theoretical viewpoint, one would expect material from another solar system would not necessarily have

the same ratio," he said Wednesday. "I sort of expected it to be terrestrial."

The study confirms the metal's earthly composition and how some TV channels were taken in by a hoax last year based on a film of obscure origin that supposedly showed the dissection of a dead alien from the crash.

One journalist wrote after a secret screening that the Roswell story is "clambering out of the bizarre underworld of the cults and into the realm of the rational and verifiable world."

The metal fragment was found by military personnel investigating a mysterious crash outside Roswell on July 4, 1947, said Deon Crosby, director of the Roswell International UFO museum and research centre.

The U.S. Air Force has said the wreckage was remnants of a spy balloon.

The crash inspired *Independence Day* where the refitted Roswell craft was used to infect invading ships with a computer virus.

CR: G. Conway



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

CHRONICLE, San Francisco, CA - Aug. 18, 1996

The Extraterrestrial Invasion of Brazil

A UFO sighting by three young women has shaken up a rural city northwest of Rio, where some residents are shining in the spotlight and others are hiding in shame

By Jack Epstein
CHRONICLE FOREIGN SERVICE

WHILE AMERICANS flock to see a simulated alien invasion in the movie "Independence Day," Brazilian UFO experts are convinced that real extraterrestrials descended on an obscure rural city last January.

Varginha, located 180 miles northwest of Rio in the state of Minas Gerais, emerged from its obscurity after residents reported seeing a gray, submarine-shaped object the size of a mini-bus flying overhead and later encountered two "creatures" on Earth.

Brazilian ufologists, as they are known here, say the first extraterrestrial was spotted near a forest, being led away by six city firemen.

Five hours later, three young women on their way home from work discovered the second ET huddled against a brick wall. The women ran in terror.

As a result, this coffee-producing center of 120,000 residents has been besieged by UFO enthusiasts and Brazilian and foreign journalists.

"Everybody knows us," said a Varginha office secretary. "When we say we are from Varginha, they say 'Oh, the ET city.'"

At the center of the media storm are the three young women: Liliene Fatima Silva, her sister Valquiria, and Katia Andrade Xavier. Recently, they began charging journalists for interviews.

Each has told investigators, that the space visitor was three feet tall with chocolate-colored skin, no nose or mouth, rubbery limbs, bulging red eyes and three horns protruding from a massive forehead. They also reported a strong stench oozing from its oily skin.

"It's what we call circumstantial proof but it is very compelling," said Irene Granchi, founder of the Rio-based Investigative Center for the Nature of Extraterrestrials and author of "UFOs and Abductions in Brazil."

"Their statements were never contradictory."

Ubirajara Franco Rodrigues, director of the Brazilian Center for the Studies of Flying Saucers, has spent the past six months investigating the

base, where it later died. The military then transported the corpse by convoy to the city's Humanitas Hospital, where it was examined by a team of doctors.

Rodrigues, a Varginha lawyer, says the above scenario is based on taped interviews with firemen and soldiers, who participated but disagree with the coverup.

"To show that proof exists, we sent copies of the tapes to selected journalists," he said.

"Fantastico," a popular Sunday night television show, aired one of the witnesses with an altered face to protect his identity.

Colonel Luiz Cesario da Silveira Leite, a spokesman for the Eastern Military Command, has told reporters that the accusations are "absurd" and "ridiculous." He says the troop convoy that day was merely delivering army vehicles to a garage for maintenance.

Hospital administrators have told reporters that the body in question was the exhumed corpse of a university student who had been arrested for robbery and committed suicide in his cell. His family had demanded an autopsy.

Yet the official denials haven't

stopped city fathers from cashing in on Varginha's new fame.

Mayor Aloysio Ribeiro de Almeida said he would host an international UFO conference and would support a move to convert the city into a permanent center for extraterrestrial studies. There is even a plan to build a park in the creatures' honor.

"ET has been great publicity for us. With the right promotion, we could become the UFO center of

Pontas, Boa Esperanca and Sao Tome das Letras, where residents claim a giant hole near the town leads directly to a thriving civilization at the center of the Earth.

Despite Ribeiro's plans for promotion, he concedes that he worries that the ET incident will turn Varginha into the laughingstock of Brazil.

"There are signs that it already has. On 'Big Stick and Planet,' a program that regularly pokes fun at poli-

"ET has been great publicity for us. With the right promotion, we could become the UFO center of the Americas," said Varginha Mayor Aloysio Ribeiro.

the Americas," said Mayor Ribeiro in a telephone interview.

Varginha is located in a region that for the past 30 years has been a mecca for UFO buffs.

There have been hundreds of sightings of "discos voadores," or flying saucers, in such southern Minas Gerais towns as Campanha, Tres

and Brazilian society, a new character called ET Varginha speaks with the slow drawl of a Minas Gerais native, likes regional food and pretty women and is followed everywhere by bumbling soldiers.

When a local mystic predicted that Varginha would suffer some kind of Armageddon later this year because of its harsh treatment of the extraterrestrials, a popular mini-series incorporated the theme.

In "The End of the World," a seer with "cosmic powers" envisions the end of the world in a small town where an enterprising mayor plans to build a tourist hotel next to a cave allegedly formed by interplanetary visitors.

The comedy program "Out of the Way" depicted a scene in which a male apartment building employee is kidnapped by an extraterrestrial and impregnated. When he returns with a protruding belly, one of the tenants screams: "Call the army, call NASA. First, ET Varginha, and now these extraterrestrials are reproducing their own."

Finally, for Brazilians who dislike the slate of politicians offered later this year in municipal and state elections, a nascent campaign is under way to write in the name - ET Varginha.

Rodrigues scoffs at these jabs, calling them "juvenile coverage." In the following months, he says he will try to persuade one of the members of the military detail that participated in the coverup to go public.

"We will not let this case die," he vowed, "no matter where it ends."

ESSEX CHRONICLE, Chelmsford, England - March 22, 1996

Mid-Essex is UFO hot spot

MID-ESSEX is recording a surge of mystery aircraft sightings to the Essex UFO Group.

Chairman Ron West listed Chelmsford, Braintree and Witham areas as particularly frequent for reports.

Other reports have come from Silver End, Great Bardfield, Great Saling, Hatfield Peverel, Wickham Bishops and Burnham.

Mr West said: "Since November 15 we have had reports by 183 people of objects. We have had a steady build up of objects across Essex. I have been

doing this since 1950 and recording figures for 15 years. This is the busiest year ever."

The hottest weekends recently were February 10-11 and 17-18, when 80 mysterious sightings were recorded from people in Chelmsford, Great Leighs, Writtle, Great Baddow, Broomfield and Galleywood.

At similar times, Braintree and Witham reports included claims that a craft was hovering

above houses.

Mr West said most people described a circle of eight white lights with a ninth in the middle.

Others reported a craft with three massive yellow lights, or two red lights. Most people said it hovered without any noise, and was spinning anti clockwise.

Mr West said most sightings were made in the late evening although one was at 1.10pm on Sunday, February 18.

The latest reports to be recorded occurred in Braintree on March 2 and March 9.

"They usually just disappear instantly, or shoot straight up into the hemisphere," Mr West said.

His group investigates claims, analysing any video tapes, contacting the police, civil airfields and military bases: "We usually get a standard reply - that they have nothing on radar," he said.

Mr West would like people to report any sightings on his hot-line 01787 223306.

DAILY MAIL, London, England - March 30, 1996

The MoD man and some close encounters

By SEAN RAYMENT
Defence Correspondent

A SENIOR Ministry of Defence official has confirmed the existence of UFOs, it was claimed yesterday.

Believed to be a member of the RAF, he was coaxed into appearing on a TV documentary by investigator Jenny Randles.

In a programme to be shown on BBC2 next month, the official reveals how some case reports of UFOs over Britain consistently defy rational explanation.

Last night, a BBC source said the programme, UFOs - Britain's Secret Files, would shock sceptics.

"It becomes apparent there are now people at the highest levels of the Government who have not discounted the possibility of life on other planets," he added. The programme also features a former head of a

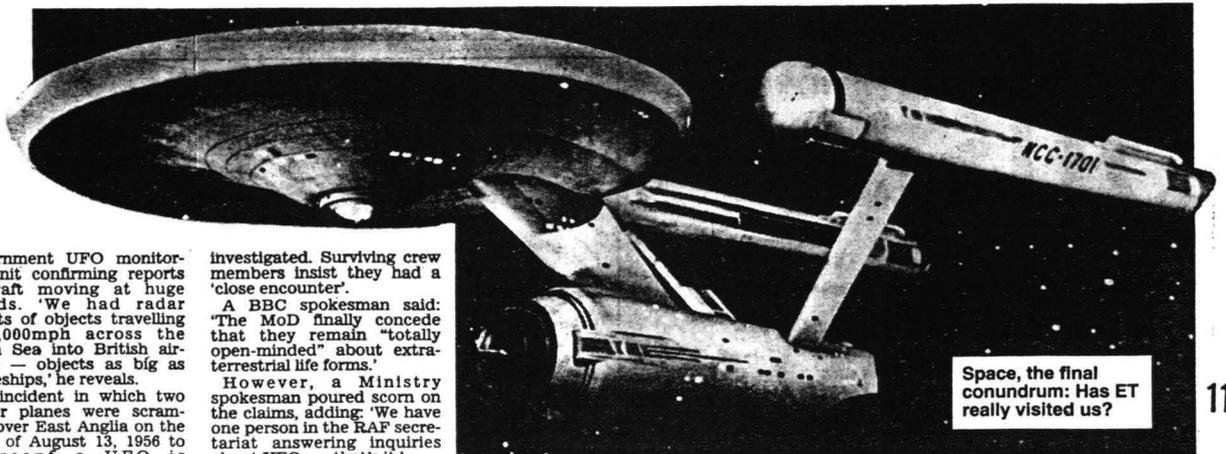
Government UFO monitoring unit confirming reports of craft moving at huge speeds. "We had radar reports of objects travelling at 4,000mph across the North Sea into British airspace - objects as big as battleships," he reveals.

An incident in which two fighter planes were scrambled over East Anglia on the night of August 13, 1956 to intercept a UFO is

investigated. Surviving crew members insist they had a 'close encounter'.

A BBC spokesman said: "The MoD finally concedes that they remain 'totally open-minded' about extraterrestrial life forms."

However, a Ministry spokesman poured scorn on the claims, adding: "We have one person in the RAF secretariat answering inquiries about UFOs - that's it."



Space, the final conundrum: Has ET really visited us?

Close encounters

THERE WAS no spooky Edgar Allan Poe fog clinging to the marsh the day the world changed for the Templeton family.

May 23rd, 1964 was a bright, but sunless, Sunday - a fine day for an afternoon by the Solway seaside. A good day indeed for camera buff Jim Templeton to take a photograph of his five-year-old daughter in her pretty new dress.

As young Elizabeth said "cheese" on Burgh marsh, Jim could see the cooling towers of Chapelcross atom plant across the water.

Only Annan's four chimneys hogged the background. Nothing else - or so Jim thought.

Little did he know that his new Kodachrome spool had captured "The Solway Spaceman"; that his Carlisle home would soon be the haunt of hungry newshounds.



● Retired firefighter Jim Templeton and his daughter Elizabeth returned to the spot on Burgh Marshes this week where the picture featuring the "spaceman" was taken in 1964.

Astonished

"When I went to pick up the photographs, the manageress said it was a lovely one of Elizabeth but who was the big fellow," Jim recalls.

"I told her it could not be my photograph. I was absolutely astonished. There was a figure in it beside Elizabeth. It was uncanny. He was wearing exactly the same kind of gear Neil Armstrong would later wear when he landed on the moon.

"When I had it blown up it was all the more convincing. When I showed it to the security officer at the fire brigade, where I worked, he was speechless.

"It was sent to a forensic laboratory in Preston and the cheeky remark that came back was that the fellow who took it should be locked up for causing alarm and despondency.

"The implication was that I had faked it, which is nonsense. I got it into the press and it spread like a bush-fire through the papers.

"I made very little money out of it, although it was in the world's newspapers."

Scientists, ufologists and all manner of "cranks" homed in on the Solway marshes from all over the world. Even spiritualists hassled the Templetons and people would chap on their door to get Jim's autograph.

There was speculation that the location of the spaceman had something to do with Chapelcross, something to do with the fact that a tracker station, television masts and the rocket testing range in Cumberland were nearby.

