

UFO

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TRIBUNE, Great Falls, MT - Aug. 13, 1996



BOB GILLULY
Tribune Regional Editor

1967 UFO incident still mystifies man

When Robert L. Salas of Bellevue, Wash., walked into the Tribune newsroom for an interview a couple of weeks ago, he told an amazing story.

Salas, a former Air Force officer, detailed his role in an incident when an unidentified flying object reportedly hovered above a central Montana missile launch control center and shut down its electronic systems in 1967.

It happened in the Echo missile complex about midway between Hilger and Winifred, north of Lewistown. And it happened at a time when the area was awash in UFO reports. The Tribune carried at least a dozen civilian reports of mysterious lights in the sky around central Montana during 1966 and 1967.

At the time, officers at Malmstrom Air Force Base refused to comment. Only later was it



Salas

learned the Air Force had done a number of investigations and kept them secret in the interest of national security. Salas, a graduate of the Air Force Academy, was a first lieutenant and deputy crew commander of the Echo launch center on the early morning of March 16, 1967. His post was in the underground capsule, where two officers were in readiness 24 hours a day to launch missiles if ordered.

Before daylight, Salas said, he received a call from a security guard above ground who reported flying objects in the sky doing strange maneuvers.

"I kinda dismissed it," said Salas. But five minutes later the guard called back and said a glowing red object was hovering outside the front gate of the center. "He was agitated and scared," Salas said. Because he could not leave his post under any circumstances, Salas said, he woke up the crew commander and alerted Malmstrom security forces.

Only minutes later, the launch center and all 10 missile sites in the Echo complex lost their electrical power. The backup system also was knocked out. "Everything was 'no go,'" the former officer said.

In the confusion, the glowing red object apparently disappeared. Events after that were anticlimactic.

Maintenance crews came out to fix the electrical systems; it took the rest of the day to bring them back on line. Salas was debriefed

and told to say nothing. "I remember talking with a colonel who admitted he was shocked and mystified," said Salas. "He could think of no explanation."

Salas finished his tour at Malmstrom in 1969. He left the Air Force in 1971 and later joined the Federal Aviation Administration. He spent 22 years with the FAA, until retiring last fall.

Through the years, he said, he often wondered if there was an explanation. Or verification.

Only since the end of the Cold War has it been possible to get some Air Force documents declassified. Salas has obtained a report of the 1967 investigation. In it, the Air Force decided the UFO sighting was "disproven." But it contained no details of the probe or an explanation for that conclusion.

Salas is anything but a UFO junkie. But now he'd like to find some answers to the mystery of nearly 30 years ago in central Montana.

Salas thinks there may be some retired Air Force personnel in Montana who remember the incident. "I think some fighters were scrambled in response to our warning, and it's possible something was seen on radar. There were dozens of others in the chain of command who must have heard about it," he said.

Anyone with information, or an interest in the declassified material he has obtained can write Robert Salas at P.O. Box 52721, Bellevue, WA. 98015-2721. Or call him at (206) 865-8529.

Gilluly can be reached at (406) 791-1472.

HERALD-REPUBLIC, Yakima, WA - Aug. 31, 1996

Pie (plate) in the sky

State's No. 1 in UFO sightings, and Eastern Washington has its share

By NEIL GONZALES
Of the Herald-Republic

For a while, Dorothea Sturm kept quiet about the strange disk-like object she saw from high atop her fire-lookout tower on the Yakama Indian Nation reservation.

It was a Sunday afternoon in the early 1960s. She "was looking out the window and saw something flying" above the trees, said the longtime smoke watcher. "It had the shape of a pie plate on its side."

Sturm said she held off telling anyone for a time about the experience, but eventually confided in her old boss — who as it turned out also had seen and heard about bizarre sights in the skies.

"To this day, I rarely talk to people about (UFOs) because ... well, you know," the 76-year-old Sturm said with a chuckle.

But many in Washington are talking about them. At least, more of them in this state are reporting seeing UFOs than any other state in the nation.

In a published report Friday, the National UFO Reporting Center said Washingtonians called in 263 sightings from 1995 through the first four months of 1996. California was second with 168, followed by Oregon with 67, Florida with 41 and Minnesota with 38.

Why are we No. 1? It may be because the nonprofit UFO center is based in Seattle.

Center director Peter Davenport didn't have the exact numbers of sightings from Eastern Washington, but he recalled that there have been several reports from the Yakima area and cited a "very good one over the Manastash Ridge in 1994 made by a qualified observer."

That report involved a "very distinct red light above the ridge going east to west," he said. There also was a sighting a year ago at the Yakima airport.

Weather stations, law-enforcement and government agencies, and military facilities have come to know about the center, which was established in 1974, and usually direct UFO-related calls there.

"I guess (a weather station) is a logical place to call when you see an unusual thing in the sky," said Alan Pollan, meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Pendleton, Ore.

But he's not aware of any UFO calls made to his station besides "the few Martians on the staff here," he said, laughing.

Meanwhile, Stephen Stout, interpretive specialist at the Goldendale Observatory, knows what he sees in the sky.

"A couple of weeks ago, we saw a meteor shower," he said. "Beyond that, we've seen regular things" such as planets and star clusters.

It's different for Sturm, who's been a lookout for 35 years. To go along with sighting some 300 fires over the years, she has several times spotted unusual oblong objects, bright lights and orange balls hovering above the wilderness.

She said the encounters have never really frightened her, although that first one back in the '60s might come close.

After seeing that plate-on-its-side-shaped object, "I heard something above my lookout, like a whirlpool sound," she recalled in a telephone conversation from her West Valley home. "I wanted to go outside to take a look and opened the screen door, but there was a force there and I couldn't go out. I had the sensation that if I went out I wouldn't be able to come back in."

So, are all those weird objects in the sky just planes and weather balloons? Sturm doesn't think so.

"I can't tell you what they are," she said. "I don't know what they are. I suppose that's why they call them UFOs."

BULLETIN, Manteca, CA - July 20, 1996

Saw picture of real UFO

Editor, The Manteca Bulletin:

With the Freedom of Information act, it is time some demand that the federal government, make known what information they have about flying saucers. I know that flying saucers are real. I was working in Wichita, Kansas, when the flying saucer, crashed near Roswell, New Mexico.

A traveling salesman was on his way back to Wichita when this UFO crashed, some short distance ahead. It was less than 100 yards, from the highway, this man pulled off the highway. Took his camera and took pictures of the crash. He proceeded to Wichita, Kansas, and had his film developed.

I was privileged to see one of the pictures. In the picture there was one survivor standing outside, observing the crash. He was approximately 4-foot tall.

The military immediately sealed off the crash site and took possession of the saucer.

Many of the local citizens around Roswell, New Mexico, witnessed to the flying saucer, but were not permitted to get near the crash site. We need to demand that the government disclose the flying saucer, is now being hid.

Arden E. Anderson
Manteca

DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, UT - Sept. 10, 1996 CR: Z. Van Eyck

BARLEY FIELD

Did energy vortex create crop circle?

Scientists say formation near Logan appears to be result of high-heat energy.

By Zack Van Eyck
Deseret News staff writer

LOGAN — The crop circle found in a barley field south of here last month was not faked by human beings, a team of research scientists has concluded.

Nancy Talbot, a member of former University of Michigan professor W.C. Levensgood's team of biophysicists, said the formation appears to be an "authentic" crop circle created by high-heat energy. Levensgood believes crop circles

may be a natural phenomenon created by unusual energy vortices.

Talbot said preliminary studies on plant samples taken from inside the Logan circle show changes in the molecular structure that can only be made by extremely high heat. The same evidence is found in dozens of other "authentic" formations found in the United States, Canada and elsewhere and studied by Levensgood.

"We know of no technology that exists that would make it possible for people to create the same effect," Talbot said.

Talbot said initial examinations revealed "expulsion cavities" present in the barley. She said an

expulsion cavity is "a hole at the (plant's) node which is blown out when the internal structure is heated to the point where the liquid exudate (cellular material) inside the plant expands during the heating process."

"We are pretty convinced it's (a form of) microwave energy that's doing this and this is one of the energy signatures that we look for in these crop formations," she said. Final results should be available within a week, she said.

The crop circle was actually two circles of flattened barley, one 58 feet across and a smaller one measuring 30 feet, connected by a 258-foot long line of flattened barley that pointed almost directly at the Logan LDS Temple.

A spokeswoman with the Cache County Sheriff's Department said Tuesday its investigation is still open. Sheriff Sid Groll has said he believes the crop circle was created by pranksters but was also checking into the possibility that hungry gophers might have created the field design.

UFOs Are Back But Don't Worry

N. By Bud Meier

Given this Valley's history as a center of inexplicable, occasionally supernatural occurrences, we jokingly suggested last winter that the Washington County Board include in its long-range plans a landing field for those maddening, slippery-as-soap phenomena known as UFOs.

Which is to say that, yes, the flying saucers are back in our midst, and have been, since before Thanksgiving. And again, they seem in a benign almost jocular mood.

We know this is so because we have had numerous sincere reports from May Township and points east to the St. Croix River of recurrent clusters of unaccountable lights, bright illuminations that scoff at the accepted laws of physics and gyrate almost sportively in the twilight skies of dawn and dusk.

The initial report came in a letter to the wide-awake (Marine) *Country Messenger* from Merwyn Brown of Norell Ave. N. in the township. His note was unhysterical, a model of observational objectivity. He said that the time was 6:40 p.m., Nov. 11, 1995. The calm, barely freezing air was clear enough to reveal five or six lights on and above the eastern horizon, silently maneuvering around a center line bearing approximately 100 compass degrees (east by southeast) from the Brown residence.

"They were not strobe lights on aircraft," Merwyn wrote firmly, contrasting the dots to familiar planes that flew overhead during the sighting, creating both engine noise and blinking spots of light. "Visual comparisons were easy. These lights were not twinkling stars."

As Brown watched, the UFOs would glow brightly then fade to the point of extinction. "They wavered up and down, left and right—just wandering,

They'd also change colors, from white to yellow, red and blue."

The last of the lights in the initial UFO show disappeared within two hours, before the clouds moved in. However, the family (including Brown's wife Mary) continued to observe the mystery, cover permitting. By late November, Merwyn wrote a second letter to the *Messenger* asking anyone who'd seen the illuminations to let him know, several light watchers had contacted the Browns, all generally confirming the family's narratives.

By the time we, an intrepid UFO chase team, happened onto the story, additional residents had stepped forward with remarkably similar accounts.

Jackie Miller of Marine said her first sighting occurred in early December from the home of friends "high up" over the valley south of the village between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. one evening.

"There were three separate airborne objects, high up and acting variously in unison, or separately. They'd move swiftly and make sharp right-angle turns. Or they'd gyrate for a minute or two, beaming all colors of the rainbow: red, blue, green, yellow," she said.

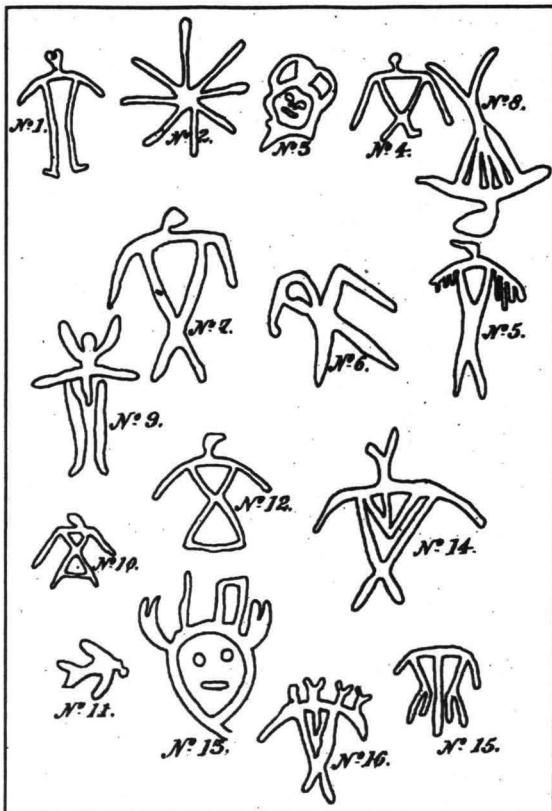
Ms. Miller added that a few evenings later there was an over-flight of several helicopters. The choppers had no

clear markings and seemed to be flying unusually low, leading some villagers to feel that the ships were military aircraft with a role in looking into the sightings.

Another local person, whom we shall call Mac, (apparently a military veteran), described three objects, capable of rapid, jump-like movement, as being two or three times brighter than even the North Star but without the "twinkling" effect imposed on dimmer bodies by the earth's unstable atmosphere. He said the viewing experience made him think of the many incidents of the same kind long reported over the little towns of northwestern Wisconsin.

"I used our 7x15-power binoculars. I gained no definition, but they allowed me to see the coloration more clearly. I concur that there are two constant lights, white and yellow, then bursts of variegated hues," he said. However, both Mac and his wife agreed that their sightings were not followed by unusual air activity over the village.

Meantime, we ran the local law enforcement trap-line, complying strictly with the protocols of the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek, world-class astrophysicist, investigator of UFOs for Uncle Sam and inventor of the "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" sighting model. But sheriffs' offices in Washington,



Pictographs found in a cave in Washington County, Minnesota, from Newton H. Winchell, ed. *Aborigines of Minnesota*, p. 567. Some people theorize that numbers 5 and 13 suggest that the early Indian settlers also saw beings from space.

Polk and St. Croix Counties reported no citizen inquiries; nor had the FAA or military radars scoped out any anomalous echoes.

As to questions of why the

lights should nervously roost here and now, the Browns have the germ of a theory: One reason may be that our sun's planets are now in alignment and under extreme stress, as wit-

nessed by a recent 6.5 Richter-Scale earthquake in the Middle East. "Psychic people also tell us that UFOs are mostly energy," wrote Merwyn, "and they're drawn to energy, like the power plant at Bayport."

Expanding on her husband's power plant thesis, Mary Brown suggested that halo-like auras sometimes hint that the lights are associated with an energy not of our earth, but rather from some universal, cosmic source. She added matter of factly: "I tried to video the objects, but the lights simply weren't strong enough to register."

So the journal remains open on the sprightly, night-dancing lights over this neck of the

Valley. Gazette trackers will remain alert. Of course, there is nothing radically new here. The *Dalles Visitor* has reported over 150 years of such phenomena in the region.

To this point, the most sagacious observation on the current UFO excitement was uttered by Kay Hempel, publisher of the *Country Messenger*.

"If they are really visitors from afar, they've certainly demonstrated their good taste . . . and an appreciation of some of this world's finest scenery."

Bud Meier who wrote about UFO pancakes for the *Visitor* last year gave another version of this story to the *Stillwater Gazette's Weekender* supplement.

Call goes up on UFOs

In 1967, I was in the U.S. Air Force stationed in Taiwan. Three nights in a row at approximately the same time, three points of light sped across the sky in different directions. They stopped for about a half-hour, close together in the same place each night. After the second night, when there were four or five us, we notified authorities. No one came until the fourth night, when — surprise — the lights were gone. My question is, how many *Macomb Daily* readers have experienced an unidentified-flying object, phenomenon, and what do they believe them to be?

Ed Note: How about it, Star Trekklies, seen any UFOs? Give "Soundoff" a call. (And remember: Black helicopters don't qualify, OK?)

MACOMB DAILY, Mt. Clemens, MI
Aug. 14, 1996

Volunteer group to probe two alleged UFO sightings

■ First incidents in eight months: Objects reportedly were seen in the sky near Damiansville and Hillsboro.

BY MARK HODAPP
Sentinel Regional Editor

DAMIANSVILLE — A St. Louis volunteer group is conducting an investigation into reported sightings of unidentified flying objects in the Damiansville and Hillsboro areas on July 16-17.

David Marler of Actaeon Investigations confirmed Wednesday that the two sightings are under investigation and said they are the first two reports of UFO sightings in Illinois in about eight months.

On July 17, a Damiansville woman reported seeing a triangular-shaped object flying just above the tree line south of the intersection of Damiansville Road and Interstate 64. By topographical map, that distance is estimated at 2 to 2½ miles.

She told Marler the object was flat on the bottom and had facets on the top and that it was very shiny, like polished steel.

Marler, a resident of Fairmont City, said he asked the woman,

who has been guaranteed anonymity, to estimate the size of the object by holding various items between her thumb and forefinger at arms length. Three times the woman said the object was as big as a baseball.

"That huge!" Marler said in a telephone interview on Wednesday.

The woman told Marler she saw the object as she was approaching the interstate about 9:30 a.m. She said it stayed in the same position for four or five minutes and then vanished. She said she saw no trail of smoke or vapor and heard no noise.

Marler said the woman has worked at Scott Air Force Base and the object resembled no military aircraft she has ever seen.

He said she also referred the sighting to the St. Louis Science Center and that he met the woman through a friend in Mascoutah who assured him the woman was

very credible and a former UFO skeptic.

Officials at Scott Air Force Base are checking flight logs to see if any military aircraft were in the vicinity at the time of the sighting. Marler said he had not yet received the Air Force's report.

No UFO reports were logged by the Clinton or Washington county sheriff's departments or Okawville police, Marler said.

He noted that between 9 and 10 p.m. the previous night, a couple in the Hillsboro area reported seeing two balls of light in the night sky. The lights were traveling at high rates of speed and making right-angle turns. At one point, the lights merged, then separated, and for a time they appeared to be chasing each other in a circular fashion.

Marler said the Hillsboro couple watched these lights for about 30 minutes. They heard no noise and finally the lights disappeared. One moved west at a high rate of speed and the other moved to the south. The light that moved south appeared to be gaining altitude, he said.

Actaeon Investigations consist of about a dozen volunteers and was formed about two years ago, breaking from other UFO discussion groups.

"We were frustrated by the lack of serious investigation into the reports we were getting," Marler said. "We wanted to talk to the witnesses and gather physical evidence. They wanted to talk about the latest episode of 'The X-Files.'"

Actaeon has chapters in St. Louis and Springfield, Mo., and works closely with the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) Chapter in Illinois.

"We make no claims as to what is happening," he said. "But people are seeing things and they ought to be investigated."

He said the Damiansville sighting is a good sighting in the sense that the woman's description is detailed. "I wish we had another witness to corroborate her statement," he said.

Marler said only about 10 percent of sightings are reported because of "the ridicule factor" such reporting causes.

Marler usually works with two

other investigators checking UFO reports in Missouri and Illinois. In only one case has he found physical evidence associated with a sighting.

In May of 1995 a rough circular area of wheat gently bent at an angle, but not broken, was found in a pattern matching the physical shape of a UFO reported in the same area.

Information on UFO sightings is being sought, especially on the Damiansville sighting. Actaeon can be contacted by calling its answering service at (314) 994-1290.

Abducted By Aliens, Says Rockford Man

STORY BY SARA

ROCKFORD PROFILES

ORDINARY ROCKFORD PEOPLE WHO DO NOT SO ORDINARY THINGS

Before you scoff or laugh at the following story, remember it's the *perceived* experience of a citizen who works in the Rockford community, is raising five children, and has a wife attending a university in Wisconsin. He also has a great deal of support from hundreds of others who communicate their own similar experiences on the Internet. (Maybe that's the most frightening part.)

I agreed to interview him accompanied by James Falzone, a senior deputy with the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department. We found him to be articulate, sensitive, informed and possibly just a little rattled by what he believes is happening to him.

He wishes to remain anonymous because of past ridicule from a few of his friends and relatives, so we're calling him by the name "Sam."

It began when he was only six years old. Following are his words spoken in a soft, at times matter-of-fact voice.



Creatures in drawings are just a few of many alien visitors from intergalactic planetary cooperations, according to the man called "Sam" in accompanying story. Insert (lower left) depicts one of their space craft. He believes they have been studying us for centuries: "For them, time does not exist. They travel by inter-dimensional methods. That explains why they can blink in and out of our vision."



HE'S THE LIZARD MAN from Dragonas, with luminescent scales of light green and huge beautiful blue eyes, according to a Rockford man's description.

"I was at my childhood home in Belvidere, lying in bed. At first I thought it was a dream, but I'm wide awake at the time. I see a speck of light above me beginning to form a hypnotic spiral.

"The next moment I feel plastered to my bed and I'm moving up. Then I remember the downward sensation. This happened several times in my youth, but I had no memory of the 'trip' besides the travel.

"I remember as a young boy looking out the window on Christmas Eve. I'm watching the skies for Santa Claus. Vivid lights come over the house. I think it's Santa. That's all I remember.

"Just a few days ago, I decided to ask my childhood friend if he remembers anything odd about our growing up years. He said he sure does and asks, *Do you recall that night we were camping out in the back yard and those lights came down? They were red, blue and green. We ran inside and your dad said for us to go back to bed?*

"Oddly, I don't remember that experience. But it sure fits. I used to have this dream. I'm surrounded by white wolves with red eyes. I'm terrified. That's what I've come to know as a screen memory. Many other people have had the same dream.

"I was probably 40 years old when I began to realize what was happening. Now these dreams make sense. One particular dream is especially vivid. The vehicle picks me up and takes me into the sky, into the moon. I see a beautiful paradise, trees, flowers. There's a source of light but I can't see the sun. Something is off about the scene.

"It's a hologram. The aliens create these images and settings. They make us see what they want us to see."

Sam believes there are many different beings that regularly come to earth. The little bald guys with big round eyes "that everyone sees," he calls Pleiadeans. Then there's the lizard man, a reptilian humanoid from "Dragonas." Following is Sam's description of these beings:

"The Dragonian has scales that glow like mother-of-pearl or abalone with a slight green tinge, and huge clear blue eyes. Beautiful. Dragonians are slightly shorter than the average man.

"Most aliens exhibit no emotion. They are totally scientific, analytical and have hive mentality. One mind is connected to another mind.

They have no sense of humor," explains Sam. "Once an alien doctor held up a human hair over his own bald head as a joke. None of the other beings laughed."

He says they don't eat. "They ingest food, but do not eliminate. Waste goes out through the skin. And Pleiadeans cannot reproduce. Their sexual organs have atrophied. That's why they do genetic experiments. They want to preserve their race somehow."

In one almost humorous experience, Sam says both he and his four-year-old son were suspended naked in some kind of green liquid which they could actually breathe. "I'm holding my son's hand as we accelerate. When we get out, there's a pile of excrement on the floor. I warn my boy not to step in it," he explains.

