

UFO

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THE ET FILES

*An Oklahoma duo investigates
UFOs, aliens and abductions*

"Scully and Mulder"—the names alone conjure images of night skies filled with lights and a world where the bizarre is explained by the unusual yet strangely plausible combination of conspiracy, cover-up and extra-terrestrial visitation.

Oklahoma has its own real-life UFO "team," and between them they have 50 years experience investigating reports of sightings, abductions and other UFO-related occurrences.

Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) Oklahoma State Director Jean Waller-Seifried and her husband, former Ohio state director and author, Richard Seifried, have seen and documented a part of Oklahoma's past not taught in history class.

"We've made some warm friendships from all parts of our society—it's enriched our lives a lot," said Seifried. "The co-author of my book is like a son to me."

In his book, *Native Encounters*, Seifried and his co-author and fellow abductee Michael Carter detail accounts of sightings and abduction reports in Oklahoma during the past 50 years.

Seifried's first exposure to the possibility of alien visitations to earth was as a soldier recently returned from the Korean War.

While stationed at The Presidio military base in San Francisco, he said he saw classified documents on two occasions detailing reports of pilots who had seen a "bluish-green light over the combat zone."

Waller-Seifried became intrigued with the subject of UFOs and extra-terrestrials (ETs) while researching a class assignment at the University of Oklahoma in the late 60s.

"I went out and interviewed some people and found some of it to be very believable," she said.

Waller-Seifried isn't sure she's ever

seen an ET, but she said she does believe in them now. But that wasn't always the case.

"All the years I've been doing this I've never been convinced that this is reality—I never had an experience or even a close sighting," she said. "I finally received something—a validation of the physical existence of this phenomena."

She and Seifried went on to describe an experience approximately four years ago when Seifried awoke from what he remembered as a restless night with a minor, but odd-shaped wound on his arm near his wrist.

Two weeks later at a conference of ufologists another man described a similar experience and then showed them a photo of his wound, it matched Seifried's exactly.

Seifried learned the true nature of his wound after sessions of regressive hypnosis. He said he's learned that he has

been abducted about half a dozen times since he was 19.

Sitting in his living room, he looked around and said, "I don't mean to scare you, but you're in the same room they were in that night."

Seifried said he has experienced ridicule, especially with family members and the media.

"The first couple times we talked to TV stations they kind of made fun," he said. "They don't do that anymore—the attitude has changed."

Even though the number of reported sightings/encounters has stabilized nationally, Oklahoma remains a relatively "quiet" place recently in terms of possible extra-terrestrial activity, said Waller-Seifried.

She cautions everyone not to read too much into the number of reports.

"Just because we don't hear anything

doesn't mean it's not happening," said Waller-Seifried.

"They are afraid they'll be laughed at—there is also an element of desensitization," she said.

The pair of investigators credit shows like *X-files* and movies like *Independence Day* with making the extraordinary, often frightening stories being told by thousands of Americans seem the benign, everyday subjects of popular entertainment.

After many years in Oklahoma the couple is making plans to move to Arizona. They would like to leave their "X-files" here for researchers to use and also as a record for historians.

Seifried donated his Ohio MUFON files to Ohio

State University before he left to move here. They are still there in a special hermetically sealed area.

"I asked OU if they wanted our files and they said no," said Waller-Seifried.

Despite the lack of interest in their files, the couple said they know what they've been doing is worthwhile because of the people they've helped through the years.

And even though, like their television counterparts, they've had to start carrying a gun for protection while investigating, they said they will continue to search for the truth of what's out there.

—By Rhonda Bowden/ Staff Writer

Are we alone?

The question of whether we are the lone intelligent life in the universe, and if not, could extra-terrestrials be visiting us, was posed to some people on campus. Here are the answers:

• President George Nigh said, "I believe that in the beginning God created heaven, the earth and man—I doubt if he did that anywhere else."

• Susan Davis, English education sophomore said, "I've always believed ever since I was a kid—I think it's pretty arrogant to believe we're the only intelligent life in our vast universe." She said she believes the earth is being visited by aliens. "There is enough unexplainable evidence, artifacts, showing space travel is even pre-historic."

• Dr. Ronald Miller, chairperson of the physics department, said of the possibility, "Odds are in favor of it." But the professor, whose brother helped write a "debunker" on the Roswell incident said he didn't think beings from other worlds have been here, the chances of that being possible would really be "stretching it."

And for those who wonder if we can ever know the truth, he offers this assurance: "Science moves on in time and gets to the bottom of things."

• Dr. Charles Whipple, psychology department, said he doesn't believe in UFOs. "Whenever one of those UFOs lands here outside the building, and we can go out and investigate it, then I'll believe it."



(Staff photo by Rhonda Bowden)

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE,
Little Rock, AR - April 15, 1997

Other days

100 years ago

April 15, 1897

RUSSELLVILLE — An airship has come and gone, but not too quickly for two citizens to see it. As a heavy wind and thunderstorm came up, this aerial monster was seen by Mr. Nugent and Mr. Keith to be going at the rate of 100 miles an hour.

What's Out There? Gordon Hasn't Seen, But Believes

Blessed is he who has not seen, yet believes." Stan Gordon has never seen a UFO nor Bigfoot, yet believes in their existence with all his heart. His X-file cabinets at home bulge with reports of their veracity, cubbyholes full of fuzzy photos and sketched eyewitness sightings of Bigfoot on Chestnut Ridge.

Even in semi-retirement from the trail of the unexplained--he must, after all, make a mundane living while pursuing his far more interesting avocation--Gordon, with 37 years of back-ground in this stuff, compiles a yearly log of reports from the field.

Many are nothing more than jittery misunderstandings of natural phenomena: "bright planets and stars seen in a clear sky where atmospheric conditions make them appear to flash colors, jump around and appear and disappear," he notes.

Over the years Gordon, who lives in Greensburg, has received reports of UFOs that he has linked to brightly burning meteors, space debris that flares through the atmosphere, aircraft lights, illuminated blimps, laser shows, even the searchlights from a store opening.

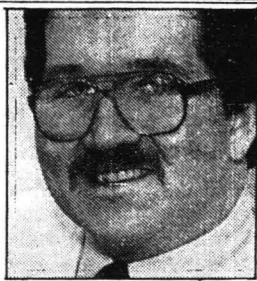
But always he seeks the sightings that can't be easily explained away. Because he's cultivated a reputation as someone who accepts such reports without ridicule, Gordon gets calls from responsible people, trained observers, air traffic controllers, commercial pilots, state troopers.

"These people have no reason to make up reports, and quite often are baffled by what they observed," he said.

Indiana County has long been a hotspot for sightings of UFOs, and Gor-

Dispatches

by John M. Jennings



don generally attributes that to "power plant alley" from Shelocta to Homer City to New Florence. However, he said that 1996 was rather tame, with the few calls received from Indiana County limited to some easily explainable phenomena.

In a year that featured the comic book heroics of man against Martian in two goofy movies and the ongoing saga of two bumbling FBI agents (sorry, I know that's redundant) against the creepy crawlers--plus more conspiracy theories than Stephen King can dream up in a good afternoon--Gordon's phone was relatively quiet in 1996, although he did receive incident reports from 14 Pennsylvania counties.

Even with all the hoopla about Martians blowing up the White House, no increase in crank calls? "Over the years a lot of movies have come out," Gordon replied, "Star Trek," "Close Encounters," whatever. I haven't seen where that leads to more calls. But I've been taking calls since 1969, and I'd say there have been extremely few crackpot calls."

On the other hand, Gordon did receive second-hand a report from an Indiana

County school yard. Greg McCormick, a Pittsburgh UFO buff, told him that a posting on the Internet said that a nine-year-old girl at an unidentified county school and a boy saw "a little blue man" walking in a cornfield.

McCormick pursued the incident and spoke to the little girl's grandmother, who told him that the kids said the creature, who made nary a sound, had "arms out of proportion to his body. He was four feet high and had one eye near the center of his forehead."

Uh huh. Does Granny let the kid watch the Sci-Fi Channel?

But McCormick told me that the grandmother believes the little girl saw something, even if her teacher and everyone else poo-pooed the story. "Pennsylvania historically has been one of the top five states in the country for UFO reports," he pointed out.

McCormick seemed to want to believe the child, but Gordon is more skeptical. But among the ones the veteran UFO-ruc considers most credible, the closest to this area came on Jan. 21 from Crabtree, where "a multi-colored object began to move in a zig-zag pattern and go upward in the sky. A bright beam of

light emitted from the object toward the direction of the witnesses. As the object passed by, a triangular shape and multiple circular lights could be seen as the object moved away in the distance."

No year goes by without a Bigfoot sighting--this one came in February from Fayette County, where footprints 15 inches long, "with a large stride between each track," were found in fresh snow. "Usually the Chestnut Ridge will produce such sightings, and Gordon has folders crammed with reports from people saying they have had encounters with the hairy wanderer."

From Centerville, Washington County came a report of a February UFO sighting with an unusual twist--"a large diamond shaped object, golden color, with numerous white light and emitting beams of light" hovered in the sky for a time. Making it unusual was that "the object turned on its side and spun like a top."

On March 24 in Montgomery County, near Philadelphia, observers saw a translucent triangle moving steadily across the sky at 1,000 feet up. Then two days later in Allegheny County, witnesses described a formation of five orange glowing triangles moving across the sky but making no noise.

If you have an experience that you can't explain, be in a Bigfoot or a celestial sighting, Gordon wants to hear from you. Call him at 838-7768, and he'll treat you with respect and in confidence.

After all, who knows what form an alien might take?

FOSTER'S DAILY DEMOCRAT, Dover, NH - April 8, 1997 CR: B. Greenwood

Much more than meets the eye

MUFON leader convinced we are not alone

By JEFFREY VANPELT
Democrat Staff Writer

PORTSMOUTH — For the past 20 years, Peter Geremia has been watching the skies, and waiting.

And although he has never seen an unidentified flying object, or UFO, he has spent a large part of his life researching them. He is the director of the New Hampshire chapter of the

international research group, Mutual UFO Network, Inc., or MUFON.

Consisting of over 5,000 members worldwide, the grassroots organization is devoted to the research and study of anything and everything related to phenomenon of UFO sightings. Specifically, some members of the volunteer organization interview individuals who have reported sightings or even abductions.

While many may scoff at the notion of alien visitors, it is a belief that Geremia takes seriously. And he is not alone in that thinking.

Studies show that over the course of the last 30 years, about 50 percent of the American population believes that UFOs do exist. Those studies



Peter Geremia

also show that a large part of that 50 percent has a higher education, which Geremia believes helps debunk the debunkers.

MUFON has anywhere between 80 to 130 members, in New Hampshire alone, at any given time. And that number is growing, particularly after a string of sightings earlier this year in the northern part of the state.

But why exactly is the public seemingly more open-minded now than in the past?

Geremia sees it as a combination of a number of factors, the main being support from a wider variety of sources. Credible sources include, among others, Harvard psychiatry professor Dr. John Mack, a well-known researcher of UFO abductions, and the Learning Channel, which regularly presents documentaries about the subject in a decidedly objective manner.

More entertainment-based shows such as the top-rated "X-Files," which regularly takes viewers into the folds of UFO cases and cover-ups.

"I think that a combination of all of that is slowly bringing the general population up to the fact that the existence of UFOs is not taboo," Geremia said.

But he is quick to point out that the number of sightings does not exponentially increase with the latest Hollywood alien (friendly or otherwise) invasion movie.

"If you look at data from the time 'E.T.' came out — nothing. Same thing with 'Independence Day.'"

If anything causes a greater

influx in the number of calls MUFON receives, it is the publicity of other reports. When one particular case receives a lot of attention, the organization generally sees an increase in the number of previously unreported sightings reported, Geremia said.

"Fear of ridicule is one of the most powerful emotions in the human psyche."

On average, MUFON receives about 15 reported sightings a year. But he points out that number has already been reached this year alone.

In January, the group received a number of reports from residents in Coos County and Northern New Hampshire regarding objects in the sky. The resulting news reports brought media attention from all over the country, including an Alaskan radio station.

The latest cases the group is working on took place a few weeks ago and involves a Franklin man and his son, and a Rumney man.

In the Franklin case, the two reported seeing a "very large" multi-light object pass over their home, a passing which reportedly took a couple of minutes.

In the Rumney case, a man reported seeing four white orbs of light in a diamond formation. That sighting occurred during the day.

Geremia said both cases are still being investigated.

That investigation process involves the members of the organization who have taken on the role of investigator or investigator trainee.

Once Geremia receives a call

reporting a sighting, he contacts the investigator for that particular region, who in turn studies a topographical map of the area in which the incident was supposed to have taken place. The individual is then contacted for an interview.

Once that is set up, the investigator then takes a picture of the landscape and area where the incident took place. This is done to allow the interviewee to pencil into the picture the approximate size and shape of what he or she has seen.

From there, the subject is interviewed and the report studied to see if the occurrences can be attributed to natural phenomenon or other explainable circumstances.

"About 85 percent or so of all the cases are easily explainable. It's that 5 or 10 percent that are really exciting," Geremia said.

If it is believed that the case does in fact involve a UFO, or is otherwise unexplainable, the information is sent to MUFON's central office in Seguin, Texas, where it is put into a database and cross-referenced with other cases. All of the essential information of a particular case is kept confidential, Geremia said.

Geremia's interest began in the mid-1960s when he was working in Bangor, Maine, as a civilian worker under contract to the government with "secret security clearance." It was there he began to hear reports of UFO activity.

Later, he found himself at Pease Air Force Base with a co-worker who had a strong interest in the subject. That also helped to pique his interest.

"It was primarily just a curiosity coming from my background, wondering is it possible to duplicate that kind of technology," Geremia said.

After doing some research on his own, he was encouraged to become a member of MUFON by Ray Fowler, the primary investigator of the now-famous "Incident at Exeter," in which local residents and authorities allegedly witnessed a UFO in the 1960s.

In 1977, Geremia took over the New Hampshire chapter director.

Since then, he has heard countless stories from those who say they have had close encounters.

"And I still haven't seen one," said Geremia. "You can fill out all the reports in the world, but there is nothing to compare to sitting across from an individual telling you their story, and you can hear their voice quivering and you see it in their eyes and you know they believe what they saw."

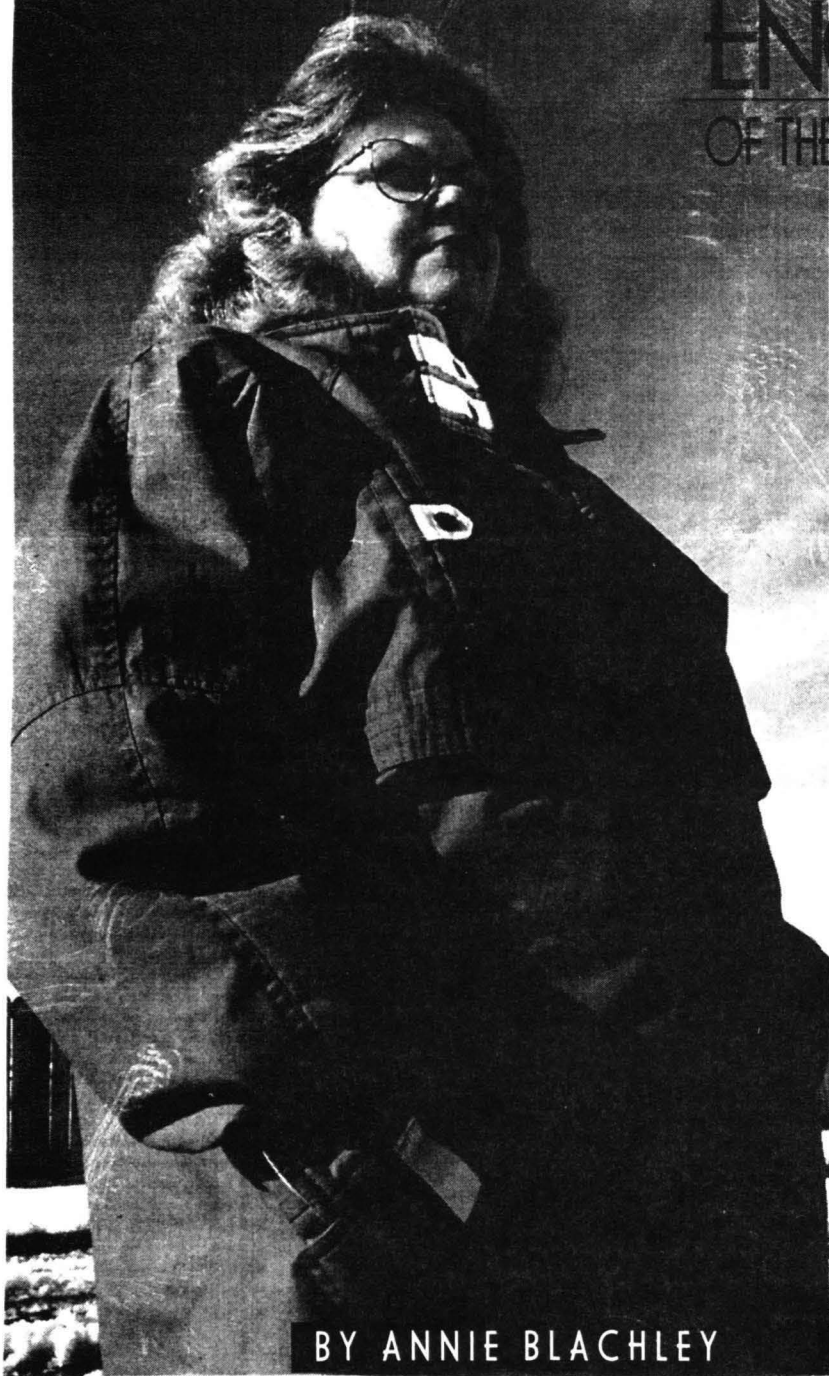
Still, stories of UFOs continue to permeate headlines and evening newscasts, Geremia and others are careful not to believe everything.

The recent Heaven's Gate mass-suicide, in which members believed a UFO, riding in the wake of the Hale-Bopp comet, would take them away to a better place, is an example of the type of incident which can hinder the understanding of UFOs, Geremia said.

"It was the worst possible thing that could happen to serious UFO research," Geremia said.

N.H. MUFON can be contacted by writing to: P.O. Box 453, Rye, N.H., 03870.

PORTRAIT OF A NORTHERN NEVADA UFO ABDUCTEE

CLOSE
ENCOUNTERS
OF THE RENO KIND

BY ANNIE BLACHLEY

SHANNON KLUGE points in bewilderment to the flesh-colored scar that bisects her right eyebrow. She says she has no idea how it got there—it simply appeared one morning about 18 months ago. Shaking her head in disbelief, she recalls another morning in 1988, when she woke up to discover an incision running down four inches from her left collarbone: the hairline cut was angry, bubbled up and red.

I am interviewing Kluge in the large, airy house she shares with her twin sister's family. A golden retriever in the large landscaped back yard whines softly at the door to be let in, and Kluge makes coffee and sets out banana bread for us as we talk. The quiet, tastefully decorated home and Kluge's congenial manner convey a placid air of normalcy. All is right with the world—or seems to be—in this home set amid the empty roads that snake out past sagebrush-dotted mountains to the Palomino Valley.

But just last week, Kluge says she woke up with a big fingerprint-like bruise on her right wrist. Kluge, age 44, divorced, and the mother of two grown children, recalls many mornings waking up bruised, her entire body aching like she had been hit by a truck. After enduring years of unexplained injuries, Kluge says, she got angry.

"How can I wake up with this with no memory? If you fell or were attacked, you'd know it," she recalls. "I was livid to think that something like this could happen. So I started doing research, and I concluded that I was involved."

That research gave Kluge a sense of control and put her in touch with others who have had similar experiences. Many of us, in fact, have had the experience of waking up with joint and muscle aches the morning after engaging in too much strenuous exercise.

But here is where the shared similarity shifts, and becomes a skewed reality: How many of us wake up with incisions in our skin? And just how many can say they have seen an unidentified flying object (UFO) or had personal contact with alien beings? Kluge claims some five sightings of UFOs, along with numerous other experiences with aliens.

"My fear is that I'll die before I find out. I'm on a quest," she says of the organization she recently founded, the Sierra Nevada UFO Skywatch and Study Group. Her purpose, says Kluge, is to bring together a group of "cool-headed, responsible people" to carry out field research and document normal and abnormal occurrences in the skies, and also to provide a casual support group—without ridicule—for abductees (people who say they've been abducted by alien life forms).

"If you've ever had this happen to you, all your values and beliefs

just go out the window," says Kluge, who converted from her Southern Baptist-Methodist upbringing to Judaism some years ago; a Star of David dangles from a chain about her neck. Kluge left South Carolina last October to relocate to one of the newer developments located—ironically, not far from Pyramid Highway, the route cited in UFO accounts almost as often as the "Extraterrestrial Highway" (Nevada's Highway 375).

I try to listen objectively, but I am skeptical—I did live in Los Angeles for 12 years, after all. So I press Kluge for details about her past. Did she come from a loving family? Was she physically abused? She says her childhood was normal—if anything, her mother was overprotective. I grill her some more, asking pointed health history questions that turn up only the normal childhood diseases and surgery by Caesarean section for childbirth. Kluge says she has been disabled for some time because of a rare pro-

gressive autoimmune disease, systemic sclerosis scleroderma. She came here to seek better medical treatment than she could get in South Carolina.