One day Jim, who is now 76, had to ask for an hour off his work with Carlisle City fire brigade, to deal with "the men in black."

Snooty

Many people who have had a brush with the paranormal have had visits from sinister-looking men all dressed in black. It is all a matter of public record.

Jim told *Dumfriesshire Newspapers* the tale of two dark-suited figures in bowler hats who asked him if he would accompany them to Burgh marsh.

"They came to the station in a big limousine, a black Jag, and asked to see me. They were very tall, about the same size as the man in the photograph.

"They were mature, but it was difficult to tell their age. They were stand-offish and snooty. I showed them the marsh and one of them asked me 'Is this where you saw the spaceman?'"

"I replied 'Excuse me, we did not see anything'. They then went away and left me to find my own way back to Carlisle, six

The day the world changed for the Templeton family

Reporter Andy Murray reopens the Solway UFO casebook

miles away. They obviously did not want to give me a lift back. Strange."

There was something even stranger; within hours of the Templeton's afternoon out on Burgh marsh the countdown of a Blue Streak test-rocket at Woomera in Australia was abruptly put on hold.

The reason: a figure exactly the same as the one Jim had snapped was seen in the firing area. One of the men drew what they had seen on a matchbox and not long afterwards the photograph of Elizabeth was on the front page of an Australian newspaper.

Strange, too, was the aborted flight of a rocket at Spadeadam on the day the Templetons went to the marshes.

Jim says: "Mention UFOs and all they will do is laugh at you. I think there must be something out there. I have an open mind, but there was no jiggery-pokery in the photograph. It was genuine."

A huge enlargement of Jim's colour print is a tourist attraction in a pub in the lonely village of Glasson across the firth from

Annan, and many people from as far afield as New Zealand have been sent copies.

The riddle of the Solway Spaceman will live on. But Jim is stoical about the whole affair. He has since held conversations with wizened haaf-net fishermen, who have seen "strange things in the sky at night."

Jim is always a bit apprehensive when he returns to the marshland. He looks over his shoulder in case anything uncanny appears.

His daughter, Elizabeth Dobson, who lives near Longtown, does not dwell on the incident.

Selfish

She said: "We got a lot of hassle from people like you, but I was really young and can't remember much."

"I think it was somebody from another planet. It is pretty selfish of us to think that we are the only intelligent form of life."

The Templetons had no inkling that Sunday, May 23rd, 1964 would change their lives - that it would lead to a suitcase full of letters and press cuttings.

Huddled

In hindsight Jim remembers only one unusual thing about the afternoon of the close encounter on the marsh.

Every other time he has visited Burgh marsh in May to take photos, there have been sheep scattered across his line of vision.

That day they were all huddled together out of the way, frightened-looking. Jim ventures: "It was as if they could sense something funny was going on."

EDGWARE MILL HILL & KINGSBURY TIMES, England - Feb. 8, 1996

Bus stop pensioner spots UFO hovering overhead

Retired accountant Allen Austin got more than he bargained for on a shopping trip.

by JEREMY KAY

Mr Austin was waiting for a bus in New Barnet, at 5.40pm on Thursday when he spotted a cluster of bright lights in the sky.

The celestial bodies were still hovering in the Heavens when he got home so Mr Austin borrowed a friend's binoculars for closer inspection.

"It was a wedge-shaped series of white lights with a black line through them," said Mr Austin, 77.

"They sat motionless for at least an hour then five turquoise oblongs

emerged. Then it disappeared. It was certainly not a star.

"I don't believe in UFOs but I have to say it was one of the most extraordinary things I have ever seen."

Last week a report published by the Civil Aviation Authority confirmed a close encounter between a British Airways passenger jet and a wedge-shaped UFO at Manchester a year ago.

All reported sightings are investigated by the Ministry of Defence. A spokesman said there were usually logical explanations.

BURTON MAIL, Staffs., England - March 2, 1996

Heavens above! Another sighting

REPORTS of strange lights in the sky over Swadlincote followed similar sightings in the heavens above Burton.

Police are adamant stargazers who spotted a bright white light above Tutbury

at about 8pm on Monday were actually looking at an unusually clear view of Venus despite claims the light was moving.

Now a Swadlincote witness has come forward with an account of a weird

aircraft spotted above the South Derbyshire town at a similar time.

The observer, who declined to be identified for fear of being branded "crazy," said he spotted the egg shell-coloured machine through his lounge window at 8.55pm on Monday.

He said: "I was a military man for 15 years so I know what an aeroplane looks like and I'd never seen anything like this before."

"If you imagine what an aeroplane would look like from underneath and then turn it on its side, that's what I saw."

"It was some considerable distance away and I couldn't guess at the size but it was moving at a tremendous speed."

Police today reiterated radar operators at Castle Donington's East Midlands Airport saw nothing suspicious on their screens covering South Derbyshire and East Staffordshire on Monday.

BURY TIMES, Lancs., England Feb. 16, 1996

Caught! OAP's UFO

UFOs hovering in the skies over Bury were caught on video by a quick-thinking pensioner.

Mr Harry Senior of Parkside Walk is the second person to come forward after witnessing the phenomenon on February 4.

Last week we reported how Suzanne Irvine saw two silver saucer-shaped objects hovering 200 yards from her Whitefield home.

But whereas she spotted the mysterious objects in the early morning, Mr Senior saw them at 5.30 in the afternoon.

He said: "I had just gone in the garden to put some nuts out for the birds when I caught

sight of the lights. I ran in to get the video camera because I wanted proof of what I had seen."

The video clearly shows a bright circular object hovering from side to side and occasionally 'flaring' like a jellyfish. A second smaller object can be seen beneath it.

Mr Senior, who said he was more curious than scared by the experience, said: "I have never seen anything like it before and I do not usually believe in these sort of things."

He added: "They were too high to be lights and too low to be stars."

GAZETTE, Clacton, England March 8, 1996 Lights mystery

STRANGE lights which were spotted in the sky over Clacton were visiting UFOs, it has been claimed.

Ron West, of Essex UFO Research, said eight people had witnessed a dome-shaped object between 11.15pm and midnight on Tuesday.

The flying object was said to be the size of a small family car and had yellow lights around its centre.

Two people in Marine Parade East, three in Palister Road, one in High Street and two in Jaywick reported the sightings to Mr West.

He urged anyone who saw the lights on Tuesday or witnesses any other such sightings to call 01255 431391.

It's life, Tim - but not as

we know it



Timothy Good - "I don't enjoy speculating"

FROM concert violinist to best-selling UFO researcher, Timothy Good's career has been extraordinary - but could he be about to change the world as we know it?

Of course it is easy, too easy, to dismiss Good's firm belief in an alien presence on Earth as utter bunkum, until you read the amazing wealth of intelligence documents, accounts from former military officials and multi-witness reports of UFO sightings which lend extraordinary credibility to his work.

Career of former King's pupil is simply out of this world...

The man once described as a "maniac" in *The Spectator* began his career as a musician with a violin scholarship at the King's School in Canterbury in 1956.

"It was a lot tougher than it is now, with beatings and God knows what else - but I don't regret my time there.

"Musically it was fantastic, it was certainly the leading public school in terms of teaching and talent. I think the school is more interested in sport now."

In 1959 he won a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music and went on to become a member of the London Symphony Orchestra for 14 years.

He has toured with many other orchestras, along the way working with great conductors and composers including Leonard Bernstein, Benjamin Britten, Igor Stravinsky and Sir William Walton.

These days, he is more likely to be heard in the pop charts. His work as a session musician has seen him

strike up with the likes of Blur, East 17, Pulp, U2, Chris Rea, Placido Domingo, Def Leppard and Bad Boys Inc. in the last year.

His interest in the possibility of extraterrestrial visitors was seeded in 1955 when a cousin, aware of his obsessive interest in aviation and space, lent him a book on UFOs by Major Donald Keyhoe.

"I was immediately impressed by the fact there were so many reports by military and civilian pilots and air traffic controllers who were able to confirm a lot of the sightings on radar.

"Keyhoe himself had excellent sources in the Pentagon who could confirm all this was real, it was really happening. I haven't looked back since."

Good's books, too, concentrate on reports by qualified observers. The latest, *Beyond Top Secret* published in April, has about 110 reports by pilots all over the world.

The author's objective, often cynical, approach has won respect from sources more likely to scoff at anything remotely connected with the subject - and now he is convinced about ETs.

"There is no question. For decades the US intelligence community denied it had any interest in UFOs, whatsoever.

"Suddenly, under the Freedom of Information Act, thousands of documents have been released by all those agencies that denied they ever existed. They admit they are still withholding

Matt Silk's Face to face - People worth talking about

other documents in the interests of national security. That in itself should raise questions."

"With sufficient pressure from the media there will be announcements in the near future. The tabloids continue to sensationalise the subject and this reflects on the attitude of the broad-sheets.

"But I've been pleased to see a slight change of attitude over the last year or so. *The Times* reported quite objectively on the British Airways pilots who had a near collision over Manchester in 1995."

The vast stockpile of evidence detailed in his other books *Above Top Secret*, *Alien Liaison*, *Alien Contact* and *Alien Update* has led Good to conclude there are several different groups, or species, of aliens involved, some of whom have been coming here for thousands of years.

"I don't know where they are coming from - certainly more than one origin.

"I am convinced they have bases in our solar system and in several places on Earth. As to what they are doing, I can only speculate - and I don't enjoy speculating."

Beyond Top Secret is published by MacMillan on 26 April.

The truth is out there . . .

Prove me right, pleads UFO expert Paul

UFO expert Paul Taylor has had his work cut out lately, with no less than three sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects in the past month.

Paul, who lives at Ampleforth Gardens, Radcliffe, has been recording unexplained phenomena for the past three years.

A member of the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association, Paul (34), keeps a record of all sightings in the area.

And, he says, the latest close encounters could just be the tip of the alien iceberg.

Two weeks ago, mum-of-two Suzanne Irvine spotted two saucer-shaped objects close to her home in Mather Avenue, Whitefield.

On the same day, pensioner Harry Senior of Parkside Walk, Bury, caught a similar mysterious object on video. Just days later on February 20, the object appeared in the sky again and Mr Senior was able to make a second video recording.

Paul, who is also a keen astronomer, described the tapes as "very interesting".

He said: "The films are very similar. The recordings are very clear and they both show a round, bright object which seems to 'flare' like a jellyfish. I've not seen anything like it before.

"I will be logging my observations with the BUFORA headquarters in Manchester."

Paul's interest in the unknown began when he was a child. After reading numerous books on the subject, he began to keep a cuttings file on all the incidents reported in local newspapers.

He said: "It is something I have always been fascinated in. I think it is ignorant to believe that we are the only living creatures in the galaxy."

Paul's own experiences with the unknown date back to 1992, when he was on holiday in Spain with his wife, Sharryn.

Said Paul: "Myself and my wife were walking along the beach in Magaluf when something swept across the sky. It was a large, brown, boomerang shaped object. There were no lights but it sped across the sky as quick as a flash.

"We just stood there in amazement for a while - we couldn't believe what we had seen."

The second incident occurred two years later. "I was with my sister at her house in Limefield Road, Radcliffe, when something outside caught our eye," said Paul.

"It was a glowing red sphere, about the size of a beach-ball and it was moving down the road. It was hovering about three feet off the ground and when it got to the end of the road it shot up at a 45 degree angle and disappeared into the sky - it was very strange.

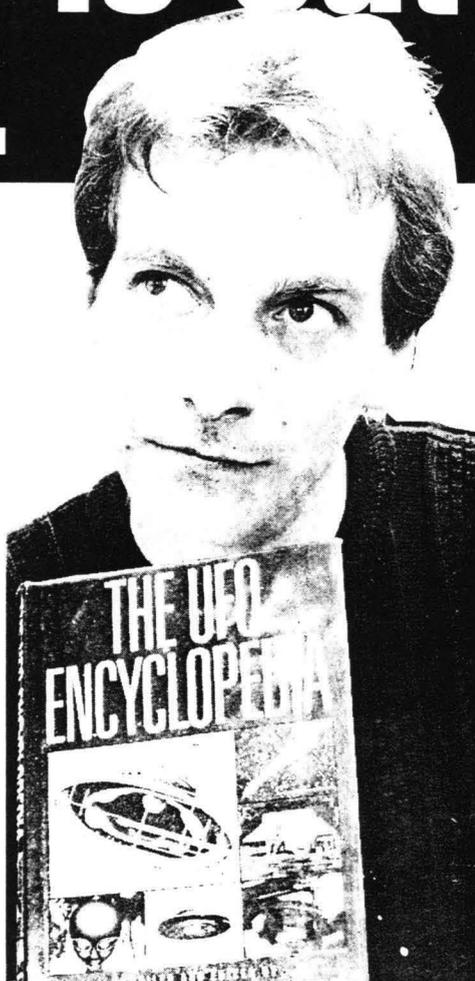
"I can't explain what it was, but perhaps it was a probe of some kind."