"I am awake lying on a stainless steel table which is contoured to the shape of the body. Eight beings are standing there dressed in what appear to be blue farmer's jeans and boots. I think they're little policemen. I get up and start running. Out of a doorway FLOAT two beings in white smocks. Their faces are not visible, blocked out. They touch me with a wand which looks like quartz with a diamond at the end, and I'm unconscious. Then I wake up on a farm in Indianola, Iowa. I go outside and find the grass is laid down in a circle with a 30-foot diameter."

The father of five says he believes his wife and entire family have been the object of medical experimentation. He has scars on his body which he attributes to alien doctors.

"They can implant a small chip in your eye, attach it on your optic nerve, and they can see what you see."

He also believes these beings from an intergalactic organization of planetary cooperations have been studying earth for centuries.

But he has begun to suspect they aren't entirely benevolent. Even though the lizard men smile at him, he knows they are capable of mind manipulation for their own purposes.

oOo

Well, there's more to the story. But the hour is near when all good reporters should be beamed home for a night's rest before digesting this hard-to-swallow story. Even though Deputy Falzone and I can suggest many possible explanations for what Sam sees, we both agree, he is telling the truth as he interprets it.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, OR - Sept. 8, 1996

Paul Fattig

Commentary



Did aliens turn out the lights?

First, you ought to know there is absolutely no evidence that aliens have actually landed in the Rogue Valley.

Nor has anyone been abducted. Not that we know of, anyway.

But there is a growing suspicion that other-world creatures aboard the Mother Ship yanked the plug on Aug. 10, that blistering hot Saturday afternoon when the power went out in nine Western states.

That is, if you place any faith in an Internet report that alien space craft were seen hovering over the Table Rocks the day the power died.

Of course, authorities cleverly blamed the outage on too many air conditioners running full blast in the sweltering heat. Too many people using too much power, they explained with a wink.

Yeah, right. Like we don't know the authorities — police, power company officials and Bill Clinton — are in cahoots with the alien beings. Can you tell me with a straight face that Newt Gingrich is humanoid?

Or consider the journalists slithering around on the third rock from the sun. We've been described as space cadets often enough.

Minneapolis resident Tim Watts, 38, an investigator with the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), isn't convinced aliens traveled zillions of light years to hover over two big flat rocks in our little valley.

"I'm just trying to put together the pieces," he says in a call to the Mail Tribune.

MUFON is a group of serious-minded folks from all walks of life who routinely check out UFO reports, explains the former broadcaster who now works as a consultant.

His interest stemmed from an Aug. 26 Internet report by Skywatch International, a group whose members watch the heavens for signs of extraterrestrial existence.

The report was written by a woman who, with her husband, spent the power outage weekend camped near Medicine Lake in far northern California. The remote lake is just south of Lava Beds National Monument.

Like good California campers, they turned on their radio. That's when they heard a broadcaster announce that three UFOs were sighted over the Table Rocks in southern Oregon.

At precisely 3:45 p.m. on Aug. 10. Yep, the same time the power went out. The ships were reported to be oblong and roughly 190 feet long.

True, that description sometimes brings a knowing nod from those who see a tobacco company conspiracy. An interstellar advertising ploy.

The woman reports the announcer seemed to think it was all a joke. So the campers traveled on to Medford where they spent the night.

That's when the woman contacted her daughter to ask about the UFO sighting.

"Before I could mention the UFO report she started to tell me how strange the power outage the day before was," the woman writes.

Her daughter — it's not clear where she lives — told her that the telephones were as dead as the power lines that day.

"She went to her husband's place of work (a gas station) and was told that a man had come into the gas station saying that all the cars on Interstate 5 had stalled when the power went out," the woman continues.

Moreover, her daughter told her that a woman came into the station to report her car had mysteriously stalled. She wanted it checked out. You guessed it. Mechanics couldn't find anything wrong with her car.

Unfortunately, the only vehicles stalled on I-5 that day in the Rogue Valley were a few victims of overheating. Telephone lines were up. And UFO sightings were down.

"The fact you guys don't have anything, that's interesting," says Watts, a self-described UFOologist. "A lot of times amateur observers will see landing lights and jump to a conclusion."

Watts became interested in UFOs after he and his wife encountered strange lights near his parents' farm in Iowa in the early 1980s.

"We didn't hear rotors, props — nothing," he says.

But there were reports about the strange lights in the Des Moines Register the next morning, he says.

"I'm looking for answers beyond swamp gas and that other crap," Watts says. "But I need facts that can be corroborated."

Not flights of fancy but rock-solid facts, like the Table Rocks.

Paul Fattig is a Mail Tribune staff writer. Call him at 776-4496.

Gobs of strange lights land on pages of book

By Bill Briggs
Denver Post Staff Writer

The high beams from his battered pickup bathed Road T in a lonely glow and then stretched across the valley floor, touching clumps of rabbitbrush and greasewood before finally dying out.

The sky was moonless and black. The man at the wheel was physically spent and road weary. But Chris O'Brien was about to see the light.

He was driving toward his home in the tiny village of Crestone, fresh from a weekend gig up north in Salida where he had played keyboard with his rock-band Expedition. It was 3:30 a.m.

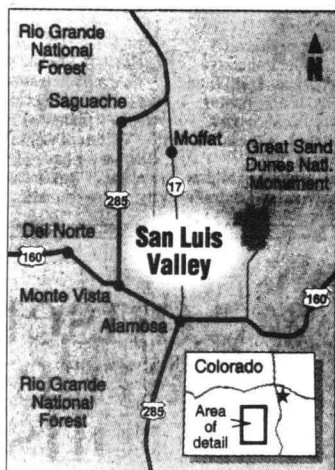
Suddenly, out of the silence, a loud crackling sound filled his head, like white noise between AM radio stations. He slowed the truck. Then O'Brien spied movement ahead, just over the dark peaks of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

"Gliding from the southeast, I beheld a huge, brilliant green glittering ball of light!" O'Brien recalls. "Behind it streamed a tail as it remained at a constant altitude parallel to the mountaintops . . . As it faded away from me, the crackling sound in my ears stopped."

"This was my second sighting of something out of the ordinary in the night sky over the San Luis Valley. It was far from the last."

Ever since that eerie display in 1991, O'Brien has been working nonstop to track down the source of the multicolored orbs, triangular crafts and midnight cattle mutilations that have reportedly beset this wide-open region of southern Colorado.

After years of documenting sightings by fellow valley residents, O'Brien has written a book about the unexplained phenomena. "The Mysterious Valley" (\$6.99, St. Martin's Paperbacks) hit the stores this month.



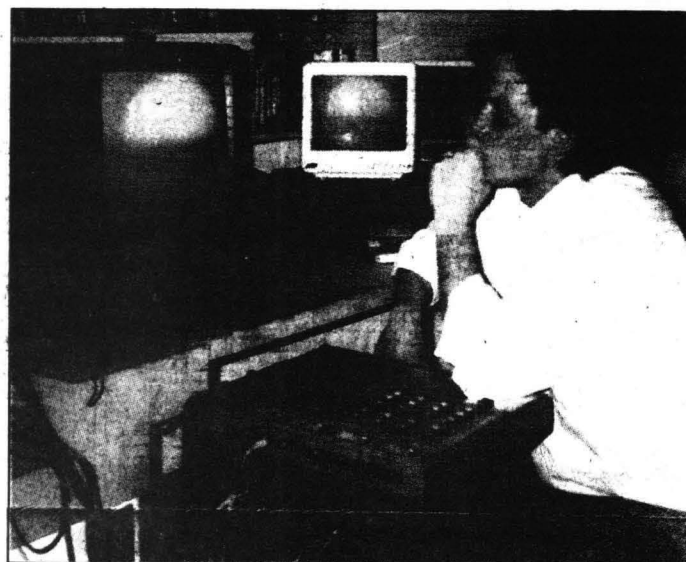
The Denver Post

Chris O'Brien pores over material on strange sightings in San Luis Valley.

"It was a labor of love and hate — I hate it when people call and wake me up at 5 a.m. to (mistakenly) report Venus rising," O'Brien laughs in a telephone interview. "But I feel like I'm on the crest of a new, grassroots wave in ufology."

"And I hope this inspires other people to go ahead and investigate these cases of the unusual and the ridiculous."

O'Brien has combed every corner of the valley, from Crestone to the Great Sand Dunes down to Alamosa. From Del Norte back up to Villa Grove. He's interviewed ranchers, cowboys and sheriff's deputies. He's shot the breeze with artists, musicians



and healers. And in his book, they all open up and tell tales of "bouncing lights," "large, green fireballs," and "silver spheres hovering over the mountains."

He weaves the accounts together in a four-year time line (ending in 1995), interspersing them with other notes and details from his dogged investigation.

"I never actually dreamed I would solve these riddles," O'Brien writes. "But I felt compelled to investigate the extent of these elusive events."

In an interview, he adds: "I'm no pro. All these people call me an expert and it makes me laugh. I'm more confused now

than I was four years ago."

During his quest, O'Brien applied what he calls the 13 "suggested rules of investigation." They included No. 6: "Always assume there is a mundane explanation until proven extraordinary." And No. 5: "It is impossible to be too objective when scientifically investigating claims of the unusual."

That's been a key. He does not want to come off as some flying-saucer-crazed crackpot. His research has been thoughtful, thorough and painstakingly documented. More than that, he didn't enter into his search for the truth as a hardened UFO believer.

"I tried to ride the fence to be as objective and skeptical as possible," O'Brien says. "The whole book, I hope, comes across as being a work by someone who at their core is very skeptical about this stuff."

"With the majority of these types of books, the author has kind of figured it out in his own mind, and they're writing the book to support their own theory. I really feel like that's a very legitimate knock on ufology. It could be one of the main reasons mainstream science hasn't taken this whole subject seriously."

Of course, not everyone in the valley has taken O'Brien's work seriously. Some in the region chalk the whole thing up to silliness. Others consider the sightings non-news events that "just go on" and should remain a private little secret.

There's a buzz in the valley that O'Brien's book is out though many people said they hadn't seen it. A few who have seen it didn't like it.

"He had one of the covers up in the liquor-store window here for a while," said Margot Williams, who runs Flowers By Margot in Crestone. "That kind of raised some hackles around here."

The reason: On the back cover, above a painting of a floating greenish-yellow orb, a blurb calls O'Brien one of the "residents of the strange communities of Crestone and the Baca."

Beyond that, the reaction has been quiet. "There have been no devotees appearing, asking for directions to his house," Williams said. "I suppose there will be."

Yet "The Mysterious Valley" doesn't reveal any otherworldly secrets behind the lights in the sky. If anything, O'Brien, a "refugee from the East Coast," suggests some very earthly possibilities.

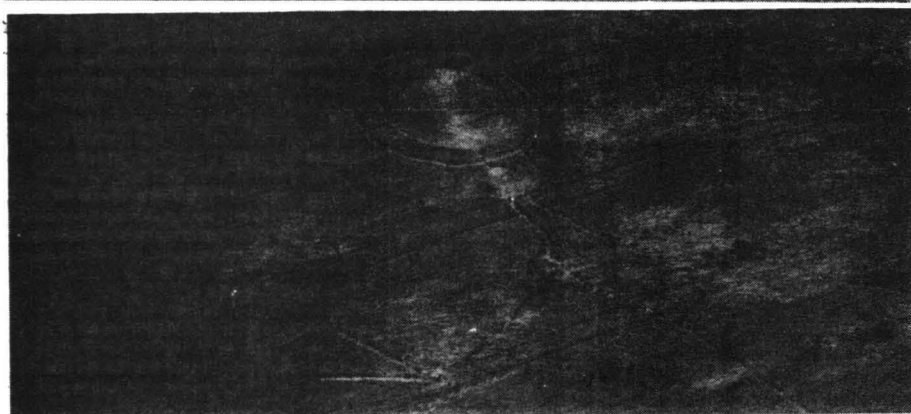
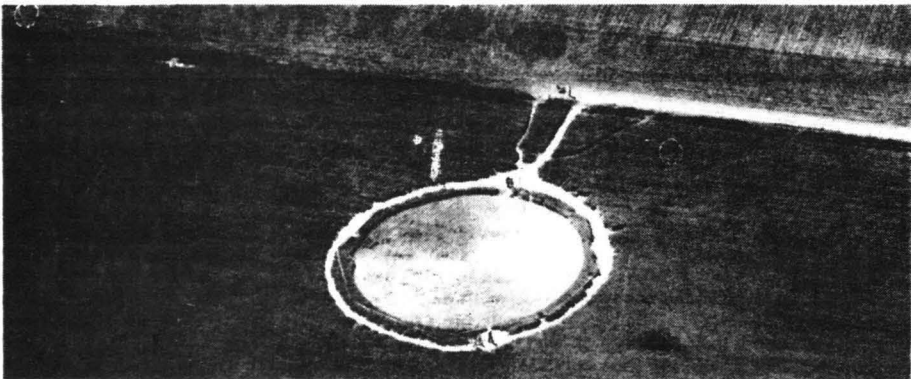
He mentions that the Colorado Air National Guard uses a portion of the valley for training. The Guard flies 2,929 jet missions a year in the area.

Even more intriguing, O'Brien questions whether the rash of sightings and cattle mutilations are somehow linked to people's unconscious desire to create a new American mythology.

"We are such a technologically advanced culture, and science has left forward and stolen all the mysteries. Maybe, as a culture, we're trying to create new myths, new legends."

"I think that's what's behind a lot of these reports," O'Brien says. "We're seeing the fodder for a new high-tech mythos. What's left for us to figure out?"

POST & MAIL, Columbia City, IN - Aug. 13, 1996



Questions still abound

The crop circles at Paulding and Etna-Troy, both seen here in aerial photos by MUFON field investigator Roger Sudgen, are remarkably in many ways. Both possess the same mathematical arc, but most bizarre, they both rest along the 41st latitudinal line and they are each 45 nautical miles from burn in a straight line, where there were convincing accounts of UFO sightings recently. With 35 nautical miles between the two sites, the mysterious phenomena form an isosceles triangle. Strange vehicles with sophisticated electronic equipment in the area around the local site, have prompted speculation about "hush-hush" government monitoring of the situation. When confronted, a driver in the unmarked van claimed they were looking for a "hidden transmitter." Shortly thereafter, two vehicle crews quickly disassembled their odd-looking "antenna-type" equipment from their roofs at a small cemetery nearby before leaving. One of the vehicles without the equipment, a black, 4-door blazer of possibly GMC make, is known to be a type frequently used by government agents.

Photos contributed

CR: J. Whitehead

Logan Wheat Field Yields a Mystery

BY JOSHUA B. GOOD
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

LOGAN — Wheat farmer Seth Alder has spent his whole life worrying about what the rain and the bugs do to his crops.

On Friday, he was more concerned about visitors from another planet.

That's because Alder, 81, found a mysterious design carved in his wheat field. And as far as he can tell, it wasn't made by anyone who got into the field on foot. No trail into the crop design was found. The only access was from above.

"Well, you know, the scriptures tell of life on other planets," Alder said.

Still, Alder's not committed to any flying-saucer theory. So he called the Cache County Sheriff's Office, hoping it could solve the puzzle.

Sgt. Mark Olsen and Deputy Kari Thurgood investigated and drew a diagram of the crop design in their official reports. The design looks like a long-necked,



Ryan Miller/The Salt Lake Tribune

A crop design discovered Friday in a Logan wheat field dwarfs human beings inspecting it on Saturday. Investigators say it's probably about a month old, but it's origin is . . . unknown,

long-tailed turtle on skis.

The investigation revealed the damage happened about a month ago when the wheat stalks were still green. They were flattened, but not cut. The design is not visible from the nearest road, which is about 400 yards away.

One piece of evidence — a hole in the center of a circle — made it look like someone planted a pole in the field and then, with a rope attached to the pole, mowed down the wheat in a circle.

But the deputy and her sergeant couldn't figure out why there weren't any tracks into the crop circles, located near the intersection of 1200 South and Highway 165. A trail visible from the air Saturday was made by Alder and sheriff's investigators.

"Whoever or whatever did it spent some time on it," Olsen said. "Unless it was a big machine that sat down on it."

On Saturday, some human visitors to Alder's wheat field needed only a few minutes in the crop circle before they were convinced something made a galactic pit stop in Logan.

"It looks like the spaceship just landed out here," said Judy Cobia, a 53-year-old Honeyville resident who drove to Logan to see the crop circle.

Skeptical observers of crop circles in England, where the phenomenon has gotten the most publicity, say they are certainly human-made. In 1991, dozens of crop circles were discovered all across England, leading many to speculate about alien visitors. Two men later came forward and confessed. They had used a rope and two boards to flatten the wheat in neat, near-perfect circles.

Even if the Logan crop circle is a hoax, some neighbors think it is still manna from heaven.

Don and Dottie Searles, who own Katie's Kitchen across the road from the wheat field, have already come up with a slogan to attract hungry sightseers.

"You know what they say? The food at Katie's Kitchen is out of this world," Don Searles laughed after spending Saturday afternoon inspecting the circle.

Great Western Aviation, at the Logan-Cache Airport, provided two charter aircraft Saturday to fly photographers and reporters from *The Herald Journal* in Logan and *The Salt Lake Tribune* over the wheat field.

But those who want to see the design or cash in on it better hurry up, said Alder, who has no plans to charge an entrance fee for a look at the crop circle. He will harvest the rest of his wheat Monday.

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - Aug. 4, 1996

Magazine's alien photos appear to be movie props

ANDY GROSS
RECORD STAFF WRITER

Call it the not so naked truth.

Penthouse publisher Bob Guccione apparently thought he had obtained authentic photos of an alien. And, in the September issue of the adult entertainment magazine which features a three-page spread of the "authentic alien," he described his acquisition "as the most important pictures in the history of photography."

In an accompanying article, Guccione was quoted as saying only a photograph of Jesus Christ "might be comparable" to the first real photo of an extraterrestrial.

He might have spoke too soon. Guccione, who paid an undisclosed amount of money for the photographs which appear in the magazine's 27th anniversary issue, might not have received the real alien McCoy.

According to Max Littell, secretary-treasurer of the International Roswell UFO Museum and Research Center, the pictures are the pictures of the alien prop designed for the 1994 movie "Roswell, the UFO Cover Up" that is a prominent exhibit at the museum. The movie was based on the book, "UFO Crash at Roswell."

"I think somebody sold someone else a bill of goods," Littell said, adding the museum allowed anybody to take pictures of the exhibit. Littell said photographs taken by the staff of the same alien prop are on sale at the UFO Museum for 35 cents.

Museum director Deon Crosby seconded Littell's take on the situation. "Somebody took photos of the alien (prop) in the museum and sold them to Penthouse."

Her husband Stan, who with his wife is the co-director of the Roswell UFO Encounter '96, was bit more pointed in his take on the alien photos. "I think someone scammed them, or they know it's a scam and they're leading us [all] on," he said.

Littell said Saturday he was contacted last week by New York-based UFO researcher Michael Luckman who had apparently heard Guccione talking about his alien photos and called Roswell to see if there was anything to it.

Littell responded by taking at least 12 photos from the same angle as the Penthouse photos to send to Luckman to show the subject of the photographs was an alien resident of the UFO museum.

Paul Davids, the executive producer and one of the writers of "Roswell," contacted the Daily Record last week concerning the authenticity of the photos, saying he thought they might have been based on images from the movie. He said he would try and contact Guccione. Attempts by the Daily Record to contact Guccione last week for comment were unsuccessful.

Deon Crosby added somewhat tongue-in-cheek, the UFO-related alien publicity in Penthouse opened up a whole new potential audience.

"We can honestly say," Crosby said, "we bought it for the article."

According to a wire service story last week, the images, which Penthouse reportedly thought were taken by the U.S. military on the autopsy of an alien, show the head and upper torso, hands a mid-section of a being of indeterminate gender.

The photographs were reportedly obtained clandestinely from an unnamed source.

In a wire service news story that appeared July 30 in the Daily Record, Guccione swore to the authenticity of the photographs and challenged the government to acknowledge their authenticity.

Littell said the photographs were the real thing in at least one way. "They're authentic photographs of our alien prop," he said.

TRI-WEEKLY NEWS, Berne, IN - Aug. 9, 1996

Weed-grass circle appears in Ohio

By Tony Mellencamp
News Editor

Lest anyone think the issue of crop circles has gone away, another circle has been reported - this time in a waste-high grass and weed area.

The circle, about 48 feet in diameter, located in Allen County, Ohio, between Lima and Elida, was discovered by ultralight airplane pilots as they flew over the rural area, reported Roger Sugden of the Mutual UFO Network, who has investigated crop circles for several years.

The sheriff there quickly discounted the circle as a hoax because he said there was a path leading to it. People are naturally curious when a circle is found and they will walk up to see it, so a path leading to a circle is not abnormal," Sugden said.

Sugden said there is no way to see the circle unless you walk all the way to it.

"Usually if someone creates a circle as a hoax, they want it to be found easily in order to gain more attention. This circle was not easy to see at all," he said.

Samples from the circle, which showed similarities to the crop circles

found in Paulding, Ohio and Columbia City, were sent to Dr. John Livengood, who has been investigating the samples from the other sites. Also notified and investigating will be Jeff Wilson of Eastern Michigan University. He also has been involved in the investigation of the other circles discovered in the area.

Sugden noted that other circles have been appearing across the country, including Nebraska, Washington and Oregon. According to Sugden, a crop circle near Butte, Nebraska, was measured at about 700 feet in diameter.

Another interesting thing to note, according to Sugden who did some calculations, is that from the Paulding crop circle to the Columbia City crop circle, it is exactly 45 nautical miles (flying in a straight line) and it is 45 nautical miles from Columbia City to Berne. It is 35 nautical miles in a straight line from Paulding to Berne.

"Not that it means anything," said Sugden. "I just thought they were some interesting calculations. A lot of people have connected the UFO sighting in Berne to the crop circles in the area so I thought I would calculate the totals."

SD - Aug. 22, 1996

Possible UFO landing in cropland drawing lots of inquiries

By TOM LAWRENCE
Argus Leader Staff

WATERTOWN — Farmer Gaylord Bohn doesn't know if aliens created a pattern in his wheat field — but other people sure have strong opinions about it.

Bohn and his wife, Sue, have been bombarded with requests for information from researchers who study UFOs and crop circles. They discovered the formation in their field in early August.

Codington County Sheriff Keith Olson has termed the crop circle a hoax. So has Charles Gritzner, a South Dakota State University geography professor.

In fact, Gritzner said a SDSU graduate student noticed that the image of the crop circle, when viewed in a mirror, looks like the international symbol for the disabled.

Bohn has an artificial leg, but he and his wife deny any knowledge about what caused the formation.

"I don't know what the heck it is," Sue Bohn said.