WATCHING THE SKIES

Williamston, S.C., is where Kluge says she had her first sighting of a UFO, in 1979. Kluge says she was 26 years old and was heading home at about 8 o'clock at night with her two young children in the car, driving near Interstate Highway 85, when she saw a huge light. She says it was about 100 feet higher than the telephone poles, and at first she thought it was a plane, but it wasn't moving. Kluge remembers other people pulling over and getting out of their cars; they stood on the shoulder of the road and watched, for about 15 minutes.

"It made absolutely no noise. One guy said it was a helicopter, but there was no backwash, no wind blowing in the trees. The light was so bright and blinding you couldn't

see anything," Kluge says in her strong Southern drawl. She says the light was disc-shaped, and lit up the ground like daylight. Kluge remembers her 7-year-old son saying, "Look, Mommy!"

"Then the thing shot off at an upward angle," Kluge says, "without any noise. As soon as I got home my son told my husband and he laughed and said something about 'little green men,' so I dropped it," she recalls.

Kluge says back then she never had any interest, although she had heard about UFOs. Her husband was a banker and she worked as a hospital aide in a small town; she was, she says, "a typical housewife."

She remembers the next day the radio said several UFO sightings were reported nearby the night before. "I'd never seen anything behave like that. I wondered, 'What was that—a UFO?'" She says she just went on with her life.

Years later, in 1988, when things

were going really well for her, Kluge would have a closer encounter. She was separated from her husband and had been out on a date. She returned home to the apartment she shared with her sister in Greenville, S.C., about 12:30 a.m. Kluge's sister spoke on the condition that her name not be used in this story.

"I had just got in bed and something sat down beside me—I felt the bed give. I thought it was my sister, and I rolled over, but there was nothing there," Kluge recalls. She moved her legs, she says, and something moved up her legs to her left side. Her first thought was that she should "get the hell out of the bedroom," but she never made it. She woke the next morning feeling like she had been roughed up in her sleep, she says. Her sister got up and, shocked, took Kluge to the mirror: The entire left side of Kluge's face was swollen, up to her nose, and she had "a beaut of a black eye" (continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3 - NEWS & REVIEW, Reno, NV - Feb. 5, 1997)

She says she started hyperventilating and was afraid of the dark and unable to sleep. She began her quest for a logical explanation.

"The first thing you think is, 'Shannon, you're crazy.' We all say that when it first starts to happen. I was terrified that I could lock my doors or windows and something could still come into my room at night," Kluge says back then, in 1988, she could find no organizations or researchers in the field. She filled a journal with bits and pieces of memories of "seeing these little gray things," but couldn't count the number of times and buy enough paper to record it all, she says.

Then she went to a hypnotist who helped her recall "a repressed memory that freaked me out," as she puts it. Her words spill out in a rush as she tells me what happened to her in 1974 when she was 21, working at the guard house at South Carolina's Donaldson Air Force Base.

on the right. Yet Kluge had no pain or sensation.

Kluge says somehow she started recalling memories, of being in a misty place with little gray people. "They were shorter [Kluge is 4 foot 11 inches] and they moved like us," says Kluge. I am glad there is still daylight outside, as she continues with these otherworldly ghost stories.

ALIEN INCISIONS

Three months after the black eye episode, Kluge awoke with the collarbone incision. Shortly thereafter she moved to a different apartment which she had a priest come out and bless it, even though she was not a Catholic. Reading books such as *Communion* and *Missing Time*, which focus on abductions by aliens, triggered an early memory from about age 5 when Kluge says she saw a ball of light in the woods

uidy, with no pupils or whites," Kluge says.

"I remember it getting right down in my face. I heard in my head, but its lips didn't move—it said, 'Where's the box?' I kept saying, 'What box?' I'm totally terrified and confused," Kluge tells me, stopping for a moment. "On my left side was the man in the blue uniform. He reached over and touched my arm and like a fast film going by, I see this image of three black boxes being taken off a big military plane. I heard that voice in my head saying, 'Look at what they've done to us.'"

"I felt waves of empathy—it was pitiful."

GOVERNMENT COVER-UP?

Kluge looks at me and says, "If I'm involved in it, how do you know you're not involved in it? I think the government knows about this." She shows me a photograph she took after returning to the place she remembered, to illustrate the door in the ground; it is a snapshot of a concrete bunker, set low in the ground, with metal louvered doors. She cannot explain why the bunker is significant, other than the fact that she remembered its location on the Air Force base in the light of day.

These memories are what led Kluge to form CASA (Carolina Abduction and Sightings Association) three years ago in South Car-

olina, and to organize annual UFO and alien abduction research conferences. Kluge says "even in the buckle of the Bible Belt," the conferences were well attended, drawing as many as 300 people and generating network television and Associated Press wire coverage. She says she was a guest on Maury Povich's television show that aired last September, with other abductees and *Missing Time* author Bud Hopkins.

At this point Kluge's sister gets home from work. I ask her questions about the black eye incident, and she corroborates Kluge's story to the letter, except to add that Kluge's face was black as well as swollen. She says she has no memories of ever having been abducted herself, but can remember sleepwalking as a 5-year-old and seeing balls of light coming in her window. For many years, though, she was skeptical of her sister's claims.

Then four summers ago, when Kluge was visiting, the two were outside in the sister's hot tub. She says she got mad and was tired of hearing about Kluge's experiences. The sister looked up at the clear night sky and yelled, "Damn it, if you're there, show yourself or get the hell out of my life!"

She says she suddenly saw a moving ball of light, about the size of a truck and its cab. She says it startled her but she turned her head to look at it, and it slowed down. It lit up the house next door, and it was headed up, not coming down.



"That's what knocked me off the fence, so to speak," she says, echoing Kluge's deep Southern drawl as she recounts other stories. She says she has seen flashes of light coming through her window, bright white, "like the old-fashioned photographer's flash." After one sighting she developed a terrible headache that sent her to the dentist. Kluge's sister says when her impacted tooth was removed, the dentist also removed an object from behind the tooth: a pellet the size of a BB gun, like a piece of gravel, covered with tiny projections. She claims the dentist had never seen anything like it, and she had no idea how it got there—but she threw it away.

She has attended meetings of her sister's local UFO group. "I've got a foot in each world," she says, adding that she has been getting spiritual messages and there have been many occurrences in their lives that can't be explained.

IS THIS BULLSHIT?

At this point, my cynical side launches into a heated debate with my spiritual side. The cynic snarls that this is hogwash, while the other side asks how much we really know about the universe. Astronomers once claimed the sun revolved around the earth.

So how do we know what really exists, or what is even possible? I verified that newspaper articles on sightings and abductions do exist—especially dating back to summer

UFO group probes Pasco lights

KENNEWICK — A UFO-chasing group is investigating strange lights in a V-shaped pattern that were spotted over Pasco early Sunday.

The Mutual UFO Network became involved after an account by Tracy White of Kennewick, who said she, along with several friends, saw the lights between 3:30 a.m. and 4 a.m. Sunday.

"They were in three 'V' formations. At first, I thought they were birds, but my friend said they were lights. They were going way too fast to be airplanes. And there was no noise," White said.

Each formation had about 11 lights, one at the apex and five down each side. The formations flew off toward the northwest, White said.

Information on this page is from Seattle Times staff and news services.

TIMES, Seattle, WA - April 8, 1997

tion for the sightings; others include newspaper articles reporting "flying saucer" sightings that were actually man-made (weather balloons or flares) or natural phenomena (ionized clouds), according to the government. Can we believe this? Does the government always tell the truth?

I wonder about Kluge's memories of her encounters with "the grays," as she calls them—are they hallucinations? And could the bruises be self-inflicted? Are her sister's stories mere hallucinations also? I call around to the medical community, and find that while most health professionals are curious or hopeful about the possibility of extraterrestrial contact, none have worked with abductees. Some offer explanations for such memories: false memory syndrome (under hypnosis a patient is very susceptible to suggestion), a trance-like state, or dissociative disorder.

Reno psychologist Dr. William G. Danton (chief of psychology at Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and also a professor at UNR's school of medicine) teaches courses in medical hypnosis, clinical medicine and domestic violence. Danton used hypnosis some years ago to treat a patient who revealed a childhood memory of seeing a flying saucer land in her family's driveway. His opinion is that his patient, as a child, stayed up late watching science fiction television shows, and later recalled a dream she had. The result: a dream projection. He explained that "the content often gets stuck in short-term memory, and

"WHERE WILL THIS LEAD? IF IT'S HYSTERIA, WE BETTER START STUDYING HYSTERIA. I THINK EXTRATERRESTRIALS ARE REAL..."

becomes absolutely real."

Danton also touches on subjective reality, in which we want to believe everyone sees everything the way we do. As for the bruises, he brought up stigmata, in which religious people bleed from their palms, resembling the crucifixion of Christ. He also cited cases of subjects who developed raised welts or blisters, even third-degree burns, when told they were burned while under hypnosis.

Still conflicted as to what I actually believe, I contact Dr. David Jacobs at his office at Pennsylvania's Temple University. A tenured associate professor of history, for the past 19 years he has taught the only university class on UFOs, which examines how society reacts to the introduction of a scientific phenomenon. He also lectures at UFO conferences, and his third book on the subject, tentatively titled *The Threat*, is about to be published; his last book, *Secret Life*, is one of the so-called Bibles of the believers.

Jacobs states unequivocally: "I am totally convinced that it's a

legitimate phenomenon." He says he believes extraterrestrials are abducting people, probably for experimentation, and it has been going on for quite a long time. He says another conclusion would be that the phenomenon is internally generated, an organic brain disease.

"Suppose everyone is wrong, and it's not happening," says Jacobs. "If not, then our whole idea of how people learn and think since birth has to be revised."

Jacobs says most abductees remain anonymous for fear of ridicule. He claims firsthand involvement in cases where "search parties have been sent out; I've had parents call the police for missing children; they really have been missing. The people all remember the same thing, no matter who they are. They all claim the same complex, detailed scenarios."

I bring this up with Danton, who asks me, "If you had a nightmare about aliens, what would they look like?" He says the reason people claim the same memories is because

of our shared common database provided by the media, and he cites the proliferation of programming on UFOs and aliens on television and also on radio talk shows.

I think about Kluge, who is self-effacing, gracious, and jokes a lot about what she remembers—and seems as normal as the next person. She has no photos, no clear evidence to document her claims—but how many of us could produce evidence to prove we've seen a shooting star? The main things Kluge seeks, she says, are answers and support.

"Where will this lead? If it's hysteria, we better start studying hysteria. I think extraterrestrials are real and they are visiting and I think the government is aware of it," Kluge says with conviction.

UNEARTHLY EXPERIMENTS

I've heard about the bad part: one of her flashbacks involved being on the table with "the grays"

1952, when a rash of sightings was reported in the Reno area. I realized I needed to consult some experts. Looking first to the stars, I spoke with the director of Fleischmann Planetarium, Art Johnson, who told me many people have claimed to have seen unidentified flying objects during his 23 and a half years there.

"In many cases we're forced to say, 'I don't know what you saw.' But I've never been satisfied in my mind that we've been visited," Johnson says. He elaborates, rapidly calculating those mind-boggling great distances and amounts of energy required for space travel, and adds that Einstein has never been disproven: nothing—not even subatomic particles—goes faster than the speed of light.

"I don't want to ridicule anyone's belief—I want to believe we're not alone—but I'm not prepared to throw away my scientist's hat," Johnson says. He offers one explanation for the sightings: It is easy to fake a photo of a UFO by snapping a picture of a hub cap tossed up in the air, given the right lighting and backdrop.

"The reason most of us scientists are frankly skeptical is that we need to be," Johnson explains. Then he pauses, and you can imagine him looking to the skies, as he adds, "The significance of otherworldly intelligent beings visiting our planet would be awe-inspiring."

So that is one plausible explanation removing her eye. She had told me earlier, "I remember my eye being taken out. I had the sensation of my eye laying on my cheek—I could feel it there—but there was no pain."

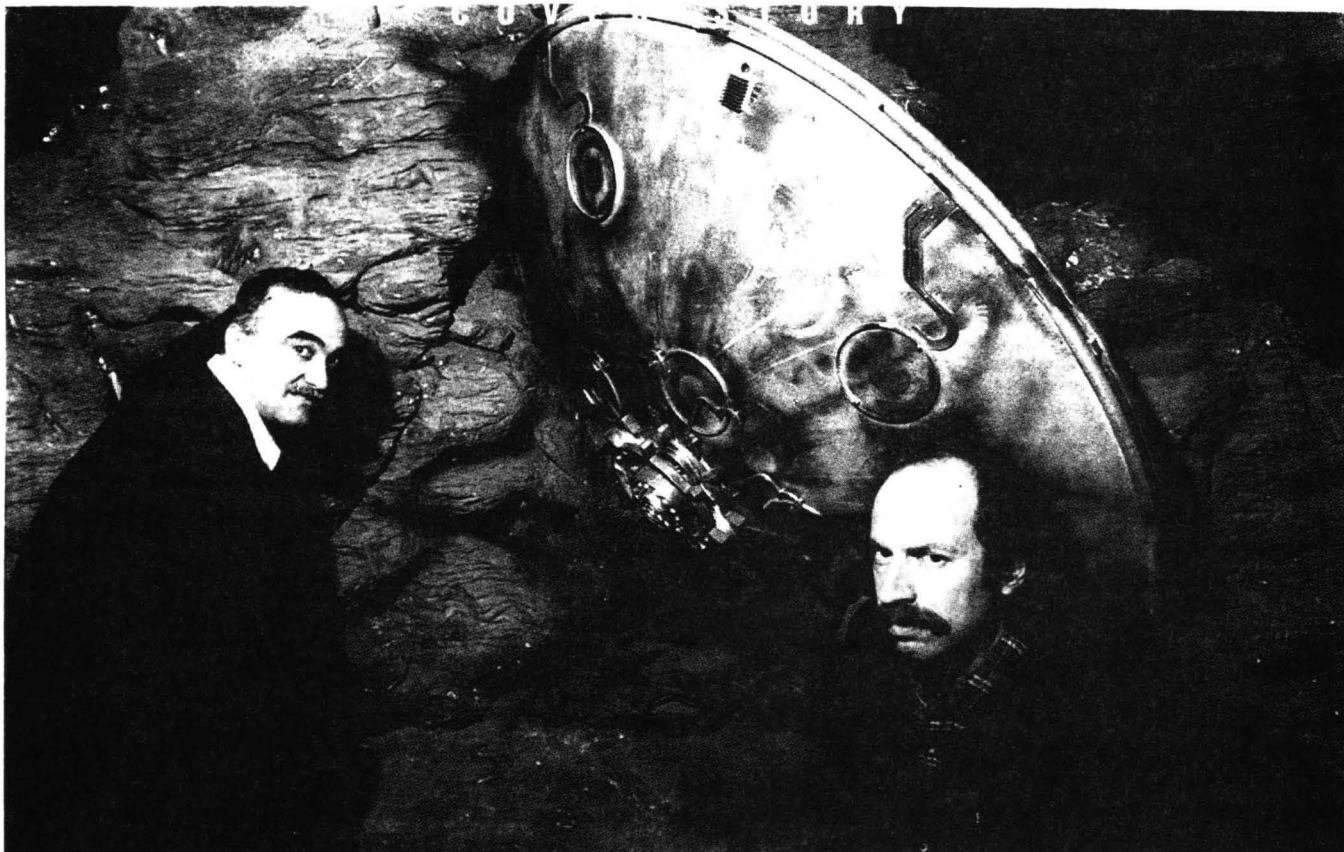
If that species does in fact exist, they are definitely the bad guys. But Kluge also relates a memory from about a year ago of benevolent beings who spoke to her about her poor health. She describes the three beings as 7 feet tall and feminine, like willowy humans with white shoulder-length hair.

"They wore flowing white robes, that gauzy material that flows and billows, and they glowed—there was a light emanating from them," recalls Kluge. She thought they were angels at first, though they didn't have wings.

"I had this overwhelming feeling of absolute love. I heard them in my head: they said I was ill and couldn't help myself—the disease had progressed so that someone had to help me. They were there to assist me, and said if I didn't straighten out my health, I wasn't going to make it," says Kluge.

It was time for me to leave. The light was fading, and I certainly didn't want to drive home in the dark on Pyramid Highway, wondering: Are we alone? □

For more information on the Sierra Nevada UFO Skywatch and Study Group, call or fax (702) 425-8028. The group may also be reached by e-mail at 103711.3341@compuserv.com.



Newsday Photos / Michael E. Ach

Take us to your leader: Adel Jamil, left, and Milton Kandel, whose Manhattan company produced the "UFO Phenomena" exhibit, are sighted near a crashed space ship at Sands Point Preserve.

Out of Their World

Alien invasion at Sands Point

By Caryn Eve Murray
STAFF WRITER

AS PORT WASHINGTON Boulevard rolls north into Sands Point, road signs pop up, repeatedly announcing with an insistent eagerness: "The UFO Phenomena, Sands Point Preserve."

Clearly, something of an alien presence can be found on the nature-kissed grounds of this scenic Gold Coast estate.

And—can it be?—there's no sign of a government cover-up.

Indeed, what waits within the welcoming cloak of woods in this Nassau County park cries out to be a most easily identifiable object.

Breaking with its recent tradition of exhibits about dinosaurs, deep-sea dwellers and denizens of the night, Sands Point Preserve's new offering, co-sponsored by the Friends for Long Island's Heritage, is not of this world.

Horizon Products USA Inc., a Manhattan production company that spent two years researching and designing the display, has combined traditional museum offerings with interactivity to create a little bit of worldliness about *otherworldliness*.

Simply put, the unidentified flying objects of Sands Point are looking for a few friendly earthlings — or as many as a few thousand between now and June 1,

when the exhibit flies off Long Island.

Until then, visitors are greeted at the admissions counter by a large overhead figure of "E.T." from the movie of the same name; inside, they visit a typical American living room from 1938 and hear that year's broadcast of Orson Welles' radio drama, "War of the Worlds," the tale of an alien invasion of Earth. Elsewhere, they can witness one interpretation of what *might* have happened in Roswell, N.M., in 1947, when the U.S. military quickly spirited away a mysterious "something" from ranch land near a government base.

They can also get a panoramic view of "Area 51," an off-limits Nevada region near a secret military base, where numerous UFO sightings have occurred.

Among the show's more traditional museum-style exhibits is a lighted map showing UFO "hot spots," such as the Hudson Valley community of Pine Bush, N.Y., where sightings were a not-at-all uncommon phenomenon during the 1980s, according to Milton Kandel, a Bayside native, and a partner with his brother, Peter, in Horizon Productions.

There also is an extensive photo display of crop circles, inexplicable designs carved into vast expanses of vegetation at locations around the world.

But the Kandels and Adel Jamil, Horizon's design director, are not trying to



Walter Kusterbeck and Nella Stranieri get a view of "Area 51" at the UFO exhibit.

Making Contact With Sands Point UFOs

"THE UFO PHENOMENA" will be at the Sands Point Preserve through June 1.

The preserve, which is operated by the Nassau County Department of Recreation and Parks, is at 95 Middle Neck Rd., From the Long Island Expressway, Exit 36, take Searingtown Road north; it becomes Port Washington Boulevard and then Middle Neck Road. The pre-

serve is a mile past the stone gates at the entrance to Sands Point.

Hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is closed on Mondays except holidays.

Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for senior citizens age 60 and older, and \$4 for children age 4 to 12.

For information, call 516-571-7900. ■

transmit a subtle message that the world should soon brace for visits from little green men. (In fact, the cadre of bug-eyed, narrow-faced creatures populating all corners of this exhibit are actually petite *gray* life forms whose gender is not readily apparent.)

"People should know there is a possibility," said Jamil, of Bayside. "If one day we find out something *is* out there, they should not be totally shocked."

Three-year-old Peter Sennert was more shaken than shocked, however, when he had a close encounter of his own — just as one of the larger multimedia exhibits promised — and he stirred uneasily in the steady cradle of the arms of his father, Peter, an emergency medical technician for the New York City Fire Department.

"It's OK, nothing bad is going to happen, Daddy is holding you," said Sennert, who led the family's visit from Levittown

on opening day, Feb. 15. For the young child, the thunder, lightning, wolf howls and a glide-by encounter with a flying saucer and illuminated alien, had more than the hoped-for effect.

But Peter's mother, Mary Ellen, a nurse-practitioner at St. Charles Hospital and Rehabilitation Center in Port Jefferson, proclaimed the painstaking, elaborate setup as "low-tech Disney," and the couple's other sons, Stephen, 2, and Alex, 9, took it in stride, too, as did Alex' friend, Chris Gunther, 9.

"Why does he need such large fingers?" whispered one of the two older children, gazing at the disproportionate digits on the lit-up form of the alien.

"To play the piano," Sennert replied, with fatherly wisdom.

Yes, there is room for laughter here. The large exhibit rooms even have plenty of space for skepticism.

One exhibit devotes attention to how

the Air Force's own doubts about extraterrestrials eventually closed the military's 20-year investigation into UFO reports, known as Project Blue Book.

Elsewhere is a display of how enterprising photographers used clever — or not-so-clever — special effects and fakery to try to stir up a UFO sighting furor.

There is even a photograph of President Bill Clinton and ex-President George Bush strolling arm-in-arm with an alien, like lifelong pals. Really, there is.