Paul plans to continue his research until someone can convince him 100 per cent that his theories are true.

Said Paul: "Some people say I must be a loony but I remain broad-minded.

"I do believe there is life on other planets but I am waiting for the day when someone will prove me right."

If anyone would like to get in touch with Paul, he can be contacted on 0161 280 3397.



● Paul Taylor: There must be life on other planets

BURTON MAIL, Staffs., England
March 30, 1996

Spy base 'UFO' WORKERS at Britain's biggest spy base were baffled by the sighting of a UFO.

Employees at GCHQ in Cheltenham, Glos, watched amazed as two bright lights flew silently over the base yesterday.

Ruby Hoare, a security guard at the base, said it was like a scene from the TV series *The X-Files*.

"We just looked at it. We weren't frightened. We were just amazed," she said.

"It had two very bright lights. They were in a line behind each other and they seemed to be part of the same object because the distance between them never changed."

Skywatch fans spot two UFOs

A RASH of UFO sightings has left skywatchers baffled.

A "V-shaped craft" with about 20 lights on its flanks was spotted by Southend couple Mike and Kay Rose, at about 8.35pm on Wednesday.

The couple, of Bournemouth Park Road, were watching the comet Hyakutake when they saw the craft.

Mick said: "It looked like a formation of ducks, but crossed the sky from east to west in about five seconds."

Hawkwell woman Barbara Cook, 67, of Heycroft Road, claims she saw a UFO at about 9.15pm.

She said: "It was a terrific bright light, and looked like the head of a prawn, with light coming off it in arcs."

Rayleigh astronomer Royston Dean, from the Astronomy Resource Centre in Hawkwell, is baffled by the sightings. He said: "I am at a loss to explain them. The second one could be the comet which is in the north-west, but I just don't know. It's a mystery."

● A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to clearly see the comet is being offered by the centre in Hawkwell for the next few nights.

Anyone interested in a closer look at the comet is more than welcome to go down to the Centre and use their telescope.

SOUTHEND EVENING ECHO, Essex, England - March 29, 1996

EX-COP CLAIMED HE WAS KIDNAPPED BY ALIENS

WHEN former police officer Philip Spencer set off across Yorkshire's Ilkley Moor on the morning of December 1, 1987, he was stepping into a UFO mystery.

He took with him a camera to photograph the town from the moor tops, and a compass as a precaution against the weather.

Half an hour into his walk, something caught his eye. He spun around and saw "a small green creature". The being ran into a quarry cut into the top of a hill.

Identity cards

Before it disappeared behind an outcrop, Spencer brought up his camera and took one photograph. Then he saw a silver disc-shaped object rise rapidly into the air and disappear into cloud.

He immediately returned to town where a further shock awaited him. It was much later than it should have been. Almost two hours was missing from his life.

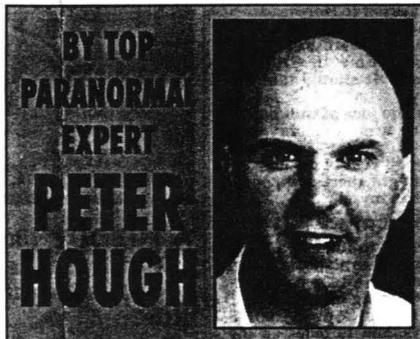
I immediately orchestrated a full investigation into what some construed was a hoax. But the witness had no apparent motive.

He insisted we keep his identity secret, and has never sought to make any money from his story — even though it was on offer.

The photograph was examined by Kodak which verified that the negative had not been tampered with. Spencer discovered that the polarity of his compass was reversed — it now pointed south instead of north.

Scientists at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) found that this could only be brought about by someone with specialist scientific knowledge, which Spencer appeared not to have.

When clinical psychologist Jim Singleton



hypnotised him to relive the experience, it was discovered that during the "missing time", Spencer had been abducted and examined by several of the beings in a white room. Jim told me, "He described things typically as someone would recall a past event. I think I've helped Philip recover memories that were hidden deeply in his mind."

Denied

Several weeks after the incident, two middle-aged business-suited men arrived at his house.

They showed him identity cards with the letters "MoD" printed across the top.

Underneath were photographs of the men, with their names, Jefferson and Davies. They wanted to interview Philip about his UFO experience.

Spencer's wife verified

the men's presence, so I wrote to the MoD for their comments on the matter.

They denied that their agents were involved, but ignored my query regarding the men's names. This is one of many cases involving "bogus" officials.

In 1976, a young receptionist called Shelley had a UFO experience near Bolton, Lancashire. Two weeks later, two official men arrived at her house and bullied her for over four hours, finally warning her to keep quiet about the sighting.

Her parents witnessed the interrogation by these "officials". Despite the constant denials, are government agents investigating UFO cases?

In 1978, when the Freedom of Information Act was passed in the USA, hundreds of documents were released proving that government agencies had carried out investigations into UFO incidents, at a time when they had vociferously denied it.

British ufologists believe that a similar situation exists here. But Britain has no FOIA.

On Thursday, April 11, at 8 pm, on BBC2, a new six-part series on the unexplained begins. It

A new six-part BBC series alleges secret government departments are treating these 'X-File' cases seriously



UFO expert Jenny Randles who appears in the new series.

kicks off with a half-hour documentary entitled "UFOs: Britain's Secret Files" and features ufologist Jenny Randles.

Jenny interviews Nick Pope who, until recently, was chief executive officer of Air Secretariat 2A at the MoD.

Contacts

He confirms that department's continued interest in UFO activity, as does Ralph Noyes, former under-secretary for Divisional Secretariat 8.

The programme also throws new light on a classic case. In August, 1956, multiple radar and visual contacts were made of round, white,

rapidly-moving objects that abruptly changed direction over East Anglia.

American Air Force personnel at RAF Bentwaters in Suffolk made the first radar contacts. The information was passed to RAF Lakenheath, 15 miles north-west of Bury St Edmunds, who reported a bright light travelling at "terrific speed" over the base.

Two RAF Venom night-fighters were scrambled and a cat-and-mouse game ensued. But the UFOs easily outmanoeuvred the aircraft and eventually disappeared when they seemed tired of the game.

Ralph Noyes remembers the incident well — "We had radar reports of objects travelling up to 4000 mph across the North Sea into British airspace, as big as battleships. We made every effort to investigate, but we never found out the truth."

No doubt

In the programme, Jenny tracks down one of the pilots, and the navigators from both aircraft.

She told me, "There is no doubt that they thought they were dealing with something highly unusual."

"Soviet spy planes kept out at sea and flew at an altitude of around 30,000 feet. These objects

were overland at under 5000 feet!"

Some American ufologists believe that their military is adapting alien technology from crashed UFOs for use in aircraft.

Are UFOs spacecraft piloted by extraterrestrials? What are we to make of abductions, like the case on Ilkley Moor, where witnesses are apparently taken and examined by alien beings?

Answers

I have been involved in this subject now for over 20 years. For the last three, I have been working with a psychoanalyst in a study of abductees. As each year passes, the answers are harder to find, not easier.

Some researchers have sought to explain cases away in terms of hallucinations.

Like most theories, it makes some sense, but is not a blanket explanation. Hallucinations cannot be tracked on radar, nor can they be photographed.

People cannot have identical hallucinations. The idea that we are being visited by ETs seems by some to be too obvious, too easy.

Official cover-ups are probably nothing more, and nothing less, than cover-ups of ignorance. They don't want you to know that they don't know the answers either.

SKIES ARE ALIVE WITH THE SIGHT OF UFOs!

FROM Balmoral Castle to a British Airways flight deck — they've been experiencing close encounters of the strange kind.

Britain has been having record sightings of UFOs. One group of UFO watchers, Skysearch, is so convinced that the intense activity in our skies is leading to an actual landing, that they are setting up alien "welcome centres" in the south of England this summer.

Christmas tree

One of the strangest encounters was reported recently by the Civil Aviation Authority after a year-long investigation into a bizarre sighting by two British Airways pilots.

They were approaching Manchester Airport last January in their Boeing

737 when suddenly, at 4000 feet, a strange wedge-shaped object lit up like a Christmas tree flashed soundlessly by the plane's right side and vanished at astonishing speed.

The craft swept past so closely that one of the pilots actually ducked.

The two pilots radioed a near miss but the CAA could find no explanation for what they saw.

But so many other people have reported seeing the same V-shaped craft, and other UFOs in the skies above a strip stretching from Birmingham to north of

Manchester, that the area has been named the Pennine Corridor by UFO spotters.

It joins the Bonnybridge Triangle near Glasgow as a hotspot of UFO activity.

Silent Vulcan

A UFO was recently reported over Balmoral Castle and aircraft controllers in the area confirmed sightings of strange wedge-shaped craft lit up like a Christmas tree.

The triangular-shaped craft, known as the Silent Vulcan, because it looks like an old RAF Vulcan bomber, has been reported all over Britain, along with other weird objects which look and act like no recognised aircraft.

STANDARD, London, England

April 1, 1996

UFO zooms in for oil check

SAUDI observers claim to have seen a UFO near the country's second largest oil refinery.

"I thought I was dreaming," said one of a group of people camping north of the Gulf coast city of Jubail.

The witnesses said the area was bathed for minutes by a brilliant oval blue light which disappeared "in an unnatural fashion".

DEFENCE | Investigations assess threats 'from whatever source'

'UFO office' probing reports of mystery sightings

By RICHARD BETTSWORTH

Defence correspondent

It's an investigation Jim, but not as we know it.

The Ministry of Defence has admitted it has its very own X-files team which deals with reports of UFO sightings — but denied that it carries out any investigation beyond assessing whether there is a defence threat.

The two-man team in the MoD main

building in London goes under the title Secretariat (Air Staff) 2A but is nicknamed 'the UFO office'.

According to the latest edition of *RAF News*, the office receives about 200 to 300 reports of unexplained aerial sightings a year but dealing with them represents only part of its RAF administrative duties.

A statement said that the MoD remained vigilant to any 'potential threat from whatever source'.

"It is in this context alone that reports

of unexplained aerial sightings are looked at in order to establish whether what was seen might have defence significance," it said.

"If no threat is discerned — and in connection with UFO sightings this has been the case in all instances to date — no further attempt is made to investigate or establish exactly what might have been seen."

The report said the MoD 'remained open-minded' about UFOs and the existence of extra-terrestrial lifeforms.

But it 'knew of no evidence which might substantiate the existence of such phenomena'.

Steve Gerrard, chairman of Southampton UFO Group, said that over the years the MoD had become more open on the subject of UFOs.

"At one point they would not even say that this department existed. But they have become more open."

"They seem to be more helpful and when you send them letters now you tend to get a fuller reply," he said.

Alarming increase in UFO sightings

UFO sightings around Tamworth have increased alarmingly in the last year according to a report by the Birmingham UFO society.

The report, released last week, said before 1995 there has only been one sighting of a UFO near Tamworth in the last 20 years - of a hoop shaped object, about 8 inches in circumference, which disappeared after a few seconds.

Sightings

But there have been three sightings since mid-1995 within a few miles of the town.

The society's report said in September, a large ball of light was seen by a Miss S. and two others in Amington.

The ball descended and witnesses saw a triangular object, slightly higher than a lamp-post, with three lights on each corner and two across the middle.

It made no noise and seemed to move towards them before shooting off.

Binoculars

Also in September, a Mr N. in Riverside, Tamworth was watching jets through binoculars on a

clear morning, when he saw a small silver disk hovering above a Boeing 757.

The disk remained stationary while the plane passed by, then after three minutes it accelerated away.

White beam

Finally an object with lights on, emitting a white beam, was seen in November near junction 7 of the M42 travelling very fast.

"It made no noise and seemed to move towards them" - report of UFO spotted over Amington in September

AT 1.12 am on Monday I had just completed typing several reports and glanced out of my study window which has an unobstructed view to the west of Hove.

I was amazed to see what appeared to be a small bunch of flashing lights.