Gaylord Bohn has not harvested the section of the field that the crop circle appeared in. He's losing 25 bushels of wheat on the half acre. That's a \$100 loss, Sue Bohn said.

There have been some strange happenings on their farm, too, since all this came about, she said.

One of their dogs died at the same time the formation was discovered. Two cattle were limping Wednesday, and the Bohns called in a veterinarian.

The couple's farm equipment has been breaking down, though Sue Bohn said the clutch on the tractor had been in bad shape for a while.

She said she also heard that a young Watertown man claimed in a bar this week that he created the formation. If he did, they'd like to have him repay them for the damage to the field, Bohn said.

Other people have opinions far removed from a bar room.

A 70-year-old former Naval pilot and flight instructor who lives in Sioux Falls drove to Watertown Wednesday to investigate the formation.

Harris Thaysen said crop circles are a message to earthlings that a New World teacher is ready to lead man to a new age.

"It's a major development for South Dakota," said Thaysen, who has lived in Sioux Falls for a decade. "It's telling South Dakotans, 'Wake up.'"

Thaysen, a semi-retired motel and restaurant management consultant, said he rarely tells people of his beliefs. "The reactions are pretty idiotic sometimes," he said.

UFOs carry "highly advanced people" who will team with the new master to reform mankind, he said.

Thaysen said he's glad the crop circle appeared. "I've been waiting here alone for five years for something to happen," he said.

Nancy Talbot, a member of a Massachusetts research team studying the paranormal, said seeds from plants used for crop circles behave strangely.

The seeds, when germinated, grow at five times the normal rate, Talbot said.

Talbot, who works with bio-physicist William Levengood, said her BLT Research Team has been studying crop-circle evidence using scientific methods.

Talbot was excited to hear about the Watertown circle and has spent the week trying to learn more about it.

International UFO Museum Has New Director

by Karen Polly

As the new director of the International UFO Museum and Research Center, Deon Crosby said she needs more hours in her day.

Crosby said some days she makes a list of things to do before she goes to work but she never gets to the first one.

"I don't have enough hours in the day, because there is very little structure. I just need more hours in my day. Apparently, I'm not very organized," she said with a laugh.

The lack of organization is pardonable because she's been working there less than two months, they've just added 3,000 square feet to the museum or even that interest in the UFO phenomenon is skyrocketing.

"This thing is growing by leaps and bounds," she said.

Crosby gave credit for the museum's growth to Hollywood, saying UFO movies have sparked the world's imagination. She also mentioned the center has received publicity from several of the nationwide media.

"I think Hollywood really brought it to the forefront. But this is not just a fad or phenomenon to us — this is Roswell's history," she said.

Crosby said during the summer weekdays the center averages 300 to 400 visitors a day.

"We're hoping to have 100,000 people by July 4 and it looks like we're going to make it," she said. (They hit 99,000 Wednesday.)

Crosby said it's the volunteers at the UFO museum that really keep it going.

"I couldn't do my job without all the volunteers," she said. "The volunteers are the only thing that keep this place open. They do so much work and they are overlooked."

"Most of them are retired people and just want something to do. They say they love coming where they are needed and they are certainly needed here," Crosby said. She said volunteers do everything from hosting and giving tours to running the gift shop and cleaning the museum, leaving Crosby free to deal with the correspondence and business of the museum.

She's on the phone all day some days with people who say they have had an alien encounter or who want information about the museum.

"It's exciting to be a part of something so many people are interested in," she said. "To some extent, (the museum) is serious, but you have to be able to laugh at it."

Crosby said she believes beings could exist on other planets but she doesn't like to believe they are as scary as they're

depicted in some movies.

"I'm one of these selective people. We would be crazy if we didn't see the possibility of others," Crosby said. "I believe from the bottom of my heart in the tourist industry."

"I have got absolutely the best job in Roswell. It's different every day. There is nothing that is repetitive," Crosby said. "It's just exhilarating."

Crosby said the men who founded the UFO museum had a much tougher job getting it off the ground than she does running it now.

"They (founders Walter Haut, Glenn Dennis and Max Littell) went through the hard times," Crosby said.

She said the 1947 incident created the interest in the Roswell area for all those interested in UFOs, so it was a great idea for the founders to capitalize on it.

"We're the most famous UFO museum in the world and that's because those guys took that chance in the early 1990s," she said.

Crosby's first contact with the UFO phenomenon was through her husband, Stan.

"My husband is very into sci-fi stuff. I work alongside him with the Roswell Encounters," Crosby said. Stan is chairman of Roswell Encounters.

"There was no official link with me and the UFO museum until I started working here," she said.

Crosby is the first paid employee of the UFO museum and began her new job May 1. Her salary is paid entirely through private contributions, proceeds from the gift shop and memberships.

Born in Artesia Sept. 29, 1964, Crosby grew up in Montana and Texas and graduated from Floydada High School in Floydada, Texas, in 1982. She came to Roswell in 1993 to attend college and obtained an associate's degree in business administration from Eastern New Mexico University in Roswell.

She married Stan Crosby two years ago and now has five children. Sara, 24, and Tanner, 20, are Stan's children from a previous marriage, and Calley, 6, and Avery, 4, are hers from a previous marriage. Saunders, 10 months, was born to the couple last fall.

Crosby is also a member of the Roswell Jaycees.



Deon Crosby is the new director of the International UFO Museum and Research Center.

USA TODAY, Arlington, VA
Sept. 20, 1996

Space aliens, psychics and spies: Oh, why?

From "X" to "Why?": So narrow the borderline between horror and unintentional hilarity.

Dark Skies (★★ out of four, NBC, Saturday at 8 p.m. ET/PT), a shameless co-opting of *The X-Files*, plunges off the tightrope immediately, from the moment the narrator warns: "This program is being presented as fiction to protect those people fighting in the resistance. But I will tell you the truth now, if you will listen."

All together now: Oh, please! Obvious when it should be mysterious, earnest instead of ambiguous, favoring gross-out shock over moody suspense, this lightweight and scatterbrained hugger-mugger about alien shenanigans in the '60s is like a silly drive-in classic, almost as sophisticated as *Invasion of the Saucer Men*.

You can get better conspiracy theories on talk radio. Still, it's produced on a lavish scale, and there's a certain amount of loony conviction to its revisionist history about the downing of Francis Gary Powers (by UFO, didn't you know) and JFK's assassination. From the grassy knoll to Roswell, *Dark Skies* leaves nary a cultural touchstone unturned.

The heroes, Eric Close and Megan Ward, are cute kids of Camelot, idealistic government flunkies, no threat to *The X-Files*' Mulder and Scully. They run afoul of a top-secret shadow-government group called Majestic-12. Or is that "Project Blue Book"? Or is that Formula 409?

Anyway, the guy in charge, Col. Bach, is played by J.T. Walsh, who has made a career of goons in suits. He's good at it. And he smokes, so he must be evil. He also carries around a dog-tag locket with a hologram-like alien thingy in it. Not very scary, but it is very alien.

Speaking of which, the monsters are your typical spindly, hollow-eyed creatures. They infect humans with spidery organisms that cling to the brain and, when provoked, crawl out of the mouth. Very yucky, with one such extraction being the two-hour pilot's most edge-of-the-seat moment.

Bad-guy Bach likes to goad his young nemesis with statements like "The truth is irrelevant" — a variation on *The X-Files*' "The truth is out there?" — and "The news is irrelevant." If you're looking for irrelevance, you could hardly do better than *Dark Skies*.



Plants used for crop-circle designs seem to have been affected by a short, intense burst of radiation — microwave radiation is a possible explanation, she said.

"Now that's an astounding finding to us," she said.

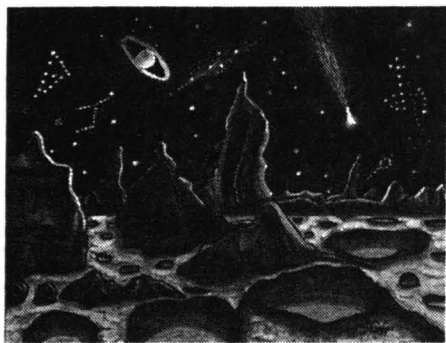
Talbot said an atmospheric condition could explain the affect on the seeds. "Something is going on," she said. "And it's leaving physical traces."

Brent Turnipseed, the manager of the South Dakota State University seed testing lab, has doubts about Talbot's assertions.

"That's pretty hard to swallow," Turnipseed said.

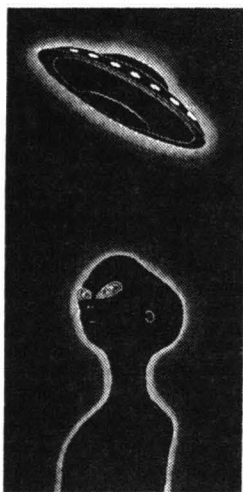
He said the germination of seeds varies, especially depending on when the grain was cut. But Talbot said she was carefully obtaining the plants, and the study would be scientific and precise.

She said an open mind is vital: "I think UFOs, whatever they are, certainly are something."

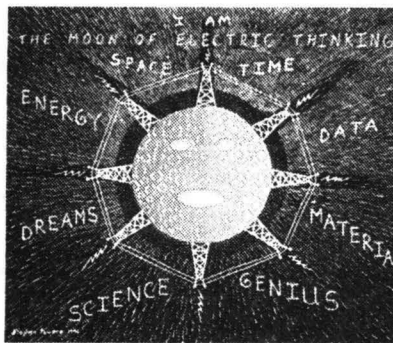


Ben Blackwell

Alexander Maldonado's "Out of Space Planet," above; at right, a John Sheldon dreamscape.



Wares for Art Gallery



American Primitive

Art by Stephen Powers, above, and Chuck Rak, an "abductee," at right.



American Primitive

Aliens Abduct Pop Culture

By TRIP GABRIEL

Anyone stopping in for a game of pool and a Rolling Rock at the Hudson Grill in SoHo is greeted by an E.T.-like figure waving from the window.

Three feet tall, formed of latex over cotton, he (she?) is the work of John Sheldon, a sometime waiter and cook in New York, who says he has been fascinated by unidentified flying objects since he sighted a U.F.O. on a fishing trip in Massachusetts with his father in the 1950's. In obscurity, he has made E.T. sculptures for more than a decade.

"You think you're the only one," Mr. Sheldon, 56, said, "but I'm finding out there's a whole network of people doing this."

The little gray creatures with big eyes just keep advancing. Invaders from Mars and elsewhere, which are stalking back into movie houses and onto television screens this fall, are also infiltrating cultural territory where they have rarely been seen

before: art, fashion and music. No fewer than three downtown exhibition spaces are showing art with U.F.O. and alien-abduction themes. At the opening last week of a show at Hudson Grill, 350 Hudson Street, near King Street, a club kid with a painted silver face mingled with scruffily bearded artists, while upstairs flying-saucer poetry was recited, and flying-saucer rock rang out. Strumming a guitar, Aloïd (real name: Al Cohen), sang plaintively of an abduction, "Cruising down the L.I.E., I saw a light chasing me."

In popular culture, interest in U.F.O.'s has waxed and waned, from the World War II sightings of Foo Fighters, military slang for flying saucers, to the band Foo Fighters formed last year by Nirvana's former drummer, Dave Grohl. Today flying-saucer fascination seems bigger than ever. Interviews with psychologists, historians and artists suggest a variety of reasons: apprehension over the millennium, distrust of government and traditional information sources, New Age spiritual yearnings and anxieties about sexuality in the risk-averse 1990's.

at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, who has studied reports of U.F.O. encounters. "People are looking for answers from different channels. U.F.O.'s are a marriage of high-tech and a strong religious desire to believe." Earlier on the day the Hudson Grill show opened, Andre Van Pier showed his U.F.O.-inspired fashion collection, including three-foot-wide "Motherhood" hats for women and men's silvery jeans and jackets. "The futuristic look is strong now; its acceptance is major among buyers and retailers," Mr. Van Pier declared. A costume designer for movies and rock stars, he took credit for accessorizing the slime-ball aliens in "Independence Day" with silver neck rings, bracelets and kneepads. Much of the U.F.O. art in galleries has the visceral intensity and unschooled technique of work that goes by the name Outsider Art. Some artists claim firsthand encounters with U.F.O.'s, and they bring to their flat compositions and simple palettes a visionary intensity.

"I'm treating it with as much respect as I can," said Phil Demise Smith, who assembled the Hudson Grill show, "Spatial Relations: The U.F.O. Experience" (through Sept. 30). "For me, it's a very strong meta-

phor for lots of things I know to be true: the idea of something greater than ourselves, whether God or Allah or Buddha. There's a human need for this kind of belief."

At the American Primitive Gallery in SoHo, where an exhibition of U.F.O.-theme art by 18 individuals opens today, there are wild and colorful drawings of saucer propulsion systems, annotated in Romanian, by Ionel Talpaz, who thinks they will be of more interest to future scientists than art collectors. Mr. Talpaz, 41, traces his interest in U.F.O.'s to an encounter with a "blue energy" that passed over him one night as a boy in rural Romania. After coming to New York in the 1980's, he sold his art on the sidewalk. Arne Anton, the owner of American Primitive, at 594 Broadway (Houston Street), discovered Mr. Talpaz when he wrote an S.O.S. to a folk-art newsletter, saying he was soon to lose his apartment.

Mr. Anton visited him on 135th Street in Harlem and found a one-room studio covered floor to ceiling with U.F.O. pictures. The single table overflowed with plaster saucers, like children's tops, which Mr. Talpaz made in the bathtub. "I immediately

bought a picture for \$250 so he could pay the rent," the gallery owner said.

When Mr. Anton, a longtime dealer in work by self-taught artists, announced he intended to mount a show of U.F.O. work this year, he was overwhelmed by the response. "The artwork is just coming out of the woodwork," he said. "It strikes a chord."

He has assembled work by a former boxer from California, a man from Washington State who builds moon architecture out of colored hair curlers and a graduate of the Harvard School of Architecture, Paul LaFolley, who maintains that he has metal implants in his brain, and whose paintings, which have been seen in well-known galleries, are priced at \$25,000.

Mr. Talpaz, standing this week before a gallery wall that recreates some of his apartment's clutter, said that he tried to tell people as a boy about his close encounter, but they called him crazy. "I don't talk to nobody after that," he said. "In my heart and my brain I keep it until I can talk about it." This seems the case with a number of artists working the U.F.O. vein: through visual images, they can communicate mysterious experiences

that, if they described them in words, would invite ridicule.

At Wares for Art, 281 Avenue of the Americas, at Bleecker Street, Phil Smith, who put together the Hudson Grill show, has assembled an intimate show of paintings and drawings by that subculture of people claiming to be alien "abductees." There are works by a mother and six children from Wisconsin who all say they were snatched up by U.F.O.'s. Another is by a man whose mother is the subject of the book "Witnessed" by Budd Hopkins, who is sometimes called the father of the abduction movement.

At American Primitive, there are eerie narrative paintings by Chuck Rak, an artist who was on a canoe trip in the 1970's, when he and three friends experienced what is known as "the Allagash abduction."

David Huggins, another self-described abductee, paints graphic and disturbing images from a lifetime of supposed encounters, including babies he fathered with alien mothers. The women have the bodies of Playboy centerfolds and the familiar gray alien heads with sloe eyes.

As these shows underline, the iconography of abduction is as codified

as the imagery of Christian saints in the Middle Ages. In recent accounts in a flood of books, the details of which are often "recovered" through hypnosis, abductees describe having been stripped naked and violated sexually by cold instruments, in the name of some cross-species eugenics program. The voyeurism of the stories and some artwork is akin to what the historian Richard Hofstadter, in his famous study "The Paranoid Style in American Politics," called "Protestant pornography." Protestant conspiracy theorists, Professor Hofstadter noted, often depicted outsiders — Freemasons, Roman Catholic clergymen — as secretly engaging in immoral fornication, which they then described in titillating detail.

Joe Nickell, a columnist for Skeptical Inquirer magazine, which challenges claims of the paranormal, said that Americans in the 90's "are apprehensive about our sexuality, whether it's fear of rape or incest."

He added: "What do we tend to do with fears? They come out in nightmares and dreams and hypnosis, just the places where the aliens thrive."

And increasingly, the dreams and visions leap to life in popular culture.



Jack Manning/The New York Times

Ionel Talpaz with his U.F.O. art at the American Primitive Gallery.

Though true believers would disagree, it is probably safe to say that the deluge of U.F.O. images tells us less about alien beings than about ourselves.

"The Judeo-Christian world view, and be-

liefs that people grew up with, in many cases have failed them and no longer answer the great existential questions," said Barry Beyerstein, a professor of psychology

BLADE, Toledo, OH - July 12, 1996 CR: J. Hamm

UFO investigator says wheat field crop circle likely to be forgotten

BY AMI EDEN
BLADE STAFF WRITER

PAULDING — Investigators say the aliens never came, and soon the tourists will probably go home. But how will the Paulding crop circle be remembered by UFO enthusiasts, a group that is still talking about a "space ship" that crashed almost 50 years ago in Roswell, N.M.?

The crop circle, in a wheat field on Paulding County Road 126, about three miles east of U.S. 127,

will probably be forgotten, according to Richard Thielmann, a Toledo-based investigator for the Mutual UFO Network.

"The 'UFOlogy' stories that persist are the ones that have been thoroughly investigated by police, doctors, and scientists [yet no explanation has been found]," Mr. Thielmann said. "It is also important to have eyewitness [accounts] from random people who don't know each other and report the same phenomenon."

A key difference between the

Paulding phenomenon and more famous incidents like the Roswell crash is the absence of a government cover-up, according to John Timmerman, a Lakeview, O., resident associated with the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies.

"When the government seems to be involved in terms of covering up information, these cases gain the serious attention of serious researchers," Mr. Timmerman said. He added that there is no evidence of a government conspiracy in Paulding.

"This is not a major case," Mr. Timmerman added. "It's just an interesting anomaly, which we think will be resolved as a hoax."

Mr. Timmerman and James Beuerlein, a member of Ohio State University's crop science department, investigated the phenomenon Wednesday and agreed it was man-made.

The specialists said the combi-

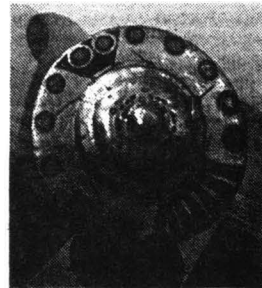
nation of an uneven surface and uniformly bent grains ruled out an alien landing. If the crop circle was caused by a space ship, they argued, the wheat stems would have been bent in different locations.

Most UFO watchers will probably forget about the crop circle after hearing Mr. Timmerman's conclusion that the phenomenon was a hoax, Mr. Thielmann said.

"I would trust John. He's a former bank president. He is reputable and knowledgeable of phenomena," Mr. Thielmann said.

"If he says it's a fake, then it probably is a fake. He is highly respected within the UFO community."

The crop circle, which was seen on July 4 by a local pilot in a field farmed by three brothers, Dan, Don, and Dave Arend, measures 93 feet in diameter.



Jack Manning/The New York Times

Plaster U.F.O. model by the Outsider artist Ionel Talpaz, at American Primitive Gallery.

Deseret News/KSL poll

Do you believe intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe?

DEFINITELY	43%
PROBABLY	28%
PROBABLY NOT	9%
DEFINITELY NOT	12%
DON'T KNOW	8%

Do you believe the U.S. government is concealing information about UFOs?

DEFINITELY	26%
PROBABLY	22%
PROBABLY NOT	20%
DEFINITELY NOT	20%
DON'T KNOW	12%

Do you believe some humans have been abducted by extraterrestrials?

YES	16%
NO	67%
DON'T KNOW	17%

If intelligent beings from another planet made obvious contact with Earth, would your life change for the better or for the worse?

BETTER	31%
NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE	15%
WORSE	9%
DEPENDS	9%
DON'T KNOW	34%

Poll conducted Aug. 6-9, 1996, 602 Utah residents. Margin of error $\pm 4\%$. Survey conducted by Dan Jones & Associates. © 1996 Deseret News.

ALIEN LIFE

Extraterrestrials capture imaginations of Utahns

Copyright 1996 Deseret News

By Zack Van Eyck
Deseret News staff writer

A majority of Utahns are fairly certain intelligent life exists on other planets, but fewer are sure they'd be better off if the aliens actually showed up.

Maybe they've been to the movies lately.

In a recent Deseret News/KSL poll, 71 percent of those surveyed said intelligent life probably or definitely exists elsewhere in the universe.

And when it comes to actual contact, roughly a third said their lives

would definitely or probably change for the better if extraterrestrials made obvious contact with Earth.

"People who sensationalize UFOs, like 'Independence Day,' seem to think there will be some dramatic changes" if otherworldly life is discovered, said Mildred Bieseles, Utah director for the Mutual UFO Network. "There's bound to be a change in attitude toward themselves, life in the universe, perhaps even changes in religion and our view of the world."

"But will these be things that disrupt our society or things we accept like other changes? I think we

could probably live with it."

Many Utahns also told pollsters they believe in the government-UFO conspiracy theory. Forty-eight percent said the U.S. government is probably or definitely concealing information about UFOs.

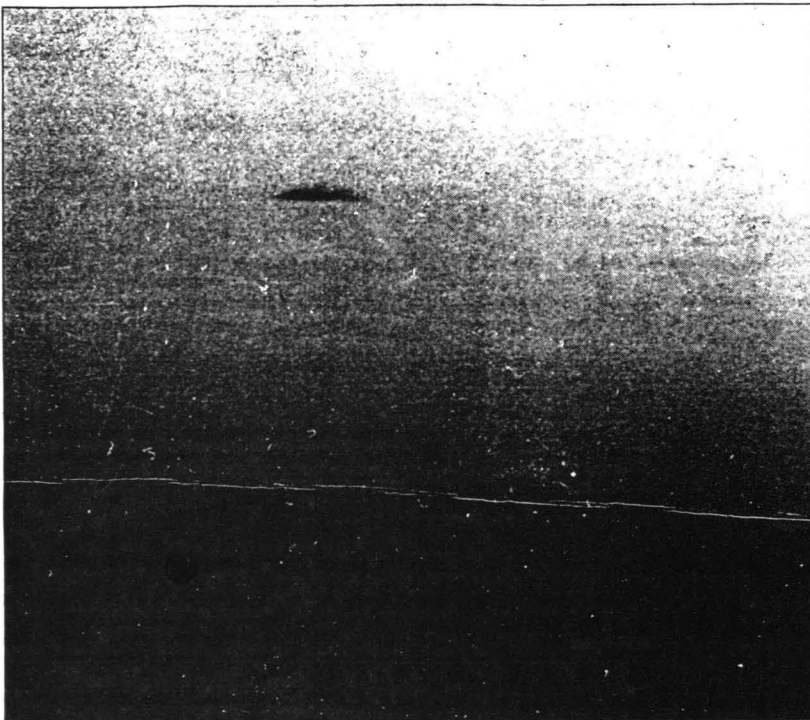
Maybe they've been watching television.