The photograph is particularly amusing to Herbert Mills, supervisor of the Sands Point Museum and Preserve. Mills, who trained as a geologist, takes a scientist's pride in the fact that the exhibit addresses both sides of the question of the existence of extraterrestrials.

"Spacecraft? Do I personally believe? Well, I always look for rigorous standards of proof first," said Mills, as he

entered a walk-through exhibit resembling an alien spacecraft — complete with abducted Earth woman.

As for UFOs, well, those are a bit easier for him to acknowledge because they are, after all, *what* they are:

"UFO just means you have seen something and you don't know what it is," he said. The geologist was emerging from the exhibit, after all, and his feet had once more landed back on solid ground. ■

SKYWATCH DIARY

BY CAROLE BAKER

While skywatching at Shoreline Park has still remained sporadic this week, mainly due to the weather, there is an interesting sighting report to relate.

A member of the Gulf Breeze research team, an investigator and veteran skywatcher had an interesting sighting on Wednesday, February 12, 1997 on her way home from Shoreline Park.

Here is her description of what she saw. "It was Wednesday, February 12 and I was driving on the bridge at approximately 8:27 p.m. going from Gulf Breeze to Pensacola. I had just left Gulf Breeze when something caught my eye to my right, halfway between Gulf Breeze and Pensacola, out over the water. I saw a large amber light in the sky, then another popping in and then another, right beside it. I realized the group of lights I was seeing was rotating in a sequence around a circular, large, stationary object. Since I could not stop on the bridge, I slowed my car down as much as possible and kept watching. The lights rotated for a couple of minutes, then stopped rotating and seemed to change shape into a large triangular configuration. The lights were all amber and large and bright. The triangular shaped configuration remained stationary in the sky as I watched in amazement. I was sure that this was no conventional aircraft. I then spotted a plane across the bay, to the left of the UFO. It appeared distinctly different, and clearly identifiable as a conventional plane since it had the usual red, green and white lights on it. At one point, I could see both the UFO and the plane in the sky at the same time. Then the UFO simply "blinked out." I sped up and raced across the bridge to get home and call some of my UFO friends. I turned north on 14th Street and to

my surprise, just as I got level with the railroad tracks, the UFO was clearly visible as a large triangular shaped configuration of bright amber lights, directly over the Amtrak station to my right. It almost appeared to be following me home! I stopped the car and got out to look at the UFO. It just hung there for about two to three minutes and then "blinked out" again and I waited for awhile, but it did not reappear. I went on home and arrived there at about 8:40 p.m."

I was the first person this witness telephoned when she got home. She lives very close to me and we both live quite close to the Amtrak station. I rushed outside to the corner and looked toward the Amtrak station but could see nothing in the sky at all.

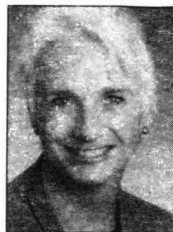
This is a very interesting sighting and is very similar to other sightings that have occurred in the same area. From the witness' description of the position of the UFO, it was somewhere over the Bay or over an area known as Garcon Point, and we have logged many sightings in this area.

If anyone else was driving over the three-mile bridge and happened to witness the same UFO on Wednesday evening, please call the hotline number below, your input would be very valuable.

Don't forget, time is running out for the booking a room for the 5th Annual Project Awareness Gulf Breeze UFO Conference and if you want some information about this great event, the number to call is (904) 432-8888.

If you have a sighting or unusual experience to report or you would wish to contact the Experient Support Group, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. Keep Looking Up!

ARKANSAS TIMES, Little Rock, AR - April 11, 1997



Mara Leveritt

Strangeness in the sky

■ I have been wanting to tell this story ever since Jan. 28, 1996, the night, some of you

might remember, of the Super Bowl game between the Dallas Cowboys and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

But, as you will see, this story is only indirectly related to sports. On that Sunday night, I received a phone call from a pilot I know who lives in Del Rio, Texas. No problem. I was one of the few Americans at that moment who was not absorbed in the game.

During our conversation the pilot mentioned that he and his wife had just observed something pretty unusual. They had gone to a Super Bowl party but left at halftime.

As they returned home, they noticed that theirs was almost the only car on the road.

Del Rio is a tiny town, anyway. It sits almost smack on the Rio Grande, south of Amarillo and west of San Antonio. On this night, when even the truckers were off the highway, the place seemed exceptionally empty.

That was when the pilot and his wife noticed something bright and burning in the sky above them, and moving fast. The pilot pulled over to the side of the road and looked at the clock on his dash. It was 8:17 p.m. The two got out of their car and watched as a fiery orange object streaked across the sky above them.

From where they stood, it looked like the object was flying directly over the Rio Grande, on a straight southeasterly course that would take it out of the country at Brownsville, then over the Gulf of Mexico. The pilot said the object's altitude was hard to gauge—maybe about 6,000 feet—but it was close enough, at any rate, that he and his wife could plainly see the flame coming out of its tail.

The two watched the apparition for 30 to 40 seconds, until the object was out of sight. "It looked," he said, "like a rocket engine."

Driving home, he tried to figure out what he had seen. The best he could conclude was that the object had been a cruise missile, though he had never heard of a cruise missile being test-fired over land. But if you were the military and you wanted to test a cruise missile over U.S. territory, I offered, what better time and place could you ever have found to do it? Here it was, in the middle of the Super Bowl, flying over a sparsely populated area, where half the population that might

have seen it is marginalized by speaking Spanish.

If our speculation happens to be true, it was a pretty clever move, wouldn't you say?

I kept thinking about the call. The next day, I hauled out my atlas. Sure enough. If you draw a straight line from Brownsville, Texas, to Del Rio, and follow that line straight back, it will take you directly to White Sands, N.M., the home of White Sands Missile Range.

The mission of White Sands Missile Range, according to its website, is to develop and test this country's missiles.

Intriguing as I found this story, I did not write it because, though I find a lot about it disturbing, it was, essentially, just a quirky little story with a tantalizing Super Bowl connection.

But I must admit I have thought about it somewhat differently since the mysterious explosion off the coast of New York of TWA Flight 800.

The cause of that explosion has still not been explained. One theory is that a missile might have struck it. I, of course, have no idea. Along with everyone else, I await the verdict of the investigators who have been examining the wreckage. But I reflect on that Super Bowl phone call.

Unless the pilot and his wife were hallucinating, it would seem that what they witnessed was a fairly crafty maneuver on the part of some missile testers to fly a 3,000-pound weapon at a relatively low altitude across two states of the continental United States without anyone in the public taking notice.

One wonders, what else is flying around up there that people are going to such lengths to keep secret.

One wonders how revealing the test-firers would be if an accident were to happen.

As I write this, another aviation mystery is unfolding in the west. The Air Force is searching for an A-10 Thunderbolt attack fighter, armed with four 500-pound bombs, that has been missing for almost a week.

At this point, the plane seems to have vanished without a trace. But how can a \$9 million aircraft—a sophisticated jet fighter—disappear over the continental U.S., apparently without a lick of instrumentation aboard to help in locating it? This, too, is disturbing business. I just wish I could reflect on it without remembering that Super Bowl.

Aliens on the way?



By LORENA NOZZOLILLO
News Staff Writer

TEMPLETON — Are the X-Files coming to Templeton?

According to one man visiting the area, he and his daughter saw something quite unusual on a recent Saturday night.

Marcus Hartley, a Pennsylvania man, said that he has been visiting his daughter Cheryl, who resides in East Templeton. After returning from a shopping trip from the Searstown Mall in Leominster that Saturday night, the two saw an unusual sight, while they were standing in their driveway, according to Hartley.

"It was a big, round object, with lights all around the edges," he explained.

According to Hartley, the large object moved slowly and stealthily right above where they were standing. The next day, no one else in

the neighborhood mentioned the mysterious craft, but Hartley said he does not know how anyone could have missed it.

"I can't imagine anything that huge going so slow," he said. "It was something to see."

A claim like this one will no doubt raise a few skeptical eyebrows. According to recent statistics, 80 percent of all UFO sightings are attributed to natural or man-made causes.

Local police dispatchers said that they did not receive any calls Saturday night about strange aircraft. (One dispatcher could not help but chuckle when the question was posed to her).

In a recent article in the *Boston Herald*, though, supposedly there have been sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) in northern New Hampshire over

the past six weeks. In fact, it has been called the greatest rash of sightings in more than 25 years.

In the past month and a half, there have been a total of 15 sightings in the northern New England area, which has prompted the interest of the Mutual UFO Network

(MUFON).

The *Herald* stated that in the early 1970s, repeated sightings were reported along the New Hampshire-Massachusetts border.

It doesn't appear, however, that agents Mulder and Scully will be dispatched to the area anytime soon.

UFOs

ARE THEY OUT THERE?



Among the UFO-related sites on the World Wide Web is <http://www.ufos.com>

True believers continue their quest for proof in the face of widespread skepticism

By M.L. Lyke

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

SEATTLE — Peter Davenport's speech is academic, detailed, almost painfully precise. Only his kinetic hands and headlight eyes suggest the intensity of his mission.

"Why is the government not squaring with the American public? Why take the posture the UFO phenomenon is not occurring?" asks the director of the National UFO Reporting Center, headquartered in the basement of his Seattle home since 1994.

"In a system that purports to be free, to have a representative government, why isn't the government telling us the truth? Why?"

Newspapers, too, irk the man of a million questions.

"Why is the press sitting on its thumbs on the UFO issue? Why have journalists become milque-toast lapdogs?"

The UFO center made national headlines last year with the news that residents in Washington state, home of the first modern "flying saucer" report 50 years ago, called in more UFO sightings on its hot line than any other state in the country — sightings skeptics generally chalk up to an active night sky and an overactive human imagination.

And the center isn't the only one getting calls.

"Our department is barraged all the time with all kinds of claims, some of them clearly ridiculous ... like a green Martian that looks like Elvis and lands in a backyard, speaking tongues," says University of Washington astronomer Don Brownlee, who fields a rash of "sightings" whenever Venus is bright.

"It's difficult to filter out the outrageous reports from the interesting."

Difficult, but for ufologists, essential.

It's a subject loaded with enough emotional baggage to sink the Titanic. But Davenport, whose heavyweight resume includes master's degrees in biology and business, is after hard, dispassionate data.

"We have the evidence," he says, "but we do not have the proof."

Proof. Incontrovertible proof. It's what ufologists, 50 years after that first flying saucer sighting, still search for.

It's what skeptics still demand. Davenport makes requests of visitors to the UFO center. Some photos are OK. Those that identify the location of his home are not. There have been threats.

And no names, please. Callers who dial the center's 24-hour hot line to report UFOs are promised

anonymity — even though Davenport suspects the lines are bugged by a U.S. government intent on keeping alien visitations under wraps.

UFOs flying overhead. Threats. Government conspiracies. Media censorship. Sounds like a script for "The X-Files," the paranoid, paranormal pop TV series based on the premise "The truth is out there."

But Davenport, 49, is far too complex for a sci-fi soap opera. His eclectic background includes

stints as college instructor, Russian translator, marketing consultant, corporate executive, commercial fisherman, Republican candidate for the Legislature — and, now, dogged UFO researcher.

It is, for the moment, all he does, paying for the center out of his personal savings.

"I recently acquired a small amount of personal independence that has allowed me to do this," he said, "... but I am trying to make the center financially self-supporting. I am not a person dedi-

cated to financial self-immolation."

As visitors watch, Davenport traces a string of successive sightings across a map. His brow wrinkles eagerly. This is the evidence, the juice, the bottom line.

Six flying objects

"Seventeenth of November, 1995," he begins. Many of his conversations begin with dates. "We were inundated with calls, dozens of calls, all coming in within minutes."

Davenport details the reports. Two airline pilots sighted "what

looks like UFOs" over Long Island at 10:20 p.m. Within minutes, similar reports flooded in from states stretching from Maine to Florida, and within an hour reports were coming in from Seattle.

"Up to six objects were reported to be skulking up and down the East Coast of the United States," says Davenport.

Unidentifiable objects — or identifiable?

Leaders of the 5,000-member Mutual UFO Network, the world's



Grant M. Haller/Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Peter Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center, shows the paths of two mysterious flying objects sighted on the East Coast.

largest UFO organization — based in the small Central Texas town of Seguin — estimate that well over 90 percent of reported UFOs are, in fact, IFOs — identifiable flying objects such as airplane landing lights, meteors, ball lightning and weather balloons.

It's that remaining 10 percent that fires Davenport's zeal.

"If the planet Earth is being visited by other intelligent creatures — and it appears to me that that is occurring on a regular basis," he says, "clearly, without any ambiguity, this is a subject of interest to not just all humans, but to all living things on this planet."

The National UFO Reporting Center was founded in Seattle in 1974 by Robert Gribble as a clearinghouse for UFO information and home of the national UFO hot line — (206)722-3000. Web site address is <http://www.nwlink.com/~ufocntr>.

The good work

Gribble answered the phones for 20 years before searching for someone to take over the work. When others declined, the center was shut down. Two days later, Davenport says, he agreed to take it over and the hot line was back.

"If I had known what I was about to do to my peace of mind, my sanity, my treasury," he says now, "I would have turned my back on it." But he continues to do it, he adds, because "it is my passion and my duty to the American

people."

The center's dozen volunteers record all calls, taking dates, times, descriptions. They listen for clues to identify hoaxes.

"You develop a knack — like an investigator or a journalist," says Davenport.

Up to three-dozen calls a day come in from 911 emergency dispatch centers, national Weather Service offices, military facilities, law enforcement agencies, Federal Aviation Administration officials and airline pilots, as well as UFO enthusiasts — and overenthusiasts.

"Woman reports seeing 'round, flashing lights' moving south to north while in hospital," reads one unconvincing entry in the logs.

Two witnesses report seeing "red blinking and solid white light moving over the Cascade Mountains." The calls came from SeaTac, Wash.

Once collected, information is entered into a computer database, to be sorted by state, city and date. As quickly as possible, it is posted on the center's Web site.

Sharing the wealth

"We do not hoard data," says Davenport. "Data doesn't do any good if it sits in a box. It has to be handed off, investigated, the circle has to be completed."

Davenport's policies win high praise in UFO circles.

"We all think Peter Davenport is doing a tremendous service, handling it in a very professional way," says Mutual UFO Network inves-

tigator Jim Clarkson, by day an officer with the Aberdeen (Wash.) Police Department. Clarkson investigates intriguing cases for the center, including animal mutilations. Many UFO devotees believe aliens are conducting experiments on Earth's animals, carving out tongues, eyeballs, sex organs.

Davenport is one of them. He whips out newspaper photos of a short-finned pilot whale being dumped into the Atlantic Ocean from a military helicopter. The photo captions say the animal is one of a pod that was treated for curvature of the tail and released.

Davenport wonders. Why, he asks, use military helicopters? Why fly 150 miles out to sea? "Could it be the government was trying to hide evidence of alien tampering? Could the government be retrieving whales that bumped into a UFO?"

Tabloid sensationalism

The fallout — and the tabloid sensationalism that surrounds the subject — can undermine more serious-minded ufologists. Many are belittled. Some lose their jobs. Most learn to guard their words.

And all know the sting of ridicule.

"If you're not willing to stand up to an unstinting brunt of ridicule and skepticism, stay out of the field of UFO research," says Davenport.

"You've got to have the type of thick skin that will cause it not to sink into your bones — and even then sometimes it gets to you."

Davenport estimates that only one in a million sightings are ever actually reported.

"For a hundred different reasons, people will discount their sightings, or not know where to report them," he says.

He remembers his own first sighting, in vivid detail.

He was age 6. It was 1954. He was sitting in a 1953 Studebaker with his mom and brother. They were at the Jet Cinema Drive-In in St. Louis.

"I saw an orange-red disc, blindingly bright, cast a red pall all over the ground. Then suddenly it zipped, off — whoooooosh — across the horizon," he says, hands describing the motion.

"I had no idea what it was."

He still doesn't.

But he wonders about his several sightings over ensuing years, and about all the others.

What do you think?

The most recent Gallup Poll on UFOs, conducted Sept. 3-5, 1996, shows:

■ 87 percent of Americans have read or heard about UFOs.

■ 12 percent have seen something they thought was a UFO.

■ 45 percent think UFOs have visited Earth in some form.

■ 48 percent believe UFOs are "something real;" 31 percent think they are "just people's imaginations."

■ 72 percent believe there is life of some form on other planets in the universe.

■ 38 percent think there are people somewhat like ourselves living on other planets in the universe.

■ 71 percent believe the U.S. government knows more about UFOs than it is telling us.

"There appears to be an event taking place that falls outside the scope of normal human experience," he says, choosing his words carefully. This is the lapdog press he's talking to.

"I don't pretend to understand it better than the next person walking down the sidewalk. But could it be we're on the edge of an extraordinary phenomenon, an extraordinary awakening?"

Davenport cuts the speculation short. There's work to be done. If the truth is out there, the proof must be down here, somewhere. He's determined to find it.

He is, admittedly, exhausted.

Flooded with e-mail, media requests, juggling a packed speaking schedule and still working the hot line, he says he has never worked so hard in his life. He is putting in 100-hour work weeks, for zero pay. "This has done what an amoeba does to its prey — it has swallowed me," says Davenport.

But there's no time to waste. No time, even, to fritter on TV shows like "The X-Files."

"When you do this all day," Davenport says, "fiction doesn't mean a thing to you."

Is anybody out there?

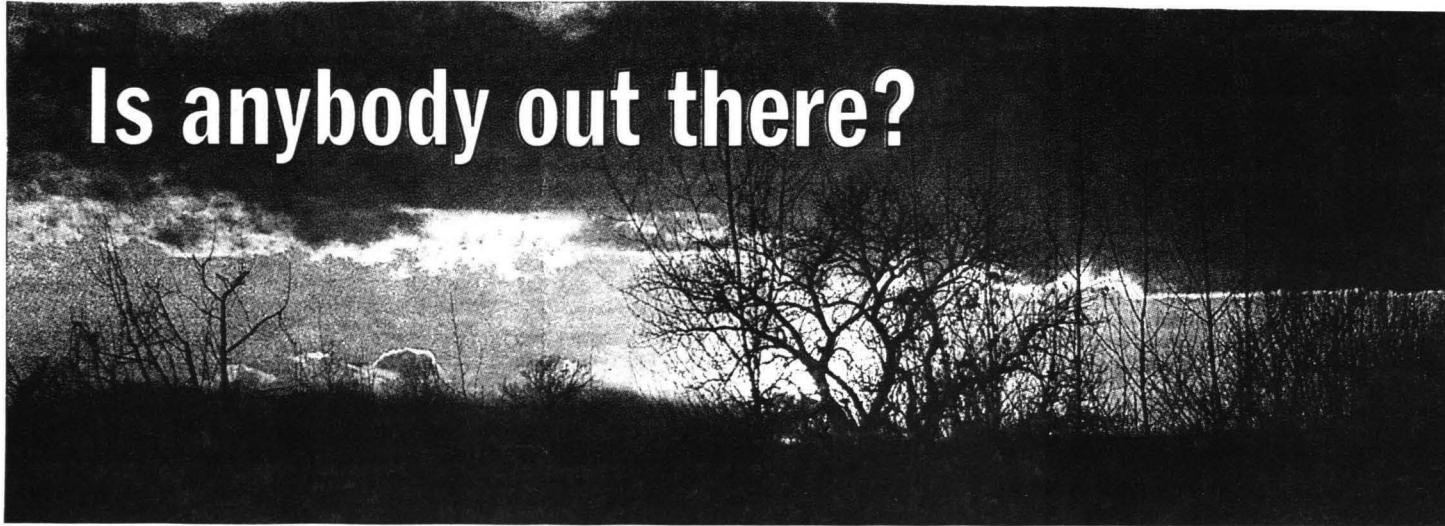


Photo by Sean Cayton

BY MARIJA B. VADER

DELTA—Much like a scientist or an investigator, Davina Ryszka gathers data, compares notes and talks to witnesses. She compiles the findings but still can't really explain what's going on.

Her Delta home has become a sort of local clearinghouse for sightings of unidentified flying objects, or UFOs.

And with increased intergalactic activity occurring in the small Western Slope towns, her phone's been ringing off the hook lately.

It all started around Jan. 16, when several people reported seeing what Ryszka called "an event" in Montrose, Delta and Mesa counties and throughout the western United States—a large object hovering over the earth beaming three

cone-shaped lights to the earth.

"The lights would overlap like ribbons and there was this massive glow," Ryszka said. Her parents, who live in Boulder City, Nev., saw the same thing. Another couple driving near Tuba City, Ariz., witnessed the same thing.

Her folks described an event quite spectacular. Within 10 minutes it "just blinked out, like a light switch turned off," she said.

Ryszka approached this group of sightings as a singular UFO. But there have been several more, as she listed them off:

■ Sept. 15, a group of hunters west of Delta saw a blue pulsating light with red and yellow lights flashing. The hunters videotaped the event for 20-30 minutes during the evening.

■ Jan. 16, A Cedaredge man watched what resembled a charreouse green-colored star falling at night, but it was moving to the northwest much more level and slower than a meteor.

■ August, 1995, a disc jockey in Grand Junction witnessed a cylindrical object shoot two other objects into the bookcliffs. There was no noise or damage when the objects hit the bookcliffs. This occurred during the day.

■ A group of Montrose teenagers saw what they thought was the moon above Montrose High School. Later that evening, they saw the real moon, which "sent them into hyperstate; when they realized the first sighting wasn't a moon, but a UFO."