Thinking it may be some reflection on the window, I opened it fully and leaned out. The lights were still there in the sky and were fast approaching from the south-west.

I watched, fascinated, for about two minutes until they were almost overhead. I could then see that there were two contra-rotating rings of multi-coloured lights

around a dimly lit centre.

The whole thing was then about the size of a tennis ball at arm's length.

Quickly, I took my binoculars from a cupboard and viewed the object again. However, apart from being bigger, no more detail, could be seen.

A minute later it disappeared from view as it passed over the house.

I ran downstairs and into the back garden and saw that the object had changed direction to due north. I watched it for another two minutes until

it disappeared over the Downs towards Mid Sussex. At no time was it emitting any sound.

As a former flying officer and police officer, I am the Sussex representative of Quest International, the largest international UFO research association in Europe. I would be most interested to hear from any other witness of this object, or anyone else who has had other recent interesting sightings or experiences.

John Clark
31 Goldstone Lane,
Hove



Riddle of the car and the blue light

Couple puzzled by mysterious sighting

By Andrea Boase
NEWS REPORTER

MYSTERY surrounds an incident in which a shocked couple watched as their car was circled by a ball of blue light.

Jean Iveson (65) and her husband Gordon (65) were driving home to Easington at 12.30am on Monday after visiting friends in Kingston upon Hull.

The couple saw a blue light flashing, but not moving from its position.

Suddenly a ball of blue light headed for their car as they neared the village of Welwick, near Patrington, Holderness.

"I was watching it flashing on and off to the left of me as Gordon was driving," said Mrs Iveson, of Hull Road, Easington.

"It didn't move. I don't believe it was an aeroplane.

"All of a sudden Gordon shouted 'What the hell's that?' and this ball of light came straight in front of the car and lit it up.

"We were shocked, but not frightened. Within a second it just disappeared.

"I remember thinking, well, do I feel any different?, but I didn't and neither did Gordon."

Mr Iveson said the light was the size of a coconut when he first saw it passing his windscreen.

"It came from the left and gave off a blueish tint and shot



NIGHT PUZZLE: Jean and Gordon Iveson who witnessed a strange blue light in the sky as they travelled home late one night.

Picture: KEVIN LADDEN

off above the house rooftops, giving off a blue flash as it went," he said.

A Ministry of Defence RAF spokesman confirmed the sighting was a mystery. "We do have some RAF night flights, but very little at the weekend and they wouldn't flash blue lights or fly so low.

"All I can say is it does seem to be a complete mystery."

John Holman, UK co-ordinator for Operation Right To Know, which tries to persuade

the Government and the military not to keep suspected UFO sightings secret, admitted the incident was unusual.

"Blue lights are significant in many UFO sightings and I have a pilot friend who said they are not used by aircraft.

"If Mr Iveson's estimation is correct and he saw it near his windscreen it is very unusual and would seem to be a UFO.

"The fact it had some sort of interaction with the car is fascinating."

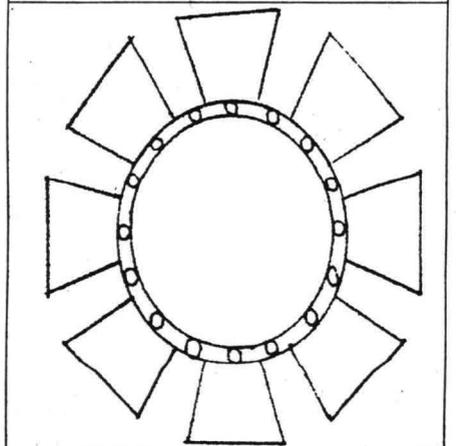
■ Appearing in the skies above Armadale, this object (right) has been sighted regularly since November by a witness. It has a white inner band with flashing red lights and a grey centre. It has been described as looking like "a beautiful chandelier". The Armadale sighting bears similarities to others in West Lothian and the hallmarks of other sightings.

■ Photographic evidence is poor but investigators are working on improving what exists through computer scanning of the pictures.

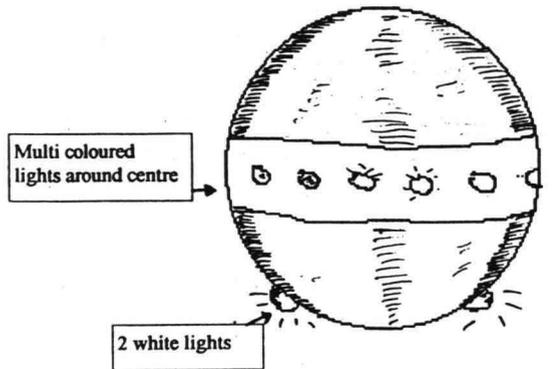
■ This cylindrical object (bottom) was spotted at 10pm on October 4 over Bathgate by three witnesses. It has multi-coloured lights around the centre and two white lights at the base.

■ The shape is strikingly similar to the object filmed by Brian Curran a month later from the garden of his home in Polbeth.

Sighted at ARMADALE, W.L. between Nov. 95'- Jan 96'



It had a white inner band with flashing red lights. It had a dark grey centre, and was described as being like a beautiful chandelier. 1 witness:



Multi coloured lights around centre

2 white lights

The truth is out there

REPORT by
ENDA MULLEN

ALTHOUGH Worcestershire is setting the pace for sightings of unidentified flying objects in the Midlands, Solihull is catching up fast according to an expert on the subject.

John Hanson, of Quest International, a group which records and investigates sightings of strange phenomena and who was featured in the Solihull News at the end of January, has been contacted with yet another mysterious sighting over Shirley.

It was initially sighted by a Coventry man outside his West Heath workplace on St Valentine's Day at 8pm and was still visible when he got to his mother's house in Shirley.

The man, whose identity has

not been revealed said: "I noticed a strange light in the sky over. It looked like some kind of balloon with red and yellow lights in three sections.

"When I got to Shirley I looked at the object through binoculars and it had become one large bright yellow light.

Shrinking

"It then changed into a changing star shape with red traces on each rough edge, before shrinking back into a yellow light."

"After a brief break the man attempted to find the object again but discovered it had vanished and it did not reappear.

Mr Hanson said Quest International always try to dis-

cover a scientific solution to reported sightings before declaring they could be extra-terrestrial craft.

He said: "Around 50 per cent of 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."

Anyone who thinks they have seen a UFO can contact John Hanson and Quest International on 0121 447 7091.

Alternatively you can write giving as much detail as possible about your sighting to UFO, Solihull News, 150 High Street, Solihull.

TRANSLATIONS

City and country of incident: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Date of incident: August 1956
Name of paper and date of clip: Cronica, December 14, 1995
City and country of paper: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Credit: Roberto E. Banchs (Buenos Aires) via Richard W. Heiden (USA)
Translation: Jane Thomas Guma, Glendale, Arizona (USA)

UFO BASE IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

We continue with the exceptional abduction of Orlando Ferraudi, the protagonist of an incredible experience inside the ship of the "Gentlemen of Poseidon". A trip in space and a visit to a reconditioning base in the ocean. "You will be useful to us in the future."

"When the craft gained altitude -recalls Orlando Ferraudi- I noticed that the inner walls were smooth, and the only remarkable thing in its structure was the oblong windows: they took us, the little girl and me, close to one of them. We could see our beautiful planet, blue, enormous, round, with white spots and some clouds, 'hanging' in a dark and silent space. Our Moon was an opaque gray. They told us: "We will now project a force field that will attract us as if we were inside a tube... And immediately the Earth became as small as an orange!"

Please allow us a digression that explains it all: we read in Cronica, September 14, 1995, page 7, and sum up: "... Ian Crawford, an astronomer from the University of London under the sponsorship of the Royal Astronomical Society, states in his report that modern Physics could allow for two possible ways to overcome Albert Einstein's theory, that nothing can surpass the speed of light. The space holes, rifts caused by intense gravitational fields surrounding objects such as the black holes, are one. Travelers could enter at one point and reach another, thousands of light years away."

This must certainly be what the ship did, if we stick to this story told nine years before this scientific statement was made public. But this technology can only be

(continued on page 16)

(continued from page 15)

achieved by a society such as that of the "Gentlemen...", that rid itself of the definitely closed, destructively commercial system presently in force, where alternative energies that cannot be packaged and sold cannot be used... Is this clear?

Let us return to Orlando Ferraudi's story: "I felt no fear, no jolt to justify such a movement; they told us we would return at the same speed. When we started to return I screamed: 'Careful!, we will crash!' 'Don't worry - they said - When we get very close we will create a field so as not to collide with Earth."

"We entered the ocean, maybe through the Gulf of Mexico, and after a few minutes of traveling underwater, we saw an immense sub aquatic dome, similar to a giant eskimo "igloo", where buildings, people in motion and several ships similar to ours could be seen. One of "them" said: "It is a base to recondition our ships..."

"After leaving behind those five or six blocks of "buildings" submerged in the bottom of the ocean, they told us we would be submitted to a test, and that we should relax for the result to be accurate.

"One of the "ladies" brought a small tray with two little eggs: there were ten, separated. Five were for Elena, the other five for me, they said. The colors were red, yellow, brown, green and another I don't remember. We had to chew and eat them, and we also had to drink a clear, thick liquid. When we swallowed them, neither of those things had any taste.

"We were ordered to lie down on some stretchers that were padded and had a U-shaped headrest, dotted with lights that were the same color as the little eggs we ate. We fell profoundly asleep and when we woke up, Elena and I could read our mutual thoughts, which we thought was quite funny. We were told that the results from the test were good, that both of us were very healthy and that in this way they had thoroughly learned about our physical and mental states, and even the date of our deaths. We were also informed that they had reactivated what we call our pineal gland, and this is when they said (I realize that now) what was maybe the most important part of the experience.

"You will be useful to us in the future, because this gland is the only legacy that remained here from us, since of the five races that inhabit this planet none is originally from Earth, they are only remnants of civilizations from other planets. The Earth has been known for a long time to be the zoo of the solar system. The races that exist today have suffered genetic mutations due to their own faults; when they mixed they caused hybridization destroying the stock, but what remains from what they once were is the pineal gland. That is why we reactivated it, so when we think about you, you will immediately hear a kind of hum inside your heads..."

To interpret this, we, you and I, reader, will read in *Crónicas* of May 23, 1995, the extraordinary statements made by the great rabbi Israel Meir Lau, the highest rabbinical authority in the State of Israel. Lau said that "... the alarming figure of mixed marriages, that is, of couples formed by Jews and people of other races or religions. Our continued front in the fight for the continuity of the Jewish people goes on not only in Israel, because the whole world is a front... we are fighting for our survival, and each Jew is a soldier who holds his tradition as a weapon, and the continuity of the race maintained itself thanks to our being faithful to what is ours." This is a beautiful lesson in stock consciousness given by such a high authority, which explains all the present historical circumstances. Let's return to O.F.

"Then we were invited to see the rest of the ship. A remarkable detail: we couldn't see where the perfect illumination came from, it was as if the air was 'turned on'. They showed us the engine: it was round, surrounding the edge of the whole ship, which was some 70 meters (230 feet) in diameter. It was formed by a series of huge interlinked bobbins, and we could see other beings there, but wearing blue clothes, gloves and a kind of visor that covered their faces. Surprised, I asked them, "Is that what you fly with?" The being that accompanied us answered: "No, we don't fly, we simply slide along a force field. We use three energies: cosmic, magnetic and solar. We can move in space using all three or only one of them... With regard to our ship, which you call flying saucer, it is built in one piece because when we build it, it is as if we molded it, and the windows are "adhered", to explain it somehow..."

"They then spoke to us about God and death..." Tomorrow, with those philosophical digressions and the final message received twenty nine years ago by Orlando and Elena regarding the future of Mankind and whose prophecy is coming true before our elusive eyes, we will conclude this sensational case, that happened only 20 blocks from the offices of *Crónicas*.

Héctor Antonio Picco

City and country of incident: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Date of incident: August 1956
Name of paper and date of clip: *Crónica*, December 14, 1995
City and country of paper: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Credit: Roberto E. Banchs (Buenos Aires) via Richard W. Heiden (USA)
Translation: Jane Thomas Guma, Glendale, Arizona (USA)

Fantastic report with the Río de la Plata as Setting

TRIP ON BOARD A UFO

There are few cases of fully proven abductions. Our faithful collaborator, Héctor Antonio Picco, after a patient and exhaustive investigation, brings us one of them. As fantastic as it may seem, the following story leaves no doubts. It has been checked and tested. Orlando Ferraudi can be believed.