Also, 7 percent of Utahns told pollsters they've seen a UFO they think might have been operated by extraterrestrials, and 16 percent said they believe some humans have been abducted by aliens.

The poll was conducted Aug. 6-9 by Dan Jones & Associates and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent. Six hundred and two adults were surveyed.

The questions were asked during the week NASA researchers announced microscopic life may

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - July 3, 1996



This photograph of a UFO was taken near Carlsbad Caverns by Alan Bowman of Melbourne, Fla. and graciously loaned to the Roswell Daily Record by Lionel Nadeau. Daily Record photographic technicians magnified the picture image using computer technology and were unable to identify the craft as being of any recognizable type of "conventional" origin.

have existed on Mars billions of years ago. That followed other recent discoveries, including the existence of planets orbiting two nearby stars.

Meanwhile, the movie blockbuster "Independence Day" and TV productions like Fox's "Alien Autopsy" and "X-Files," "Sightings" and NBC's upcoming series "Dark Skies" have vaulted science fiction and UFO folklore into the mainstream.

In Utah, Terry and Gwen Sherman made national news in July with their accounts of UFOs, cattle mutilations and other paranormal events on their ranch near Fort Duchesne.

Those events might have something to do with Utahns' opinions about extraterrestrial life. For whatever reason, the Deseret News poll showed Utahns are more accepting of the idea than a sampling of Americans in previous years.

In 1977, 44 percent surveyed told the Roper organization they believe life exists somewhere else in the universe. In 1982, 47 percent told New York-based Audits & Surveys they believe in "intelligent life in outer space." In a 1990 Gallup poll, 46 percent said they believe people "somewhat like us" live on other planets.

Few pollsters, however, have probed Americans about the government's knowledge of UFOs.

"That question has almost never been asked before," said Mark Rodeghier, scientific director of the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago. "The idea of a cover-up really didn't occur until the late 1980s, although UFOlogists had talked about it for years."

James McGaha, a retired Air Force pilot and longtime UFO skeptic, said if anyone believes the government is hiding information, it's a direct result of the media's promotion of the idea.

"If that is the case then there has been a massive governmental conspiracy for a very long time, and I don't believe in any conspiracies that last any period of time," McGaha said from his home in Tucson, Ariz. "If the government is hiding UFOs, certainly I want them to be exposed, but there simply is no evidence."

Bieseles, who has investigated dozens of Utah UFO sightings over the years, said she isn't surprised 7 percent of the poll respondents

had seen UFOs they believed to be operated by non-humans.

"Seven percent is about what you'd expect," she said. "A survey taken of astronomers a few years ago by a professor from Stanford found that 10 percent of astronomers have seen things they can't explain."

National polls have asked the same question, in various forms over the years. The percentage of people who say they've seen UFOs has been fairly constant — 11 percent (Gallup, 1973); 9 percent (Gallup, 1978); 6 percent (Roper, 1985); 14 percent (Gallup, 1990); and 7 percent (Roper, 1991).

Rodeghier said he is unaware of any national or local poll that has asked about belief in abductions. He described the 16 percent figure as "astounding."

"I guess it proves what I'd suspected, that the abduction lore has really penetrated the public mind, for better or for worse," he said.

McGaha thinks it's for the worse and blames "tabloid television and a few books."

"There are lots and lots of people, mostly women, who think they've been abducted by aliens and as this phenomenon gets larger it has sort of taken over the UFO movement," McGaha said. "I believe there's no evidence to support it. If millions of people have been abducted, why has no one ever seen it happen?"

Accepting abductions as fact is to accept the government cover-up, McGaha said, because "if millions of people are being abducted, the government in all likelihood knows about it and that means the government is complicit with it, doesn't care or can't do anything to stop it."

The poll data revealed some interesting trends:

- People older than 55 had less belief in life elsewhere than any other age group and were least likely to believe abduction claims are genuine.

- Fifty-two percent of those with less than a high school education said the government definitely is concealing information about UFOs. Only 16 percent of those with college degrees felt that way.

- Democrats were more likely than Republicans to believe in a cover-up.

- Only 4 percent of people who described themselves as "very conservative" said alien contact definitely would change their lives for the better, but 23 percent of those who think of themselves as "very liberal" felt that way.

CHRONICLE, Centralia, WA - Aug. 22, 1996

Inmate explains crop circle phenomenon in county

To the editor:

The following letter is in regards to the crop design stories that have been run recently in The Chronicle. I believe you will find what I have to say to be well worth your reading time.

Over the past couple of weeks a great deal of attention has been brought to the mysterious appearance of "crop circles" in the field of the locally well-known Hamilton farm.

Marilyn Childs of the Mutual UFO Network, a purported authority on crop circles, is reported to have said that these recent designs are the result of alien technology. She states that a mazer device is the weapon of choice for this particular method of destruction, and that the mazer is a device that creates a blue light when being used for these outings. She has also stated that mazers are beyond the current level of technological capabilities of humans.

I'm not usually one to jump into somebody else's supposed field of expertise, but Childs has crossed into mine with her statements and I am compelled to correct the false information she has pushed on the public.

What are my qualifications for debunking Ms. Child's statements? I've been studying electronics for the last 2½ years. I have been a community college electronics instructor's assistant for the last year. In my electronics studies I have maintained a 4.0 grade point average. In my work position I am entrusted to construct homework assignments, formulate tests, and give in-class lectures to the students in the classes under my level of studies

owing to my level of comprehension on the subject.

A mazer is not beyond our current technological capability, by any stretch of the imagination. A mazer also will not create a beam of blue light, or any light of any color.

I have worked on equipment containing mazers on several occasions. They have been in existence in the human electronics field since before my birth. You are most likely within 50 feet of a mazer at this moment.

A mazer is one of the electromagnetic devices used to excite electrons through minor, controlled radiations emissions. It is the device that makes a microwave a microwave. The radiation is harmless, though the electron streams cause great heat in any object containing liquid (their most desirable effect). The mazer's beams create no light, and they do not move mass, such as wheat stalks in a farmer's field.

The source of Marilyn Childs' information can be trusted as much as the eyes of a child in a dark room on a stormy night. They may tell you they see the bogeyman, because that's what they expect to see. Rest assured that the morning sun will reveal that their bogeymen were the shadows, thrown on a pile of blankets, that were sitting on a chair, across the room, every night.

MATTHEW DALTON,
Doty

Editor's note: Matthew Dalton is currently serving a 12-year sentence at Clallam Bay (Wash.) Corrections Center for first-degree conspiracy to commit murder.

UFO's in Indiana

by Eric White, BC Contributor

On June 30th, 1983, Debbie Jordan, a divorced mother of two boys, was standing at her kitchen sink, in her mother's home, just outside of Indianapolis. She was about to go visit her friend who lived just down the road. Staring out the window, into the back yard, Debbie noticed a strange, bright white light coming from the swimming pool pump house. She called her mother into the kitchen, and they both watched the eerie light that seemed to Debbie to have a life of its

Need to report a mind-bending encounter with an apparently other-worldly intelligence? Contact Bloomington UFO Network at: BUFON P.O. Box 962 Bloomington, IN 47402

own. Getting into her car to go to her friend's house, Debbie decided to drive around to the back of the house to investigate. The light was gone. Soon after she arrived at her friend's house, Debbie's mother telephoned to tell her to come home immediately. She had watched the light go out, only to be followed by a soft white light the size of a basketball that grew to surround the bird feeder.... When Debbie arrived at her mother's house, she grabbed a shotgun and checked out the back yard. She looked into the garage, but saw no one. Suddenly, she began to feel very hot, as if she were burning.... Thus, the frightening and bizarre odyssey of Debbie Jordan began to unfold. Jordan's story, the subject of Bud Hopkins' book, *Intruders*, became one of the most widely-known cases of alien abduction. Debbie was dubbed "Kathy" in *Intruders*, and the location was changed in an attempt to protect her and her family from the attention that would be brought on by the book. But the fact remains that the scorched earth in the yard where Debbie Jordan reports seeing a landed UFO is less than 50 miles from Bloomington. Of course, you may not have to travel nearly that far to have an encounter with a UFO and its occupants. People have frequently reported seeing UFOs in Bloomington and the surrounding communities. Although there have been fairly consistent reports since, the last big wave of sightings in this area came in 1973. Around that time, the Bloomington daily, the *Herald-Telephone*, published a front-page photo of a UFO over the court house. It was around that time that Jean Bruce was driving her nine-year-old son to an evening event at his school.... For a couple of weeks, all sorts of people had been reporting UFOs in the skies over southern Indiana, and earlier that day, Jean and her son had been watching an odd, bright light in the sky near the side of their house. The red/orange light was hovering about one block from the house and about 100 feet in the air. It appeared to them to be the size of a basketball. That evening, driving north on Loudon Road, near Ellettsville, Jean's son suggested, "Let's stop up here and see if we can see anything." Jean pulled over at a clearing near Ratliff Road. They got out, stood behind the car, and watched, as a round metallic-grey object, measuring about 30 feet in diameter, came up from behind some trees. The UFO had a classic fly-

ing saucer shape - round and domed, with vertical oblong windows. There was a brilliant white light coming from the windows. The craft hovered in front of the mother and son, "kind of like it was looking at us," describes Jean. It was silent, but there was a vibration that both of them felt through their bodies that lessened as the UFO quickly flew away, heading south.

Later that night, a local woman saw a UFO over her barn. Although other people were reporting sightings around that time, Jean and her son chose not to call the paper. "People laughed at us, and made fun of us," says Jean, and publishing their names in the paper would have added fuel to the ridicule.

Then, there's the more menacing reaction to a UFO report, commonly experienced by people who go public with their stories, but sometimes suffered by people who don't even report their experiences publicly. This can take the form of having your house buzzed by black helicopters, receiving harassing phone calls, and of course, there are visits by the infamous men in black.

So, to whom do you report a mind-bending encounter with an apparently other-worldly intelligence, if you want to avoid the press and the shadowy forces of the government? The national group, Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) has an active and well-organized local chapter, BUFON (Bloomington UFO Network). Not only will your story fall on receptive ears, but there is a concerted effort to catalogue the large number of encounters that get reported every year.

People commonly describe their lives as powerfully changed, eventually for the better, when they talk about their experiences with aspects of the UFO phenomenon. So, where do you go if you want to see something that may change the way you view the universe? You don't have to physically travel far at all, in order to visit with the unknown. People have looked up to see strange things around these parts for centuries, from the phantom air ships reported in 1897 to the black triangular craft that have been spotted gliding over nearby Lucky Point since the 1980's. In fact, according to a rapidly growing number of witnesses, you may not even have to leave the comfort of your own bedroom to have a meeting with an alien visitor. But, that's another story....

Scientist says local crop circle no hoax

PAULDING (AP) — Although an Ohio State University agronomist declared a northwestern Ohio crop circle a fake, another scientist will continue her investigation because she believes it's not a hoax.

Biophysicist Nancy Talbot disputes the claim that the 93-foot circle near Paulding, 65 miles southwest of Toledo, was man-made.

Crop circles have been found around the world. Some people believe UFOs create the mashed, perfectly formed circles. Doubters think they are more likely the work of pranksters.

The Paulding circle was discovered on the farm of brothers Daniel, David and Donald Arend. Hundreds of people visited the field to see the circle after it was spotted from the air on July 3.

Jim Beurlein, a horticulture and plant specialist at Ohio State University concluded the circle was manmade. He said testing showed no tissue damage to wheat inside the circle.

But Talbot said changes were found in the wheat's cell tissue that could not have been done by people.

"In our preliminary finding,

there was a 20 percent enlargement in the stem nodes," she told The Columbus Dispatch for a story published Sunday. "So we cannot support the notion that it (the circle) was man-made."

Talbot is field research coordinator for BLT Research, a Cambridge, Mass., laboratory that is studying how the Ohio crop circle may have formed.

Talbot, along with retired biophysicist William Levengood of Grass Lake, Mich., and other researchers think the circle may have been formed by microwave radiation due to weather conditions, the newspaper said.

Ionized particles in the upper atmosphere sometimes are brought together by weather conditions and form vortices, like tornadoes, she said. That creates what scientists think are highly charged ionized plasma balls.

"They are collected in this vortex system and at that point emit microwave radiation. We believe they are drawn to Earth in particular locations, perhaps because of magnetic deposits or anomalies underneath the earth's surface," she said.

John P. Timmerman, treasurer for the Chicago-based J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, also thinks the circle probably was man-made.

"It might be a hoax," said Timmerman, who inspected the site. "We thought we saw evidence of how it could be accomplished, but we're looking for evidence to discount the hoax idea."

Watertown-area crop circles dismissed as hoaxes

Elaborate design praised but called human in origin

By TOM LAWRENCE
Argus Leader Staff

WATERTOWN — A swirling design in a field near Watertown is the largest and most detailed crop circle ever found in the United States, experts said Friday.

The design was discovered Aug. 8 by farmer Gaylord Bohn. "I didn't know what it was," he said.

Bohn, 70, said he stopped swathing his wheat and looked at the paths carved in the 3-foot-tall crop. Then he went home to talk to his wife, Sue Bohn, 64.

"I told her, 'We got something funny out in the field,'" he said.

A crop duster took aerial photos of the field, just west of the Watertown Airport. The massive design was then clear to the Bohns — but its meaning wasn't.

"We don't know what in the world it is," Sue Bohn said.

Crop circles first came to prominence in England, where hundreds of the designs have been found in fields. Charles Gritzner, South Dakota State University geography professor, said the Watertown circle is impressive — but almost definitely of human origin.

"Any being astute enough to leave footprints on the moon sure as hell could knock down some grain," said Gritzner, who has studied British crop circles.

Gritzner has visited Bohn's farm twice. He sent photographs of the design to the head of the Mutual UFO Network, what he calls the country's largest and most-respected UFO study group.

MUFON agreed that the design was the best and largest example ever found in the nation, Gritzner said.

Bohn smiles when he talks about the design. Neighbors now call him "Alien," he said.

The design may have been placed in his field July 30, when a full moon glowed through the night. His dogs howled long



Lew Sherman/Argus Leader

The Bohns say they noticed the strange crop circles Sunday. The designs are 160 by 100 feet.

and hard, and one was found dead a few days later.

Since the crop circle was discovered, Bohn's farm equipment has broken down, he said. Equipment and power failures are often attributed to UFOs, said Gritzner, who keeps an open if skeptical mind.

Don Oleson, 66, and Chad Frensko, 22, of Watertown repaired Bohn's baler Thursday. They teased Bohn about aliens stealing his pickup and visiting his farm.

"It's strange is all I know," Frensko said.

Oleson said he's known Bohn a long time and considers him honest. The repairmen said they weren't worried about seeing aliens — or going for a long, long ride.

"It'd be fun," Oleson said. "Let's go."



Lew Sherman/Argus Leader

Gaylord and Sue Bohn's wheat-straw field, 2 miles west of Watertown, shows the crop-circle art. A car on Fourth Avenue heads east into Watertown.

Bohn takes the teasing in good nature. He's unsure what the design means, or who put it there. "We've never, ever seen anything like that," he said.

Sue Bohn said the detail and precise work suggests some greater meaning. "It wasn't kids," she said. "That sign must mean something to somebody."

But Gritzner said he's sure the design is a hoax, meant to puzzle authorities and delight the public.

Codington County Sheriff Keith Olson agreed — after he laughed for a minute when asked about the crop design.

"Somebody had a lot of fun, and went to a lot of work," he said.

Olson said he wouldn't set up a landing area for aliens. And the sheriff and the professor said the Bohns are unlikely suspects.

"I've got more important things to do than that," Bohn said.

Gritzner said an outbreak of crop circles has occurred in the Midwest this summer. Designs appeared near Rosholt and Hecla, and near Wahpeton, N.D., Butte, Neb., and Paulding, Ohio.

Gritzner said he wonders if an English tourist is having some sport while touring the United States.

He said two cigarette butts found in the middle of the Bohn design are identical to butts found in the design center in Butte.

And the Bohn design's intricacy shows an experienced hand was at work, he said.

"Whoever did that knew what they were doing," Gritzner said.

SDSU graduate student Yvonne Hermesen, who works with Gritzner on studying the paranormal, said crop circles are almost always explainable as hoaxes.

"But some remain unexplained to this day," she said.

HERALD & NEWS, Klamath Falls, OR - Aug. 20, 1996

Crop circle appears in Fort Bidwell meadow

By JEAN BILODEAUX
H&N Special Writer

CEDARVILLE — A ring-shaped crop circle was discovered near Fort Bidwell late last month.

It measured 18 feet in diameter, with a flattened ring 32-40 inches wide. The meadow grass was bent over in a smooth clockwise direction just above ground level. Witnesses said there was no sign of entry into the formation when it was discovered.

"It was like a space ship just landed there," commented some witnesses. "There were no tracks outside the circle. When we walked down there we were careful, but we left tracks in the grass."

Crop circles are geometrically organized patterns of horizontally flattened plants. The formations that gained notoriety in the early 1970s in southern England

have been reported worldwide.

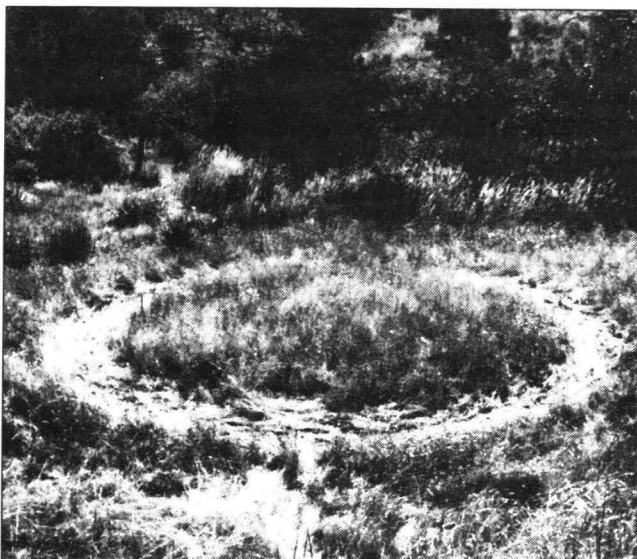
Formations generally range in size from 6 to more than 60 feet in diameter.

On occasion, a group of circles and lines link together to form designs. During the last few years, some of the circles have grown in complexity as well as size.

Although the more complex or larger circles tend to make news, most formations are rather simple, like the one near Fort Bidwell.

At one time, two Englishmen admitted faking the circles. But with more than 1,500 circles being reported yearly, the two have been ruled out as the primary cause.

"After you've inves-



H&N photo by Jean Bilodeaux

This crop circle was discovered in a meadow near Fort Bidwell in late July. The grass was flattened in a clockwise position. No explanation was given for the circle, and samples from the site were sent to a Michigan lab for analysis.

tigated a few circles, the faked ones are rather easy to spot.

There is no way a person with a piece of plywood can match the evenness with which the plants in a genuine crop circle are flattened," said Mike Downey, Oregon director for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON).

MUFON is an organization devoted to investigating unexplained phenomena. Although crop circles have never been officially linked to UFOs, the group gathers and analyzes data in the hope of scientifically explaining the mysterious formations.

Samples taken from the Fort Bidwell site were sent for analysis to the Pinelandia Biophysics Lab in Michigan, which has examined plant and soil samples taken from various similar crop circles since 1989.



FOREIGN NEWS

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

DAILY MAIL, Hull, England - July 4, 1996 CR: B. Chapman/COUD-I

Farmers pour scorn on corn circle aliens

'If they've visited the people of Hedon they haven't changed them much!'

IS this the first sign of alien landing on Hedon or just elaborate hoaxers copying corn circles?

Puzzled farmers and villagers have been marvelling at the sudden appearance of three corn circles in Holderness.

A 120ft circle at Magdalen Hill, Hedon, has become the latest freak phenomenon to appear.

The symmetrical marking in a 13-acre crop of winter wheat has been made in a clockwise direction and is the most elaborate yet. At neighbour-

By Richard Dean
NEWS REPORTER

ing Park Farm in Burstwick a 50ft circle was left on June 19.

Farmer Mr Jeremy Saunt of Magdalen Farm said he just laughed when he saw it had appeared overnight.

"If UFOs have paid a visit to the people of Hedon then they have not changed them much!" said Mr Saunt. "I would like to see these little green men from Mars."

A spokesman for the East Riding Highways depot immediately next to the circle at Magdalen Hill admitted he had sensed something strange.



CLOSE ENCOUNTER? The circle that's mysteriously appeared in the field at Magdalen Farm, Hedon.

Pictures: SEAN SPENCER

"We have been having difficulties with our computer network, but we believed it was a technology problem."

"If aliens are going to use it regularly then they will need permission."

In 1995 the Yorkshire and Humberside Branch of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies said it had fairly conclusive proof the circles on farmer Peter Lounts land at Leconfield were made by "something other than human beings."

Whirlwinds are known to cause similar crop damage.

Mrs Linda Richardson of Park Farm, Burstwick, said she was keeping an open mind on what caused her circle.

"At first I thought some one did it as a joke," said Mrs Richardson.

However, the placing of a dead crow to keep birds off the crop soon back fired when an alarmed member of the public reported it to the police.

"The police called us because they were investigating claims about a satanic ritual down there," said Mrs Richardson.

"They said it was only routine. We have laughed about that though."

The first circle to appear was at Welwick where farmer Mr Paul Clapison was unimpressed.

"I'm pretty certain I know who it is," he said. "This has been done by people who should know better."



FARMER Stuart Saunt

IRISH NEWS, Belfast, Ireland - April 8, 1996

UFOs in the north bordering on the horrific

A SPATE of UFO sightings has been reported in south Armagh, according to the British UFO Research Association.

Residents in the area say they are becoming increasingly worried about UFO activity along the border and witnesses to incidents have been called on to come forward.

British army activity has been blamed for previous so-called sightings, but local people say these Unidentified Flying Objects are different from anything seen before.

The most recent sighting took place just over a month ago in the Dromintee area in daylight when a local man spotted a brightly lit object in his rearview mirror.

The object apparently maintained a steady speed and height behind him before moving up on the car's left side and then in and out of trees at speed.

It is then said to have disappeared from view and the man, who reported the sighting, has claimed that it could not have been an army helicopter.