As to her explanation, she has none.

"You feel like you're pulling your hair out," Ryszka said. "The answers are out there. I believe our government is covering this up. I believe they know a great deal. Possibly we have technology that hasn't been revealed to us."

Reactions

Despite the feeling that the media are more sympathetic to UFO sightings in the past five years, Ryszka said many witnesses still want to remain anonymous. Now, people are more willing to report the sightings, which appear to be more abundant.

She said people shouldn't panic when they see a UFO.

"Most of these sightings have been fairly distant, not right in your back yard," she said. "It's just kind of a mystery."

A new-age explanation, according to a Western Slope woman who asked to be anonymous, says that the earth is going to be inundated by a large number of space beings. These beings will transport humans to another world because this earth, a pilot project for the space beings, is getting ready to blow

"Most of these sightings have been fairly distant, not right in your back yard"

DAVINA RYSZKA
Delta resident

OPEN FORUM

The Truth Is Still Out There

Cult tragedy shouldn't taint all UFO research

By Anne Ramsey Cuvelier



UPI FILE PHOTO

The study — and some say documentation — of UFOs goes back decades. Above: A 1966 Polaroid photograph depicts an object hovering above a home in Zanesville, Ohio. Right: Scores of UFO Web sites, such as this one, contain images and accounts of sightings



RECENTLY 39 misguided people in the Heaven's Gate cult lost their lives. As tragic as this is, I would like to correct the misguided notion being expressed in the media that the suicides are in some way connected to serious research of UFO phenomena. The activities of this bizarre cult had about as much to do with the study of UFOs as the Jim Jones group had to the teachings of Christianity.

I was greatly upset and saddened when my daughter called and told me that, after hearing the news about the suicide, my grandchildren were concerned to know if I was all right! This, along with the reaction of other friends and the response of large sections of the media, has made me realize how important it is for those conducting serious UFO research to speak out.

Society is undergoing tumultuous change, and a conflict is occurring that has many parallels with the changes in a world view that took place during the Renaissance, when Nicolaus Copernicus was branded a heretic for displacing the Earth from the center of the universe. Although scientific empiricism backed him up, it still took 300 years before his theory was widely accepted. Now, many scientists believe that the universe is probably full of intelligent life and that the opposite would be statistically impossible. Furthermore, evidence exists that UFOs have been visiting this planet for decades, if not centuries; the level of sightings and activity have greatly intensified after World War II and the dawn of the nuclear and space ages.

This evidence includes thousands of declassified government documents about UFOs, and huge numbers of photographs, films and videos — as well as eyewitness accounts and cases of physical traces created by landed objects.

In addition, some research has established that for more than 40 years, the FBI, CIA, and NASA have all lied repeatedly to the American public about their active involvement in investigating the UFO phenomenon. Why is it that the combined interest of the intelligence communities should be focused on a sub-

ject which they publicly claim does not exist?

Research has demonstrated that the UFO subject continues to be the focus of a well organized government coverup, which probably started with good intentions. But now, this official posture of denial has become increasingly irrational. As more evidence is presented to the public and the belief in UFOs becomes widespread, the official position of denying their existence becomes increasingly obsolete and dangerous.

The suicides were 'an extreme consequence resulting from this official policy of concealment and denial'

This policy of trying to protect the public by keeping the reality from them is backfiring as people look to the authorities for guidance and confirmation about a phenomenon they not only realize is true, but has also profoundly changed their world view. When this denial occurs in the face of honest inquiry, the long-term effect is psychologically devastating — undermining any real confidence in government and provoking anger and alienation.

The psychologist Carl Jung, who believed in the existence of UFOs, stated decades ago: "If we wish to avoid a catastrophe, the authorities in possession of important information should not hesitate to enlighten the public as soon and as

completely as possible." I maintain that the Heaven's Gate tragedy was an extreme consequence resulting from this official policy of concealment and denial.

It's also difficult to sympathize with the actions of the media. A complacent attitude of denial is perpetuated by those in charge, who systematically discredit the validity of the UFO phenomenon and who portray UFO witnesses as unreliable and worthy of ridicule. This in-built bias, which comes from a refusal to look at decades of serious scientific research, means that the "responsible" media rarely looks at the subject without being face-tious, while the tabloids create reverse censorship by exaggerating and sensationalizing the information.

Fortunately, more members of the scientific community are nonetheless expressing their belief or interest in the subject. Courageous people, including psychiatrist Dr. John Mack and astronaut Gordon Cooper, have risked being branded as heretics for their efforts to inform the public. Such thinkers have realized that a more complete understanding of UFOs is vital for a more balanced development of human society.

By ridiculing a subject that has such far-reaching implications, the media are alienating large sections of the population and creating ignorance and confusion. In fact, had the media discussed and explored this topic intelligently, the tragedy of Heaven's Gate might have been avoided, and my grandchildren would not have been so alarmed.

Anne Ramsey Cuvelier is a San Mateo travel agent who leads research groups investigating UFO phenomena.

SKYWATCH DIARY

BY CAROLE BAKER

Attendance at the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze monthly meeting was surprisingly low. A crowd of just over fifty members and non-members listened as Randolph Winters detailed his experiences with the famous Billy Meier. He began his lecture by telling the audience to watch out for a Pleiadian beam ship that may pick them up on their way home this evening and offer them a three-week tour of the galaxy, complete with visitations to other inhabited planets and even the opportunity to travel back or forward in time and meet and converse with anyone you could wish to meet! This is the type of experience that became common place for Billy Meier at a young age.

Mr. Winters went on to show many photographs that were taken by Billy Meier and some that he had taken himself while visiting the Meier home in Schmidruti, Switzerland. He discussed the involvement of Wendell Stevens in the Meier case, pertaining particularly to the photographs. It appears that Mr. Meier did not take well to the criticisms levelled at him for his involvement with the Pleiadians. He went to special lengths to try and take photographs that included everyday objects as well as the amazing craft, so that photoanalysis could be performed. Acceptance of the evidence that Mr. Meier was producing; thousands of pages of notes, metal, and other evidence, was so astounding, it was hard for Mr. Meier's story to gain acceptance. He only spoke publicly about his experiences once or twice, finding himself ridiculed and even having things thrown at him. Billy Meier lives almost in seclusion now in a commune type setting with a group of people that work the farm and share in the information that Billy was given by the extra-terrestrials. The house where Billy lives is at a site that was chosen by the Pleiadians as a "safe" place for Billy to survive the earth changes that will be coming in the next few years. These changes are detailed in

information given to Billy Meier by the extra-terrestrials and the changes are drastic, but not all of a naturally occurring kind. World War III is supposed to break out with the Chinese taking a major role using a new weapon that burns the atmosphere and incinerates all life forms as it does so. All of the Old World and East, except a few areas and France and the United Kingdom are supposed to be totally wiped out and the major problem for the remaining population of the world is bacterial infection from the decaying bodies covering half of the planet. There will also be some natural changes, apparently, but Mr. Winters assured us that California was not going to fall into the ocean, as predicted by other prophets. A large earthquake would occur and open a new inlet in the San Francisco area, though.

Billy Meier himself is still recovering from a fall in the late 1980's which left him in a coma for some time, and caused him to suffer amnesia to a very high degree. He has slowly recovered his memory over time and now acts as somewhat of a spiritual leader for the group who live at his farm, drawing on the information imparted by the Pleiadians in his notes taken in years past.

They still have sightings at the Meier farm and we were shown quite recent photographs taken of landing circles that were apparently made during the landing of Lyrian craft, which also visit Earth on a regular basis. Mr. Winters then went on to discuss the bell-shaped craft which has shown up both in photographs taken by Billy Meier and also by a man who goes by the name of "Adrian" in south Florida. "Adrian" has apparently also been contacted by the Pleiadians and has taken a series of photographs of craft which look surprisingly like the craft photographed by Billy Meier. Unfortunately some of Adrian's pictures have been shown not to be of extra-terrestrial craft, rather of blimps taking off from the Miami airport. However, the story of Adrian and his experiences is detailed in a video called

"The Miami Contacts." The bell-shaped craft have been explained as being craft built by German engineers using alien technology. Mr. Winters told of how German scientists had left Nazi Germany at the beginning of World War II and set up a compound in the Matto Grosso of Brazil. He gave evidence from a stewardess and flight crew who have flown over this area quite recently and seen what was apparently a base for these ships, which confirms some of the information given by Adrian. The crew saw a large cylindrical ship and several of the bell-shaped craft sitting on "stands" which could be identified as those described by Adrian. Unfortunately, upon flying over the same coordinates again, the same crew could see no evidence of the German base, and concluded that the base must have been somehow cloaked from their view. Mr. Winters went on to discuss how the German scientists had perfected the bell-shaped craft and had transferred the major portion of their operations to the uninhabited hinterlands of Tibet, leaving only a small operation in the Matto Grosso. The Germans have apparently already travelled to, and colonized other planets, to the point that Mr. Winters states that the Germans are no longer interested in terrestrial affairs because the focus of their attention is now on the colonies that they are building in space. It is apparently the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the original scientists who are now working on these craft and in the space colonies and Mr. Winters gave the impression that these people are planning to vacate Earth altogether in the near future.

We were visited at Shoreline Park on Thursday evening by a crew from the Montgomery, Alabama NBC affiliate, Channel 12 WSFA. Chip Creamer and his cameraman, Jeff were, of course, particularly interested in seeing photographic and video evidence of the Gulf Breeze sightings. They will include video of these photographs and clips from the videos taken by Bruce and Ann Morrison

in their piece. Billed as "Alabama's News Source," the piece will be used as a "real life" balance for a new NBC UFO movie "Invasion" to air at the beginning of May.

Also at Shoreline Park on Thursday evening were a young man from France, accompanied by his mother. They have a tremendous interest in UFOs. Fabien and Nadine Ladeuil live on the outskirts of Paris. They have read many books about UFOs, some translated from English into French, and a couple by French authors with whom the rest of our group of skywatchers was not familiar. They had travelled to the United States on vacation and had made a special trip to Gulf Breeze in the hope of seeing a UFO. Unfortunately they were not able to witness a sighting whilst here.

One of our regular skywatchers did note an anomalous light in the sky on Wednesday evening however. She was admiring the clear sky, the bright stars and waning moon, and observing Hale-Bopp through her binoculars. Scanning the sky with her naked eye, she noticed a very large bright "star" in the area between the Moon and Mars. "I am familiar with the stars and planets," she told me, "and I kept wondering to myself about this very bright star that I did not remember being there before." As it turned out, the object she was observing was not a star. "As I watched it, it slowly faded down and away to nothing," the witness told me. "I don't know what it was, but I knew there should not be a star there that was brighter and larger than Mars or Sirius and when it faded down and disappeared, I was very surprised." There were two other skywatchers present at Shoreline Park during this sighting, but neither of them witnessed it.

If you have a sighting or unusual experience to report or you would wish to contact the local Experient Support Group, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. Keep Looking Up!

TRI-CITY HERALD,
Kennewick, WA
April 8, 1997

Pasco UFO sighting probed

By DON McMANMAN

Herald staff writer

An outfit that chases reported UFO sightings has opened an investigation into strange lights spotted over Pasco early Sunday.

"We cannot say what it might be or might not be until we get the hard copy of this lady's report," said Jerry Rolwes of Spokane. He's a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel and the assistant state director of the Mutual UFO Network, or MUFON.

"This lady" is Tracy White of Kennewick, who recalls her sighting this way:

"They were in three V formations. At first, I thought they were birds, but my friend said they were lights. They were going way too fast to be airplanes. And there was no noise."

"It was weird. Really, really weird."

White and several friends were standing outside in Pasco at 3:30 or 4 a.m., "kind of looking for the comet," she said.

They had been drinking beer and shooting pool Saturday evening. "But no one was blasted or anything. They had stopped drinking hours before," White said, adding she, as the designated driver, was sober.

Each V formation had about 11 lights, one at the apex and five down each side. The formations flew off toward the northwest, White said.

MUFON has heard only of White's sighting Sunday morning, Rolwes said.

"But have we received any similar sightings? Yes, we have," he said.

On Dec. 29, 1994, a woman in the isolated Whitman County town of La Crosse spotted lights in a V formation, Rolwes said.

"What she reported was very, very similar to what is coming out of the Tri-Cities," he said.

"However, the lady in La Crosse got a better description because the bloody things were down close to the ground and hovering," Rolwes said.

Sidney Gire of Richland, a MUFON member, will handle the investigation in the Tri-Cities, Rolwes said.

There were no other solid reports from the Tri-City area about a sighting Sunday.

The Federal Aviation Agency tower at the Pasco Airport was closed at the time. The Franklin County Sheriff's Office had no reports. However, there might have been a sighting in Benton County.

"There's nothing on our log, but one of the dispatchers thought there was something over north Richland," said Benton County Undersheriff Bill Morey.

The dispatch center had no written reports, however, nor did Richland police.



White

UFOs sighted over Lone Cone

BY TONY DARANYI

Nanci Brown is convinced she saw several UFOs early last Friday morning.

She happened to wake up at 1:30 a.m. to one incredible sighting, one that she'll never forget.

The Aldasoro Ranches resident, who is blessed with a clear star-studded sky on a nightly basis, sat up for one whole hour, with binoculars in hand and an open mind, and watched red and green pulsating lights hovering above the earth.

"I saw five of them," she said, noting that the sightings were off in the southwestern sky, above Lone Cone in San Miguel County. "They all looked the same, except for the one that went over the house, which I saw the bottom of. That

one had two circles, where one was red and the other light green, and they were circulating and pulsating. It was really bright. The others that looked the same were really bright, also with red and green lights pulsating."

She then woke up her husband to get a reality check, to discern if maybe her mind was playing tricks on her. She wondered: Could these lights just be airplanes? Is there that much plane traffic in the middle of the night? "He said, 'No. It's too bright.'"

"If I looked at them with my naked eye, they looked too eye-catching to be an airplane. When I looked at them through my binoculars, I decided it was way too obvious that they couldn't be an airplane," she said.

She also claims to have seen what she could only describe as the UFOs' "home base."

"There were other UFOs spin-

ning around it," she said. "It was oval shape, like the size of a planet, with a red station pulsating in there."

The whole experience had an aura of being real "technical," she described. "It felt really organized and technical. Especially that one station that was at one place."

Neither the sheriffs of Montrose nor San Miguel counties received any reports of a UFO sighting Friday morning.

She's never particularly been a believer in UFOs before and never really thought about the possibility.

"I've never ever thought about this," she noted. "I did hear in the Denver news about all the sightings in Olathe. I do find it interesting."

Was she scared? "No, not all," she said. "They were far enough that I didn't feel threatened."

After an hour of awe, she went to bed ("I do have responsibilities in the morning"), though the big spaceship-like UFO was still cir-

cling.

"I don't know how I'll feel in a week. I may say it was an airplane," she said, quickly adding, "but it's so clear in my head now."

Tony Daranyi is co-publisher of the Montrose Morning Sun and its sister newspapers.

Are they really out there?

Group wants hearings conducted on UFOs

By BOB HOHLER
The Boston Globe

WASHINGTON — No one cited Hale-Bopp or Heaven's Gate when a UFO group, backed by an astronaut who has walked on the moon, called last week for hearings on an alleged government cover-up of earthly visits by extraterrestrial life forms.

The only references to "Independence Day" or the "X Files" were uttered by Dr. Steven M. Greer, director of the Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence, who assailed the sci-fi fare as part of the "90 percent of what people are exposed to on this subject: rubbish, complete and utter nonsense."

Greer and the former NASA astronaut, Edgar Mitchell, told reporters and congressional officials in separate closed-door briefings that their assessment of extraterrestrial activities, although widely disputed, requires urgent federal attention for the good of humankind.

Greer, Mitchell and a panel of "witnesses" asserted that several extraterrestrial civilizations — working together from bases within the solar system and possibly from temporary outposts under water on Earth — regularly visit the planet and are prepared for widescale contact with humans.

All that stands between such an intergalactic moment, Greer asserted, is human civilization reaching out with a new foreign diplomacy.

"What has been lacking is an appropriate response from planet Earth," said Greer, an emergency room physician from Asheville, N.C., who has spent several years examining whether UFOs exist. "Look at our response so far: ridicule by the media, denials by our officials and frequent shooting by our military assets."

The group's push for hearings into extraterrestrial matters and the government's role in the phenomenon comes amid a sci-fi craze.

Mostly a multimillion-dollar entertainment boom, the fad took a dark turn last month when 39 members of the Heaven's Gate cult committed suicide in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., believing that a spacecraft shielded by the Hale-Bopp comet would deliver them to a "level beyond human."

Among the testimony that Greer's group presented in a Washington hotel last Wednesday and Thursday was that of former military pilots, radar operators and radio engineers who told tales of close encounters with alien spacecraft. One purported incident was said to have involved an alien spaceship hovering over a cluster of B-52 bombers one night in 1969 at Loring Air Force Base in northern Maine.

The group also presented several hundred pages of UFO reports and related documents, most of them obtained from government agencies under the Freedom of Information Act.

Air Force Secretary Harold Brown told the House panel in 1966 that there was no evidence of visitors from space.

Nor is there evidence now, according to NASA officials and several scientists studying the possibility of extraterrestrial life.

Ed Weiler, chief scientist for NASA's Hubble Space Telescope and director of the agency's Origins Investigation of life in the universe, said astronomers know there are hundreds of billions of galaxies, each with hundreds of billions of stars.

"In my personal opinion, the odds that somewhere in the universe there is life at least as intelligent as us are 100 percent," Weiler said. "But I haven't seen any hard evidence that extraterrestrial life or spacecraft has visited us."

Officials at the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, a privately funded science project in California, agreed. After years of research, the California project has yielded no hard evidence that extraterrestrial life or spacecraft exist or are likely to appear soon, said a spokeswoman, Tanaqqi Leonian.

"The scientific community doesn't support something like that," Leonian said of the assertions by Greer's group. "It's more for the 'X Files' fanatics."

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said the Air Force investigated 12,618 reports of UFOs between 1947 and 1969 and found no evidence they were "extraterrestrial vehicles."

Bacon also dismissed longstanding assertions made by Greer's group and others that the US government continues to hold wreckage of an alien spacecraft and the bodies of its occupants the military retrieved, perhaps as early as 1947.

At the White House, where President Clinton has requested \$1 billion over five years to fund the NASA Origins search, there has been no formal response to a written request by the Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence to convene hearings on the group's assertions.

Clinton's spokesman, Michael D. McCurry, citing the Pentagon findings, said there would be no push for congressional hearings. "The White House is pushing a lot of things on Congress," he said, "but that is not one of them."

Greer, who has met privately with members of Congress and the Clinton administration to press for hearings, asserted that evidence of extraterrestrial activity has surfaced since 1966. Yet no one in government has been willing to support his campaign.

Skier says he spotted UFO

By Phaedra Greenwood
The Taos News

Kerry Welsh, a former journalist from Los Angeles was driving down from a day of skiing at Taos Ski Valley with his companion, Art Gutierrez, also of Los Angeles, Jan. 24 around 4:30 p.m. They were admiring a typical New Mexican sunset, a line of heavy red clouds on the western horizon, when, according to Welsh, "We noticed an extremely bright light directly over the sunset. At first we thought it was a strongly illuminated cloud, bright white, except that all the other clouds were red and blowing away. Then I thought it might be a plane, but it didn't move and it wasn't blinking. The sky was still pretty light. It was silver and sideways — I hate to say it — it looked like a saucer."

Welsh declared several times that he did not believe in "all this UFO stuff, but I saw this. I thought, 'Oh, well, it's probably something from Los Alamos.'"

He said the unidentified object was still visible when they reached the parking lot at the Quail Ridge Inn where they were joined by other observers. "It hadn't gotten any closer or any further away," Welsh said. "We watched it for a total of 25 to 30 minutes. All of a sudden a trail came from it. It went straight up in the air and disappeared behind a cloud."

Monday (Feb. 3) at 3:02 a.m. Melanie Holmes of Peñasco reported to the Taos County Sheriff's Department that she saw three bright lights in the field beyond her house. Officer William Cordova investigated but said, "There was nothing going on."

BAXTER BULLETIN, Mountain Home, AR - May 3, 1997 CR: L. Willett

UFO 'abductees' hypnotized in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — The light-hearted conversation between a mother and her teenage daughter suddenly turned solemn. Both women were frightened, skittish — and had no idea why their mood had changed.

Lynne Bishop remembers that warm, spring day in 1972. She and her mom were in their car driving toward the north-central Arkansas town of Marshall, where they'd normally make a turn toward home.

"All of a sudden — blank," Mrs. Bishop said. "Next thing you know we're driving on a road we didn't know. We're both very nervous, very scared."

"I said, 'Mom, where are we?' She said, 'I have no idea.'"

They turned around and found they way back to Marshall — but were somehow on the opposite side of town from which they'd come. When they arrived home, they realized they were an hour late, an hour they could not account for.

Until 20 years later, when they met John Carpenter, who helped them unlock the mystery: They'd been abducted by aliens.

"I really didn't want it to be anywhere near the truth," said Mrs. Bishop, who uses a pseudonym when she talks publicly of her experiences.

Yet she believed what she'd revealed to Carpenter under hypnosis was true, especially

after her mother came up with the same story of being lifted into a craft and examined by strange creatures. She met Carpenter at a UFO conference in Eureka Springs in 1992.