It is very useful for those of us who deal with a subject as borderline as UFOlogy, to study an excellent book by psychologist Dr. Paul Watzlawick, called: *Is Reality Real?*, so that we may never stray from science when we report on events related to our work. On page 8 it says: "(this person) must not forget that there are two completely different methods to submit scientific reports. The first one begins with the submitting of a theory and then to present the experimental tests that confirm its validity. The second method consists in submitting a large number of examples taken from as many different fields as possible and then to try to discover, in this practical manner, a structure that is common to all these apparently different examples and the conclusions that may be derived from them".

This second method is the one applied by this author. The first one already has a mentor in Argentina, as we learned from a magazine with a lot of substance, the first issue of which reached us. It is Carlos Ferguson, who created the RAO (RED ARGENTINA DE OVNILOGIA - ARGENTINE NET OF UFOLOGY), an organization that compiles cases and does a serious job of screening them (if this work from serious colleagues did not exist, we would not have been able to risk interpretations). We can be sure, from the trajectories shown by its members, that they will resort neither to lies nor to exaggerations, only to experimental tests that are so essential to refine even more the details that allow us to already, and very responsibly, give lectures under names such as "UFOs, an enigma already explained".

But there is a third deplorable "anti-method" to which Watzlawick refers on page 7: "...the unsteady scaffolding of our everyday perception of reality is, strictly speaking, illusory, and all we do is to repair it and prop it up all the time, even at the high price of having to distort facts so that they will not contradict our concept of reality". This is just what "spiritualist", redemptory, "guide" representative-ufoologists say, thus consummating their swindle, while they denounce as materialists all those who do precisely the opposite. That is, they try to report with honesty and seriousness. The above is valid and will also help us to analyze this extraordinary abduction case that happened to Orlando Jorge Ferraudi, now 56, 2 sons, a person with irreproachable personal behavior, which he also demonstrated in the companies he worked for. We have summed up the story using the conversations we had with the protagonist during these last eight years, plus four recordings made in 1986 by three colleagues (Jorge H. Cosso, Sotero Caraballo and Eduardo R. Rando), all of which allowed us to verify the absolute lack of contradictions in the following report:

"That night of August 1956 I was fishing, as I usually did, on the then quite deserted coast of the Northern Resort, where the University City is located now. It was about 11.30 pm and while I was getting my gear ready, I suddenly started to feel as if someone was observing me. I thought it was a "bum" who usually hangs around that place but when I turned my head I saw "him": a strange individual observing me. Comparing him with my 1.90 meters (almost 6.2 feet), I at once estimated he was more than 2 meters (6.5 feet) tall. His skin was very white and he had very light-colored eyes, no beard and/or mustache, had short and neat hair, and he wore some kind of tight-fitting "overall". It was a very dark night and I noticed "him" telling me mentally: "Take it easy, don't be afraid, you mustn't be scared..." Then he turned around taking my arm and placed some kind of "powder box" on top of the wall which, when opened, gave off a phosphorescent luminosity. This allowed me to see more details: his suit was a yellow-mustard color, had no wrinkles, zippers or buttons; it had a hood in the back of his head. He was repeating: "Don't be afraid, you will come with me, we will take a long trip..."

"He picked up his device and we went down the stairs towards the Río de la Plata. I followed him like an automaton; he suddenly pointed his "little machine" and I could see that a strange craft in the shape of an inverted saucer was approaching from the water. It stopped and opened a little door from which a ramp came out and a similar being walked towards both of us; taking my hand very gently, he invited me to go inside the craft.

"As soon as I was inside I noticed a girl that was five or six years younger than me (I was 18 at that time). From the clothes she wore, which were the fashion at that time, I realized she was not one of "them". She spoke to me at once: "Don't be afraid... they won't hurt us... they are good. I came into this thing a while before you, my name is

Elena, I'm from Villa Mercedes (San Luis province). I was at home when I heard noises on the terrace and thought it was the cat that was knocking down the flowers we have planted outside, and fearing that my mom would be mad at it and throw it out, I went up to get it, but instead I came face to face with an immense "thing" from which a tube of luminous glass came down, and along which I went up..."

"Suddenly 'they' came and told us, always telepathically: "Don't worry, you will have to undress and change clothes because the things that you wear have elements and germs that are alien to us..."

"A woman appeared -taking Elena into another room- identical to several that came later: a beautifully proportioned body and dressed in the same clothes as the men; mouth, nose and ears were normal, but her eyes, which also seemed normal, were almost... yellow. The haircut was like that of the "Valiant Prince". They took the clothes I had taken off, following an order I could not disobey because their control over me was complete, and put it inside a machine that looked like a TV set inside of which was a thick green smoke. They gave me an overall like the one they wore, ordering me: put it on! I told them that I couldn't because it was too narrow, but they insisted. I saw it had a hole where the neck would be and put a leg inside, then the other, and the overall expanded and covered me completely! I also felt like I was wearing comfortable shoes when I walked, even though I was barefoot..."

"By that time Elena had returned, and they told us they would take us for a trip underwater (to avoid radars) to a place we know as the Samborombón Bay. From there we would emerge and fly at low altitude until we reached the coast of Uruguay, then we would cross the Atlantic Ocean to Africa, and then we would go up. They told us: "We must take these precautions so we won't be detected and thus avoid being seen as invaders or conquerors. We want your people to get used to us slowly, to see us as anybody else, because we are not strangers in this part of the Universe".

In those years prior to the completion of my book "The Material Proof of the Hollow Earth", Orlando Ferraudi used to ask that the recorder be turned off when we asked him if he knew where his "abductors" came from, and then said: "I don't know, because I'm not supposed to say it yet; they come from inside the Earth..."

He now admits it openly, maybe because the times are right. Neither did we know nine years ago that the Gentlemen from Poseidon had built two underwater bases around 1950, one in the Uruguayan coast in front of the Barra de San Juan, 45 km (28 miles) from Buenos Aires, and the other in... the Samborombón Bay!

We had not yet read Stephen Wrapp's book, who was an English esoteric (possibly a member of the Secret Service), who wrote reliable articles about that extraordinary Order that has 200/300,000 "citizens" in the planet's underwater depths...

More details about O.F. and Elena's experience inside "their" craft will appear tomorrow.

Héctor Antonio Picco

City and country of incident: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Date of incident: August 1956
Name of paper and date of clip: *Crónica*, December 15, 1995
City and country of paper: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Credit: Roberto E. Banchs (Buenos Aires) via Richard W. Heiden (USA)
Translation: Jane Thomas Guma, Glendale, Arizona (USA)

GOD, UFOS AND THE ABSOLUTE ENERGY



This is the end of Orlando Ferraudi's exceptional abduction. The above drawing made by the witness himself, was seen in many places in the craft he was in. During his dialogue with the "Gentlemen from Poseidon" on board the UFO, he was informed that "what you people call God is an Absolute Form of Energy" and was warned about the danger of man breaking the "Stellar Harmony".

"In answer to a question I asked about God and death, this is what the Gentleman from Poseidon said:

"For us, what you call God is a form of absolute Energy, and as to death, it is only a change in molecular structure, a change of state. We only use sex to procreate, but we also have families and know love. Our lifespan is much longer than yours; our children are already born with all the knowledge and keep perfecting it as they grow".

Then they analyzed the indiscriminate and irrational use of nuclear energy on our part, which endangers not only our habitat which we share with "them", but also the cosmic equilibrium. And showing us an instrument that one of them held in his hands, they made us look towards a window where a solid body was floating. The being pointed the device at it and a beam shot out which blew it up as soon as it made contact. He said to us: "This is pure energy, when it touches its objective it disintegrates it, it completely dissolves everything it touches..." And finally, his last and unforgettable warning: "We want you to know this, out power, which is what we will regretfully use if you should endanger the stellar harmony..."

In the end they told Orlando and Elena that they would return them to the place from where they had been taken and that for a time they would remember nothing; but later on, little by little, the images from these events would reappear. Finally - O.F. remembers now- they asked him to bend down and pointed a very bright light at him, and he fell asleep.

Orlando woke up with the sun almost up and his body feeling very numb, without remembering whether he had fished anything. He gathered up his fishing gear and got ready to go back...

Fifteen days later, while he was again getting his fishing gear ready for another Saturday night of fishing at the same spot, he mentally reasoned: "I don't know why I should go fishing, if I end up falling asleep..."

Suddenly, a "click" in his mind made him exclaim, starting to see everything: "No! I didn't fall asleep! I traveled in a flying saucer..."

At one time I was invited to have lunch with O.F.'s family. He again told me details of his experience, and suddenly said: "And I am sure that I didn't dream all this..."

I gladly extended my investigator's hand to him, for I had been questioning him for seven years now and "watched" any and all of his gestures, and said: "Now I really am sure that what you say is the absolute truth..."

Experience teaches us that hoaxers mount their schemes extremely well and they never allow themselves a doubt in their stories. O.F., just as Enrique Castillo Rincón and Mónica Pérez (whose story was published by "Flash" magazine last October) continue auto-investigating themselves, literally pinching themselves to make sure they weren't dreaming...

As the years went by, Orlando and Mónica (from some 100 possible abductions that were reported to me, these are the two cases that I consider to be the most reliable) never showed themselves as representatives of "superior beings" offering magical salvation to the lazy, nor miraculous evacuations to those who listened to them. They never formed groups of dazed "followers" nor did they receive "extradimensional messages" from Oxal or the Chapulin Colorado (this is the name of a Mexican sitcom-Tr.) (in this case it's the same); their attitude is always cautious, thoughtful. Both have evidently been given scientific information completely outside of their own intellectual abilities. O.F. wanted to create a "machine" to cure cancer; we want to transcribe the first two paragraphs of his work "Cancer: its origin and development":

"The origin of this disease lies in the altered functions of the ductless glands, which due to their bioelectrical balance having been upset, drain into the blood incomplete humors that lead to the irrational forming of the cells.

"This phenomenon leads to the immediate consequence of these humors circulating throughout the whole body, since blood is a vehicle; this incomplete humors look for the weakest organs where they can exert their influence within a favorable field."

In July 1975, a long time after O.F. outlined this theory, Nobel Prize Dr. Alberto Szent-Gyorgyi would shock the world with his "electromagnetic theory about cancer" which was expressed in a very similar way to that of its "discoverer", O.F., who had learned exactly the same thing from "them", but had only the most elementary knowledge of medicine...

But O.F.'s story is the same as that of biologist and esoteric C.V. del Prado, the abductee who lives -or used to live, since I haven't heard from him in years- in Constantino Poggi; the interests of those who profit from this illness have always hindered these extraordinary scientific proposals from being carried out for the benefit of everyone... You know that now more than ever the benefit is sought for only a few.

However, and closing the O.F. case, we want to refer to the symbol that he drew and which he saw in many places of the "craft" that carried him in his trip: the circle, inside of it the triangle (Unity) and what may be the Sieg route. During a sighting this author had, together with a woman called Gladys Alicia Risso, at the corner of Pacheco and Monroe streets (Villa Urquiza district, in the capital of Argentina) on August 11, 1978 at 07.30 am, the flying craft - hovering more or less vertically above the nearby air base (what a coincidence!) - made this same motion when it took off upwards. I felt that I should put it in the cover of the magazine "Lo que vendrá" (What will come) in 1992/93, a magazine which, notwithstanding its short lifespan and limited sales, did what it was supposed to do: to burst into the sky already corrupted by the Demurge of Evil.



CHRONICLE, Augusta, GA - June 11, 1996

TIMES, New York, NY - Aug. 11, 1996 CR: V. White

Histories of area describe terror

By Richard Stenger
Morris News Service

WINDER, Ga. — Buried behind Phil Chandler's farm three miles east of Winder, underneath some scrawny trees and unearthly black mud, is a mystery of terror perhaps thousands of years old.

The family of Mr. Chandler's wife, the Harris clan, has owned the unusual land for more than 100 years. Since they stopped farming the five-acre depression in the late 1800s, twisted pines and bizarre ferns have crept their way into the plot, growing in a bluish-black position of quicksand.

"It's real dangerous," said Fred Ingram, former director of the Barrow County Historical Society. "If you step off in some of that soupy mess, you're gone."

Before the Harrises drained and worked the land, the area was more than a geographical oddity. It was a sinister place with a reputation among American Indians and early settlers as a burning lake of fire.