Other sightings have been reported across south Armagh and also in the Canal Street area of Armagh city.

A spokesman for the British UFO Research Association, Andrew Allen, said there had been numerous reports of UFOs in the area in recent months and added that the most serious incident involved the horrific mutilation of a cow last year.

He said: "There have been a lot of sightings of UFOs in south Armagh this past while. The people in this area are used to

military activity so it is unlikely to be that and witnesses to events swear that the objects are like nothing they have seen before."

"Some of these UFOs, including the one in Dromintee, were seen in daylight so these people could not be mistaken. I would ask all those who believe they have seen UFOs to come forward and report them because a number of witnesses have yet to come to me."

Mr Allen referred to an incident involving

a mutilated cow in the Camlough area to show how serious the situation had become.

The cow was allegedly discovered butchered and a number of its internal organs appeared to have been removed in a highly sensitive surgical operation.

The animal was found at a picnic area a mile south of Ballymalack, outside Camlough, at a time of numerous reports of UFOs and mysterious unmarked black helicopters.

EVENING NEWS, Nuneaton, England - April 4, 1996

EXPERTS BAFFLED BY UFOs

A STRING of bizarre sightings has seen alien buffs heading in their droves to spots in North Warwickshire and the surrounding area.

An unusually high number of reported experiences involving Unidentified Flying Objects, has seen even the heads of such organisations as the Birmingham UFO Society interviewing witnesses.

The high concentration of sightings has left experts baffled.

Marilyn Aldworth, who has spent years studying strange phenomena, runs the Birmingham society with her husband Rob.

She said: "There has been an unusual amount of UFO sightings in the area."

"We are not sure if this is to do with the current trend and people are reporting it more, or whether there has been a dramatic increase in UFO activity in North Warwickshire."

"Our main problem is actually getting people to talk about what they have seen."

The best experiences have included an incident in Sheepy Magna where a businessman was woken by his neighbour who had spotted lights across a nearby field.

Pulsating

The pair investigated and saw a pulsating white light near trees across the field, with beams of white light shining from it. A month later the same thing happened in the same spot.

On March 6 a taxi driver was heading along the country lane from Sheepy Magna to

Pinwall, when he saw four beams of white light shining down onto a field, they went out and he watched as a dark object shot 'very quickly' into the night sky.

Several residents of houses living near Merevale Hall have reported seeing strange objects flying very close to their homes.

Mrs Aldworth said: "Perhaps the most exciting one was at a farm near Tamworth."

"A farmer was woken by a noise outside and saw an object shining a beam of light down onto three of horses."

The Birmingham society are calling for anyone who has seen anything strange to contact them on 0121 6816344.

NORTH WESTERN EVENING MAIL, Barrow-in-Furness, England - April 10, 1996

Mystery of UFO still up in the air

THE mystery of the UFO sighted above the Furness skies has deepened, with officials denying all knowledge of its existence.

Residents reported seeing a large cigar-shaped object travelling at speed over Kirkby Moor and the Duddon Estuary towards Haverigg on Good Friday, at about 8pm.

One eye-witness said the object was overtaken by a passenger jet.

But the duty officer for Manchester Airport's air traffic control said that no unexplained blips had appeared on their radar screens that evening.

However, he admitted that it might have been flying too low to register.

A spokesman for air traffic control at Ronaldsway Airport on the Isle of Man, which was in the general direction in which the UFO was flying, also said there were no reports of any incidents from pilots on Friday.

He added that there are several passenger aircraft which fly into Ronaldsway between 8 and 9.20pm

By JANET SHIELDS

each day, from Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Blackpool and London.

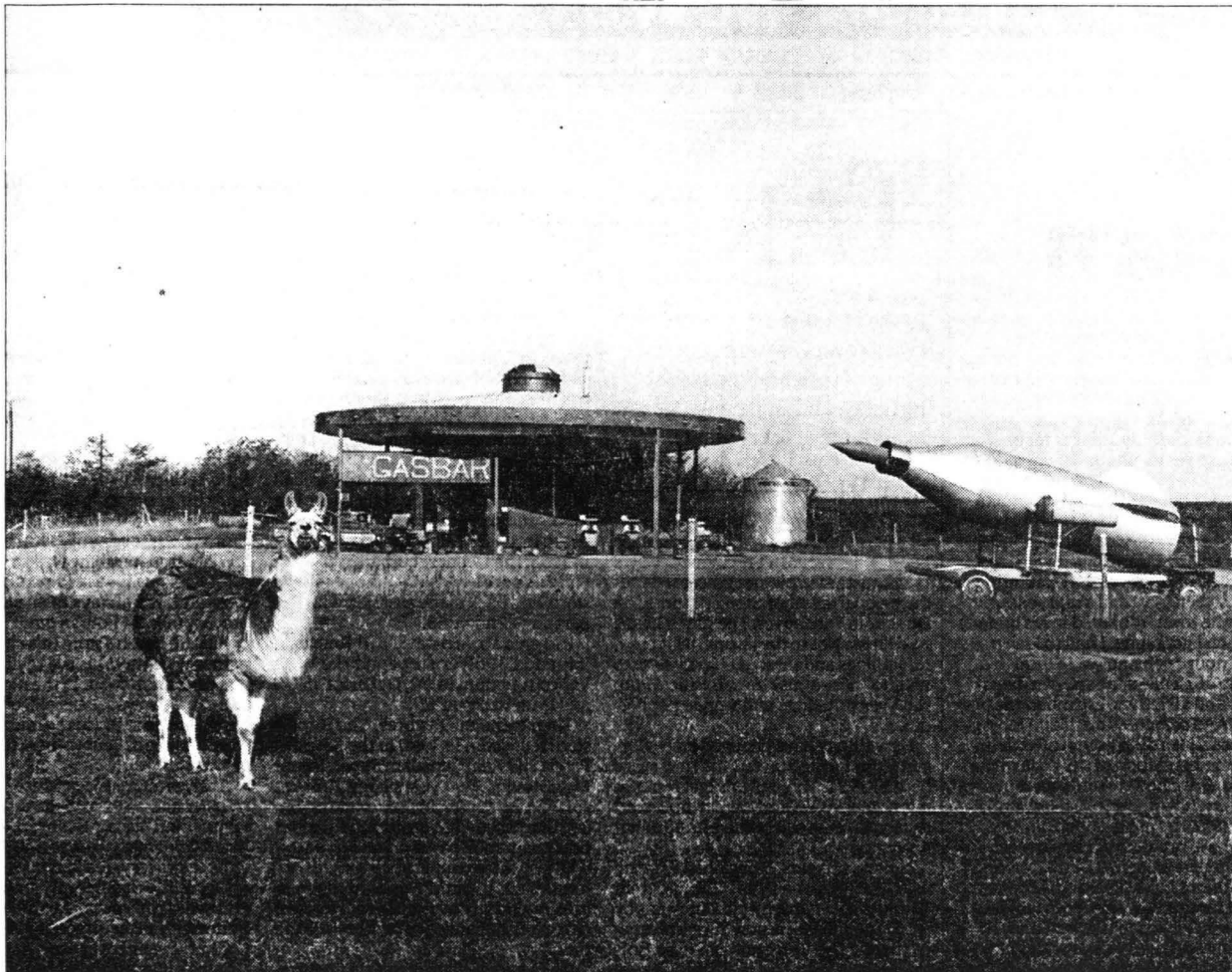
A spokesman for the London office of the Civil Aviation Authority said: "Air traffic control wouldn't necessarily know about low-flying light aircraft."

"It could be a light private plane or a low-level military flight."

But an RAF spokesman said: "On a bank holiday the RAF wouldn't be low flying, because we wouldn't have wanted to disturb people on a holiday — and the RAF does not low fly in the evening."

"He went on: 'The RAF likes to have bank holidays too, and unless it was some sort of emergency it is unlikely that we would be flying helicopters in that area.'"

Formby Coastguard confirmed that there were no air-sea rescues in the Irish Sea that evening either.



STRANGE DAYS INDEED: Flying saucer Gas Bar in Lloydminster, Sask. from *In Advance of the Landing: Folk Concepts of Outer Space* by Douglas Curran

Photos of an alien concept

HOW A WOODEN SPACECRAFT INSPIRED A UFO ODYSSEY

MARK ANDREWS
Vancouver Sun

Almost two decades ago, Douglas Curran was cycling through South Bolton, Quebec, when he rounded a curve in the road and saw a vision that would guide his future.

It was a wooden rocket ship. The structure belonged to Charlie LaBranche, who had the thing built to attract customers to his general store. It certainly attracted Curran, a young Vancouver photographer who, inspired by the vision, embarked on an eight-year, 200,000-

kilometre journey through the backroads of Canada and the U.S. in search of home-made rocket ships, UFOs and UFO societies.

His odyssey resulted in a 1985 book, *In Advance of the Landing: Folk Concepts of Outer Space* (Abbeville Press, with forward by American author Tom Wolfe) and a series of art exhibits throughout North America. Today, Curran is in Arles, France, to open a six-week show there.

Curran was never particularly interested in UFOs before embarking on his odyssey, but he was always fascinated with people and popular culture.

"I was a young photographer who

asked himself: 'If I want to make documentary photographs, then what is relevant to our time?' says Curran, 43, who now makes his living as a stills photographer on movie sets. We spoke with him from the Vancouver set of the Disney film *Deep Rising*, a day before he left for the French exhibit.

"Coincident with that I was reading a lot of George Orwell. He was a great believer in the value and the ultimate truth of popular culture, whether it was found in the tabloids or just the way the people would put plants in their windows.

"Looking at things like *The Globe* or the *National Enquirer*, I wondered

why, in what's supposed to be the ultimate rational, scientific society, do we have this wish for mythical beings? I decided to go looking for people who built rockets and flying saucers in their back yards. I knew these totems had to be out there."

The road took him to the Uranian Conclave of Light in San Diego, Calif., where people dressed up in costumes from their past lives on other planets. It took him to Giant Rock, Calif., to visit George Van Tassel's Integratron, with which he promised to lengthen people's lives, and to the Flying Saucer Drive-In in Niagara Falls, Ont.

"I think I had a milkshake there," says Curran. "It was not out of this world." If he asked enough questions in a chosen community, Curran would find some story about a local who spotted lights in the sky, or — when he got really lucky — someone who had encountered aliens.

Curran embarked on the project with an open mind, and still maintains that view more than a decade after the book was published. Certainly, there have been hucksters: Curran met Gray Barker, who ran a pulp magazine publishing house out of an old drive-in movie theatre in Jayloo, Virginia, who, says Curran, "freely admitted he invented the tale of the men in black, these shadowy government figures who drove around to silence witnesses of extraterrestrial phenomena.

"And here we see this same phenomenon come back and visit us as truth in *The X-Files*."

(Curran's book has been used as a resource in some of the early episodes of the popular TV show.)

Curran's open inquisitiveness won the trust of his subjects.

"Often these people would be so sur-

prised that I found them. Here's this weird Canadian from some place they've never heard of arriving on their doorstep and wanting to talk to them. Many of them saw this as confirmation that I was part of the grand scheme of the Space Brothers [a term for extraterrestrials]. I was there as this wandering communicator who, unknowingly, was fulfilling part of the grand design of the extraterrestrials.

"When they said, 'You must have been sent by the Space Brothers,' I would say, 'Yes, and I'm here to make the pictures.'"

Many of Curran's photos are in black and white, which give them the look of stills from sci-fi movies of the 1950s. He says this was not so much by design: it was more out of wanting to stay true to the roots of documentary. Part way through his photo odyssey, however, he switched to color for some of the shots.

"I came to realize that the color was information. Here I was trying to make these intensely descriptive photographs, and to ignore color was to sell the whole project short."

What one notices looking at the faces

of people belonging to UFO societies is the uniformity of the group: all the faces are white and, says Curran, almost all are from the working class.

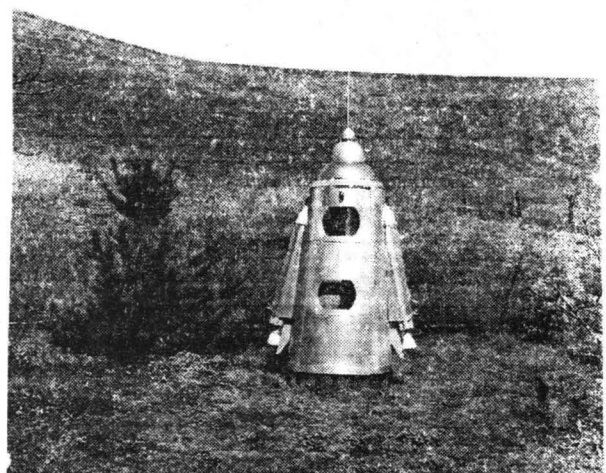
"I don't think I ever found a black person at any of these flying saucer conventions," he says, adding that he's aware of several Spanish-speaking UFO groups in Central and South America. Curran is not sure why the UFO field is so white and working-class, although he feels those involved are seekers looking for a deeper meaning to the universe.

"These are the people who were offered the promise of the future. They were white, American believers in the work ethic, and were perhaps exhibiting some bitterness at the injustice of where they had fallen in terms of the greatness of that promise.

"If you have the money and the immediate trappings of success, you don't vote for utopian movements by and large."

Curran's book has been out of print now for several years. He would like to see it reprinted, particularly in light of the popularity of *The X-Files*.

"I think the book was 10 years too early," he says.



LOOK OF THE FUTURE: Alien rocket ready for launch in Port Costa, Calif.

Sighting of space craft revealed

By Rachel Deakin

A UFO expert has revealed that a massive 100ft by 50ft spaceship was spotted in the sky above Loughborough!

John Jenkins came forward after hearing about Loughborough's mysterious green light that was first spotted by *Echo* readers on January 8.

UFO hunter Mr Jenkins, of Edinburgh, said that in November 1994 he interviewed a Loughborough man who saw the giant object while fishing.

Mr Jenkins said: "The witness said it had oblong windows and a bluish haze around it.

And it was only about 25ft away from the angler!"

It had a twinkling beam projecting from the front which the man thought was collecting water, but Mr Jenkins believes it is more of a 'beam me up, Scottie' idea.

"Abducted"

This incident happened at 3.30 pm on November 14 and Mr Jenkins said that, spookily, there was a sighting near Edinburgh less than 12 hours later, with nine strong similarities between the two reports.

He has also interviewed two men who were allegedly abducted by aliens from their car.

"I am convinced people have seen things - you can't ignore it," says the man who says he has had three sightings. "I have been forced into finding out more."

Mr Jenkins is writing a book about UFO experiences, called *No Defence Significance*, the standard reply from the MOD, which he is hoping will be completed by the end of the year.

Can you help the *Echo* crack this mystery. If you have any other local experiences we could pass on to Mr Jenkins, please contact Rachel Deakin at the *Echo* on (01509) 232632.

LOUGHBOROUGH ECHO, Leics., England - April 5, 1996

UFO craze sweeping Israelis

ALIENS: Skeptics say their compatriots are simply being carried away by U.S. pop culture.

By KARIN LAUB
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — It's not the invasion Israel feared most. But aliens alighting in the Holy Land are grabbing the headlines these days, with a flurry of media reports on UFO sightings and abductions by extraterrestrials in egg-shaped spaceships.

"The Great Invasion," read a headline in the Maariv daily above a list of 16 examples of UFO sightings in the past three months. Last week, Maariv said, hundreds stopped on a major highway and stared at what looked like an alien spacecraft doing loops above Tel Aviv before dawn.

A 62-year-old Israeli who said he was abducted by aliens on his way to the post office was interviewed on television and radio. The story made front-page news for a second day last week when a lab analysis of yellow dust he says was showered on him by his captors was different from any soil found in the area.

Skeptics say Israelis are simply being swept away by U.S. pop culture. The movie "Independence Day" — about an alien invasion of Earth — is a blockbuster here. The "X-Files" series — about two FBI agents who investigate paranormal phenomena — is one of the most popular TV shows.

"I strongly believe that what we have now is hysterical behavior," said Ariel Cohen, an atmospheric physicist at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Cohen said analysis of video footage of alleged UFO sightings suggested that cameramen had adjusted the focus to make subjects seem unnatural.

Still, Cohen said, the authorities should investigate sightings and publish the scientific explanations that could be found in most cases.

Social scientists, however, are fascinated by the craze.

Benjamin Beit-Hallahmi, a psychology professor at Haifa University, says people in modern societies are susceptible to quasi-religious fantasies that send the message "you are not alone." Israelis, who live under a perceived military threat from their Arab neighbors, are particularly vulnerable.

A recent television survey suggested nearly one in two Israelis believe in extraterrestrials. True believers are convinced dramatic events are at hand.

One incident last week even made police look up and take notice.

Before dawn Tuesday, Tel Aviv's police switchboard received dozens of calls from people who said they saw a glowing object doing loops over the suburb of Ramat Aviv.

Police spokesman Gadi Doron said officers reported that they also saw a strange light in the night sky.

Questions also linger over the case of Uri Sakhov, a retiree who said he was en route to the post office when he was grabbed by his hair and collar and pulled into an egg-shaped spacecraft. His captors were green, reached up to his chest and made unintelligible sounds, Sakhov said.

Scientists who analyzed the yellow dust on Sakhov found it contained 55 percent aluminum and was different from area soil.

Talking about strange encounters of the utterly mysterious kind...

Andrew Norfolk

IT WAS one of those typical summer evenings in the city...you take the kids for a stroll along the river bank, look for wild flowers, see a fiery ball land in a nearby field, get abducted by aliens and then walk home to your husband.

Lynda Jones, 52, who says that happened to her in Manchester, will be talking about her encounter with six extraterrestrials at a one-day international conference in Sheffield on Saturday.

She will be joined on the podium by a host of speakers who have either experienced or researched stories of alleged alien kidnaps from around the world.

They include a best-selling American author who was taken from his log cabin by dwarf-like humanoids smelling of cinnamon and a regression hypnotist who claims to unlock buried memories of alien abductions.

More than 500 UFO enthusiasts are expected to attend Saturday's Day of Abductions conference, run by BUFORA, the British UFO Research Association, and held at Sheffield Hallam University.

BUFORA's Batley-based director of investigations, Philip Mantle, readily accepts that accounts of alien kidnaps tend to be greeted with raised eyebrows, even by those who believe in UFOs.

But he says the growing number of such exotic experiences being reported

around the world — at least 40 in the past two years — have lent credence to the tales, many of which contain common features.

Typically, the victim will recall being taken on board a spacecraft, subjected to a medical examination, shown around the ship and then returned to Earth, often having been given a vital piece of information which later turns out to make no sense.

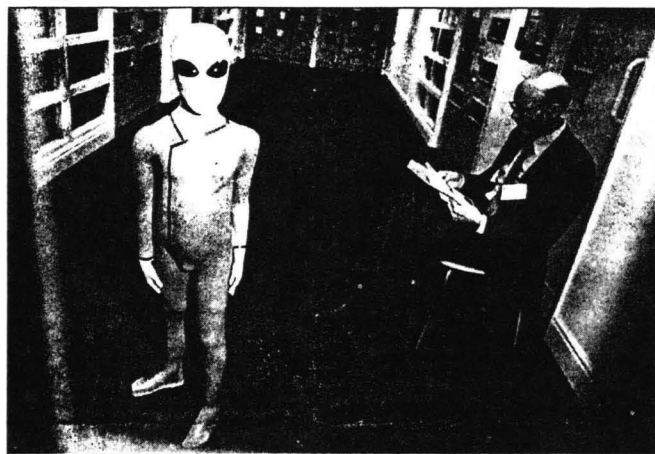
"The people who make these claims, far from being lunatics, are ordinary, average people," said Mr Mantle. "You're basically dealing with personal experiences, and it all comes down to whether you believe the individual or not."

One further common thread to such encounters is the growing role played by hypnosis in enabling victims, including Mrs Jones, to recall details of their alleged abduction.

In August 1979 she was walking with her 15-year-old daughter and five-year-old son by the banks of the River Mersey in South Manchester when a "ball of fire", which she assumed to be a burning aircraft, sped towards the family.

"My daughter said the moon was coming towards us. We ducked, but it landed in a field 30 yards away and hovered above the ground. We went a bit nearer for a better view, but then it just seemed to disappear."

It was only when the family reached home that Mrs Jones realised that an



UFO speaker: US counselling psychologist Dr Lea Sprinkle. He's on the right.

encounter she had thought lasted for a few minutes must have taken up at least an hour of the evening.

Under filmed sessions of regression hypnosis, she later recalled being examined by six identical, vaguely humanoid creatures with yellow skin and almond-shaped eyes who were dressed in dark clothing up to the neck.

She says she was so traumatised by watching the films later — she still has no direct memory of what happened — that for a long time she was unwilling to talk about the experience.

"I'm a rational, down-to-earth person. I'm not deluded, and I know that what I saw in that field

was a physical object. But I still can't come to terms with what I was saying on that videotape.

"Something happened during that hour which was completely wiped from my memory. Things like that just don't happen."

Yet if American author Whitley Strieber is to be believed, they do — and to so many people that he now believes alien abductions are a form of secret school, preparing humanity for the mysteries of the future.

He may be right, at least about the mysterious bit. Under hypnosis, Mrs Jones recalled an elaborate ritual in which pieces of ice were placed on her legs. Oh, cold new world...



Philip Mantle: Leader of UFO research group.

EVENING TIMES, Glasgow, Scotland - May 2, 1996

Probe into riddle of Scots 'UFO sighting'

AIR traffic control offices at both Glasgow and Prestwick airports were besieged with telephone calls last night after 'strange lights' were spotted in the sky.

Sightings of the supposed UFOs were made by members of the public in both Glasgow and Ayrshire.

A Civil Aviation spokesman explained today that all of the details concerning the claims have been passed on to the Ministry of Defence in London.

MoD experts there will carry out further investigations into the UFO mystery.

The Civil Aviation spokesman would not reveal any more details of the strange sightings.

Michael Kobi, marketing manager at the lab that examined the dust, said samples were sent to NASA, the U.S. space agency.

Kobi said the soil's unusual composition suggested the UFO sightings could not be easily dismissed.

"If you combine all the incidents together, there might be something there," he said.

UFO flies in over flyover!

ROMFORD RECORDER, Essex, England - March 15, 1996

STRANGE things are afoot at Gallows Corner in Romford.

A mysterious craft, the size of a football pitch and complete with flashing lights, was spotted hovering above the junction on Saturday night by no less than five witnesses!

Skeptics will no doubt claim it's the product of a rather joyous evening at the near-by Plough public house, but to Jonathan Johnson, of Costead Manor Road in Brentwood, it's a bona fide UFO that just can't keep away.