"When my mother corroborated it, it in a way made it worse," Mrs. Bishop, now 43, said in a telephone interview from her Arkansas home. "It took away the ability for me to say it didn't happen at all."

'Quite common'

Carpenter, a licensed clinical social worker and psychotherapist who is himself a believer in aliens, said the story of Mrs. Bishop and her mother is quite common. He says most people who are abducted by aliens — participants, as Carpenter likes to call them — are not wackos who relish the idea.

"They don't claim to want it," said Carpenter, whose tattered business card identifies him as the national director for abduction research for Mutual UFO Network, based in Seguin, Texas.

In the past nine years, Carpenter has screened some 300 supposed "abductees" and found about 120 credible enough for further study. For those, he employed the same hypnotic technique he uses on patients who want to quit smoking or lose weight.

Their reports are remarkably similar, he says:

—Bland, gray stick figures with oversized heads and dark

almond eyes.

—Rounded spacecraft without furnishings.

—Communication through telepathy.

"It almost gets boring at times because you almost know what you're going to hear," he said. "You wouldn't expect so in this field."

Counselor's training

During the weekdays, Carpenter, 42, is a therapist who does marriage and family counseling. He received his master's degree in social work from Washington University in St. Louis and was trained in hypnosis at the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kan.

Carpenter does the UFO research on his own time and doesn't go out of his way to let his regular patients know of his hobby. He asked for a recent media interview to be held away from his daytime office.

But Carpenter does not try to keep it a secret. He speaks at conventions all over the country, holds support groups for abductees and presides over public meetings to discuss his work.

Carpenter approaches his patients skeptically, he says, interviewing them to see what they've read or heard about UFOs. And during hypnosis, he says he tries to trick them with pointed, often leading questions.

For example, he will ask his patients what they saw in the

corner of the spacecraft. It's a trick question, he says, because most of what Carpenter deems to be legitimate UFO research shows the crafts are round, with no furnishings.

Skeptics

Skeptics say it's those kinds of questions that cast doubt on Carpenter's research.

"Can this be confirmed by anybody other than the person doing the hypnotizing?" said Barry Karr, executive director of the Buffalo, N.Y.-based Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, which publishes the Skeptical Inquirer.

"We have no scientific evidence other than anecdotal evidence, stories, ... there's no physical evidence to it."

Gil Boyne, executive director of the 9,500-member American Council of Hypnotist Examiners in Glendale, Calif., seethes at the idea of someone using hypnosis for UFO research.

"It trivializes the profession because of snickers and laughter, and it creates consumer fraud," he said.

But Carpenter resents those implications. He said he charges a flat-fee of \$65 per hypnosis session and estimates he's given about \$13,000 worth of free time because he did not charge for his first five years. He said serious UFO research should not be dismissed by science.

Conference-goers stick to UFO stories despite stigma of Heaven's Gate saga

BY PAISLEY DODDS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

EUREKA SPRINGS — Even a group that shares stories about being sucked out of cars by aliens or losing livestock to laser beams think people who believed they would travel to the afterlife in a UFO were just too weird.

The annual Ozark UFO Conference attracts mainly a nuts-and-bolts crowd: I got abducted by aliens in a big space ship and I'm here to tell my story.

But three years ago, members of the Heaven's Gate cult crashed the party, inviting people to wait with them for signs in the heavens.

"I remember them showing up, talking about Jesus and UFOs," says Tabby Runnels, 33, of Tulsa. "Those cult people started arguing with my friend. They also made weird chirping noises. They were really weird."

Thirty-nine members of the Heaven's Gate cult killed themselves in late March, believing they

would be taken to eternal peace on a UFO trailing the Hale-Bopp comet.

Here, UFOs are valued for their "proof" of extraterrestrial life, not as transportation to eternal life.

"That whole Heaven's Gate incident has made a conference like this the object of ridicule," says Lou Farish, coordinator of the ninth annual Ozark UFO Conference. "The difference is that they (Heaven's Gate) integrated UFOs into a set belief system. We're all individuals here with individual minds."

About 400 people flocked to this weekend's conference, devoted to life beyond the solar system.

"I've seen enough about UFOs and extraterrestrials to know that the phenomenon of UFOs goes beyond hallucination and hoaxes," said Gary Massey, 48, of Paris, Texas, who runs the Lone Star Bar at the conference.

This year, bankers and factory workers stood smoking Mexican cig-

ars in the Lone Star without interruptions. Housewives compared sketches of gray aliens with large heads and black eyes.

Downstairs in the hotel conference center, vendors peddled bottled alien statues, books on extraterrestrials, key chains and flying saucer mugs. Upstairs, speakers such as psychologist Robert Stone of Pensacola, Fla., tried to convince crowds of the intangible.

"A few people have already come up to me to tell me that they've had similar experiences," says Robert Stone, who claims he was taken by a group of peaceful aliens aboard a spaceship in 1991. "I can understand why some people don't believe in this, but if there were this many witnesses in a court of law, someone would be convicted."

Dr. John Carpenter, who operates a psychiatric practice in Springfield, Mo., came to the conference to speak about his research.

He has counseled more than 120 people who claim to have been abducted by aliens.

"Typically, people find themselves being floated off in a blue, iridescent moonlight," says Carpenter. "My goal as a therapist is to help the person recover from a period of amnesia, and to help them feel normal."

"I try to trick people and see if they are making it up," he says. "But I have had 17 cases of people who have been abducted together and during hypnotherapy, they remember the same things. It's almost embarrassing to say."

Dozens of people came to the conference armed with pictures of disc-shaped objects they say are flying saucers.

Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Wendelle Stevens of Tucson, Ariz., says he has seen so many UFOs in his military days and pictures of UFOs that he doubts the military has anything that sophisticated.

"I've seen more than 3,000 pictures of objects," says Stevens. "Sometimes the military tells me to stop talking about this. ... But the pictures don't lie."

Others at the conference remain doubtful.

"At least a third of all these photographs are fakes and I could prove it," says Bob Shell, editor of *Shutterbug*, a photography magazine. "It's amazing what they can do with pictures. These things could be UFOs, but I'm one of the skeptics."

And then there are the scientists who hope that gatherings such as the Ozark UFO conference turn up some concrete proof of extraterrestrials.

"I know a lot of astronomers who would love it if there was evidence of life on other planets because it would let us better understand the universe," said University of Arkansas at Little Rock astronomer Charles Hemann, reached by telephone. "But we have to think in scientific terms and the facts are that the closest star is light years away."

"It simply takes too long to get to Earth."

POST, New York, NY - May 4, 1997

Pepsi takes fizz out of UFO bash



By RICHARD JOHNSON
with Joane Macintosh
and Sean Gannon

PEPSI-Cola pulled the plug on a massive UFO-themed rock concert in Roswell, New Mexico, for fear of being linked to the Heaven's Gate cult nuts who will surely show up, event organizers charge.

The mammoth concert was slated for July 5 in Roswell — the tiny town made famous by allegations that a flying saucer crashed there in 1947 and was subsequently covered up by the U.S. government. The community has since become a mecca for true-believers in aliens as well as a kitschy tourist stop for fun-loving travelers tired of Elvis sightings and Graceland tours.

John Brower, one of the producers of the Roswell '97 50th Anniversary rock extravaganza, says Pepsi had expressed interest in being the main sponsor. However, he says, the soft drink giant decided to end discussions after the Heaven's Gate mass suicide — in

which 39 cult members died in the belief that they would join a spaceship hiding in the tail of the Hale-Bopp comet. The Pepsi people feared suicidal cultists would draw more media attention than the UFO.

Pepsi spokesman John Harris would only say, "They wanted millions and we just weren't interested." He declined to comment on whether the Heaven's Gate suicides were a factor.

Groups being courted for the all-night concert included Bush, the Foo Fighters and Sheryl Crow (whose new album includes a track titled "They Might Be Angels," about an extraterrestrial crash-landing in Roswell), according to Mike Luckman, director of the New York Center for UFO Research.

New York-based Track Marketing, which was producing the concert in partnership with Brower, a Canadian promoter, said the

planned ticket price was \$50, with the town of Roswell getting 10 percent of the take.

The show was to have been the chief draw of an elaborate weeklong festival organizers hoped would bring 150,000 visitors to Roswell. Luckman estimates that even without the rockers, the festival will still draw more than 60,000.

"It's a slap in the face to half the population of the country who believe in UFOs," says Luckman on the Pepsi pullout. "Right now the organizers are making an eleventh-hour appeal to groups and sponsors to rescue the concert, which as of now, won't go on without some financial support."

But, Luckman says, there's always the Roswell East 50th Anniversary UFO convention he's planning in July in New York — which will have a concert featuring groups such as Aloid and the Interplanetary Invasion.

USA TODAY, Arlington, VA - April 11, 1997

Crash investigators look into missile sightings

By Robert Davis
USA TODAY

TWA Flight 800 crash investigators are looking into reports by commercial jet pilots who say they saw a missile while flying near New York last month.

Investigators at the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the FBI say the pilots could have seen anything from a meteor to a missile launched 2,000 miles away.

The pilots' reports are of in-

terest because Flight 800 exploded in midair off the Long Island coast July 17, killing all 230 aboard. Investigators say a bomb, missile or mechanical failure could have caused the crash. "Obviously anything that anyone sees in the sky we're going to take seriously, and we're going to look at it," the FBI's James Kallstrom told WCBS Radio.

Pilots with Northwest, Delta and U.S. Airways flying near New York reported seeing a

streak of light at 7:15 p.m. on March 17. A Navy submarine off Florida launched one of two unarmed Trident II missiles at 7:17 p.m. The discrepancy is within accepted variances for timekeeping. Both missiles flew east into the Atlantic Ocean, the Navy says.

The NTSB says the missiles, which reach altitudes of 80 miles and can land more than 6,000 miles away, could have been seen by pilots thousands of miles away.

Pilots flying in the southeastern USA as well as boaters and people along the shore were told of the missile launches. But notices were not issued as far north as New York.

Defense experts, however, doubt that anyone in New York could have seen a missile launched near Florida. They say the Trident II missiles are visible only 40 miles away.

"It stretches the imagination to think that pilots could have seen this particular test," Pen-

tagon spokesman Michael Doubleday said. "I don't claim to know what they would have seen."

The Trident II is about four stories tall and 7 feet in diameter. When armed, it carries many nuclear warheads.

The Navy fired two unarmed Tridents from the nuclear-powered submarine USS West Virginia to test their accuracy. Since 1989, 76 Tridents have been fired from the same test range.

ARIZONA REPUBLIC, Phoenix, AZ - March 18, 1997

Object seen over state a puzzle — was it UFO?

By Susie Steckner
The Arizona Republic

The first call reportedly came from a former police officer, who spotted the strange cluster of lights moving very quickly across the night sky near Paulden, north of Prescott in Yavapai County.

The bright red-orange lights formed the shape of a boomerang, he said, with a larger grouping in the lead followed by a single light.

Reports poured in Thursday to Luke Air Force Base, the National Weather Service and the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, which logged the call from the unidentified former officer.

Four days later, there is no clear

explanation for the object, described as both a triangle and a straight line, and varying from bright red to white to bluish white.

"We are confused about the exact details, but make no mistake about it," said Peter Davenport, director of the Seattle UFO center, "there was a dramatic event that took place in Arizona that night."

The National Weather Service can't offer any answers. Same goes for the officials at Luke.

"We just know it was not one of our planes," Lt. Col. Mike Hauser said.

"Everybody is telling me that we have UFOs stashed all over the Air

Force," he said. "I'm not taking issue with what people saw, (but) lots of things can make lights."

Davenport's best guess is an "ultra-sophisticated craft" that did not come from this planet.

The first call to the center came shortly after 8 p.m. from the former police officer. Minutes later, reports were coming in from Prescott and Prescott Valley, Dewey and Chino Valley.

Davenport said callers checked in from the east Valley, Glendale and Phoenix. Some reported that, as the object moved south toward Tucson, it appeared to send out a red beam of light.

The last call that night came from a young man from Kingman, who was en route to Los Angeles.

He called from a phone booth, saying he had seen a large and bizarre cluster of lights in the northern sky.

Tim MacDonald, 11, was leaving his Cub Scout meeting in Phoenix when he saw the bizarre object.

"It looked like a stealth bomber," he said. "It was in a triangle shape and it had three lights. It was moving very slowly. It was there for two or three minutes."

The lights went out one by one. "When it disappeared, I thought it was a UFO."

A GROUP OF "UFOLOGISTS" TO MEET TOMORROW

•Los Vigilantes (The Watchers) is the name of the first latino group to investigate the UFO mystery



Roberto Inigo
Reporter for La Opinion

A video camera as his inseparable companion, a constant watch of the skies and a firm belief, characterize Guillermo Araujo in his indefatigable search of the unknown. It would be said that Araujo is a kind of detective.

A space detective who follows the up-to-now unexplainable trails left by flying objects, which, due to the lack of a scientific name, are defined as UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects).

It was more than 10 years ago that Araujo had his first experience and he says it has changed his life. Now, his beliefs reinforced by books and hundreds of people with similar stories, Araujo is working towards the creation of the first latino group in southern California that will be dedicated to the serious investigation of this type of phenomena. The group, up to now formed by about one hundred members, will be called Los Vigilantes.

History of an appearance

In 1986 Araujo was returning home from school in his native Michoacan when he suddenly saw a silvery ball hovering above the flat roof of his house. It was a cloudy and rainy day.

"I ran into the house and went up on the roof," said Araujo. "The ball descended a little and suddenly disappeared."

Araujo says that before that incident he didn't believe in UFOs, but from then on he got interested and started to collect whatever information fell in his hands.

He had his second experience in 1991 in Mexico state. That time, the object was saucer-shaped.

"The saucer hovered for 20 minutes," said Araujo.

Through the years he met more and more people interested in the subject. The Los Vigilantes group will meet tomorrow to share information and experiences.

It will be, says Araujo, the first convention on the UFO subject organized by latinos in southern California.

But UFOs are not the only subject on the agenda, because the attendants believe there are other space phenomena that might be related. Araujo, convinced that there are parts of the mystery that sooner or later will be revealed, claims that an observatory in Germany has discovered that three unidentified objects have been discovered in the tail of the Hale-Bopp comet.

According to astronomers, Hale-Bopp, whose size is hundreds of times larger than Earth, will be seen with the naked eye from March 25 to April 25 this year.

Also, pictures and videos taken by Los Vigilantes members will be shown, and other people that had similar experiences in other parts of the world will speak.

As a special sample, three recordings will be presented by pilots from a Mexican airline, describing the control tower's encounters with the UFOs.

"The public response has been overwhelming, the truth is that we were only expecting about 100 people, but more than 330 have called asking about the convention," said Araujo.

An international convention of UFO experts in Las Vegas that is taking place these days attracted the attention of people around the world.

According to Araujo, each participant paid more than \$500 to attend.

Up to now the different UFO groups have detected more than 126 UFO models in different parts of the planet.

Last year, reports about this type of sightings broke all records and the "ufologists," as some of them identify themselves by translating "OVNIs" into English, decided to call it "the year of the UFO invasion."

Araujo, who talked to *La Opinion*, said that most of these reports originated in Mexico,

Puerto Rico and Peru.

The Los Vigilantes group in Orange County is presently formed by 97 members who meet once a month.

Even though there are several organizations like this in California, up to now there was none formed exclusively by latinos.

"Before now, hispanic people did not respond as much, either because they were afraid or because they were ashamed of being called crazy," said Araujo. Things are changing now and the group has received hundreds of phone calls from people who claim to have pictures and videos of unidentified objects.

Those who wish to learn more about the subject or the convention can call (714) 336-9851 (24 hours).

TRANSLATION CREDIT: Jane Thomas Guma

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - April 8, 1997

Sheriff: Search yields no sign of plane that reportedly crashed

BY SANDY DAVIS
ARKANSAS-DEMOCRAT GAZETTE

LONOKE—Lonoke County Sheriff Charlie Martin said Monday that campers were shooting off fireworks near where witnesses said a small airplane crashed about 8 p.m. Saturday just outside of Lonoke.

No plane has been reported missing and no wreckage has been found.

Five people contacted the sheriff's office Saturday night and reported seeing an airplane crash.

Martin said no one is sure what happened.

"One man, who said he's familiar with airplanes, said he saw landing lights on a small aircraft flying by and then it suddenly nose-dived,"

Martin said. "Another woman said she saw a fire. Another witness said he saw a fireball and then a guy close to the area said he heard a loud boom."

The area where witnesses saw the lights and fire and heard the boom was near Bob Long Lane and Henderson Road.

"The problem is there are minnow ponds in the area that are very deep, as well as a lot of flooding," Martin said, explaining he couldn't be 100 percent sure there was no plane crash. "Until the water goes down, I don't think we're going to know."

He said that an aerial search Saturday night, in which infrared lights

and night goggles were used, did not reveal a downed plane, but three young people were seen camping near the area.

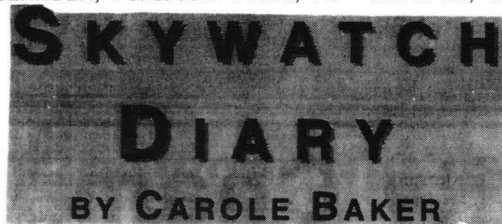
"We sent someone to talk to them, and they said they had been shooting off fireworks," Martin said. "But then the guy who said he saw the landing lights is adamant that it wasn't fireworks he saw."

Martin also said that he searched the area again on Sunday and found no broken power lines, no broken tree limbs and no debris.

"That would indicate that a plane didn't go down unless it missed all of those and just hit the water," he said.

"But until we know for sure, I do have an uneasy feeling."

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - March 26, 1997



Well Project Awareness Fifth Annual Gulf Breeze UFO Conference is over. It was a great success with around seven hundred people attending the three day event. And there were some unexpected but hoped for guests! Sightings were reported on Thursday night, March 20th and Friday night, March 21st! So, Bubba showed up to the Conference!

On Thursday night, one of the speakers at the Conference, Larren Warren who is co-author with Peter Bobbins of the book "Left at East Gate" concerning the Rendlesham Forest event, had a sighting. He and a friend were looking out over the Gulf of Mexico around 11:00 p.m. on Thursday evening March 20th when they observed what Larry described to me as "a row of amber lights, three of them, with a red light off to the right side of them and a blue light next to that. The amber lights were not steady though, they were moving up and down. There seemed to be a beam of blue light come out of the blue light itself once or twice." They watched this "light show" which appeared at around ten degrees elevation, due south from Pensacola Beach for about five minutes. "Then when we looked back, it was not there." I asked Larry if he saw any planes in the area of the lights and he did not. Later that night, or rather early on Friday morning around three a.m.,

a witness reported seeing similar lights further to the east out over the Gulf of Mexico.

On Friday evening, after the Conference events were concluded, a group gathered on the beach near the Beachside resort to skywatch. About twenty people assembled there and at 10:15 p.m. a sighting occurred in the east south east over the Gulf. Two red lights appeared in very close proximity to each other, arranged horizontally and only about three degrees above the horizon. They glowed up again, this time more amber colored than red. These lights faded down and then glowed up brightly once more. Several people had the lights sighted in their binoculars, including myself. I was able to observe the lights until the one on the right hand side rotated up and around the left hand light until it was almost at a forty-five degree angle and then both lights blinked out. The duration of this sighting was right at three minutes. This sighting is very much in line with the type of sightings that are often reported from Shoreline Park and Pensacola Beach area. No aircraft were observed in the sky at that time. A few minutes later, a small commercial plane was seen coming from the Pensacola Airport on a south-westerly course and then about twenty minutes after that, a high flying jet passed over the beach in a south-easterly direction. Everyone who witnessed this

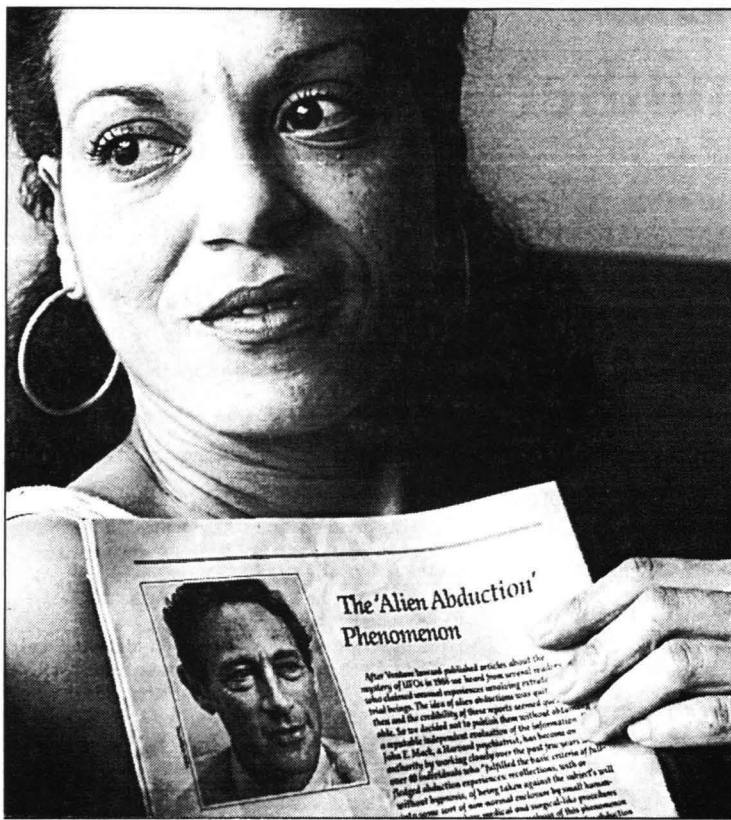
sighting was very excited and it was great that so many visitors were able to witness what our local skywatch group has become so familiar with seeing. Of course, due to the low elevation of this sighting, it would not have been visible had we been skywatching as usual at Shoreline Park.