"The Indians called it Nodoroc," said Mr. Chandler, leading a recent tour along the edges of the pit. "But what they meant was hell."

Although few signs remain today, the area was once a bubbly cauldron, a mud volcano from which a steady stream of foul gases ignited into an eerie plume of black smoke that could be seen for miles, according to numerous accounts from white settlers and Creek Indians inhabiting the area in the late 1700s.

"I am utterly unable to describe the scene or to express in words the feeling it produces," wrote Josiah Strong, one of the first whites to see the Nodoroc. "I can only think of St. John's words in Revelation."

The Creeks avoided the place, except for the rare ceremonial occasions when they dumped prisoners of war and other unfortunates into the depths, Mr. Chandler said.

The Indians living in the local village of Snodon were not as

afraid of the mud volcano as what dwelled in it — the wog.

A description of the beast comes from a 1914 book by G.J.N. Wilson, *The Early History of Jackson County Georgia*.

"The wog was said to be a jet-black, long-haired animal about the size of a small horse. Really the meanest feature about the beast was that his bear-like head contained a set of great white teeth over which his ugly lips never closed."

Indians advised settlers that the wog would bring no harm if unmolested. "The pioneers carefully followed the instructions, wrote Mr. Wilson.

Indians predating the Creeks had an elaborate temple next to the Nodoroc.

In 1837, Georgia Gov. George Gilmer purchased it to place in front of his Oglethorpe County home. Souvenir hunters have taken many of the stones, but one rock slab returned to Barrow County, where it remains today at the Barrow County Historical Museum.

Mr. Chandler theorized that sacrificial rituals were performed at the temple.

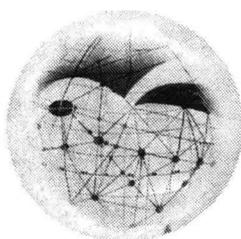
"There was a trail leading from the rock complex leading into the volcano," he said.

Mr. Chandler and Mr. Ingram believe the 8-foot-high triangular rock structure was built by people who came to the area before the Creeks.

The Nodoroc slowly declined in intensity, and one day in the mid-1800s it blew up in an awesome explosion of mud and heat and expired, said Mr. Chandler, referring to the testimony of two eye-witnesses.

Mr. Chandler guides schoolchildren through the area in the winter. Sometimes he can't resist using heart-stopping props like a mummified head dangling from a tree to spruce up the tour.

"The kids get a kick out of it. Their eyes get real big" when he tells the legends of the Nodoroc, he said.



Associated Press

Signs of Martian "life" from more than a century ago.

Life on Mars: An Old Tune, Often Off-Key

By MALCOLM W. BROWNE

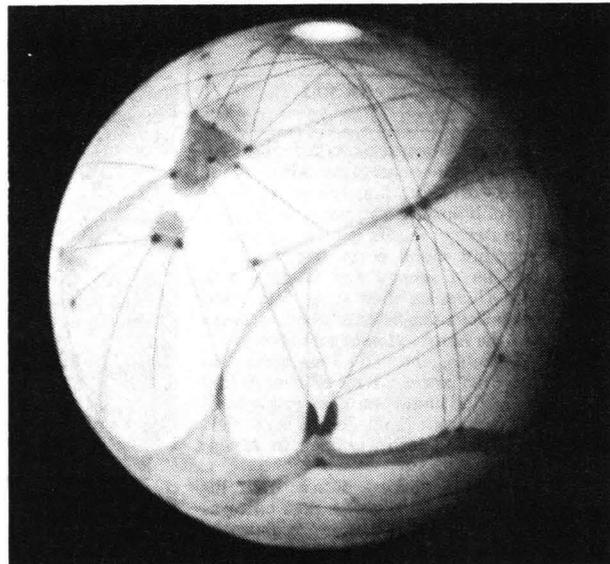
Evidence of life on Mars, real or imaginary, has been turning up for more than a century, and the latest hypothesis put forward by NASA scientists extends a tradition marked chiefly by disappointment.

NASA's announcement last week of the finding of evidence of ancient microbial life on a meteor believed to be from Mars was the latest in a long series of Martian discoveries. Compared with images earlier scientists painted of advanced canal-building civilizations, it seemed a trifle mundane.

However, unlike the earlier claims, it may be true.

The more radical idea that Mars might harbor an advanced civilization gained many enthusiastic believers after observations were reported by the Italian astronomer Giovanni Schiaparelli in 1877. Using a small telescope, Schiaparelli thought he could see a network of thin "canals," or grooves, on the face of Mars. The Italian word was mistranslated into English as "canals," and from this it was inferred that a civilization must have existed to build the canals.

The idea was endorsed and promoted by the American astronomer Percival Lowell, who made some telescopic observations of his own and drew



American Museum of Natural History

Mars, depicted in a globe at the Hayden Planetarium, has long been the focus of speculation by those postulating life on other planets.

Big Letdowns Preceded New Martian Findings

sketches of what he saw.

In the words of Dr. Carl Sagan of Cornell University, "Lowell was unfortunately one of the worst draftsmen who ever sat down at a telescope, and the kind of Mars that he drew was composed of little polygonal blocks connected by a multitude of straight lines," the kind of lines Schiaparelli thought he had seen.

A rich vein of science fiction was created by the Schiaparelli-Lowell "discovery," a genre that thrives today. But it was not long before scientists began a corrosive scrutiny of the canal claim.

In 1894, Edward Emerson Barnard, an American astronomer, tried to repeat the Martian canal observation and reported: "To save my soul, I can't believe in the canals as Schiaparelli (or Lowell) draws them. I see details where he has drawn none." The "canals," Barnard wrote, "are a fallacy."

Subsequent observations by skilled astronomers using ever-larger telescopes — and later, visits by the Mariner and Viking spacecraft — failed to find any suggestion of canals on the Martian surface. But they did find huge river canyons, proof that bone-dry Mars once had liquid water.

In 1971, Dr. Sagan proposed a reason for the canal illusion.

"The canals of Mars are probably due to the eye's penchant for order," he said in a 1971 conference on extraterrestrial life. "It is much simpler to draw disconnected fine detail as a few lines, joining them up, than to put down all the irregular mottlings observed in an instant of good seeing."

Despite the demise of the theory about the canals, popular belief in Martian life remained strong.

A seemingly hardy line of evidence of color changes on the Martian surface emerged from observations by astronomers. Patches of dark color scattered across the light Martian deserts seem to change in extent and darkness, almost as if seasonal changes in climate were responsible. Since the 1870's when French astronomers proposed the idea, it has sometimes been suggested that the dark patches represent vegetation.

Mars, like Earth, has polar ice caps, and the size of these features seems to change seasonally. As the caps shrink, dark patches expand in the planet's middle latitudes: a phenomenon described by the French-born American astronomer Gerard de Vaucouleurs in 1948 as "a wave of darkening."

To some, this hinted not only of vegetation but also of distinct growing seasons on Mars. In "The Planets," a popular book published in

1962, the astronomer Patrick Moore wrote: "Vegetation might be expected to behave in this manner; it would surely develop as soon as moisture reached it from the shrinking polar caps. For this reason, it has been widely supposed that the dark patches are in fact due to living matter."

Alas, a decade later, spacecraft visited Mars and found no living matter. Cameras and other instruments disclosed that the color changes came from sandstorms and other atmospheric effects, not vegetation.

The exploration of the solar system has brought other disappointments to the search for extraterrestrial life. Venus was once regarded as a possible habitat because it is about the same size and density as Earth. Because Venus is eternally covered by opaque clouds, people were free to devise all kinds of theories about its surface and the living beings it might support.

But when Soviet and American spacecraft reached Venus in 1967 and made measurements, the results were disheartening. The Venus surface is hot enough to melt many metals, and its atmosphere consists largely of sulfuric acid. Hopes of finding life on Venus vanished.

The Viking Mars landers dealt a double setback to Martian life. Not only did they find no vegetation. They also failed to find anything capable of metabolizing the specially tagged carbon dioxide that their robotic laboratories supplied to samples of Martian soil. Most scientists therefore say they believe that the Viking search for life yielded negative results, although a few have said the results were ambivalent and that life was not entirely ruled out.

But believers in Martian life had one heartening gift from a Viking lander. The craft sent back a picture showing an arrangement of rocks that has been interpreted by tabloid weeklies and others interested in extraterrestrial life as the image of a humanoid face.

Geologists and other scientists have pronounced this image to be a mere accidental jumble. But at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration news conference on Wednesday, the agency's administrator, Dr. Daniel S. Goldin, was asked whether future missions would investigate the Martian "face." Dr. Goldin replied that other goals had higher priority, but that a robotic explorer might take a look at the face if schedules permitted.

There are high hopes that the minute spheres and worm-like carbonate structures found in the "Mars meteorite" will turn out to be genuine microfossils of once-living organisms. Yet the testimony of the tiny rock features may prove to be as illusory as the Martian canals.

NEW MEXICAN, Santa Fe, NM - July 28, 1996 CR: D. Perkins

Livestock officials investigate mutilations of cow, bull calf

The Associated Press

TAOS — The New Mexico Livestock Board is investigating two cattle mutilations — a calf in Arroyo Hondo and a cow in the Questa area, officials said.

The board also is still investigating at least 30 other cattle mutilations that occurred in 1993-94, Kevin McClellan, the board's deputy director, said Friday.

The latest killing involved a 4-month-old bull calf.

Its jaw was cut, its tongue was missing, the back part of its hindquarters were cut out and part of its sex organs were removed, said the Taos County Sheriff's Department.

McClellan said that about a month ago, a dead cow was found in the Questa area, and parts were missing from the animal's carcass.

The dead calf was reported by its owner, Jessie Gonzales, who said he found the mutilated animal July 8 — two days after he saw the animal alive.

"We were unable to locate any blood or parts of the calf on the property and the ground was not disturbed," said sheriff's Deputy Miguel Romero.

McClellan said his office did not become aware of the calf's death until Thursday.

Details of the cow's death near Questa were sketchy, he said.

Investigators could not determine how the cow died, and the name of the animal's owner and which parts of the animal had been removed were not available, McClellan said.

More than two dozen mutilations were reported in the summer of 1994, most near Taos, Chama and Raton. The sex organs, anus and sometimes the

tongue were removed in the mutilations.

In the late 1970s, New Mexico spent \$50,000 investigating cattle mutilation reports.

A chief investigator, retired FBI agent Kenneth Rommel, said then the mutilations were the result of predators and bloating.

Cattle mutilation mystery continues; another cow killed

By Phaedra Greenwood
The Taos News

A super-charged electrical storm silhouetted the mountains with purple flashes of light, punctuated by vivid bolts of lightning Saturday night (Aug. 3). In Arroyo Hondo it was only sprinkling, but cloud cover darkened the night as a second cow belonging to Jesse Gonzales died in a field right beside Gonzales' brother's house, across from the Arroyo Hondo post office.

Gonzales, who said he has more than a hundred cows in fields all over Arroyo Hondo, had found one of his young bulls dead and mutilated July 8 in a field across from Herb's Lounge in Arroyo Hondo.

Gonzales said he didn't check his animals across from the post office as often as he did the others because he had put in a new fence and knew they couldn't get out. "They were the closest to us, right there by my brother's house, and I thought they were safe," he said.

Gonzales found his second mutilated cow around 5 p.m. Sunday evening (Aug. 4). "I figure it had been dead about eight hours," he said. The 4-year-old cow was lying on her left side at the edge of the field near the Rio Hondo. A large hole had been cored out under her tail, and the udder and uterus were missing. There were no fragments of torn flesh anywhere, until the next day when neighborhood dogs got into the carcass, Gonzales said. The site did not register any higher for radiation than normal background levels. The cow's eyes were open and untouched by scavengers. There was dried blood in her nose. A small piece of the tongue was missing. A dark splotch around her mouth that had hardened in the dirt might have been blood, but there were no large pools of blood anywhere else around her.

"This animal was one of my healthiest," Gonzales said. "All my cattle are inoculated when they're calves." Only cow tracks were visible in the soft dirt around her.

Gonzales said he had asked all around the neighborhood, but nobody saw or heard anything unusual. "Lots of people have asked me about it," he said. "The ranchers in the valley are freaked. There's a lot of concern because this is happening in our community." Gonzales said a nearby neighbor stood watch on his porch with a loaded gun for a couple of hours early Monday morning (Aug. 5).



Arroyo Hondo residents Sara and Alexander Levy monitor the mutilated cow for radiation Monday (Aug. 5).