"This particular UFO has been seen so often now that we're more than used to it," he said.

As local area co-ordinator of the Essex UFO Research Group, the list of sightings collected by Mr Johnson, a 44-year-old courier and his wife Barbara, of this particular visitor is almost endless.

"It's a large triangular-shaped craft with white lights at each corner and a pulsating orange light in the centre," he said.

It was seen at 10.50pm on Saturday at Gallows Corner by five people in two independent groups.

"Three men in one car and an elderly couple in another saw it, and called our hotline number."

"We make out a full report of each sighting, and ask witnesses to send us drawings of what they've seen."

Amazingly, sketches of the flying triangle are almost identical. "It's been seen very regularly in Havering, the rest of Essex and Norfolk, and each witness describes the same thing," explained Jonathan.

Exactly why a visitor from the furthest reaches of the galaxy would choose to pay a visit to the unpicturesque Gallows Corner is still a mystery.

"Of course, we would like to know what it is, and we have done our best to find a valid explanation from the military and the Civil Aviation Authority, but there isn't one," said Mr Johnson.

As an ex-RAF man, he knows his planes — "And this is no plane," he says.

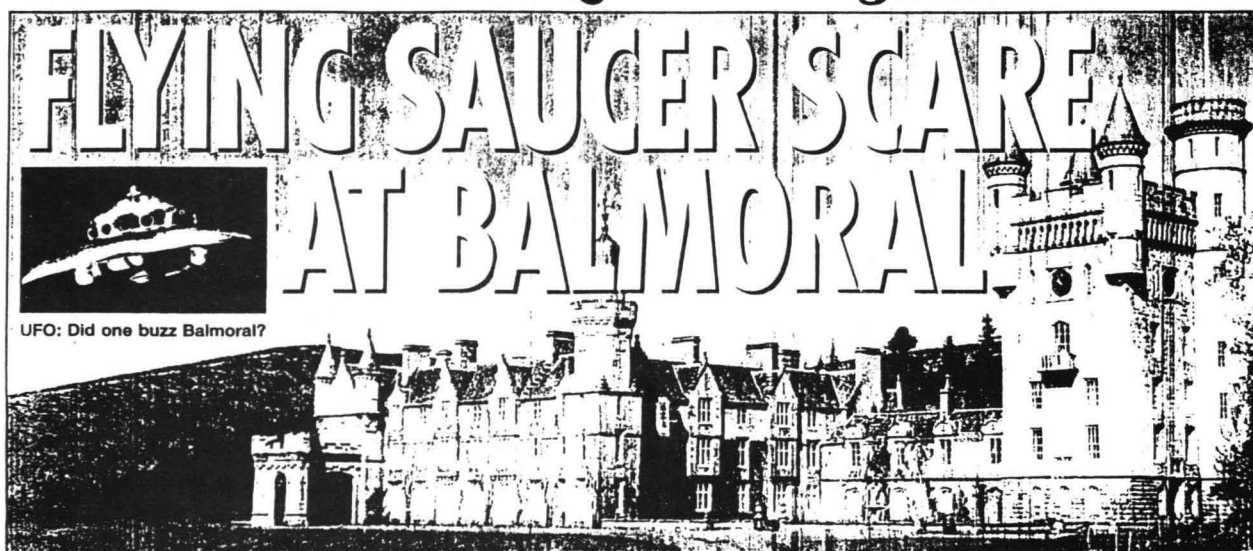
So, what else could it be, and has anyone else out there seen it?

The hotline number for sightings is 01277 230013, and anyone interested in joining the research group, which hold regular talks and sky-watches, can call the same number.



The truth is probably out there, somewhere, and Recorder reporter Dan Humphreys did his best to go and find it.

-Close encounter at Queen's Highland castle-



UFO: Did one buzz Balmoral?

RAF jets chased a UFO from the Queen's Balmoral home.

Two Harrier GR7 jump-jets were scrambled on Wednesday after locals reported seeing a mystery light over the Scottish castle.

One witness claimed the RAF planes appeared to be locked in a dogfight with the UFO. The light appeared just after 10pm and was seen clearly eight miles away in Ballater.

One local said: "It seemed to appear from nowhere right over Balmoral. Within minutes two jets had zoomed in and appeared to be chasing

But UFO vanishes into thin air as jets roar in

EXCLUSIVE

By DAVID LESLIE

They seemed to climb very quickly almost standing on end. It was almost

as if they were in some sort of dogfight with the light.

Another revealed: "It was like something out of a science fiction film. The sky was clear and suddenly a circular light was over Balmoral. It didn't seem to come from any particular

direction. It was just there all of a sudden.

Next thing all hell broke loose as the jets roared in. They were shooting around in circles.

Suddenly the light vanished and after circling the castle the planes flew off

in the direction from which they came."

Security around the Royal Family's Highland holiday home has been tightened since the IRA ceasefire ended.

And a strict exclusion zone bans all aircraft from

the skies above the 55,000-acre Balmoral estate on Deeside. None of the Royal Family was there when the scare happened.

An RAF spokesman said: "There were two aircraft in the area. They could have been on some kind of exercise. Pilots are not going to report such things as UFOs to anyone and I've been unable to get any thing out of them."

Balmoral lies on a line running north from the Lothians on which strange lights thought to be flying saucers by UFO investigators - have been reported



SKY CHASE: AN RAF Harrier jump-jet

CR: G. Conway



Who on earth put this here?

THIS is Essex's very own futuristic version of the Cerne Giant. Villagers wonder whether aliens landed after crop circles appeared in this field. A large circle with a number of smaller spheres appeared during the night in a field of wheat between Layer-de-la-Haye and Birch. Now the guessing game has started over who - or what - created the impressionistic man. Some observers suggest a prank, others say it might have been caused by strong gusts of wind. ● The Cerne Giant is a huge chalk figure of a man carved in a Dorset hillside.

Picture: NIGEL BROWN

Cup and saucer men on trail of flying saucers

by ASHLEY WALTON

THE truth is out there! Britain has its own real-life X Files team, investigating reports of the paranormal.

Buried in the Ministry of Defence, in an anonymous office overlooking Whitehall, two Government agents pore over buff-coloured files, examining sightings of flying saucers and visits by aliens to our planet.

They are the British equivalent of TV's Mulder and Scully. A pair of civil servants, generally seen as more at home with cups and saucers than flying saucers, push back the frontiers of human knowledge in a search for the truth. In the corridors of power the team works under the title Secretariat (Air Staff) 2A MOD.

But in typical Yes Minister style, their work is far from glamorous. Unlike the dynamic TV team, they don't go out in designer suits, stay in motels, invade secret army bases or confront crazed vampires, aliens and assorted weirdos.

The X Files which are the work of 2A are delivered every day to their desks, and together they sift through endless reports of UFO sightings and the paranormal.

The Ministry of Defence says it receives 200 to 300 reports of what they call "unexplained sightings" a year, which all go to the 2A team. But a Ministry spokesman said yesterday: "We do not have a special office investigating UFOs. This is nothing to do with little green men."

But the rest of the Ministry statement is as mysterious as a UFO sighting.

It adds: "If people write to us, as they do everyday, with sightings of something of what they believe is unusual then someone has to look into it and reply."

"This is the work of the secretariat team. Yes, many of the reports are about UFOs and other odd sightings, but we are definitely not investigating them."

The 2A operation is revealed in the latest issue of RAF News. It is the first recorded public acknowledgment that the team exists.

Evening Post, Reading, England - April 22, 1996

Pensioner speaks of close encounter after dark

A PENSIONER has revealed details of a close encounter with a UFO in the middle of the night.

Roland Joy is convinced that extra terrestrials visited his home in Beech Hill, Spencers Wood.

He decided to tell his awesome tale after three school

children in Lower Earley let the Reading Evening Post know about their out of space sitting last week.

Mr Joy, known as Roley, had the visitation in the early hours of Tuesday, February 13.

He said: "I was woken up in the mid-

dle of the night and looked out the bedroom window and there was a flat disc like a plate and it had intermingling psychedelic colours. I didn't fear anything, I was amazed by it.

"It went round the side of the house and I ran on to my landing, looked out the

window and it was gone. I went back to bed and it came back about 40 minutes later.

"It was the most fantastic phenomenon I have ever seen in my life. I am a very very level headed person. I'm not the sort of person who exaggerates."

SOUTHERN DAILY ECHO, Southampton, England April 5, 1996

Total eclipse brings home the martians

THE eclipse of the moon proved out of this world for two Stubbington sky-gazers.

For as the pair of astronomy enthusiasts gathered on the village green they spotted what they described as a triangular-shaped UFO.

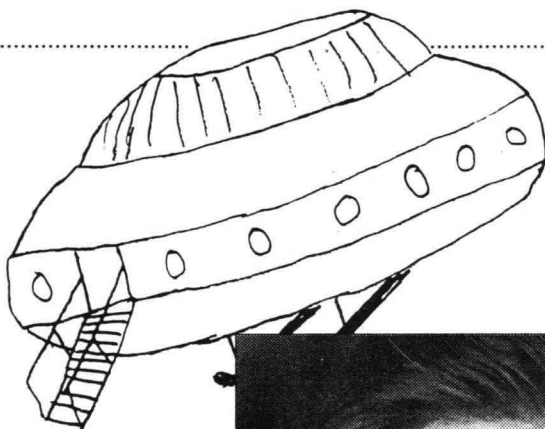
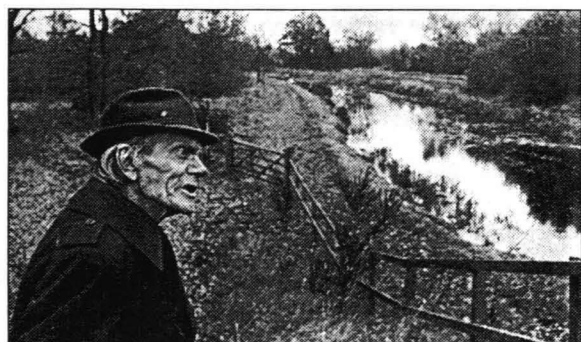
The unnamed duo from Gosport reported the sighting on Wednesday night to police at Park Gate.

Inspector Russell Bray said: "They said they saw an orange star over the Isle of Wight which remained static for about ten minutes."

"It then moved closer at speed before turning into a triangular-shaped object."

The UFO, added the inspector, was apparently last seen heading off in a south easterly direction.

Portrait



I was an alien's plaything... the late Alfred Burtoo (far left) beside the towpath in Aldershot, where he claims he was abducted in August 1983 and taken aboard a strange spacecraft; and (left) his sketch of the extraterrestrials' vehicle

Whether or not alien tourists have landed, UFO authors are striding across the planet. **John Cunningham** investigates a strange encounter

Space invaders

THE HALL is packed, the speaker is a David Bowie lookalike with David Owen's gravitas — and most of the audience is laddish thirtysomethings. Some, no doubt, read *Loaded* but, to a man, they subscribe to *UFO Magazine*. For 90 minutes they absorb the deadpan, downbeat account, by a leading researcher in the field of extraterrestrial phenomena, of the sightings and cover-ups by governments and military experts of what 99.9 per cent of us would laugh off as little green men from outer space.

You could watch a soccer match or take in a movie in the time it takes Timothy Good to go through his material, each case illustrated by slides of once-secret documents, rather a lot of them copies of smudgy typescripts going back to the 1940s. It's no good trying to put him on the stand, as I did in an interview before the lecture, and say: "OK, aliens exist, they're visiting here. So what? What are their plans for taking the world?" With that approach, I suddenly found myself in the middle of an alien encounter. Stone-faced Mr Good. It's not the sort of question he answers. He's far too canny and careful to make any of the wild extrapolations that corrupt ufology's long-corroded name among "saneos", but later on he does say that it's by no means certain that the aliens' interest in us is benign; that we're dealing with many different extraterrestrials from different galaxies — or, rather, they're dealing with us — and that, at the very least, they represent a threat to our security.

He worries away at the evidence like a forensic scientist, until, at the end, there's a small pile of incontrovertible nuggets containing the impermeable conclusion that Earth is increasingly visited by aliens from other planets and galaxies, and that such is the frequency of these encounters no government yet dares reveal the scale of what is going on for fear of mass panic.

In the fevered world of UFOs,

where speculation knows no bounds — sightings by airline pilots of mysterious objects pale in comparison with accounts of abductions by aliens, of humans and animals dying terrible deaths as organs are removed and blood sucked out of them — Tim Good is like the ice-man. He applies a cool compress on some of the most lurid accounts, but accepts that some instances in every category of alien encounter might have taken place.

He's made his reputation in this way with four books now. And many the London audience who filed out of the great hall in Imperial College last weekend lined up immediately with copies of his new tome — shiny silver jacket packaging 500 pages — for a handshake, a sentence and a signature.

For just as sightings of UFOs tend to come in clusters, so do sightings of what we might call UFAs — Ubiquitous Flying Authors. This is their season. Good, whose *Beyond Top Secret* is subtitled "The worldwide UFO security threat" (Sidgwick & Jackson, £16.99), is currently talking at three big public evenings sponsored by *UFO Magazine*. Then, early in June, Simon and Schuster will pull the wraps off another eagerly awaited account, by a civil servant no less, which will reveal the Ministry of Defence log of sightings of UFOs in Britain. Strictly no approaches to, or interviews with, Nick Pope before publication of *Open Skies, Closed Minds*; we're in the same secrecy league as Madonna's Sex.

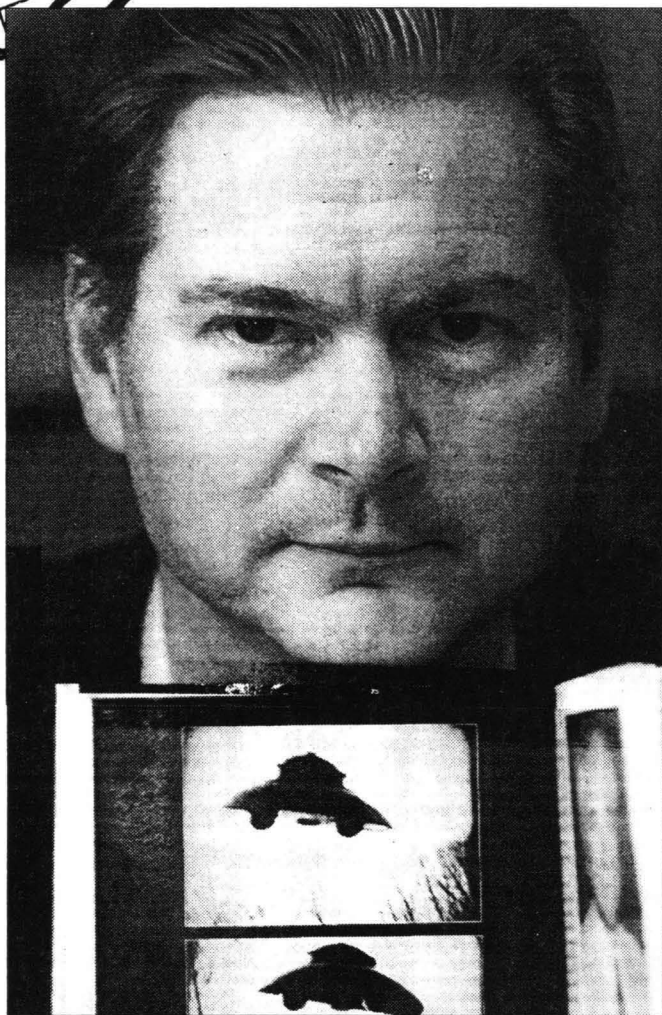
Expectancy throbs at a lower rate among Good's London audience. On the row next to me sits a bloke with an earring, plumber by trade, who says he's been interested in UFOs for two years; he hasn't witnessed anything himself but "I know someone who's been up there," (abducted by an alien) and yes, he definitely believes governments are holding back on us. His particular take on UFOs is sort of spiritual new-ageish. Different again, sitting behind me, are

three friends all in the book trade. They don't belong to either the scientific or the cult wing: they occupy the middle ground of the merely curious — wondering about the accounts of pilots seeing unidentified craft in the skies; they've read at least one of Good's earlier books and are interested in an update. In the interval, in the lobby outside, and definitely not joining the signings queue, an earnest academicky woman is rounding on her partner, scolding the authenticity of those blurred documents which have been dominating the screen.

Dark-suited and diplomatic, Good is wise to weigh his words. You've no idea how hard it is for a dedicated researcher to be taken seriously in a field with more pitfalls than the Moon has craters. Good is a classical musician by training, and in the 14 years he spent with the LSO as a violinist, he had to endure being called "Little Green Menuhin".

BUT ridicule from sceptics is the least of it. Worse than the taunts of the tabloids, the sneers of the broadsheets, are OTT fans. Before the big night with *UFO Mag* readers, he told me of his mission in a minefield: "If ever there's a subject that needs rescuing from its supporters, it's this one. There are thousands of anoraks out there who probably do more harm to the subject than they could possibly imagine." Actually, the nuttier count among his audience last Saturday seemed low; one chap asked Good if he linked UFOs with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ; and a bloke whispered that I should read a book by David Icke.

Good's interest started when avia-



'Little Green Menuhin'... Timothy Good

GARRY WEASER

tion, his boyhood hobby, led via the Eagle to flying saucers. Forty years on, things seem have taken a nastier twist with aliens, he surmises, worried about their dying civilisations and anxious to replenish their species by mating with earthlings. "Everyone's being abducted now; it's very fashionable in the US." It's given rise to a new boast. "How many hybrids do you think you've sired?" UFO geeks ask each other. It's not just a case of Earth Guys Have Fun, because the encounters have left their victims sick with symptoms similar to exposure from radiation; some claim to have implants inserted by aliens as a sort of galactic electronic tagging, beyond the wildest dreams of Michael Howard.

Fortunately for researchers and publishers, aliens shift their focus of interest from time to time, and the latest is a truly horrific business: the mutilation of animals which started in Puerto Rico. Terrified farmers cite

an alien creature, Good says, looking "like something out of hell, bug-eyed, four feet tall, a flat face and a long tongue which comes out like a snake and dives into the brain of an animal, paralysing it".

It sounds so demonic, could it be Voodoo rather than UFOodoo, you dare to suggest? And, given that the sightings in Britain are of the more humanoid type of visitor, is there possibly something in the theory that cultures get the aliens they deserve? "Nice one," says nice Mr Good. "But I don't believe they do." But then, he's not one to settle for an easy ending, or a cheap gag. Only once does his serious mask drop. He is describing a case in which an animal's rectum has been removed with surgical precision by a demonic alien. The audience is mesmerised; not a bottom moves on a seat. "A case of *anus horribilis*," he quips. His listeners are so shocked, there is scarcely a titter. Mr Good! Really!

REPORTER, Wigan, England - March 14, 1996

THE picture that featured in a recent *UFO Update* of an object over the Red Rock area has sparked great interest.

A number of calls have come in to me from people who have seen something exactly the same or very similar.

A woman from Appley Bridge says she saw it around a fortnight ago as she glanced across towards Parbold Hill.

The woman said it was very bright and too big to be a star and there was a beam coming down from the underside of the object just like in the picture.

Her husband suggested it might be a helicopter but she says the beam stayed still and there was no noise plus it was far to bright.

Another sighting came in from a resident of Mannion House in Wigan

who said she saw it on December 13 over the Civic Centre.

The time of the sighting was around 7.40am and she believes other people must have seen the object as it was just getting light.

She stared at it for a while then the object shot backwards and upwards and disappeared behind a cloud. She could see it for a short time behind the cloud but as it became lighter, the object disappeared altogether.

A sighting of a different object, similar to the wedge shaped craft seen over Wigan recently, has also come in.

It comes from a woman and her husband who were returning to their home in Up Holland, coming off the motorway at Shevington.

The woman explained: "I was looking over at the sunset when I saw a grey object just hovering in the sky."

"It was wider at the bottom than it was at the top and was sort of a wedge shape. It was over towards Ashurst Beacon."

"I told my husband to look and he saw it too."

The woman added: "It was just hanging in the air, I don't know what it was but it wasn't a plane or a helicopter."

Have you seen anything in the skies above Wigan. Contact Jon Peake, (tel 22800) or write in to *UFO Update*, Wigan Reporter, Martland Mill, Martland Mill Lane, Wigan WN5 0LX.



CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH AN ALIEN ...

RETIRED Army captain and former publican Ernest 'Scottie' Scott was a lieutenant when he saw a UFO 32 years ago. He reported it to his superiors, who said that if he valued his career he should forget it.

He duly kept silent about the experience for more than ten years. Nevertheless, he can still recount it with military attention to detail. Spreading maps across his dining-room table, he shows you the exact spot where he saw strange lights on the road between Berkhamsted in Hertfordshire and Wendover, Buckinghamshire.

'I had just come back from Cyprus and had fallen for an RAF nurse called Frankie,' he recalls. 'We'd been out for a drink at a pub called the Three Horseshoes at Letchmore Heath near Elstree aerodrome. I was driving Frankie back to her quarters in my brand-new MG Midget — she had a curfew of midnight. It was about 11.05pm when we stopped to talk by the side entrance of a golf club near some woodland. It was a moonlit night with clear skies.'

'At about 11.40pm I pulled up the hood of the car because it was getting chilly and lit my pipe before getting ready to drive Frankie back to her camp, which was about a mile along the A4011.'

'I was about to start the car when a huge light descended slowly, at roughly the same speed as a parachute. It was so blindingly bright I could hardly look at it. It travelled in a controlled arc and was revolving.'

'I was astonished and intrigued, but not in the least frightened. Frankie grabbed my arm and we watched in stunned silence until whatever it was disappeared behind the trees in a wood. I wanted to go and look.'

'This is the point at which it becomes difficult to come to terms with what happened next. I recall getting out of the car and Frankie screaming. She was terrified, hysterical. I remember running across the road, coming to a wire fence and thinking: "This wood is thick."

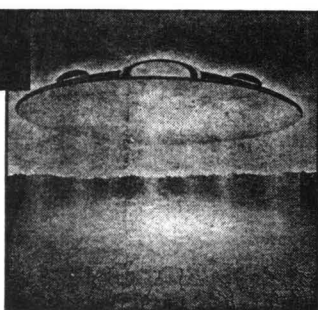
THE NEXT thing I recall was sitting in the car and saying to Frankie, who was still hysterical: 'I want to investigate this.' Frankie was demanding to go.

'I tried to start the car. It was only a couple of weeks old but nothing worked. No electrics. No lights. I turned the key and nothing happened. (A couple of days later I took it to Middlesex Motors at Stanmore and had it checked over. They could find nothing wrong.)'