There was talk of another sighting having occurred during the Conference, but I was unable to gain any firm information about it, or track down those who had witnessed it. I plan to review the lectures and events of the Conference beginning next week for those who were not able to attend. Video and audio tapes of all lectures and events are available from Project Awareness and an order form can be obtained by calling (904) 432-8888. Plans are now in motion for the Tampa Conference in October. The Co-Directors of Project Awareness, Pat Buddy Crumbley and Vicki Lyons all agreed when I asked them how they thought the Gulf Breeze Conference had gone. "It was a great success, and we thank everyone who came for making it that way!"

If you have a sighting or unusual experience to report or you would wish to contact the local Experience Support Group, please call the Pensacola Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. Keep Looking Up!



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



Arva Abraham is hosting a forum at library, for those who say they've been visited.

UFOs

Are they really out there? Woman says she knows

Local woman says she's been abducted. Wants others to meet at library.

By Kevin Gillies
TIMES REPORTER

X-Files agent Fox Mulder has nothing on Abbotsford resident Arva Abraham. The 39-year-old says she has been abducted and visited regularly by aliens. "The truth is out there, that's for sure," says Abraham borrowing a line from the popular television show which explores the phenomenon. She is bringing other abductees to the Clearbrook branch of the Fraser Valley Library for a May 3 seminar between 1 and 4 p.m. Abraham describes the aliens as gray with large heads, long, narrow eyes, and long, three-fingered hands. She says four times in the last five years she has awoken from hazy scenarios with vague memories of aliens probing and inspecting her with medical tools and lasers, adding she awakes with burned skin, scars on her forehead, ringing ears and severe headaches. "There was no explanation of why I woke up like that," she says. Dr. Barry Beyerstein is an SFU psychology professor who heads the B.C.

Skeptics Association. Yes, the truth is out there, he says. "I have a version of it that makes more sense to me." While not discounting the possibility of life existing elsewhere in the universe, he says alien-visit type experiences are products of regular sleep-dream patterns or disorders which people try to interpret. "In the past, similar experiences were attributed to demons, fairies or witches," says Beyerstein, (who, by the way, does not watch the X-Files). "There's lots of people out there who fervently believe it." Astronomer David Dodge of the H.R. McMillan Planetarium says he receives reports constantly. "Where I can't help them astronomically, I pass it on," Dodge says he hasn't seen anything, personally, that he couldn't explain. Graham Conway, vice-president of UFO B.C., says more people are reporting these experiences because the social atmosphere is opening up, in part, because of the TV and movie industry's focus on the phenomenon. "They're not quite as reticent as they used to be," Conway, 69, says. "They feel as though they are being watched." He says B.C. has the highest number of UFO sightings and abduction reports in Canada. "Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence," Conway says.

"Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence."
- Conway

MYSTERY Policemen see strange lights

Experts baffled by UFO

Aviation experts are baffled by a fast-moving, shining object seen by two policemen as it flew over North Norfolk. Air traffic controllers have no logical explanation for the luminous oblong shape which the pair tracked for 10 miles. Sgt Steve King and PC Andy Collier stared in disbelief as the UFO with red, white and blue lights darted across the sky, but they lost sight of it when it hovered over Cromer and then sped out across the North Sea. The policemen, stationed at Fakenham,

By EILEEN DORAN
Just two months ago a tanker crew tracked two sets of strange coloured lights hovering in the sky off the East Anglian coast. The sightings by the tanker Conocoast near the Wash prompted an investigation by the Ministry of Defence. But UFO sleuths accused the MoD of staging an X-Files style cover-up and dismissed the official explanation that the mystery lights were caused by a combination of the 200ft Boston Stump church tower and an electrical storm over the North Sea. There has still been no conclusive explanation for the so-called Boston Stump UFO. Meanwhile, colleagues of the two officers were so intrigued by the craft with bright white and red lights that they contacted Norwich Airport. An air traffic department spokesman said yesterday: "They phoned up and spoke to the controller at about 6.15am on Sunday. "It certainly wasn't anything from the airport. It's recorded in the book as a possible UFO sighting." Colleagues at Fakenham police station say the two officers are treating the sighting seriously. PC Collier and Sgt King were not available for comment yesterday but would like to know more about the UFO sighting at 4.40am on Sunday. Anyone with information which could help explain the phenomenon can ring the police station on 01692 402222.

Shed light on this sighting

I WONDER if any of the readers might have observed an Unidentified Flying Object that was reported to us earlier this month. A man and woman were driving from Wolverhampton back to their home in Essex very early on the morning of Saturday, November 30. At approximately 6am they were between junctions eight and six on the M6 motorway when the passenger observed a bright light ahead of them. The car drove under the object, which appeared to be black, triangular in shape and had a very bright white light on the leading point. The object was low and only moving very slowly. It produced no sound and the witnesses are convinced that it was not an aeroplane. A good many of these mysterious flying triangles have been seen across the country over the last few years. If anyone else in the vicinity of the M6 that morning remembers seeing the object I would be very interested to hear the details. Plus, we are always pleased to receive reports of UFOs or other odd experiences that people may have had. Mr D Newton, Northern UFO Research and Investigation, 2A East Cheap, Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 5UA. Tel: 01912714419.

CHAD, Mansfield, England
Jan. 22, 1997

Did you see UFO?

UFO investigator Walter Blythe wants to hear from Mansfield people who may have seen something strange in the sky during the early hours of last Tuesday. He told Chad: "A man who lives on the Ladybrook Estate looked out of his kitchen window at around 12.50am and saw a large triangular craft. It was moving from the north west and he could see red lights around its underside and two green lights at the rear." While at 4am two men could not get their car to start at Ravenhead's Longdale Lane junction. They saw a giant cigar-shaped object with a row of glowing orange windows and other flashing lights above them. It shot off and their car started again. If anyone had any sightings call Mr Blythe on 651703.

Experts face it ... UFO is a scorching mystery tale

By Kathie McInnes

ASTRONOMY experts have been baffled by reports of a UFO which a motorist claims scorched his face at a remote Staffordshire outpost. The man was left with a burn mark after the mysterious incident close to Bagnall Woods last month. Several other people have since reported seeing inexplicable lights in the sky at the same spot or nearby.

But astronomers say the descriptions do not fit any natural phenomenon. A spokesman for Newchapel Observatory said: "I cannot think of anything which the lights could have been, certainly nothing natural." And Bill Welsh, an astronomer at Keele University, said

a meteor shower would only last for a second so could not explain the incident. He added: "Headlights sometimes bounce up into the atmosphere and appear as spot-lights. "But you have to have the right atmosphere for this to happen and this is likely to be a desert. We certainly would not have this happen in Stoke." The motorist injured in the

apparent close encounter claimed a piercing glow from a disc-shaped object shone on to his face as he wound his car window down. Blue light Another woman visiting the area of the sighting last month has now come forward to report "streaks of blue light" across the sky. Meanwhile, John Hill, of

Endon, said he spotted a light heading from near his home to Bagnall. He said: "There was a huge ball glowing white-hot and the tail behind it went on for quite some distance. "It then just disintegrated. It was travelling very fast and like nothing I have seen before."

Opening X-Files of Hampshire



SIMON TOFT talks to Bob Price, who hopes never to see the UFOs he firmly believes in.



Bob Price has spent many hours talking to witnesses. Above, a crop circle in a Hampshire wheatfield

UFO.
An unidentified flying object, such as a flying saucer.
Chambers Dictionary definition

Bob Price is used to being the butt of jokes about little green men from outer space.

Ever since 1978, when he was working for the AA as a radio operator and found himself talking to a patrol witnessing a mystery object, he has been interested in UFOs.

He accepts that some reported sightings are hard to believe. But he is quick to dispel the notion that all those who claim to have seen UFOs are cranks.

The down-to-earth 51-year-old, who works as a civilian controller at Hampshire police headquarters in Winchester, said: 'I get the mickey taken at work. But occasionally a police officer will come into the control room and take me to one side for a quiet word.'

'Perhaps they will have been out on patrol at night and seen something, but haven't reported it. These are people well-trained in observation.'

Bob has spent many hours of his spare time visiting witnesses and collating reports of weird and wonderful sightings on the south coast, including Portsmouth. One woman in Southampton maintained she had been visited by aliens since childhood.

Now Bob, who lives in Sholing, Southampton, has written a book detailing many unexplained happenings in this part of the world, from flying objects to crop circles.

He believes that 95 per cent of all

reported UFO sightings are genuine misidentifications of natural or man-made phenomena. They can be explained away as hot air balloons, aircraft and their lights, laser displays, stars, meteors and meteorites or, in one case at Eastleigh, a giant wind-blown polythene bag.

But the other five per cent continue to baffle everybody.

He said: 'I wouldn't say I am fanatical about UFOs. That's a benefit because I can look at the subject dispassionately. I'm not trying to convince people there are flying saucers full of beings from other planets.'

'But we are sending probes into space, so what is to say that beings from other planets are not doing the same with craft that are a lot more sophisticated? I think a lot of them are unmanned, but I believe some are crewed.'

Interest in alien life has never been greater. The BBC's strange phenomena series *The X-Files* has grown into a cult, while a new magazine called *The X-Factor* is dedicated to investigating UFOs and the paranormal.

Yet Bob says there is still a reluctance among witnesses to talk about their experiences. 'Some will talk, but others don't want to be named. There is a fear of ridicule.'

Bob, whose wife, Sue, and two teenage children don't share his interest, has never seen a UFO.

'Having spoken to those who have seen one, I think it would frighten me to death. I don't really care if I never see one because I wouldn't like to be confronted in the middle of the night.'

He believes the traditional veil of official secrecy could soon be lifted, prompting more openness on the whole subject of UFOs and alien life.

'I am sure that in the near future we will see some form of official recognition, perhaps in the form of a government statement.'

'More and more people are now willing to accept we are not alone.'

■ *UFOs Over Hampshire And The Isle Of Wight* is published by Halsgrove, priced £6.95.

■ *The X-Factor* (Marshall Cavendish, £1.75) comes out fortnightly.

THE PORTSMOUTH FILES

Bob Price says the vast majority of UFO sightings in Hampshire are concentrated around coastal towns and cities.

Incidents in the Portsmouth area include:

■ A Portchester family who encountered a UFO on Portsdown Hill on November 7, 1978.

Kevin Malling described a huge, silent, mushroom-shaped object with a brilliant white light on top and two banks of red and green lights on the bottom.

The object moved slowly, but suddenly accelerated and shot across the sky to Fareham in seconds.

■ Paul Edwards, of Waterlooville, reported another baffling night-time sighting on the hill on December 13, 1982. He described a perfect circle of bright light, moving very fast at about 1,000ft and making a humming sound.

The object was also witnessed

independently by Colin New of Bedhampton.

■ In September, 1981, there were sightings of strange bands of light at Denmead and Westbourne, near Chichester. Witnesses Oliver Mann and Anthony Stewart and Ruth Smith each described two bright circles, one on top of the other.

■ On April 3, 1978, Richard Burkatt from Havant was taking photographs of HMS Vernon in Portsmouth. When he developed them the next day, a three-cornered flying object appeared to be hovering over the base.

A thorough check of the negatives showed no obvious defects and none of the other prints was affected. Meanwhile, a Portsmouth couple telephoned *The News* to say they had seen a three-cornered UFO in the same spot at the same time from the window of their 12th-floor flat.

MAIL, Hartlepool, England - Jan. 13, 1997

Trio's close encounter

A WOMAN driver nearly swerved off the road in shock after she saw what she believes was a UFO flying over Hartlepool.

The report of the sighting follows a similar incident revealed by the Mail last week - and the descriptions of the object are amazingly similar.

Jeanette Evans was driving with two friends past Hartlepool General Hospital when she says she noticed the UFO hovering in the sky.

'It was really still, quite low and cone or triangle shaped,' she said.

'Its corners had three different colour lights with clear flashing lights around the edges.'

'We thought it was too low to be a plane, then we realised

Have you seen strange objects in the sky above Hartlepool or witnessed other strange happenings? Phone the Newdesk on Hartlepool 274441 and let us know.

it was something we'd not seen before.

'I was driving and I ended up on the other side of the road.'

Mrs Evans, 36, who lives in Medway Close, Peterlee, was travelling into Hartlepool to visit a friend when she saw what she now thinks were visitors from another world.

The encounter took place at 7.45pm on Thursday December

12, and when Mrs Evans read reports of a similar incident she decided to come forward.

'The object moved very fast and stopped just as quickly,' she said.

'I felt quite scared at the time. I couldn't say what size it was but it was bigger than a helicopter.'

When the three women, who are all travel agents, reached their friend's house, the story was greeted with disbelief.

'It's the first time I've ever seen anything like this - if somebody had come to me before now I wouldn't have believed it,' said Mrs Evans.

Last Tuesday the Mail reported how two women claimed they saw a motionless V-shaped object with flickering lights hovering over Hartlepool.

SODBURY & YATE GAZETTE, Dursley, England
Dec. 13, 1996

Fears over mystery light

By ALLAN GUY

RETIRED school caretaker Phillip Perrett admits he has been scared stiff by mystery lights he has seen in the Hawkesbury area over the past ten years.

The latest, at 9.40pm on Saturday, November 23, passed within 25 feet of his car as he drove from the A46 towards Hawkesbury Upton.

Mr Perrett was driving to his home in Kingswood near Wotton-under-Edge when he saw the football-sized brilliant light. He wonders if it was the same light seen at 11pm the same day by a woman from Upper Cam.

'She was driving up Tait's Hill, Stinchcombe when she saw the light, bright like the spark from a welder's torch.'

Mr Perrett, a former caretaker at Katharine Lady Berkeley's School, Wotton, said: 'Over the past ten years I have seen four other lights at close proximity but this is the first time I have experienced a blue one - the others were red or pink.'

Mr Perrett said the solid-looking object took around three seconds to pass over his car at a height of about 25 feet. It appeared to be controlled as it rose in an arc like an aircraft taking off - 'It was not a straight trajectory.'

'It came over the hedge, slightly climbing and at a terrific speed, right in front of my windscreen,' Mr Perrett added.

Close encounter of the arguable kind

THE truth is out there and it's nothing to do with little green men or women, according to Edinburgh scientist Stuart Campbell. He believes there is a simple explanation for all UFO sightings — from mirages to aircraft sightings.

In a spoof of the cult television series *The X-Files*, he has named his investigations spanning a quarter of a century *The Z Files*. The science writer who has investigated around 100 UFO reports centred on the village of Bonnybridge near Falkirk believes they have much to do with media hype.

But across the Forth in Alloa, Malcolm Robinson, an investigator of strange phenomena, believes the truth is more complex and alien. He has been closely involved in the Bonnybridge investigations since the first reported sighting in 1992, and is now involved with his strangest case to date. In the past three weeks he has been called in to study reports from four people in Fife who claim to have seen hundreds of little grey creatures in a wood near their home.

The sighting is claimed to have taken place late last year as a woman in her 30s drove along a quiet road with her 10-year-old son and friend to shop at night. They reported beams of light shining down and criss-crossing from a large object in the sky, which suddenly shot off.

They then claim to have returned with the other woman's daughter where, after witnessing a triangular object in the sky, they followed a blue glow coming from woods — where they saw hundreds of creatures about three feet high carrying tubular objects. All, they said, were being supervised by a brown 20ft creature. The witnesses also spoke of a dark shape further back in the woods, and a huge mist. The incident

As reported sightings in Fife fuel one man's mission to explain, a scientific non-believer writes off UFOs and other alien phenomena, notes Rachel Cross

was followed by several reported sightings of triangular objects above the woman's farmhouse, according to Mr Robinson. The young boy also told him of seeing the creatures in and around the house since then, and Mr Robinson says the other three have been left with (similar) scars and marks on their bodies.

"This is a very unusual case," he says. "Even I find it difficult to believe; but after 18 years, interviewing more than 400 witnesses about strange phenomena, you get to know who's trying to pull the wool over your eyes. I am as convinced as I will ever be that they are telling the truth. The witnesses are very shaken by their experience."

It was back in 1979 that Mr Robinson — a father of three who works in a local glass factory — set up the Strange Phenomena Investigations group, whose unlikely base is a caravan in the drive next to his home.

Decked from top to bottom with photographs, files containing witness reports and sketches of aliens, taped interviews and a wall full of UFO books, it is a shrine to UFO activity.

"When I was a youngster I bought all the books about ghosts, poltergeists and UFO but, unlike most kids, I didn't discard them as I grew older. I decided I wanted to find out more. I'm just someone who is seeking the answers to life's mysteries."

One of his most unusual artefacts is a ripped pair of trousers

worn by Robert Taylor in the famous 1979 Livingston incident, when the forestry worker claims to have stumbled across a large dome-shaped object in a clearing in the woods and then seen two round objects rolling towards him — before he lost consciousness.

It was this incident which was one of the first major investigations carried out by non-believer Stuart Campbell on behalf of the UFO Research Association.

Initially, he attributed Mr Taylor's account to ball lighting — "but I changed my mind and, about seven years later when I acquired a computer which tracked the position of astronomical items, I was able to show that he had been looking at a mirage of the planet Venus. Mr Taylor had an epileptic fit, which is consistent with the headache, inability to speak and acrid smell he experienced."

Mr Campbell believes a mirage, probably of road lights, also explains the recent report by two BA pilots of bright lights hurtling towards them over Yorkshire. And he believes a mirage of an RAF Nimrod plane is behind a report of blobs of light floating over Inverness.

"An object can not only be enlarged but can appear as multiple images when it is reflected in a mirage. In many cases where people think a light is moving towards them, it is usually the case that the light appears to be moving only because they are. It is perceptual distortion."

"I'm proud to be a sceptic; I believe that is the only rational view for a scientist," says Mr Campbell, who became interested in UFO sightings while studying for his physics and maths degree. "I thought I really must get to the bottom of it all and I joined the British UFO Research Association."

What were people really seeing if not aliens? "Mirages are



Sketch of Fife-visiting alien, as described to an artist by Robinson

not the simplest explanation but they are simpler than aliens landing."

Both investigators believe, however, that most witnesses are faithfully reporting what they believe they have seen.

"The trouble is that they are not actually seeing what they

think," says Mr Campbell. "It is all a matter of interpretation. I'm pretty sure the fuss in Bonnybridge has been caused by the media. Some of these sightings are probably aircraft coming in to land at Glasgow or Edinburgh."

While Mr Robinson respects his opponent's views and agrees

that some sightings could be due to aircraft, he believes there is a case to answer at Bonnybridge and the surrounding area — with around 300 unexplained reports — and wants to see a Government inquiry.

It was an appeal for eye-witness accounts he placed in the local paper which set the ball rolling four years ago. "I was staggered by the number of calls. All the objects seen fitted in to one of three shapes — a ball, a flying saucer or a Toblerone bar."

"The more I investigate strange phenomena, the more I realise there is a case to be answered. UFOs are a reality. Ghosts appear. People do have near-death experiences. I will devote the rest of my life to getting the answers."

Both men will be speaking at this year's Edinburgh International Science Festival, which begins in March.

SUNDAY INDEPENDENT, Plymouth, England - Feb. 2, 1997

The UFO that left its mark

A NEW book has reopened the file on one of the strangest UFO sightings ever reported in the South West.

Bestselling author Timothy Good features the case of Denise Bishop, who claimed to have been zapped by a

BY WILLIAM TELFORD

paralysing alien ray, in his book *Beyond Top Secret*.

The book, packed with bizarre UFO stories, explains how Denise, a 23-year-old accounts clerk, had a close encounter with a dark metallic grey craft near her home in Weston Mill, Plymouth, in 1981.

Denise, now married and living in another part of the city, was zapped by a lime green, pencil-thin beam of light, which paralysed her for 30 seconds and left a scar on her left hand.

Terrified

The incident was investigated by Bob Boyd of the Plymouth UFO Research Group (PUFORG). He said: "It was one of the most fascinating cases I've ever come across."

Denise told the investigator: "I was terrified. As soon as it hit my hand I couldn't move. The UFO was a fantastic sight to see —

it was huge and silent."

Denise no longer wants to talk about the incident, but is still in contact with UFO researchers.

Timothy Good said: "I was very impressed with her. I have no doubt about her story."

"It is not uncommon for people who have had a close encounter to report being paralysed by a beam of light."

"Often they are left with some form of scar but seldom as clear as in this case."

A London specialist who examined Denise said the scar appeared to have been caused by something similar to a laser beam.

"It must have been a sampling device used to observe people."

In his book 54-year-old Timothy, from London, argues that UFOs are a serious threat to international security.

He said: "There is of-

ten a connection between UFO sightings and military bases."

"In this case the sighting was near to Devonport Naval Base. It was a very significant sighting."

Bob Boyd, of PUFORG, said: "I have stayed in touch with Denise over the past 16 years and have been impressed by how level-headed she is about this. It doesn't seem to have affected her at all."