"I'm feeling a lot of frustration," Gonzales said. "I'm going to be checking up on all my animals twice a day. That cow was worth about \$450." He said he thought the cow was pregnant.

Gonzales called Jerry Valerio, the local brand inspector, who says he has investigated dozens of these cases in the past three years, but has since been taken off the cases. Valerio confirmed Gonzales' observations. Valerio said in an interview with *The Taos News* Monday that he had encountered some "cream-colored powder" on the back of a mutilated cow owned by Eli Hronich of Eagle Nest. "I must have cut my gloves open on a piece of bone," Valerio said. "It burned my fingers." Later, he said his fingers went numb. The numbness spread up his arm into both shoulders and lasted about three months. "If you find a mutilated cow, don't touch it," he warned.

Hronich, a local rancher who grew up in nearby Maxwell and has raised cattle in the Eagle Nest area all his adult life, said he has lost 18 cows to mutilations since 1993. "I'm pretty burned out on the whole thing," he said. "Everybody came from all over the place to investigate. They sent in a lot of samples, but I never found out anything."

The rancher stated that he had seen what predators and scavengers do, and the mutilated cattle were "a completely different deal." He said, "Coyotes or dogs might tear at the bag of a cow or rip the hamstrings, but this was more of a surgery-type. This was a clean deal. Sick cattle don't just lay down and have all these pretty little arcs on them. A scavenger might eat part of the tongue, but it wouldn't take it out all the way down to the larynx." Most of the cattle he's lost have been yearling steers, he said. He runs 2,000 head of cattle on 15,000 acres and checks them every day. "You never find anything, no vehicle or human tracks."

Hronich said he, too, had burned his thumb in a cow's mouth as he tried to pry the jaw open. "It was kind of an acid burn. It hurt for about three weeks," he said. He did not report any numbness.

The last cow he lost was in September of 1995, he said. "I never could get nothing done, couldn't get anybody involved. Jerry Valerio stuck his neck out, but I guess they chopped it off. As soon as you try to do something, it dies. The livestock board doesn't have the capability, the manpower or the finances to do it," he said.

Dale Spall, who worked as a full-time analytical chemist in the Life

Sciences Division at Los Alamos National Laboratories in 1978 doing animal studies for carcinogens and radiation, said he had been contacted by New Mexico State Police to help with the cattle mutilations.

"We looked at the liver, the spleen, did gross observation and a number of other studies," he said. The problem with cattle mutilations is that a lot of the information tends to be anecdotal in nature. There is a certain natural death rate among cattle." He said he thought most cattle mutilations were natural deaths and scavengers. "There's a distinct possibility some people are playing copy cat," he said. "Cattle mutilations follow a 15-20 year cycle," he added. "They've been reported in England, Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela."

Spall said he experimented with one of his own animals; when he slaughtered it, he also did a mimic mutilation. "I cored the anus, took out the sexual organs, cut off an ear, cut out the tongue." He said he did the whole thing in about half an hour with a skinning knife. "If you leave it lying out for about six hours, it does the same thing. The edges of the wounds curl and stretch as they dry and look like precision laser cuts," he said. He admitted he had never seen the "cookie cutter" kind of

SAUDI GAZETTE, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia - Aug. 8, 1996 CR: C. Hart

Mystery lurks in depths of Chinese lake

BEIJING, Aug. 7 (DPA)

AN international non-government group based in China plans to launch a research expedition later this month to investigate claims that China's deepest volcanic lake is harbouring a number of creatures witnesses say resemble everything from dinosaurs to large iron pots.

On July 4 of this year, photographer Wang Ying captured the antics of four black creatures frolicking in Tianchi lake, a 10-km expanse of water more than 200 metres deep which separates north-eastern Jilin province and North Korea.

The organisation comprised of Chinese officials, journalists and a number of people from other countries set up an observation post at the lake last August, and invited Wang to capture the creatures on film. The Xinhua news agency said more than 200 people witnessed the creatures on July 4 "floating and diving leisurely, sometimes splashing waves".

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada July 6, 1996 CR: G. Conway

Meteor Impact



A meteor weighing about 20 kilograms, and measuring 30 centimetres in diameter fell on a village farm in India's northwestern state of Rajasthan, but caused no injuries. Scientists at the B.M. Planetarium in Jaipur city said the impact occurred in the district of Pali. The Press Trust of India news agency quoted witnesses as saying they heard a thundering roar followed by three blinding flashes of light before everything became quiet again. Villagers who hid in their houses for a couple of hours came out to find a large, dark and stony object lying in a 60-centimetre-deep pit. The meteorite was cold to the touch, and was revealed to have a gunpowder-like colored substance inside after it was broken apart with a hammer.

edges mentioned by pathologists. He also said he had never known of a mutilation that took place in the winter and thought that this was because ranchers kept a closer eye on their cows in the winter. He speculated that the presence of blood in the nose of Gonzales' cow might be due to alkaloids in the bloodstream that could cause it to hemorrhage, but he couldn't say how the alkaloids might have gotten there. "There's locoweed and deadly nightshade around," he said. "Ranchers don't want to cut into the stomach and let you analyze the contents. It stinks. We've had very little analysis of stomach content."

He said he enjoyed his volunteer research and had actually brought a whole cow into the lab to do an autopsy which included an analysis of urine, blood and tissue. He also scanned the animal for radiation and took bacteriological samples. Unfortunately, all his reports have disappeared from the lab, he said, and nobody knows where they are.

"The deeper you get into it, the more mysterious it gets," he said.

Private investigator Gail Stachlin of Albuquerque said that she has been deeply involved with the investigation of cattle mutilations for a number of

years. "I'm obsessed with it," she said. "I've had death threats, anonymous phone calls telling me to drop it, but I just laugh at them." She said she was part of the investigation of Hronich's cattle, a team which included Dr. John Altshuler, a pathologist from Denver, local livestock inspectors Valerio and Phil Cantu and local veterinarian Tim Johnson. A 1994 pathology report from Altshuler on one of the Eagle Nest steers says that the cause of death might well have been pneumonia, but the findings on cuts around the sexual organs support the theory that "the application of high heat was applied within minutes of the animal's death."

Stachlin said she works with four different laboratories around the country, including a pathologist in Oregon, a hematologist in Los Angeles and a lab at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., where they analyzed the substance that burned Valerio and found that it was a "silicon-type powder," Stachlin said. She stated that she would drive up to Taos "within three hours" to take a whole calf back to Albuquerque with her for testing "if it's a yearling or younger. If it's older than two days, it's too late," she said. For more information, call Stachlin at 505-275-8162.

**Aliens? Probably.
Warlike? Probably not.**

Billion-band scans for transmissions from alien civilizations. New discoveries that planets orbit other stars. Persistent UFO hysteria. What is really going on in our hunt for E.T.? Plenty. Are we alone? Not likely.

"There is intelligent life out there," said Frank Drake, noted astronomer and pioneer in the search for alien civilizations. "No doubt about it."

And last week, enter a blockbuster movie about just that:

It's July 2. Alien space ships hover over New York, Washington, Miami. The visitors are expanding into our cosmic neighborhood, and they're not waiting for blasting permits. The Empire State Building — gone. The White House — dust.

That is the premise of "Independence Day," a \$70 million film with a stellar cast and a sprinkling of real science.

"It is almost physically impossible for intelligent life not to abound in the universe," said Jack Horkheimer, director of the Miami Space Transit Planetarium.

Many experts agree: We haven't found The Others yet, and they haven't found us — or maybe they haven't bothered to try — but they're almost certainly out there. Evidence suggests that the universe is teeming with life.

"The events that created our solar system and life on Earth are completely normal, and what happened here must have happened in countless places," said Drake, a superstar among astronomers and president of the SETI Institute.

SETI stands for Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. With the quiet help of NASA and private contributions, the California-based group uses radio telescopes to search for alien civilizations.

"I expect results before I die," said Drake, 66. "Five years, 10 years."

Drake long ago devised a widely used formula for determining the number of advanced civilizations in the galaxy. His conclusion: 10,000.

That is just in the Milky Way galaxy. The universe harbors at least 100 billion galaxies.

But that does not necessarily mean that E.T. or more malevolent aliens will come calling.

For one thing, distances are unimaginably vast. Technology Review magazine calculated recently that a spaceship traveling at 1 million mph would require 3,000 years to arrive from the closest solarsystem.

Also we earthlings are may be too primitive to be of any interest to advanced civilizations. They probably don't even know we're here.

Radio waves are the most likely celestial lighthouses, and we've been producing such waves for less than 100 years — not long enough to reach solar systems most likely to support life.

So we must look for Them, and that brings us back to SETI, which lost its direct link with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration — and millions of dollars in funding — three years ago after a senator complained about money wasted on a "great Martian chase."

But the group's Phoenix Project, the ambitious radio telescope search of the heavens, still uses equipment "borrowed" from NASA, and the agency pays for other SETI programs.

Concentrating on 200 relatively close stars, SETI has scanned billions of radio frequencies, looking for pulsed signals or other signatures of non-natural sounds. Thus far, no luck.

Meanwhile, in just the last year, scientists using sensitive new instruments have confirmed that planets orbit other stars.

So, given the premise of "Independence Day," if the occupants of such worlds somehow arrive here, will they be in a better mood than those in the movie?

Human 'fireballs' could strike in London next

by JO KNOWSLEY

SPONTANEOUS Human Combustion, said to cause people to burst into flames and burn to ashes, may have less to do with how you live than where.

People in Birmingham were most likely to go up in smoke in the Seventies. Wales was inflammable in the Eighties. In the next century, London or Lincolnshire could be the hot spots.

The key, says Larry E. Arnold, an American-based research scientist, could be Fire Leynes. He has mapped sites of unusual fires across Britain and found that more than 80 per cent are connected by straight lines.

The points of intersection become hot spots where "if you are in the wrong place at the wrong time you, your dog, your car or your home, would seem more likely to spontaneously combust".

Mr Arnold, director of ParaScience International in Pennsylvania, has studied Spontaneous Human Combustion (SHC) for 22 years. Britain, he says, has had more incidents of SHC per capita than any other country. The Fire Leynes, charted in his new book, *ABLAZE!*

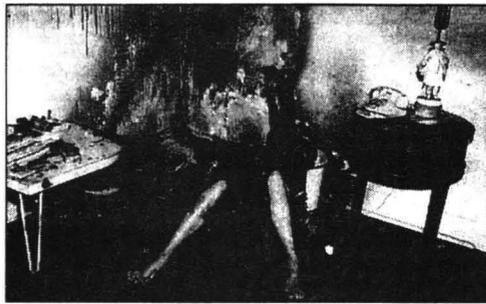
Spontaneous Human Combustion, are a "veritable cartography of combustion".

"In all my research I have never established links between SHC and the people it strikes — but there are definite geographic links.

"The last active cycle in Britain appeared to end around Birmingham about 1980. In the Seventies there was a cluster of at least 12 cases in that area. But judging by past patterns, a number of the Fire Leynes in Britain will reactivate, probably about 2004."

The concept that people can suddenly burst into flame has been around since the Middle Ages. Victims, engulfed by a blue flame, are said to be in a trance and feel no pain. After researching anecdotal evidence, Charles Dickens gave Krook, a character in *Bleak House*, death by spontaneous combustion. But the condition has never been accepted by a coroner.

In Britain in 1980, Henry Thomas, 73, burnt to ash. His ankles and feet were undamaged and his room was scarcely singed. John



Burning question: remains of a victim of apparent combustion

Heymer, 62, then a special constable, said that entering the sitting room was like "stepping into Dante's Inferno. There was a humid heat, like a sauna, and everything was bathed in orange light. There was a yeasty smell, like a bakehouse.

"A couple of feet from the settee was this pile of ashes. Next to it there were two human feet, clothed in socks, with a short length of trouser bottoms, perfectly intact."

Forensic scientists concluded that Thomas's body was destroyed by combustion caused by his clothes.

But Mr Heymer, who has since written his own book on SHC, *The Entrancing Flame*, never believed them.

In Edmonton, London, in 1982, relatives of Jeannie Saffin, a 61-year-old woman brain-damaged since birth, claim to have watched her spontaneously combust.

Don Carroll, husband of Jeannie's sister Kathleen, said: "I went into the kitchen and she had blue flames coming from her mouth and her midriff."

"She was roaring like a dragon, or the sound was. The kitchen wasn't damaged

but her cardigan melted. The inquest was never really sorted out. At first they said misadventure, but I know what I saw."