'I got out of the car and pushed it down the one-in-ten hill, heading north. It cruised down a couple of hundred yards to the T-junction with the A4011, when everything started working again — as inexplicably as it had stopped. We got back to RAF Halton within a couple of minutes and the guard at the gatehouse gave Frankie a roasting. He said it was 2am and she would be on a charge.'

'At that moment the significance of the time did not strike me. Then, after I'd dropped Frankie at her quarters, I asked the guard if he had seen a very bright light. He said: "Yes, I did. That was hours ago." I asked him the time again. He said 2.15am. I replied: "It can't be." Two hours were simply unaccounted for.'

Ernest drove back to his aunt's home, where he was staying on leave. Unaccountably, although he was very fit, he felt debilitating tiredness which remained for several weeks. The next day he reported his sighting at the police station closest to the incident. The policeman made some notes but I



suspect he thought I was an idiot. Two weeks later I picked up Frankie and we went back to the police station to see if there had been other reports of the strange lights. The duty officer said there had been none. When he checked the incident book for entries, the page on which my statement had been taken was missing.

'I spoke to some senior people in my regiment about it and they said: "If you want to pursue your career, forget it." So I did.'

Although Mr Scott did not speak further about the strange lights, he is still plagued by a recurrent dream. In it, a dwarfish creature crouches under a steel couch on which Mr Scott is lying and looks up at him with a disconcerting grin.

FIVE OR six years later Mr Scott was driving home on the A4155 from Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, to Marlow, Buckinghamshire, just before 1am when he saw more lights — dazzling and multi-coloured, emanating from an object the size of a telephone kiosk with a conical top.

'The thing hovered and touched the ground 20 yards away from me. There was a whistling or humming. I remember thinking: "am going to get out and look at that." I put my foot on the brakes.'

'The next thing I remember, I was driving through Marlow. The trip from Henley to High Wycombe used to take me 40 minutes. That night I lost about an hour and a half.' Mr Scott, 54, who has a degree in physics, could offer no explanation for the strange lights or the lost hours. 'At the time I did not equate the two incidents. Often I thought I must be going nuts. How can two hours just disappear?'

'It was not until four years later when he overheard a group of people talking about UFOs in the Sussex pub he used to own that he revealed his experience. 'I was surprised that they took me seriously — and rather comforted,' he says.'

He has studied martial arts since the age of seven and is a second dan and instructor. Although he already possessed healing and comforting skills, he believes they have been enhanced and extended into a spiritual dimension.

He cannot prove that there is a link with his close encounter; he only knows that he now has the ability to cure by touch.

'After the second incident a friend had a painful shoulder,' he says. 'I went to massage it but before I had even touched it, he said: "That's better."'

Mr Scott makes no extravagant claims about the sightings. To sceptics, he says simply that he is telling the truth. 'I don't talk about it often, neither do I care if people laugh. I know what I saw,' he says.



That's where it was: Retired engineer Robin Elsey who witnessed a UFO above Pitch Hill.

Father and son see mysterious object above Pitch Hill

by Stefan Lis

A EWHURST man, who describes himself as a UFO sceptic, has reported seeing a mysterious, dark grey, egg-shaped object flying above Pitch Hill.

Retired engineer, Robin Elsey, is baffled as to the nature of the craft he saw from his living room window for a full minute just before sunset on April 1.

Mr Elsey's home overlooks The Weald. On the day he saw the UFO, it was fairly cloudy overhead but visibility was good. He says it was a very calm and still evening when he saw the mysterious flying object.

'I thought it was a helicopter coming straight towards me,' he recalls. 'But there was no rotor at the top, and when it yawed sideways I saw that it had no tail boom. It was truly mysterious.'

The object, which looked like a rugby ball with the bottom sliced off, was about four metres in diameter and stood about five metres high. It had no surface detail of any kind and had no lights.

Mr Elsey says it was about a kilometre away from his house in Moon Hall Road and was flying at about 400 feet above the valley. He estimates it was moving at about

90mph in a west south west direction.

When he spotted the flying object, Mr Elsey called out to his son, Theo, who came quickly and managed to see it for about 30 seconds. Theo opened the patio door to see if they could hear what the object sounded like, but it was completely silent.

Theo, an amateur pilot and a keen aeromodeller, says that if the object was a remote controlled model aircraft then it was larger than what is legally allowed.

He said that balloons can often be seen from the house but the object they saw was definitely not a balloon — it was solid and didn't give off any reflection from the bright setting sun.

Mr Elsey says he has no firm opinion about what it was that he saw but would love to hear from anyone who also saw it. He is sure that it wasn't an April Fool hoax since a balloon being towed or suspended by a helicopter or light aircraft because it remained steady and at a constant height.

He says one possibility is that it was an undisclosed military device being tested.

A spokeswoman at nearby Dunsfold

Aerodrome said that the radar was not operational at the time the Elseys saw the object but added that aircraft don't usually fly from the aerodrome after 6pm and there is no record of an aircraft flying that evening.

The chairman of the Surrey Investigation Group of Aerial Phenomena, Gordon Millington, to whom Mr Elsey reported the sighting, said a number of sightings have been made in the past at Pitch Hill, the last time by a young couple in 1988.

He said a report of Mr Elsey's sighting has been sent to the British UFO Research Association. Mr Millington said he suspects that what Mr Elsey saw was a remote controlled survey craft of some kind because it was too small to hold a pilot.

Mr Elsey is keen to hear from anyone else who may have seen what he and his son saw on April 1. His telephone number is 01483 277484.

UFO buzzes ex-Air Force controller

IT wasn't a bird, a plane or even a comet that retired RAF traffic controller Peter Bryan saw over Hengistbury Head at around 7.30 on Saturday night, March 30.

'It was a mystery...a UFO,' said 43 year old Peter of Hurn Way, Christchurch, who was out on the Head with his brother John, viewing the visiting comet.

They saw the comet, which is 10 million miles away, but the bright light they first spotted over the Purbecks which then swooped towards them was just a few hundred feet up.

The object, which made no sound, sometimes hovered, coasted towards them till it circled

by David Haith

the Head's kite-flying area and then hurtled off at high speed towards St Catherine's Hill.

Peter said: 'It gave off a bright white light which, unlike the lights from a plane or helicopter, was always as bright even when it changed direction.'

Peter phoned Bournemouth Police, who said they'd had a report of light off Swanage which they put down to a flare.

Portland Coastguards had two reports of white lights seen, one from a woman in Swanage and a man in the Purbecks. Hurn Airport reported nothing on radar.

Now Peter would like to know of others who may have been buzzed by the UFO.

SOUTH WALES EVENING POST, Swansea, Wales - April 16, 1996



BRIGHT LIGHT: UFO spotter Cath Hayne.

Cath's UFO terror

A SWANSEA woman claims she experienced a frightening and unnatural phenomenon at the weekend.

Cath Hayne says she was in bed at her home in Brokesby Road, Pentrechwyth, at 1am on Sunday when her bedroom became filled with a bright light.

'People may laugh but it was very frightening,' she said.

'I got up and looked out of the window and saw a funny figure on the roof of the three-storey block of flats opposite.'

'It was like a huge silver balloon person and seemed to float down to the street and I got a bit frightened.'



More Bigfoot prints sighted

Most recent sighting of Bigfoot activity in the Blues came July 10 near Deduct Spring, an area of a lot of Bigfoot activity in years past.

Reaching the site would have been easy prior to the February flood and resulting ripping up of roads throughout the Umatilla National Forest.

Going up Mill Creek and the auxiliary, Tiger Canyon road, is perilous for anyone in any rig short of a good four-wheel drive!

Or, so reports the trio who found some big footprints on such a jaunt. I speak of Wes and Pee-wee Sumerlin of Walla Walla and Bill Laughery of West Richland. Following their customary Wednesday coffee hour at the Blue Mountain Mall, the three decided to go "have a look-see."

They found what they were looking for when they were a short distance beyond the road which branches off to Deduct Spring, Wes said. A steep bank on the left side of the road bore quickly identified tracks of our big one ... gouged right into the soil as the critter came to the road the easy way. For it, that is!

Wes said the tracks measured about 14 inches long and apparently came out of the Mill Creek Watershed, boundary of which lay just above the road at this point.

Wes also estimated the tracks were about three days old.

This latest report of the Bigfoot of the Blues reminded me of the 1982 sighting of one as reported by ex-Forest Service watershed patrol rider, Paul Freeman. Of all the re-

ports of such encounters, I have always rated this one in a small grouping of those which have impressed me the most. Right along with the Freeman account, of course, is the 1967 encounter by the late Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin.

In the Freeman encounter, the monster was coming down a steep embankment and had just landed on the road when the patrol rider spotted it. Bigfoot and man spotted each other simultaneously and just as simultaneously turned and went their separate ways!

Freeman recalled the Bigfoot's hair rising on its back and the creature's peering back at him as it strode away.

Along with the Patterson and Freeman encounters, now I have two more to add to my listing. One comes from a good Bigfoot summation, authored by Mark McDermott and appearing in the July 17 issue of the Seattle Times Magazine "Pacific." It's well worth the read if you're into this subject at all.

In each of the two encounters now added to my list, the person meeting up with the Bigfoot had been a non-believer basically. Each is a firm believer at this point!

McDermott's account related the experience of a Salem, Ore., resident, Kevin Jones, while hunting deer near Grants Pass, Ore., in 1993. It was early morning and Jones had walked into a clear-cut area and sat on a stump to wait for his hunting partner. In a few min-

utes he saw motion out the corner of an eye near the trees at the edge of the clearing.

"As he turned his head to look," McDermott writes, "out walked a seven-foot-tall female Bigfoot, followed by an apparently younger one about half the size. Jones watched the pair undetected for five or ten seconds. The younger one, he noticed, seemed to be playing, walking kind of lackadaisically, planting his heels with each step. The adult paused and looked directly at him; she was now about 100 feet away.

"Jones was holding a rifle but was too completely awestruck to consider using it. 'It was like, whoa ... they really do exist!' he said. Upon seeing him, the female turned to the small one and seemed to beckon it forward. Not running but a little more hurried, they crossed the cut and disappeared into the woods on the other side.

"I'm open-minded, and I'd heard about this kind of thing but never really given it much thought," he said. "After I'd seen one, it kind of shattered my whole idea of reality. I had it in my mind how things are, but everything isn't always at it appears to be."

The other Bigfoot encounter story came by the sheerest of pieces of luck. A California Bigfoot friend called me one day to suggest I try to find the Art Bell talk show on my radio dial because Bell was going to feature Bigfoot, as he often does. Bell's program beams from

Pahrump, Nev., but I picked him up on 610 AM. What I heard not only boggled my mind, but also that of Bell and his host for the evening, Ray Crowe, director of the Western Bigfoot Society in Portland.

Identified only as "Chris from Bakersfield," the caller unfolded a fantastic story. Chris admitted he had never believed in Bigfoot, figured the whole thing was a hoax.

Until one day in 1982, when he was out walking with his dog in a heavily-wooded area when he was a teenager. He had his dog, but it was tethered to a chain leash. The scene is on the eastern slopes of the Rockies, about 40 miles north of Lincoln, Mont.

"We were turning back to the cabin and were in a thick area of the woods, when my dog stopped for a second," Chris began. "Then, I saw his ears go up, then he started to look to the left. I looked left, too, and at the same time heard what I thought was an elk bugling. The tone became so loud and intense, I started to black out.

"As I turned my head I saw this creature ... it was a female ... she was covered with reddish hair ... she was standing, fully extended, with her arm up on a branch. Her mouth was open ... she was probably not more than eight feet away ... you could almost feel her breath as she was screaming ... the scream went completely through me.

"I've never been afraid of things ... I've seen bears and mountain lions ... but this thing had me going down to the ground and passing out.

"My dog took off running as fast as he could. His running pulled me up to my feet and I was running with him... after a good fourth or half mile, we stopped at a spring and he got a drink. I looked back and was shaking. We went on to my cabin, but then I started to get mad ... I wasn't going to let something like that scare me or run me off!

"So, I grabbed a .30-.30 and me and my dog headed back there.

"Well, we got as far as the spring and neither of us would cross it ... he wouldn't and I couldn't either.

"That pretty much ended my hunting and solitary hiking experiences."

Chris said he didn't go into the woods much after that but whenever he did almost every time he had the feeling "something" was in the brush looking at him.

"I'd get the feeling and turn around but every time I could never see anything.

"Just like that one I saw. When she got done with her screaming, as I was hitting the ground, the last thing I saw her do was drop down to a crouch ... she must have been eight or nine feet tall ... and disappeared faster than anything I've ever seen. The whole episode couldn't have taken more than a span of five seconds."

Which reminds me of the Bigfoot encounter by Sumerlin and Laughery in August of 1995 in the Blues. They too recounted how the critter they spied in the brush "just suddenly disappeared."

DAILY NONPAREIL, Council Bluffs, IA - May 11, 1996

Bigfoot may just be waiting for a scientific explanation

The metamorphoses of caterpillars into butterflies.

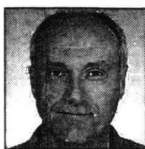
The complex process of photosynthesis in which chlorophyll-containing cells in green plants transform simple sunlight into chemical energy for sustenance.

At one time these acts were considered miracles-events that couldn't be explained by the then understood laws of nature. Through scientific studies, man has unraveled the mystery of these marvels of nature for all to see and understand. Yet for all the tremendous advances in science, there still remains some intangibles-uncharted areas that lurk in the subconscious mind of man, that prey upon our primal fear of the unknown.

Bigfoot. Sasquatch. Yeti. The abominable Snowman.

These names can illicit human emotions that range from the ludicrous to the scary, depending on your personal views. The nature of human belief is as complex as the most elaborate chemical equation. If something can't be detected by our senses of sight, smell, touch and taste, then most likely that something is relegated to the corner of our mind that retains items classified as nonexistent.

But, at the same time, there seems to be a part of human belief that needs to believe that something is out there, beyond anything that we rationally know. The book, "Where Bigfoot Walks" by Robert Michael Pyle, delves into this phenomenon. Most scientists, and the public, believe that these creatures don't exist based on the evidence



OutdoorScene

Doug Clayton

such as skeletal bones or bodies.

However, it really wasn't that long ago when science didn't believe in the stories that were coming out of the "dark continent" about big, hairy creatures that walk upright. No one now disbelieves in the existence of gorillas.

Others point out that, based on the reported size of Bigfoot, no large primate could exist because there would not be enough food to sustain such a large and active animal. But what of the elk and mountain goat that inhabit the same country. The resident Roosevelt elk are the largest by body weight of all the different species of elk. The abundance of forage sustains not only these animals but many more, and, still a vast majority of it rots on the vine. This suggests that additional animals might be supported.

Add some other items to the menu, fish, insects and red meat, all which are readily attainable, and that explains the viable population of bears in the area. Here is a large animal that has a huge appetite, whose habits are mostly secret, and

when the occasion arises can exhibit almost unbelievable stealth, and is intensely by our culture and many others around the world. All these characteristics are attributed to bears. When thinking of these traits, add two to three times the cranial capacity, a grasping hand, and at least twice the weight, length and strength and one can wonder-if bears, why not Bigfoot?

Believe it or not, I'm not trying to convince you that Bigfoot exists. All I'm saying is that we still don't know everything there is to know about nature. There still are mysteries yet to be uncovered.

As strong as our species thirst for knowledge is, if everything we came in contact with had a clear cut definition, personally it would be a very dull existence. The human mind's gift of imagination is a wonderful thing. Jules Verne wrote about the wonders of underwater boats and men going to the moon back in the early 1800's. That fiction is now fact.

Our imaginations can be more vivid that reality and I can have a very active imagination. Several years ago while bear hunting in Canada I brought along a book to read to help pass the time while stand sitting. Good idea, bad book select. As the last glimmer of light fades into an already dark Canadian timber the last thing you should be reading is any Stephen King book, especially "Pet Semetary!"

Whether they're real or envisioned, Bigfoot, bears or Stephen King induced willies stir the human imagination and in turn vitalize our wilderness experiences.

HERALD, Boston, MA - April 15, 1996 CR: L. Bryant

Shore towns humming about weird vibrations

By DAVID WEBER

There's a Hull lotta shakin' goin' on.

That is the sort of pun that's been heard around the South Shore town of Hull since some residents recently began noticing a mysterious vibration, often accompanied by a dull hum, in their homes.

The same sensation has been felt across Massachusetts Bay in Nahant, which juts out into the water from the North Shore in much the same way Hull does from the South Shore.

"It's really strange," said Hull resident Mark Burns. "I have wind chimes on one of my windows and I noticed they were chiming very slightly the other

day."

Burns said he noticed the vibration around 7 a.m. and said it lasted about an hour.

Others said they notice the rumbling at night before they go to bed.

"I've had people calling me and they're scared," said Hull firefighter Ray Thomas.

Nahant police officer Robert Dwyer said two residents of his town phoned in reports of "rumbling" Friday morning. He said an officer heard a humming noise, but could not pinpoint its origin.

Explanations have ranged from tunnel drilling by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to excavation for the Central Artery project to engine tests on airplanes at Logan Airport.

A spokesman for the MWRA, which has been drilling a 9-mile-long tunnel beneath the ocean floor for a sewage outfall pipe, said there is no unusual work currently being done. In fact, spokesman Paul DiNatale said the drilling, which has been going on for several years, has been temporarily halted because they hit a section of "bad rock."

NEW MEXICAN, Santa Fe, NM - Sept. 12, 1996

State investigates cattle mutilations

The New Mexico Livestock Board said Wednesday it is investigating six cattle mutilations that have occurred in the last two months in Northern New Mexico.

"So far we haven't sorted out which animals were killed by predators and which by something else," said the board's deputy director Kevin McClellan.

The latest killing was discovered Monday in a high grazing pasture above Peñasco.

Until the latest reports, no mutilations had been reported since a cluster of mutilations in 1993-94.

The livestock board is still investigating the 1993-94 incidents, in which at least 30 cattle died, McClellan said.

Cross-Country Journal

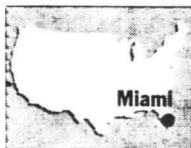
TERESA MEARS

Animal-alien legend enters Miami lore

MIAMI - It started with reports of dead animals on Miami's agricultural fringes: goats, ducks, geese. Wild dogs, said authorities. No, said one witness. It was the chupacabras.

And so another legend entered the lore of Miami.

The rumored appearance of the chupacabras was first reported last year in Puerto Rico, where it still receives the most attention. According to those who say they have seen it, it stands upright, resembling a cross between a monkey and the alien in "E.T.," with porcupine-like spines along the crown of its head. It has reportedly appeared in Mexico, Costa Rica, Texas and California as well, sucking the blood from animals it kills.



The legend of chupacabras is a modern legend. Few people in Miami seriously believe that a half-animal, half-alien has stalked wildlife in Dade County, though in Miami one can never completely rule anything out.

But that hasn't in any way decreased the fascination with the chupacabras. Remember, these are the same people who built a tradition from a rat that ran across the hockey arena one night.

"Miami is, I think, an excellent incubator for legends because of all the different cultures, all the different world views, the different sense of officialdom down there," said Brent Cantrell, a folklorist in Tennessee who was coordinator of the folklore program at the Historical Museum of South Florida. "So many odd things do happen that there's a feeling that anything could happen."

When the legend surfaced in Miami, the chupacabras was a creature of the Spanish-language media. But, like Cuban coffee, it quickly crossed over. Tales of the chupacabras appeared twice on the front page of the Miami Herald. A local television station invited its watchers to fax in their own drawings of the chupacabras and displayed them at the end of the news at night.

In a letter to the Herald's editor, a resident responding to a report that the county had received smaller palm trees than it paid for suggested that perhaps the chupacabras had attacked the palms. This was only slightly odder than the explanation offered by the grower: The trees had shrunk.

In Little Havana, Julio Ramirez, 66, opened the Chupa Cabra restaurant, though it doesn't serve goat, a popular dish in Miami's many Caribbean restaurants.

At one point, between the first chupacabras reports and the first jokes, local authorities held a public autopsy - reported in the local papers, tongue firmly in cheek - to demonstrate that a goat really did not have all its blood sucked out by a chupacabras.

"I believe in UFOs. I believe in life on other planets," said a frustrated Ron Magill, communications director at Miami's Metro-zoo, who worked on the investigation into the animal deaths. But he insisted there was no chupacabras in Miami. But the chupacabras is no laughing matter to the farmers who have lost goats, pigs and fowl.

Whatever killed their livestock hasn't been caught. Some people have blamed some Spanish-language media for taking the chupacabras too seriously and, perhaps not coincidentally, the chupacabras has been sighted only in those coverage areas.

But, the beast was the subject of a segment on Fox Television's "Unsolved Mysteries."

One Kentucky folklorist said the Miami situation is reminiscent of the mysterious attacks reported on cattle in the Midwest 10 or 20 years ago, attributed at the time to space aliens or Satanic cults. Certainly tales of

mysterious beasts and flying saucers have circulated in the mainland United States for years, and all have some believers.

"The beasts are crossing the borders," joked Felix Matos Rodriguez, a history professor at Northeastern University who is from Puerto Rico.

He finds the interest in the chupacabras - the T-shirts are available even in Boston - alternately amusing and disturbing. He notes that Puerto Rico gets little attention in the US media, and perhaps it would be better to write about something more important.

"This kind of story worries you because it can easily cater to the worst of the stereotypes" of Latin Americans, he added.

Teresa Mears is a Globe correspondent in Miami.

Killer wolves terrorize poor villagers in India

■ The deaths of 33 children in five months have terrified peasants blaming attacks on werewolves, but experts cite an aberrant pack

By JOHN F. BURNS
New York Times News Service

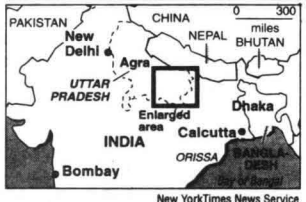
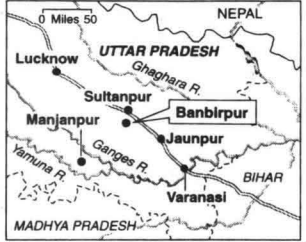
BANBIRPUR, India - When the hungry wolf came to this tranquil village toward dusk on an evening in mid-August, it was every child's worst nightmare come true.

The wolf pounced while Urmila Devi and three of her eight children were in a grassy clearing at the edge of the village, using the open ground for a toilet. The animal, about 100 pounds of sinew and muscle, seized the smallest child, a 4-year-old boy named Anand Kumar, and carried him by the neck into the luxuriant stands of corn and elephant grass that stretch to a nearby riverbank.