Evidence

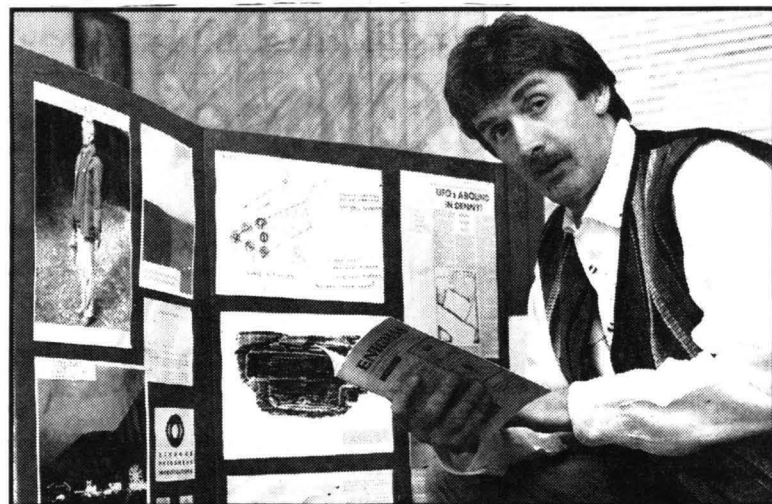
"There have been many UFO sightings in that area. It's possible they could be to do with the naval base."

"But this case was rare because there was physical evidence, and the file on it is still open."

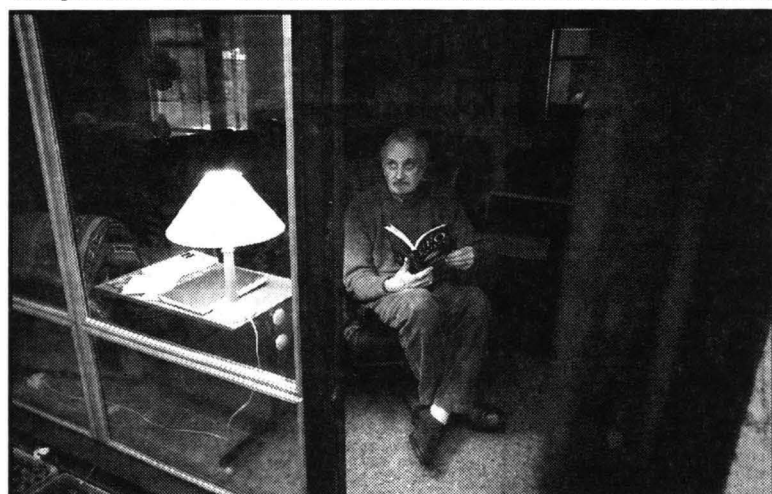
● *Beyond Top Secret* is published in paperback by Pan, price £8.99.

The Plymouth UFO Research Group can be contacted on 01752 565255.

Have you seen a UFO? If so call our newsdesk on 01752 206600.



Tending to believe "shaken" witnesses: Malcolm Robinson, a seeker of answers to life's mysteries



An emphatic non-believer: "Sightings are probably just aircraft," says scientist Stuart Campbell

FLYING SOMETHINGS IN THE SKY

TUKTOYAKTUK RESIDENTS LATEST OF DOZENS OF NORTHERNERS WHO HAVE SEEN UFOs

by Jennifer Pritchett
Northern News Services
Vera Ovayuak is a believer.

The Tuktoyaktuk resident is one of five people who claim to have been followed by two UFOs along the ice road near Aklavik in the early morning hours on Feb. 22.

"It hovered over the trees and then glided so smoothly

down to the snow near the ice road behind us," she said. "When it started moving to the right, another one showed up."

Ovayuak, who is the community's wellness co-ordinator, describes the unidentified flying objects as silver-grey with rows of windows.

"The one in front had four big windows and the light coming out of them was bright blue," she said. "You could see the one in front real good."

Ovayuak spotted the pair with her son Grant, along with Dorothy and Churchill Wolki and Lena Kotokak.

She said they didn't stop their truck for fear of what might happen. "I think we panicked and we were kind of scared," she said. "We weren't about to stop."

The unidentified craft disappeared after about 15 minutes when the group took a turn along the ice road. "We expected them to be there, but they were gone. Then we all got real quiet for about 20 minutes."

Ovayuak's group is not

alone. Reports of UFO sightings in Tsiigehtchic were also reported recently after CBC Radio broadcast an interview with Ovayuak.

Jim Bronskill, a reporter with the Canadian Press who has researched the phenomenon, said that dozens of

Northerners have reported similar sightings throughout the Arctic over the years.

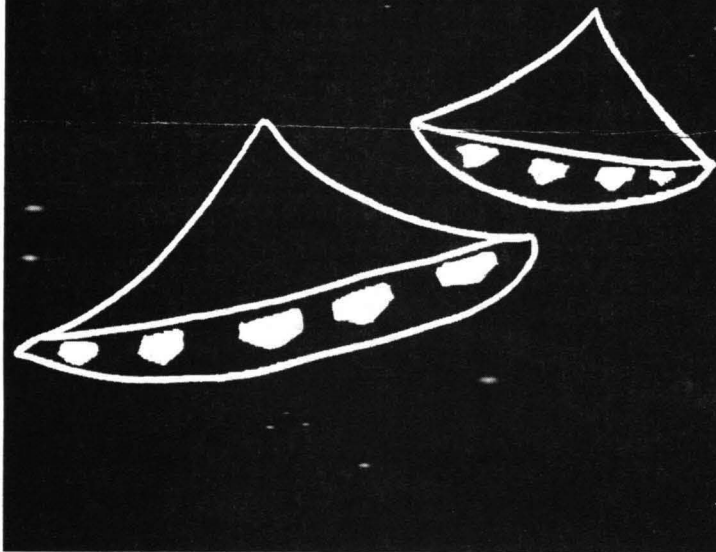
Bronskill said that UFO sightings from the NWT have been on file at National Archives in Ottawa since records were kept.

Sometimes dismissed as the Northern Lights, atmospheric irregularities, drug use or overactive imaginations, mysterious lights in the NWT have been investigated by the Department of National Defence, among other government agencies.

"I wasn't a believer of such things," said Ovayuak. "But now that I've seen them, I'd say never underestimate peoples' word."

"I'll never again travel without my camera — next time, I'm going to take a picture," she added.

NORTHERN Lights



A hastily drawn sketch by Vera Ovayuak of the mysterious flying objects she and her companions saw on the ice road to Aklavik last month.

FIFE FREE PRESS,
Kirkcaldy, Scotland
Jan. 24, 1997

Fife seen as new hot-spot for UFO activity

VISITORS from alien worlds are turning their attention to Fife.

That's the incredible claim from a Scottish paranormal investigator who says the ancient Kingdom is developing as a hot-spot for UFO activity.

Revealing details of an extraordinary sighting supposed to have taken place near the village of Kennoway last September, Malcolm Robinson alleges Fife could become as familiar to UFOlogists as the infamous area of central Scotland known as the Bonnybridge Triangle.

And he's called on Fife Free Press readers to report any baffling events in the skies to his Strange Phenomena Investigations agency.

Sceptics dismiss the claims as ill-founded and irrational but the experienced investigator's belief is unshaken.

And, speaking this week, Malcolm declared: "It clearly looks to me that the Fife area is developing as a 'hot-spot' or 'UFO window' area."

Citing recent reports of strange sightings, the enthusiast said he and his fellow investigators planned to mount an overnight sky-watching expedition to an area near Kennoway in a bid to build their growing dossier on Fife.

According to Malcolm, two women and their children witnessed a sight in countryside near the village which left them traumatised and fearful of publicity.

It's a story of mysterious lights in the sky, strange spacecraft and an uncomfortably close encounter of the alien kind.

See Iain Muirhead's special report on page 17 for the full terrifying tale, plus a few sceptical suggestions as to how it might be explained.

WESTMORELAND GAZETTE, Kendal, England - Dec. 20, 1996

ADRIAN MULLEN reveals a story kept secret for more than 50 years

Close encounter of the brown and hairy kind

PHILIP Irving, 80, is a successful businessman with a handshake like a vice.

He has lived in Kirkby Lonsdale since 1933, setting up a timber merchant business just after the war, although these days two of his three sons are at the helm.

Regardless of his four-score years, Philip recalls with amazing clarity an unearthly event which happened in 1930, just a stone's throw from the Irish Sea, on the sand dunes at Haverigg.

For a lifetime he has kept his story within the family for fear of ridicule.

However, now he has disclosed details of his close encounter to members of the North Lancashire UFO Investigation Group - and subsequently to The Westmorland Gazette.

"I was about 13 or 14. It was around midnight in summer, it was very warm. I remember I had bare feet," says Philip.

"Me and a friend had been checking our fishing lines after the tide had gone out. We used to bait fluke and bass.

"I lived with my parents and sister in a small cluster of houses close to the shore, and I was walking back home up the little sand hills when there he was as plain as day.

"At first I thought he was the devil but then I noticed he didn't have a tail!

"The figure was about five feet eight inches and covered in reddish-brown hair, with something silver that looked like aluminum wrapped around his waist and boots that looked the same. He had narrow, human-like features,

and sort of hollow cheek bones.

"I looked at him and he looked at me - and I ran."

Philip's story actually starts two days earlier when he was returning home at around 9.30pm from the cinema.

"There were about 20 or 30 people on the shore pointing up to the sky so I walked over to them.

"This sort of big ball of fire was coming down about 5,000 feet.

Everybody said it was a comet, but I had never heard of a comet coming so low like that.

"It was a round shape with flames coming out of the back. In those days we hadn't heard of flying saucers.

"I continued to watch it when everybody had gone, and it got lower and lower and I thought, 'it is going to crash'.

"It disappeared and I thought nothing more about it until I saw the figure a few days later on the dunes."

Philip is a former 'Desert Rat', serving under Monty (Field Marshal Montgomery) in the Second World War - and still has the shrapnel in his knee to prove it.

Around nine years ago, he also spot-

'At first I thought he was the devil - then I noticed he didn't have a tail...'



SECRET STORY: Philip Irving, from Kirkby Lonsdale, who had a close encounter in 1930.

ted what he described as an "airliner with lights all around it," which after "minutes" hovering over Kirkby Lonsdale shot off at great speed.

Looking back to his Haverigg

encounter Philip said: "People didn't know anything about aliens or outer space in those days. All I know is that the being wasn't off our earth - put it that way!"



Local resident awed by UFO sighting after storm

Another cattle mutilation discovered in El Prado pasture

By Phaedra Greenwood
The Taos News

In Gallina Canyon above Valdez, seamstress Jenny Meadowcroft slept fitfully Saturday night (Aug. 31). She woke in the dark just before dawn when her cat jumped over her head.

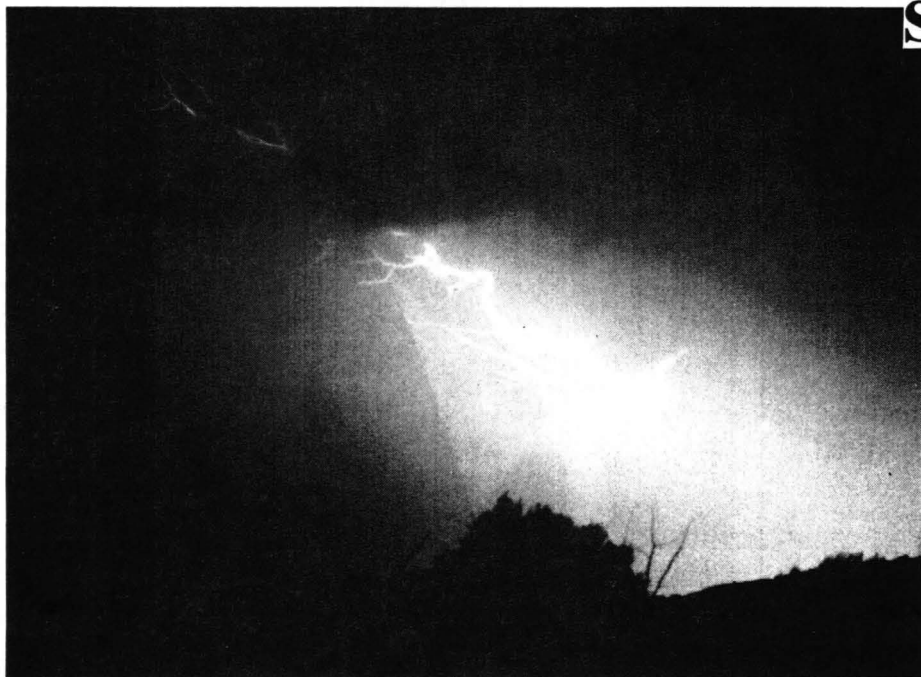
She sat up, looked out the large window beside her bed and saw three globes of soft, luminous light. "It was very beautiful. I was awed and amazed," she said. "I wasn't afraid."

She described the lights as white in front, blue and red toward the rear. They weren't in a triangle, she explained, but in a fixed relationship to each other. "I figured they were part of one craft. They took off, moving south very fast without a sound." She says they shot past the next window and disappeared. No dogs barked, though one was outside. "That was the first UFO I've ever seen," she said. "I'll never forget it."

Meadowcroft's description roughly matched those of three local residents, two from Arroyo Hondo and one from Arroyo Seco, who claim to have seen red, white and blue lights hovering over Gallina Canyon in the past month. UFO sightings commonly coincide with reports of cattle mutilations. Since July 8, two mutilated cows, both belonging to Jesse Gonzales, have been found in Arroyo Hondo.

A third cow that showed classic signs of mutilation was found in a pasture in El Prado Saturday. The heifer's anus had been cored out, and the udder was missing. Magpies had been feeding on it and the exposed left eye had been pecked; all that was left was blackened tissue, in sharp contrast to the clean socket and almost surgical removal of the eye found in other mutilated cows.

A round patch of skin the size of a fist had apparently been cut from the middle of the belly, another classic sign, according to private investigator Gail Staehlin who examined the animal Sunday (Sept. 1). All edges of the cuts were smooth and symmetrical. Staehlin said they looked burned. A little bloody liquid seeped from the nose, but otherwise there were no traces of blood, and no tracks. Staehlin estimated that the animal had been dead since Thursday night (Aug.



Phaedra Greenwood

A spectacular electrical storm lit up the skies over Taos Thursday night (Aug. 29), probably the same night as the most recent cattle mutilation in El Prado. Mutilations have frequently been discovered after violent thunderstorms.

29), the night of a spectacular thunderstorm in Taos. "That seems to be the pattern now," Staehlin said, "to strike during a violent storm that keeps everyone else inside."

Some dry cow patties were found flipped over, another characteristic of a mutilation site, Staehlin said. Chamisa bushes 40 feet away were crushed downward and a couple of small branches had been recently snapped off a nearby cottonwood sapling, "as if something flew down," Staehlin said. "A chopper could have done that."

Staehlin claims that on more than one occasion she has seen black helicopters while investigating cattle mutilations. She said she was followed along the road by a helicopter without any identifying numbers, and once one hovered right over her as she was inspecting a dead cow.

Tom Reed says he has also seen black or dark

blue helicopters without identifying numbers flying over his ranch, "But I was looking at them through binoculars," he said. "Maybe the numbers were too small to see."

Reed, who has managed a ranch north of Questa for 15 years, said he lost eight cows and 13 calves between 1989 and 1990. "A lot of those could have been from natural causes, disease or predators," he said, "but some of them weren't. I've seen what animals do. We have a lot of wild dogs around here and some of them have been seen bringing down elk, but predators don't make nice clean cuts."

He said he found a full-grown, healthy cow dead and mutilated in an irrigation ditch that had only four inches of water in it. In May of 1990 he found a mutilated calf in a nearby corral with the entrails cut out of it.

In 1994, after he burned the body of a mutilat-

ed cow, he said a circle of rocks four to five feet in diameter appeared around the circumference of the burn, and a smaller circle of rocks about a foot in diameter appeared six to eight feet away.

"Generally, there's a lack of evidence that's weird," he said. He claimed he had once seen what looked like the track of a smooth-soled shoe on a high bare spot of ground, but it was an isolated mark and he couldn't find any others.

This soft-spoken, down-to-earth rancher said that when he ran a batch of 1- to 2-month-old calves through a chute to inspect them this spring, he discovered that four steers and five heifers had the tips of their ears cut off. He did not report it, but "it did seem kind of strange," he said. "All of them had at least one ear cropped; two of them had both—just an inch off the top in that smooth cut—but they weren't dead," he said, "so maybe they weren't mutilated."

The most recent mutilation at his ranch occurred last March when he found a 1-month-old calf with the tongue, right eye and two front teeth missing. "The teeth weren't knocked out; they looked like they had been pulled," he said. "All the insides were gone and the cut was smooth." He noted abrasions on two of the calves legs that might indicate it had been airlifted to or from the site, "but who knows where they came from. I get abrasions myself," he said.

Perhaps the most curious occurrence was Reed's discovery of a dark patch of what may have been blood in the grass 12 feet away from the body, in the shape of a recently mutilated calf. "There was some gray goo in between them," he said, "but by the time the brand inspector got here, it was gone."

He complained that Jerry Valerio, local brand inspector for Taos, had been taken off the cases. "It always seems like when you're getting somewhere, somebody higher comes in and stops it." He said the last mutilation he reported, "they took the whole calf and I never heard back from any of them. I never got much results from call-

ing them in the past," he said. "They always say they have no information, they can't tell you anything."

Staehlin, who lives in Albuquerque, says she will come up to investigate and take tissue samples if the animal is reported to her within two days. She is willing to take a whole calf back with

her for autopsy. Her number is 505-831-1807. She is also training a local investigator, Michael Abbey, who says he is willing to inspect dead cows, take tissue samples or come out in the middle of the night to confirm UFO sightings. His number is 751-1969.

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - March 30, 1997 CR: G. Conway

Life may have come by comet

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The chemical seeds of life might have ridden comets to Earth.

An analysis of the tonnes of organic molecules spewing out of comet Hale-Bopp supports the theory that such celestial visitors may have delivered life billions of years ago.

"Most of what we're seeing is water ice but there are also plenty of hydrocarbons and organic molecules that you would need for the genesis of life," said Harold Weaver, an astrophysicist.

"One of the major new findings from Hale-Bopp is all of these chemical molecules that are erupting from the comet as it heats from the sun," Weaver said.

Comets are aggregations of ice, dust and chemicals that remain frozen in outer space. Only when a comet approaches the sun does the ice warm up and send its tail of material streaming away.

But what makes Hale-Bopp different from other comets, Weaver said, is its size — up to 40 kilometres in diameter — and the fact that never before have sophisticated instruments had such a long look at a comet.

Comets are thought to have formed near the edge of the solar system at about the same time as Earth and the other planets. Because they are so far from the sun, they may be composed of the original, unchanged matter that gave birth to the sun and solar-system bodies.



AP photo

Hale-Bopp seems headed into hoop in Kentucky.



For The Orange County Register

THE ART OF TALK: Though Art Bell may not be known in the daytime, American insomniacs, seemingly insatiable when it comes to tales of the extraterrestrial and the paranormal, have made him a phenomenon.

From coast to coast, Art Bell gives air time to the unusual

RADIO: From the 'Kingdom of Nye' in the Nevada desert, he is No. 1 at night.

BY PHIL GARLINGTON
The Orange County Register

PAHRUMP, Nye County, Nev. — It's 1:15 a.m. Thursday and Art Bell, the undisputed King of All-Night Radio, broadcasting from the Home of the Weird, which is a tiny rear bedroom in his double-wide trailer, has a caller on a cell phone who says he's about to penetrate Area 51 airspace in a homemade airplane.

"I don't think you should do that," Bell says. "I think you ought to turn around."

But Jimmy Joe, an Art Bell fan from way back, insists that as a taxpayer he's entitled to fathom any UFO mystery that may be hidden on the secret Air Force facility next to the Nevada Test Site.

Now, Jimmy Joe says, he's diving in his homemade airplane, painted with Red Cross markings, to a thousand feet for a better look.

"Wait a minute," says the scratchy, metallic voice of the allegedly airborne pilot. "What's this? Searchlights going on. A hangar door is opening. I see ... It's a rail gun. They're firing at me. Oh no! I'm going in ..."

For the next hour or so, Bell's eclectic night-owl audience, estimated at 10 million to 15 million nationwide, listens as callers dispute whether Jimmy Joe actually was shot down over Area 51, or whether it was just what Bell calls "drama."

At the same time the never-idle fax machine is spitting out sheaves of listener opinion, the faxes split about down the middle on whether what they've just heard, live, was actually the final plunge of another martyr to government secrecy.

"I just put the callers on the air," Bell says good-naturedly. "I let the audience make up its own mind."

While the graveyard crew may know about "Coast to Coast AM With Art Bell," most of the day shift only became aware of him after the mass suicide in Rancho Santa Fe.

Thirty-nine cult members, led by saucer-eyed Marshall Applewhite, went to their deaths believing that they would be transported to the "next level" aboard an alien spacecraft trailing the Hale-Bopp comet.

It was on the Bell show that the notion of an alien spaceship

REGIONAL REPORT

shadowing Hale-Bopp first surfaced last November, when he interviewed a university political-science professor who said he had a picture of the craft.

But months before the mass suicide, Bell had told his listeners that legitimate astronomers had discounted the photo as fraudulent. "The idea that I had anything to do with that is completely off base," Bell says.

Yet, post-suicide, frenzied media immediately tied Bell's popular show, with its heady mix of the unorthodox, mystical, fringe and outright loony, to the Rancho Santa Fe astral departure.