Sue Mottershead, of Oldham, Lancashire, claims to have survived spontaneous combustion. She was standing in her kitchen in 1980, wearing towelling pyjamas, when she was engulfed by dancing flames.

Mrs Mottershead, 47, said there were no electrical appliances on but she noticed a singeing smell. "Almost instantly there was a whoosh and I was surrounded by blue and orange flames. I ripped off my pyjamas and they disappeared instantly."

Firefighting groups, police and coroners remain sceptical, but Mr Arnold said attitudes were changing.

Paul Sieveking, *Fortean Times* editor and contributor to *The Sunday Telegraph's* Strange But True page, said: "Larry E. Arnold's theories are interesting but I'm not sure I believe them."

A documentary on SHC will be shown in the BBC's *Out of This World* series at 9.30pm on July 23.

**SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada
July 29, 1996 CR: G. Conway**

Slippery sea monster surfaces

VICTORIA — After a summer of silence, Caddy is back.

Peter Gage said he saw Victoria's slippery sea monster, known as Cadborosaurus, Wednesday while travelling on the Mill Bay ferry.

"I saw the coil just ahead of the ferry and then it disappeared," said Gage, 76. He said he saw the coil when a woman on the ferry pointed to it.

"It was eight inches thick and was a foot out of the water. It was a cross between a Cambridge blue and a silver grey," he said.

Every year, there are reports of a strange sea creature, usually in Saanich Inlet or Cadboro Bay. It is often described as being several metres long and having a snakelike body.

The last Caddy sighting was reported in April, when two Welsh rugby players photographed something in the water.

Canadian Press



DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK - Aug. 13, 1996 CR: J. & L. Nicholson

Jupiter's moon could be habitat for life

The New York Times

Now that the hunt for extraterrestrial life is heating up, fueled by last week's release of tantalizing, if ambiguous, clues that Mars may once have harbored primitive microbes, scientists are calling for close exploration not only of the red planet but of a moon of Jupiter that is increasingly seen as a possible home to alien life.

The common denominator of both worlds is water, a prerequisite for life, at least in this part of the universe.

Today, Mars is largely a red desert strewn with rocks and many indications that

water flowed over its surface billions of years ago, cutting deep channels and filling large lakes. Mars offers no clear signs that liquid water now runs on its surface.

But Europa, a moon of Jupiter, is completely enveloped by water, either frozen or liquid, believed to be as deep as 60 miles in some places. In contrast, the Earth's seas reach down barely seven miles at most.

The rub for extraterrestrial life on Europa is that the moon's surface is an icy wasteland. But increasingly, scientists suspect that the Jovian satellite has a hot core

and that the inner part of its waters makes up a gigantic dark sea that may seethe with alien life forms that have quietly evolved over billions of years.

So great is the biological allure of Europa that even before the announcement about Mars last week, scientists were making plans to hold a meeting to discuss the odds of life arising there and were lobbying for new exploratory missions to the Jovian moon.

Their excitement has redoubled with the news that a Martian meteorite that fell to Earth contains hints of ancient extraterrestrial life.

The consensus is... We don't pose a threat, and any such civilization would be so advanced that it would be beyond that "War of the Worlds" thing. Probably.

"A warlike civilization would tend to destroy itself or be destroyed before it would get here," said Leonian, the SETI astrophysicist.

— Knight-Ridder Newspapers

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STATESMAN-JOURNAL, Salem, OR - May 24, 1996

IN SEARCH OF SASQUATCH

Big feet, little proof



The Associated Press

CLASSIC: Bigfoot 'evidence' photo, taken in 1967.

Byrne and other Bigfootologists say the answer rests in Bigfoot habits. Bigfoot is nocturnal, non-aggressive animal who avoids people. In addition, forests in Bigfoot's habitat are so densely wooded and sparsely populated that some planes that crash are never found.

One day, Byrne hopes to encounter a Bigfoot in the flesh, so he can get a pellet-sized flesh sample to help prove his case through DNA. Among the Bigfoot project's resources are a couple of helicopters and some special tissue sample guns to help with the task.

"I wouldn't want to hurt it. I'd love to go up to it and somehow communicate. It would be the culmination of a lifetime's work," says Byrne, a far-off look in his intense blue eyes.

Interest in Bigfoot is at an all-time high, Bigfoot researchers say. Visits to the three main World Wide Web Bigfoot sites have increased dramatically. (The Bigfoot Research Project is at [http://www.teleport.com/\(\(tilda\)tbrp.\)](http://www.teleport.com/((tilda)tbrp.))) New Bigfoot interest groups are popping up, often in unlikely places.

"People say, 'a Bigfoot in Kansas? Are you crazy?'" says Matt Dennis, who founded the Kansas Bigfoot Center last year. "But I'm almost willing to bet they exist here."

Portland's Western Bigfoot Society, with 300 members, is the nation's largest Bigfoot club. Its newsletter, *The Track Record*, reports several new sightings per month. But club founder Ray Crowe warns members to "wear their skepticals" when reading the reports.

Bigfoot attracts its share of unusual fans. A man in the San Francisco area is trying to start a Bigfoot/UFO museum. Others swear they converse on a psychic basis with Bigfoot.

"Some Bigfoot people are a lot like Elvis people," says Pyle, who received a Guggenheim Foundation fellowship to research his Bigfoot book. "It's not a matter of them not having both oars in the water. They don't even have a boat."

Byrne says many credible witnesses don't tell anyone: "They're afraid people will call them crazy; sometimes even their families think they are."

People like D.W. Patino, a former forest ranger who is now a police officer. He and his fiancée saw Bigfoot at night last year while camping on the Oregon coast. He's reluctant to speak of his Bigfoot encounter for fear of losing his job.

"I don't want to be thought of as crazy. I'm in law enforcement and am not supposed to go around seeing Bigfoot," he says. "Until the day I saw it, I never would have thought these creatures exist."

He says the creature walked along the beach without turning to look at him.

"I was terrified," says Patino. "It was something none of my training prepared me for."

The next day, he photographed six-inch-deep, 16-inch-long footprints in the sand. He sent the photos to Byrne.

"I was so relieved to talk to someone who took my story so seriously and seemed to have such deep respect for the animal," he says. "If I were Bigfoot and had to have someone find me, I'd want the person to be Peter Byrne."

■ Mount Hood researcher Peter Byrne says the truth is out there — and he's tracking it.

By Maria Goodavage
Gannett News Service

MOUNT HOOD — Vultures take to the sky, and in an instant, Peter Byrne turns off the engine of his red Jeep and lets it glide to a silent stop.

He steals into the forest, sniffs the air, tosses grass seed into the air to check the wind's direction and walks 100 yards to the corpse he hopes will be there — the corpse of a 600-pound, 7-foot-tall Bigfoot.

Alas, it's not Bigfoot. It's a beaver that had attracted the turkey vultures.

"This time it's not a Bigfoot," he says, leaning over the freshly dead beaver's body and trying not to appear disappointed. "Next time it could be. You can never ignore any lead when you're looking for a Bigfoot."

Byrne runs the nation's most intensive, high-tech, well-financed search for Bigfoot.

The Bigfoot Research Project is financed by a grant of undisclosed size through the Academy of Applied Science, which supports research outside the scientific mainstream.

Byrne's five-year search, which ends next year, has won praise from some university anthropologists impressed by his scientific rigor.

Byrne, 70, a native of Ireland who speaks with a refined accent and has a penchant for khaki clothes and silk ascots, has leapt out of many a Jeep in pursuit of Bigfoot leads in the past two decades.

A cross between Don Quixote and Indiana Jones, Byrne sees possibilities where others see only millions of acres of dense forest in the Pacific Northwest.

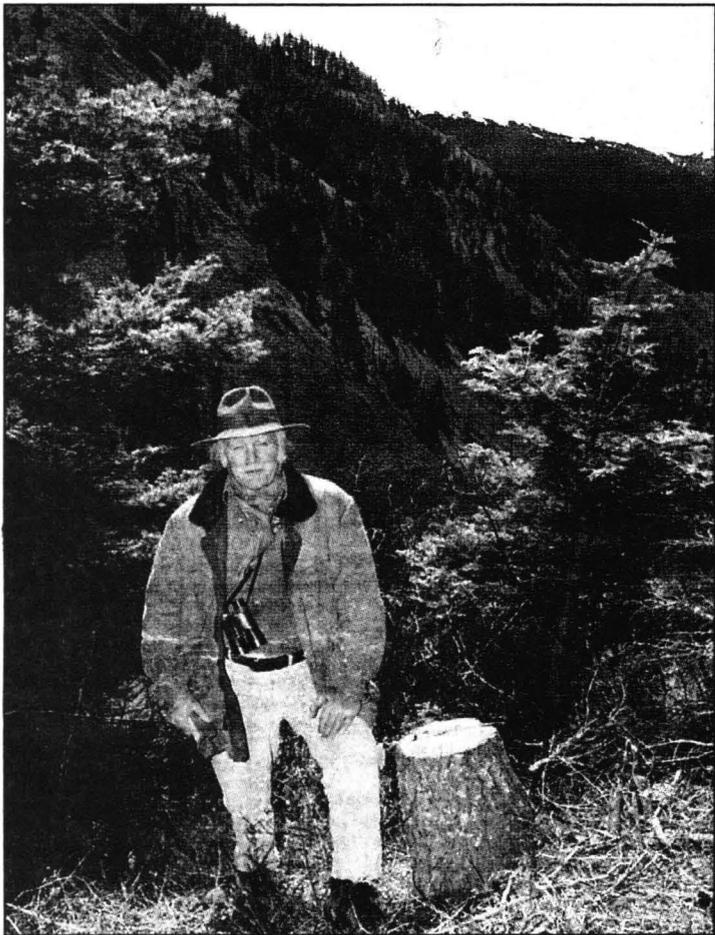
"Bigfoot is out there. Of this, I am certain," says Byrne, who's spent his life leading safaris in Nepal, searching the Himalayas for the Abominable Snowman and looking for Bigfoot. "We just need proof."

Byrne sees possibilities where others see only millions of acres of dense forest in the Pacific Northwest.

Byrne sees possibilities where others see only millions of acres of dense forest in the Pacific Northwest.

"This time it's not a Bigfoot. Next time it could be. You can never ignore any lead when you're looking for a Bigfoot."

Peter Byrne
Researcher



Jay Reiter/Statesman Journal

HUNTER: Peter Byrne has spent two decades — including five years with the Bigfoot Research Project — tracking down the legendary Bigfoot.



Jay Reiter/Statesman Journal

PETER BYRNE: "I wouldn't want to hurt it (Bigfoot). I'd love to go up to it and somehow communicate."

In June, his search will add an expensive night-vision, heat-sensing system. When a big animal triggers infrared sensors and automated cameras, phones will ring in the project's headquarters, and Bigfoot scouts will be deployed.

The public is cooperating. The project's hotline — 1-800-BIG-FOOT — rings constantly. (The number works only in the Pacific Northwest.) Last month, the four-person project staff fielded about 4,000 calls.

Calls to the hotline often go like this: "Agghhhh! I'm being eaten by Bigfoot!" In the background, adolescents guffaw.

Byrne and his staff listen patiently to every call.

"We're waiting for the one call that will lead to the big find," he says. "That's how we wade through the Bigfoot hoaxes."

Certainly there are plenty of hoaxers. As a reminder, Byrne keeps a photo on his shelf of an artificial-looking furry creature with no neck. "The man who sent us this has sent us five pictures, all fake," Byrne says. "Some people want attention; others want money."

Ecologist Robert Michael Pyle says most cultures have human-like giants in their folk history. "We have this need for some larger-than-life creature," says Pyle, author of *Where Bigfoot Walks: Crossing the Dark Divide*.

Pyle is skeptical that Bigfoot exists, but he hasn't ruled it out. "There's a lot of evidence. This could be a case where biology and mythology correspond."

For more than 200 years, reports of immense, dark, hairy bipeds have circulated in northern California, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and parts of Western Canada. Believers say as many as 2,000 of the creatures could live in the region.

Some think Bigfoot, also known as Sasquatch, descended from the extinct *gigantopithecus*, the largest ape that ever lived. They theorize the ape crossed over to North America and survived here in small numbers before dying off in its native Asia. Others think Bigfoot is a much closer cousin to humans.

How could such a huge creature elude humans in places in the most industrialized country in the world?