When a police search party found the victim three days later, half a mile away, all that remained was his head. From the claw and tooth marks, pathologists confirmed that he had been killed by a wolf.

Conservationists think the wolf probably was one of a pack that has been roaming this area, driven to killing children by hunger or by something else that has upset the natural instinct of wolves to avoid humans, such as thrill-seeking villagers stealing cubs from a lair.

It has been more than a century since India faced the threat of killer wolves on anything like the scale



Other rumors have put the blame on infiltrators from Pakistan, who are said to have dressed up as wolves. Pakistan is India's traditional enemy.

Villagers have turned against strangers and sometimes one another in lynchings that have killed at least 20 people and prompted authorities to arrest 150 others.

"It's the worst wolf menace anywhere in the world in at least 100 years," said

Ram Lakhan Singh, the animal conservationist chosen to lead an effort to kill wolves suspected of attacking humans.

The hunt involves thousands of villagers and police officers armed with bamboo staves and 12-gauge shotguns. But no body can be sure that any of the wolves shot so far were part of the pack that Singh and other experts think is responsible for the deaths.

Matters are still far from the disaster of 1878, when British officials in this area recorded 624 human killings by wolves. But fear is pervasive. Men stay awake all night, keeping vigil with antique rifles and staves. Mothers keep children from the fields, and infants are kept inside all day.

In the dark interiors of stark brick homes made clammey by the monsoons, villagers tell fantastic stories, sweeping aside all attempts

“As long as officials pressure us to say it was a wolf, we’ll say it was a wolf. But we have seen this thing with our own eyes. It is not a wolf; it is a human being.”

Ram Lakhan Panday,
India villager

”

by officials to persuade them that the killers have been wolves.

"It came across the grass on all four paws, like this," said Sita Devi, the 10-year-old sister of the boy killed by a wolf Aug. 16 in Banbirpur.

She moved forward in a crouch from a cluster of villagers gathered by a well. She told her story with tears in her eyes, to anxious murmurs from the crowd.

"As it grabbed Anand, it rose onto two legs until it was tall as a man," she said. "Then it threw him over its shoulder. It was wearing a black coat and a helmet and goggles."

The girl's grandfather, Ram Lakhan Panday, who drove a truck in Calcutta for 50 years before retiring to his native village, said: "As long as officials pressure us to say it was a wolf, we'll say it was a wolf. But we have seen this thing with our own eyes. It is not a wolf; it is a human being."

Rancher Says Bull Mutilated

By Karl Moffatt
SUN Staff Writer

A Chimayo man says one of his bulls was found dead and suspiciously dismembered in a pasture near Peñasco this week.

"This is unbelievable," Carlos Trujillo, a part-time rancher told the SUN Tuesday (9-10). "I don't know what happened to him (Volcano, the bull), only God knows."

Trujillo said the dead animal's sex organ had been removed with surgical precision as was the heart, tongue and an ear without a trace of blood left behind.

But New Mexico Livestock Board Cattle Inspector Teddy Abeyta of Española, who was summoned to the scene, said it appears the bull died of natural causes and was preyed upon by predators.

"Technically it was mutilated," Abeyta said of the dead animal. "But in my opinion it wasn't by little green men like they think."

Abeyta said he's been a cattle inspector for 12 years and he noted that predators typically attack the sex organs and other easily accessed items on a dead animal.

The two men's opinions differ over the nature of the wounds, which Trujillo says appear cleanly cut while Abeyta says they appear ragged as if chewed open.

Trujillo said he'd taken pictures of the dead animal and expected to have them available for inspection later this week.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada
Aug. 10, 1996 CR: G. Conway

Electronic car-stoppers hailed

CHULA VISTA, Calif. - Using technology they will begin testing next month, police may be able to stop a car in its tracks by sending an electrical charge that disables the vehicle's electronics and shuts off its engine.

The "car-stopper" was announced this week as part of a two-pronged effort employing technology first developed during the Cold War.

"As we move toward the 21st century, it is important that we do away with such anachronisms as the high-speed police chase," said a U.S. official.

Mysterious Taos Noise Now Rouses a Ho-Hum

Some No Longer Hear It; Others Have Left Town

By TOM SHARPE
Journal Staff Writer

TAOS — For most Taoseños, the Taos Hum has faded into background noise.

People who publicly described the low-frequency noise four years ago have stopped hearing it, grown accustomed to it or left town — reportedly due to public ridicule as much as annoyance from the sound.

A few people report that they recently began hearing the hum for the first time, but its source remains a mystery. Theories range from submarine communications to overactive imaginations.

Taos Mayor Fred Peralta said jokes about the hum abound, but "you don't even get people asking about it anymore. It's something that was here for a while. You get people who are interested in it. If somebody feels they can make a buck on it, they'll do it."

Asked how one could profit from the phenomenon, Peralta said, "In a sense that somebody says, 'Well, let's do some research on it and get some grants to do it,' and you've created an income for somebody. Once they

couldn't find anything, couldn't deal with it, it died away and that was it."

Joe Mullins, a University of New Mexico engineering professor emeritus who led an effort to find a source of the hum 3½ years ago, recently said that, although the study is winding down without a valid theory, he's convinced "people are really suffering."

"I wish we could get a better-funded study going," Mullins said. "But it's not easy to get money for oddball things these days."

Duane Dahlberg, a retired physics professor from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., recently visited Taos to see if people who hear the hum have health problems similar to those documented for decades among Midwestern dairy farmers.

Dahlberg said he believes those problems are caused by "stray voltage" from the grounding of the nation's electric system. He said the dairy farmers and their cattle spend much of their time on wet concrete floors, which conduct electricity. One farmer found that his cattle's milk production improved

markedly when he kept them insulated from the cement by a piece of styrofoam, he said.

The Taos Hum began to make headlines and national broadcasts four years ago.

A UNM questionnaire mailed to 7,000 Taos County homes in early 1993 resulted in 1,440 responses, about 11 percent of whom reported hearing the hum.

Many believe the Taos Hum is a figment of hippie imaginations. But Mullins, the UNM professor who led the study, said the 161 people who reported hearing it reflect the county's general demographics.

Not everyone who hears the hum is in Taos. Horace Poteet, a Sandia National Laboratories electrical engineer who worked on Mullins' study of the hum, says he's heard a low-frequency hum for years and continues to, at least when he's in a quiet place.

"Once in a while, I hear from somebody who calls us and wants me to help them solve their problem," said Poteet, who lives in Albuquerque. "A lot of them are really bothered. I tell them, 'Well, I wasn't able to solve it before.' This has turned out to be something that's not quite there — at least, we can't measure it."

Today's hum stories are largely left to the Internet, where acoustical engineers and others carry on discussions about it. One web site

can be found at <http://www.eskimo.com> by checking under the name Bill Beatty.

Perhaps the most widely quoted Taos "hearers," Bob and Catanya Saltzman, moved to Mexico two years ago, reportedly to find relief from the annoying hum as well as from public ridicule. Efforts to reach them have been unsuccessful.

Paul Loumena and Alexandra Lorraine found relief from the hum by moving from the open plains northwest of Taos to town where, they say, they no longer hear it.

Sarah Allen and K.C. Grams say they still hear the hum but have learned to live with it. They believe the phenomenon exists everywhere but is more noticeable in quiet places like Taos.

"I still notice it when it's quiet," Grams said, adding that she gets calls from around the country, most recently from Florida, from people who say they hear a similar phenomenon.

Allen, office manager for KTAO radio in Taos, says the Saltzmans and other hearers have been ridiculed so much that they have grown reluctant to speak publicly.

"Most people think the phenomenon has gone away, but I can assure you it hasn't," she said.

Allen, who has been quoted in many news stories, said the media may be incapable of reporting on the hum without taking subtle jibes. She recalls an otherwise credible story in the July/August edition of

Health magazine that ran with the headline, "There's a noise in Taos, New Mexico, that scientists can't trace and it's driving people crazy. Or were they a little crazy already?" An NBC news piece ended with a cow mooing in a field and wisecracks, she said.

Allen believes the hum is the product of extremely low-frequency or ELF signals used by the U.S. Navy to communicate through the earth's crust with submarines. In early 1993, U.S. Rep. Bill Richardson, D-N.M., said congressional staffers had confirmed that a defense project was creating the hum, but retracted his statement after the U.S. Department of Defense denied that its projects were the cause.

Allen said she believes the hum is a worldwide phenomenon that is masked by urban background noise and may have come to the fore in Taos because people there are more sensitive to something "out of tune." She said that trained musicians, like her, are more likely to hear the hum because, "It's like we're playing in an ensemble and there's somebody who's just a little off."

Jenny Bird, a professional musician who has lived in Taos for 18 years, said she didn't hear the hum until about two years ago. "Like most people, I thought the Saltzmans were full of it," she said. "Then, one day, I was waiting for the school bus with my kids. I thought the bus was pulling up behind me

DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - May 7, 1996 CR: J. Fry/COUD-I
Bigfoot enthusiast puts study on Internet

For three years Mat Moneymaker has been studying law at the University of Akron and reports of Bigfoot in Ohio.

"I'm a journalist who is interested in the phenomena. I want to know what these people are seeing," Moneymaker said. He was a TV newsman in Los Angeles before entering law school.

He won't say if he believes in the 9-foot-tall sasquatch. He will only talk about some interesting things he's found. Among other things, he's photographed many deer carcasses in Columbiana, Stark and Guernsey counties. "In every case the liver was gone and the rest of the body was there," he said. Another common thread was that the deer's legs were broken.

"Whatever took the liver apparently knew what the American Indian knew about liver. It is an absolute jackpot of nutrients," he said. The liver would be a lifesaver during the winter when food was scarce, he said.

Moneymaker does not know if a Bigfoot removed the livers. All he says is the deer carcasses were in areas where folks have reported seeing the creature. If it was a primate, he said, the liver is the only organ or part of the deer a primate could easily eat and digest with



JOHN SWITZER

its teeth.

Why does he chase Bigfoot reports? "It is fun investigating a mysterious thing. It's kind of X-File-ish, but I don't go overboard on it," he said.

He's put "Matt Moneymaker's Sasquatch Gallery" on the Internet. It features drawings of sasquatches made by witnesses in Ohio (<http://asoftware.com/bigfoot>).

The web site also has sasquatch vocalizations, he said.

One witness said she was watching her children play in a playground next to an unpopulated, hilly, wooded area near Sharon, Ohio, when she saw a sasquatch. It stopped at a point where it could view the children playing on a small merry-go-round. The witness said the creature appeared to have a smile on its face as it watched.

All the drawings show a tall, shaggy, ape-like animal. Moneymaker said he put them on the Internet "to see if any other people have seen something that would match the description."

Moneymaker's study of Bigfoot in Ohio will end with graduation this month. After graduation he will return to California.

Today will be mostly cloudy with showers. The high will be 64 degrees, the low 54.

NEWS TRIBUNE, Portales, NM - July 28, 1996

Officials check on mutilations

3 TAOS (AP) — 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.

STATESMAN JOURNAL, Salem, OR - May 24, 1996

Some scientists say Bigfoot might be real

By Maria Goodavage
Gannett News Service

In the scientific community, the existence of Bigfoot is winning new respect, but skeptics remain plentiful.

"I don't even call myself a believer. It's not a belief. I'm absolutely convinced they exist," says Grover Krantz, professor of anthropology at Washington State University. "Others are also starting to come around."

But John Crane, an associate professor of zoology and biology at Washington State, thinks his colleague has been fooled.

"There's no such thing as Bigfoot. No data other than material that's clearly been fabricated has ever been presented," Crane says.

In college, Crane and his friends faked Bigfoot tracks and had the whole town believing they were real. "It was fun," he says.

J. Richard Greenwell, a zoologist and secretary of the International Society of Cryptozoology, which studies evidence of unverified animals, says science has every reason to take a serious look at Bigfoot.

"Several new species per decade are still being discovered," he says. "Bigfoot could be one of them someday."

Greenwell and others cite the example of the mountain gorilla, which was thought to be a mythical creature until the early 1900s. "It's the largest known primate in the world, and it took a long, long time to prove it really exists," he says.

Scientists willing to suspend disbelief say one of the most potent reasons is a film shot in 1967 by two men who had been tracking Bigfoot for years. Known as "the Patterson film," this grainy shot has convinced some professionals to take the

Bigfoot question more seriously.

A blurry new video, shot in northern California this year, has created a stir, too. A creature was filmed by a crew from Adventures Television, a syndicated show that starts this fall, and witnessed by the show's host, Playboy playmate Anna-Marie Goddard.

Some think the film is bogus; others believe it.

Jeff Meldrum, associate professor of physical anthropology at Idaho State University, set out to debunk the recent video but couldn't. "There's more to these films than can be easily brushed aside," he says.

More convincing, Meldrum says, is footprint evidence dating back to the 1950s. "Those that are not obviously faked have such consistent morphology (form and structure) over the decades. It's almost impossible to believe even a highly trained

hoaxer could have made them," he says.

Not everyone is convinced.

"I don't believe the thing exists," says Daris Swindler, professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of Washington. "That Patterson film is just a man in a costume. If they get some real evidence, I'd be willing to reconsider."

W. Henner Fahrenbach, a zoologist, thinks he may have breakthrough evidence: a clump of hair that his microscopic analysis ruled out as fake fibers or belonging to common animals of the region. He's awaiting a report from a DNA lab at Ohio State.

"The circumstantial evidence of all the sightings, the footprints, the films, is so dense, so voluminous, that there is little doubt that the creatures exist," says Fahrenbach. "But the hair evidence would make Bigfoot real."

Cattle Mutilations

Reports of cattle mutilations are surfacing once again.

The New Mexico Livestock board is presently investigating two cattle mutilations—a calf in Arroyo Hondo and a cow in the Quesito area, according to officials.

During 1993-94, at least thirty other cattle mutilations have been reported in the state, states Kevin McClellan, the board's deputy director.

In a not so amazing coincidence, unidentified flying objects were reported over southern Colorado and northern New Mexico just prior to the latest mutilation reports.

The mutilations brought to mind an interview with a southern Colorado lawman just two years ago.

Las Animas County Sheriff Lou Girodo, a veteran of more than thirty years of law enforcement and a friend of this writer, has kept an extensive file relating to reports of cattle mutilations in Colorado.

According to Girodo, every mutilation is similar. Livestock parts are missing from the animal's carcass—always sexual organs and lips. Sometimes ears and eyes also have been removed.

The long-serving lawman photographs each and every mutilation case. His collection of photos are too graphic to display in a family newspaper, but suffice it to say they are beyond comprehension.

Stories of cattle mutilation abound across the western U.S.

For some reason this region has been the target of whoever or whatever is killing and cutting up cattle.

Girodo allowed this reporter to observe his recent (more about that later) collection of photos and crime scene reports.

Each and every case is almost identical. A large circle is found around the dead, mutilated cattle.

Footprints, vehicular tracks, even the prints of scavengers, are missing from the crime scene.

Reports of unidentified flying objects were received by some law enforcement agency prior to or following the mutilation in almost every case.

Girodo says scavengers never, but never, attempt to feed on the remains of mutilated animals.

Normally when livestock are found dead and have not been surgically mutilated the carcass has been partially eaten, but never a mutilated animal's remains.

And the sheriff, who also served as a district court chief investigator for 14 years, says each and every mutilated carcass has been surgically cut and dissected.

"It's almost as if a coroner had gone over the remains," Girodo said.

His interest was piqued two decades ago when he first encountered the problem.

"I subscribed to the theory that it must have been some religious cult or teen initiation involved in mutilation, but as years pass and the problem continues I don't know who or what to pin the problem on," said Girodo.

"Too many ranchers are existing hand to mouth today, and mutilations must stop," he continued.

When asked what or who might be involved he effectively dodged the question.

"I don't know. Many ranchers think it must be a government or private program being covered up by some federal agency. Others

Ag Preview and Review

Thomas P. Conroy

think it might be aliens," he stated.

But he had one experience about a decade ago that gives credence to a coverup.

According to the sheriff, as solid a lawman you'd ever want to meet, he was asked by an investigator to review his photos and records.

"This well dressed male arrived at my Trinidad office. He wanted to review photos and crime reports. I made them available, and was called from my office to another phone in

the jail complex during the interview. When I returned, everything I'd accumulated over at least twenty years had disappeared—along with the investigator," said Girodo.

Who is mutilating cattle remains unknown, but every lawman I've interviewed, twelve, say the same thing: "If we tell you what we really think we'd be run out of office as part of the lunatic fringe!"

A word (or two) on Bigfoot DNA

A year ago, Bigfoot hair samples, sent off to Eastern labs for DNA testing, created a stir in this continuing saga. The media became especially titillated over the possibilities, with several locally-shot TV documentaries being spawned in the past 12 months.

Recently on what he termed "the anniversary trip," Henner Fahrenbach, a research biologist at a Portland research institute, came a-calling in the land of the "Walla Walla Bigfoot."

It was Fahrenbach, who in August 1995, had received from Bigfoot tracker, Wes Sumerlin, hair samples which Fahrenbach dispatched to the labs at Ohio State University. Sumerlin had found the hair on bushes where he and Bill Laughery and Paul Freeman had encountered a Bigfoot a year ago.

A man truly dedicated to an overriding hobby is Fahrenbach. His seeking for the truth in the Bigfoot matter has no connection with his employer, he emphasized to me on his visit here earlier this month. I found Fahrenbach a very straight-forward man, one who cuts through the murk or haze of wordiness which can get into Bigfoot discussions. So, it was with eagerness that I met him when he arrived at the Sumerlin home and was able to ask him questions which have puzzled Bigfoot enthusiasts and the media alike.

After observing it had been a year since the hair had gone to the laboratories for DNA testing, I asked him if this was "normal" to take so long for some sort of report to be made of testing.

Fahrenbach said the lab work to date had probably taken longer than usual because the lab routines necessary here were not routine and there was a lack of finances.

"They haven't given up," he said, "but the problem is their limited resources. What I'm trying to do [on his Walla Walla and Blue Mountains visit] is to gather up as much of the short Bigfoot hair as I can... most of the short hair has hair bulbs ... then they [the labs] will try to run an analysis purely on the hair bulbs [DNA will be a bit clearer in the bulbs]."

Can anything at all definite be said of the lab work so far?

"It is not ape hair and it is not human hair is all they can say at present," Fahrenbach said.

Does this statement mean we are a step closer to calling these samples Bigfoot hair?

"Well, it certainly gets you closer, because it does look like human hair... and that's the crucial difference," Fahrenbach said. "Also, of course, it's not like any of the other hairs [found in the woods] ... deer, elk, bears, squirrels, etc."

Does this scientist with the burning desire to unravel the Bigfoot enigma have a gut feeling as to what the hair is?

Fahrenbach left no doubt as he replied. "I think it's Sasquatch hair ... that is my gut feeling."

Does he have a prime reason for taking this stand, a position which sets him apart in a small circle of his peers.

Fahrenbach (with the hair samples sent him by Sumerlin) says he now has three similarities on which to base his conclusions.

"I have had two other cases [like the Walla Walla Bigfoot sighting and hairs from the site]. I have hair sent me that was gathered out of a Sasquatch bedding site near Crescent City, Calif., that looks identical to this [Walla Walla] hair."

"I have another case, a description of hair that was lifted out of a Bigfoot track by a criminal investigator at the Grays Harbor, Wash., police department. This hair was sent to a Utah laboratory and I read the description of it and it matches this hair also."

What Fahrenbach has accumulated on this issue is three samples of Bigfoot hair from circumstances where "I know the collection is a fairly good one... rather than something picked off a random barbed wire fence."

Fahrenbach's three-day Walla Walla visit was not limited to a few hours of conversation at the Sumerlin home ... he spent two days in the nearby Blue Mountains, scanning sites of Bigfoot encounters and tracks. On one day he was in the Biscuit Ridge area with Sumerlin and Bill Laughery, where the Bigfoot had been seen a year ago. The next day he was in the Yellowjacket and Deduct Spring areas with Laughery and Paul Freeman.

Fahrenbach also spent time at the Freeman home where he inspected Bigfoot material collected for the past decade here by Freeman, the ex-Forest Service patrolman who kicked up all this Bigfoot fuss when he ran into one in 1982.

Among samples of "hair" collected by Fahrenbach on his Walla Walla trip were two batches from my own Bigfoot relic collection,

given me by Freeman. One was from Squaw Spring in 1988 and the other from Mill Creek in 1992. Fahrenbach determined each of my samples was plant life which "does a good job at simulating hair."

"Apparently these are the same fibers that were originally submitted to some lab that concluded that they were Dacron, upon which much of the patently ridiculous animosity toward Paul (Freeman) stems."

"These fibers from Paul are decidedly not man-made..."

These are words which might (just might) quell some of the anti-Freeman feeling in the Bigfoot fraternity, where murmurs of hoaxing have been heard, most stemming from this "Dacron" finding by a lab.

On hoaxing of Bigfoot tracks and other material, it was revealing to read what one of the most astute Bigfoot veterans, John Green, has to say on this issue. His full remarks, in a rebuttal to Mark Chorvinsky in Fate Magazine, appeared in the August issue of Bigfoot Co-op. Green said this:

"The true situation with regard to Bigfoot on the West Coast is that there have certainly been hoaxes exposed, some of them elaborate and clever; there have undoubtedly been other hoaxes that may or may not be discovered, and there will undoubtedly be more in the future."

"There are, however, at least a couple of thousand reports that would have to be explained away before the reality of Bigfoot could be conclusively dismissed, because if even one report is accurate, the animal is there."

Cindy Adams



DICK MORRIS, naughty ex-Clinton guru who told his hooker state secrets like how there's life on Mars? Not such a state secret.

Forget that lousy cockamamie little chunk of Martian rock NASA says proves the possibility of life up there. The space agency has a photo of pyramids "twice as tall as the World Trade Center" in the Elysium section of the Red Planet. **Michael Luckman**, UFO Research Center director, says: "Geologists believe the wind would have to be blowing in three directions at once for these pyramids to have been formed by na-

ture." I'm told that also in the Cydonia region, wherever that is, there exists a giant five-sided pyramid near a sphinx-like face which measures a mile and a half across, 2,000 feet tall.

Computer analysts studying the photos make out eyes, teeth and say the face proves ancient Martian civilization.

The Mars surveyor launch date is Nov. 6. Luckman said 15 such probes "mysteriously disappeared" including America's billion-dollar Mars Observer and the Soviet's Phobos 2. Could it be that somebody out there doesn't want us taking pictures?"