"It's Time magazine; they'll call back at 5:30," says Ramona, Bell's wife, who has tried to shield him somewhat from the media barrage.

While Bell may be little known to the daytime world, American insomniacs, seemingly insatiable when it comes to strange tales of the extraterrestrial and the paranormal, have made him No. 1 at night and turned him into a radio phenomenon.

Three years ago, when Bell syndicated his 11 p.m.-4 a.m. live talk show, he was carried on 21 Western stations. Now he has 357 affiliates and is in every major market, including Southern California, where he is heard on KABC/790 AM midnight-5 a.m. Monday through Friday.

He's so successful he could move his show to Bel-Air or Manhattan, but instead he chooses to remain in this sprawling, dust-blown trailer township in the high desert 60 miles north of Las Vegas, in a modest manufactured home whose most hedonistic amenity is a hot tub.

He broadcasts six nights a week from a studio in a bedroom crammed with computers and ham radio equipment, transmitting the show via a satellite-dish uplink in his back yard.

"Before syndication, I used to commute 120 miles every day to Las Vegas to do the show," Bell says. "This is better."

Like many celebrities, it took Bell years to become an overnight success. At 51, he's been in commercial radio for more than 30 years, knocking around from one station to another — 30 in all

Area 51, is devoted to discussions of extraterrestrial visits and visions. (The show airs in Southern California midnight-2 a.m. Sundays on KABC/790 AM). Bell isn't a UFO advocate himself, necessarily, but he recognizes the potential.

"The night audience isn't the day audience," Bell says. "The guy who's up at 3 a.m. listening to the radio ... is a different breed."

Bell says his brand of offbeat talk show came along at just the right moment.

When Larry King retired from all-night radio, station managers weren't optimistic they could sell the night hours, until they started hearing about Bell's ratings out west.

"Art's show almost sounds like a late-night college bull session," says Alan Corbeth, president of Chancellor Broadcasting, the company that syndicates the show out of Medford, Ore. "It goes from gossip to hard-nosed politics to philosophy to the mysteries of the unknown."

Like the Internet, Corbeth says, Bell's show has a feeling of hyperlinked interconnectivity, offering the protection of anonymity and a haven for eccentric speculation.

— as a rock 'n' roll disc jockey, station manager or talk jock.

His first civilian job was reading the news on a low-wattage fundamentalist Christian station in New Jersey. The manager was a no-nonsense disciplinarian who cured new announcers of bad microphone traits, such as popping P's, by abruptly pulling the chair out from under them.

He was a rock 'n' roll DJ in Podunk stations in North Carolina and Florida, on megawatt blasters in Tijuana and Anchorage, Alaska. He had a dream job in Okinawa, Japan, for 10 years, working for what he says was the only English-language station in the Far East. Then, fearful of "going native," he came back to the States for more wandering.

In those bygone days of personality radio, Bell did all the usual stunts, getting himself in the Guinness Book of Records at one point for a 116-hour marathon solo broadcast to raise money to bring Vietnamese orphans to the United States.

Finally, worn down by the gypsy life, he gave up radio and moved to Las Vegas and a big-bucks job as chief engineer for a start-up satellite-communications outfit.

But the radio Jones wouldn't leave him alone.

A Las Vegas station, KDWN, 50,000 watts, covering 13 states, offered him the night talk slot. He quit the engineering job, took a whopping pay cut and became a radio pioneer.

"Most radio talk shows are about politics," says Bell, whose own libertarian/conservative leanings would have put him solidly in the middle of a crowded pack.

"I decided to open it up to anything, no matter how controversial or weird," Bell says.

Like a Freudian analyst, Bell says to his listeners: Don't censor yourselves; tell me what's really on your mind.

It turned out to be Bigfoot. And UFOs.

Crop circles, body piercing, secret government projects on electromagnetic death rays, pyramids on the face of the moon, and the doomsday predictions of quake-monger Gordon-Michael Scallion.

Acting as his own producer, running the board himself with no engineer, and never screening the calls, Bell hears five hours of undiluted weirdness flow into his impromptu studio.

Although no subject is off limits, Bell is best known for giving a forum to the UFO crowd. His Sunday show, "Dreamland," another nickname for the secret

"Not knowing how seriously to take it is part of the fun," Corbeth says.

Bell has had a lifelong fascination with radio. He had a ham radio license by age 13. During a stint in the Air Force he built a pirate radio station on the air base in Amarillo, Texas, until the commercial-free format became too popular and the nearby licensed stations forced it off the air.

Bell's growing radio popularity has even helped put his adopted hometown on the map. It's probably no coincidence that in the Tim Burton movie "Mars Attacks," the aliens' first landing is in Pahrump.

The Pahrump Chamber of Commerce even gives him some credit for the town's burgeoning growth, from 9,000 in 1991 to 24,000 today, although the 285 days per year of sunshine and complete absence of any zoning restrictions also play a role.

People have come here because they've heard Bell extolling "The Kingdom of Nye." The Pahrump fire chief, an Art Bell fan while working in Alaska, took the job here because of Bell's hoanannas about the sage-sweetened air.

Of course Nye also has a passel of meth labs, scandal-ridden county politics, round-the-clock casinos, crime sprees involving fast cars and six-shooters, and a dozen or so legal brothels, the last inspiring local wits to dub the town "Pay Rump."

"Yeah, it's still the Wild West out here," Bell says. "But I find it peaceful."

Bell admits he doesn't leave his acres on the outskirts of town often, although he says he has had to visit the Chamber of Commerce to ask them to stop describing him as a recluse.

Since hitting it big, however, he's become a world traveler for at least a few weeks a year, sojourning in China and Russia. This summer he's slated to go on a cruise to Greece and Egypt with 571 hard-core Art Bell fans.

But after his five-hour show, Bell stays home, either firing up the ham radio to cruise the world airwaves, or, more recently, spending a couple of hours writing.

In a new book due out next week, "Quickening," Bell expounds on a favorite late-night topic: that the accelerated pace of events in the modern world is leading to either a new consciousness or to catastrophe.

Interest in the fate of Jimmy Joe wanes, and Bell punches another button. "From the high desert and the great American Southwest ... it's Art Bell. Sitka, Alaska, you're on the air."

It's some guy who wants to fax Bell a photo of his April Fools' joke. He's trucked a huge pile of tires to the top of a mountain overlooking the Alaskan town and has set the tires afire with gasoline. When the town wakes up, residents are gonna see this huge plume of black smoke, and think the volcano's getting ready to blow.

"I only have one policy," Bell says. "As long as they're interesting, I let 'em talk."

Dramatic discovery may turn world of physics

BY JOHN NOBLE WILFORD
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Scientists' measurements suggest for the first time that the universe has an "up" and a "down." If correct, the observation would be one of the most surprising and fundamental in recent years. The notion that space is uniform — that it is the same in all directions, with no north and south or up and down — is a major tenet of modern cosmology, backed by Einstein's theory of relativity.

The findings could force scientists to reconsider aspects of Einstein's theory, rethink some ideas about the birth of the universe and the possible existence of other universes. They also raise questions about the speed of light, especially whether it may not be always precisely the same.

In an analysis of radio waves from 160 distant galaxies, physicists at the University of Rochester and the University of Kansas made the startling discovery that the radiations rotate as they move through space, in a subtle corkscrew pattern unlike anything observed before.

A complete turn of the corkscrew appeared to occur every one billion miles. These are in addition to what is known as the Faraday effect, a polarization of light caused by intergalactic magnetic fields.

Even more surprisingly, the magnitude of these rotations appear to depend on the angle at which the radio waves move in relation to a kind of axis of orientation running through space. The more parallel the direction of travel of the wave is with the axis, the greater the rotation. The reason remains unknown.

This axis of orientation is not a physical entity, but rather defines a direction of space that somehow determines how light travels through the universe. As observed from earth, the discoverers said, the axis runs one way toward the constellation Sextans and the other toward the constellation Aquila. Which way is up and which way down, whether toward Sextans or Aquila, would be a matter of arbitrary choice.

The discovery was made by Dr. Borge Nodland of Rochester and Dr. John Ralston of Kansas, using

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radio-wave observations made by astronomers around the world. In a report to be published on Monday in *Physical Review Letters*, the two physicists concluded on a note of excitement tempered with caution.

"Barring hidden systematic bias in the data," they wrote, the behavior of electromagnetic radiation propagating over vast distances "indicates a new cosmological effect."

In an announcement by the University of Rochester on Thursday, Nodland said: "The big news is that perhaps not all space is equal, for as far back as we can peer in time. This work defies the notion that there is no 'up' or

'down' in space."

Ralston said. "Our observational data suggest that there is a mysterious axis, a kind of cosmological north star that orients the universe."

Few other physicists and cosmologists have read the journal report, but they agreed that the research must be tested thoroughly before the conclusions can be accepted.

"It would be a really profound change in physics, if it is true," said Dr. P. James E. Peebles, a Princeton University astrophysicist.

Dr. Stephen Maran, an astronomer at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.,

upside down

said: "Anytime you find a new effect globally in the sky, the crucial issue is always whether you have correctly taken account of systematic errors in the observations. And any result of this potential magnitude is going to be viewed with considerable skepticism until new experiments can be done to verify it."

In their report, Nodland and Ralston constructed a mathematical theory that could explain the observations. The data indicate that light actually travels through space at two slightly different speeds. Such a mismatch in speeds would cause the polarization plane to rotate in a certain familiar manner. It is the way physics students see when they pass light through corn syrup and look at the light with polarizing filters.

The physicists say the axis of orientation they have inferred would appear to be along different lines in different parts of the universe, but they would be parallel to the one observed from earth.

Because the findings run counter to the idea that all space is uniform and that the speed of light in a vacuum is always the same, the implications of the research could be enormous. For example, scientists might have to reconsider the concept that the Big Bang, the theorized moment of cosmic origin, was completely symmetric.

"Perhaps it was not a perfect Big Bang, but a Big Bang with a twist to space and time," Ralston said. "Such a twist would be seen today as a ripple of nonuniformity, perhaps as the axis represents."

Nodland also speculated that the observed rotations could be the first evidence for physicists who have theorized the existence of other universes.

If the universe in which people live was asymmetric at creation, he said, it raises the possibility of the simultaneous creation of another universe with an opposite twist.

Concluding a summary of the findings for the Internet, Nodland said, "At this point, the question of what is truly underlying the effect we see is as wide open as space itself."

SENTINEL, Orlando, FL - March 16, 1997

Deputies trying to link mutilated cows to occult

By Mary Murphy

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

TAVARES — Body parts carved from living cattle, left to die. The carcasses pumped full of amphetamines.

Is some strange group in Central Florida trying to evoke evil spirits by mutilating cows? Law officers think it's possible.

Among the theories they were investigating was whether the killing and mutilation of eight cattle since August is connected with the occult.

"I can't disprove it, and I can't prove it. But I'm looking at every angle possible to solve this case," said Brevard County Deputy Sheriff Jim Adcock.

Brevard ranchers have discovered the bodies of five of the animals, two injected with a powerful amphetamine. One

calf was killed in August in Lake County, one in Seminole County in February and another in St. Lucie County.

In each of the cases, the culprits had carved out the animal's left eye, tongue and left ear. None of the missing parts has been found.

Followers of the occult associate the right side of the body with light and good, and the left with dark and evil, said Valerie Voigt, former president of Pagan, Occult and Witchcraft Special Interest Group of MENSA in California.

Most practitioners of black magic stand in a circle and move to the left during their rituals, which are usually conducted during a new moon or when the skies are darkest, Voigt said.

Certain animal parts are used to conjure evil forces, she said.

The heart is used to control life and emotion; the tongue to keep people from talking; and the ears to prevent someone from hearing something, she said.

"It certainly sounds like it's a strong possibility" that the mutilations are occult-related, she said.

The Lake County case outraged animal lovers whose contributions to a reward fund offered by the Florida Cattleman's Association boosted the total to more than \$3,000.

In two cases, investigators discovered a new, synthetic amphetamine had been injected into the animals.

Similar compounds were once approved for use by veterinarians to aid animals with breathing problems, said Dr. Owen Rae, a professor at the University of Florida's College of Vet-

erinary Medicine.

The substance can be absorbed through a person's skin and can be fatal to humans, so ranchers are being warned not to handle any animals they find in their pastures that have died under suspicious circumstances.

Deputies advise ranchers to cordon off the area for 20 feet around the dead animals, block entrances to the pasture and call their local sheriff's office.

Similar cases have cropped up in California, where investigators with the Lassen County Sheriff's Office have been exploring whether Satan worshippers or people practicing nontraditional religions may have been involved.

Officers there have investigated at least four such cases in the past two years, said Cmdr. Bill Freitas.

NEWS MINER, Fairbanks, AK - April 1, 1997

Dermot Cole



Big fish mystery

THIS SEEMS LIKE the perfect day of the year for the following fish tale.

Bo Bennett, a Bush pilot and manager of the Kulik Lodge, is not sure what it was he saw from his plane last September in the waters of Lake Iliamna, the largest lake in Alaska.

"I was flying to the lodge from Anchorage when I looked down and spotted a group of 10 or 12 dark shapes in the water," Bennett recently told San Francisco Examiner outdoors writer Tom Stienstra.

"I immediately reduced power in the airplane and turned to have a closer look. I made several circles around the area before I spotted the silhouettes of two things about the size of sea lions,

swimming along the surface near the island. I tried to get closer, but they disappeared."

Bennett, 49, thinks that the things he saw weighed about 500 pounds each.

Ray Petersen, the 84-year-old owner of the lodge and former chairman of Wien Airlines, has heard stories before about large creatures in the lake.

"There is definitely something out there, I just don't know what," Petersen told Stienstra. "I first heard about it when I first came to Alaska in 1934. I never saw one but many pilots who worked for me have."

In the 1950s, Sports Afield published an article about the "Monster Mystery Fish of Lake Iliamna."

The lake's name, according to the "Dictionary of Alaska Place Names," is said to be "the name of a mythical great blackfish, supposed to inhabit this lake, which bites holes in the bidarkas of bad Natives."

BENNETT SAID HE believes that what he saw were probably sea lions, who had to travel about 50 miles upriver to reach the lake. He is skeptical about claims of a mystery fish, mythical or otherwise.

"I would like to believe in the Loch Ness monster or the Abomi-

nable Snowman, but I'm something of a realist. Someone would have caught one by now," he said.

"Logic tells me that this is no mystery fish. But then there is the other side that says, there just might be something. There are others who have seen it. They have no reason to be BS-ing about it," he said.

This summer, when Bennett is making as many as 30-40 trips from Anchorage to the lodge, he plans to be on the lookout for unusual shapes in the water.

The lake, which is about 200 miles southwest of Anchorage, is about 90 miles long and 1,100 feet deep. The 50-mile Kvichak River connects it to the ocean, which is why Bennett says that the most logical explanation of what he saw last fall is that they were animals that came upriver from the ocean.

According to Stienstra's column, Gil Paust went with a guide in the 1950s to catch one of the mystery fish. That was the basis for the Sports Afield article.

"They used a moose flank for bait, a 50-gallon drum for a bobber, and planned to shoot the fish when hooked," Stienstra said. "It's a convoluted tale where Paust claims the fish was hooked but got away when it

snapped a one-sixteenth-inch stainless steel cable."

Bennett has received numerous letters and some calls since the article appeared March 23 in the San Francisco paper. One call was from a photographer who wanted to come up right away and shoot pictures of the mystery fish.

The pilot told the photographer that he could do so, but it would take a pretty good camera to take pictures through the ice.

OBSERVER, Charlotte, NC - April 13, 1997

Flying frog gives scientists key to defy gravity

Associated Press

LONDON — British and Dutch scientists say they have succeeded in floating a frog in air — using a magnetic field a million times stronger than that of the Earth.

And, they say, there is no reason why larger creatures including humans shouldn't perform the same gravity-defying feat.

"It's perfectly feasible if you have a large enough magnetic field," said Peter Main, physics professor at Nottingham University. Main is one of the British

scientists who collaborated with colleagues at the University of Nijmegen to create the first levitating amphibian.

To hold up the frog, the scientists said, the field had to be strong enough to distort the orbits of electrons in the frog's atoms.

"If the magnetic field pushes the frog away with sufficient force, you will overcome gravity and the frog will float," Main said.

Scientists say they have also made plants, grasshoppers and fish float in the same way.

CR: G. Fawcett

Dropout boils leaves into car fuel, puzzles experts

The Associated Press

MADRAS, India — A high-school dropout from a remote Indian village says he can make cheap car fuel by boiling a tea-like leaf in water. His claim has baffled scientists, excited investors and brought the inventor death threats from people trying to steal his formula.

At a demonstration this week, Ramar Pillai asked an official to toss a handful of the leaves into a pot of boiling water. He added a little lemon juice and salt, a few drops of gasoline and a test tube of undisclosed chemicals that apparently act as a catalyst.

Within minutes, the brew separated into layers, with a yellowish

liquid rising to the top. Pillai poured the liquid into a reporter's motorbike. The reporter said the ride was smooth.

Scientists say until they learn the formula and subject the fuel to tests there is no way of knowing whether it is as promising as Pillai makes it out to be. Pillai won't say what kind of leaf he uses or what chemicals he adds.

"I'm very skeptical, but it would be marvelous if it was true," said David Hildebrand, professor of agronomy at the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

He said other plant-derived fuels — like ethanol, which is produced from corn — have proven to be more

expensive to make than gasoline.

Pillai says the fuel would cost only 23 cents a gallon to make and burns with minimal toxic emissions — and that the leaves can be farmed as easily as tea. Hildebrand was skeptical of the cost. "Maybe he's considering that the material would be produced for essentially nothing," he said.

Pillai, 34, says he stumbled upon the plant 18 years ago during a high-school picnic in the forests near his village of Idayankulam, 300 miles south of Madras and 1,200 miles south of New Delhi on India's southern tip.

Leaves of a plant burst into flames when sparks from a camp

stove ignited them, he says.

Pillai dropped out of school to work gathering firewood from the forests. He searched for the plant that burned, but it took him 10 years to find it.

When he finally did, he began developing formulas, but scientists and government officials refused to take him seriously, he said. For the past two years, he has been producing 13 gallons a day and selling it to farmers in his village for use in their tractors.

Finally, the government of Tamil Nadu state gave him permission to market his cocktail, and he began to demonstrate it in laboratories, including the most prestigious in India.

dia.

Scientists were skeptical, but said that if there was a trick involved, they couldn't spot it.

Two weeks ago, a few reporters were invited to a demonstration at the India Institute of Technology in New Delhi, and Pillai became an overnight sensation.

It also brought out more sinister interests. Pillai says he was kidnapped for several days, suspended from a ceiling fan and burned with cigarettes in an attempt to get him to disclose his secret. He didn't.

Last week, when arsonists set a fire near his home, the government ordered protection. Five policemen now guard his home.



Ramar Pillai mixes his mysterious fuel Sept. 5 at the India Institute of Technology in New Delhi.

'Creature' in Plant 9 pits

'Squid-like' substance found in November; sample disappeared

BY KEN de la BASTIDE
Staff Reporter

ANDERSON — An internal Indiana Department of Environmental Management memo confirmed a "creature of unknown origin or type" was found in sludge pits at Delphi Interior & Lighting Systems' Plant 9.

Both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and IDEM confirmed Tuesday that General Motors workers found what one employee described as a "squid-like creature" when the pits were being cleaned in November 1996.

The Herald Bulletin obtained the internal IDEM memo, which was dated Monday.

A 30-year Plant 9 worker said the earthworm-colored "creature" was 6 to 8 inches long, with tentacles and possibly eyes.

Several current workers said the pit contained anti-freeze, stripper, oil and polyal, which is a chemical mixture used in the formation of the plastic bumpers.

The 30-year employee said the sludge pit had several of the creatures, one of which was taken out, killed, then placed in a jar where it sat for several days in the work area. However, it was later stolen.

"It was a shock that anything was able to survive in the pit," the worker said. "There were several of them swimming in the pit."

HERALD BULLETIN, Anderson, IN - March 5, 1997

Sharon Morton, a spokeswoman for Delphi I in Detroit, said plant officials said when they were draining water from the pit they found a bacterial growth.

"They described it as the type of bacteria that would form when organic matter is placed in fresh water. They consider it harmless."

Morton said the fresh water got into the pit when a sprinkler line broke.

Morton confirmed the sample, which was collected Nov. 15, disappeared in early December.

She said Delphi I officials followed "normal security procedures" for a theft in the plant. However, she added, since there are no leads, the matter is not being pursued.

Tamara Ohl of EPA said she questioned GM about what was found in the sludge pit during a February meeting in Anderson.

"They did find something in one of the pits," Ohl said. "They (GM) collected it and were going to have it sent off and tested to confirm what it was. But, the sample disappeared."

Ohl said the discovery of the living organism is not directly related to EPA's planned inspection of

Plant 9 for toxic materials.

"When they clean that pit, if GM finds something, they will take another sample and have it tested," she said. "They also want to find out what it was."

Ohl said she never ran across anything like this before in her work with EPA.

"I'm curious about it," she said.

Jo Lynn Ewing, a spokeswoman with IDEM, said an IDEM inspector will be at Plant 9 this week to look into a complaint alleging hazardous material spills and will check into the report of the life form.

"It depends on what we find," Ewing said. "I don't know if it was just lost or if GM is trying to cover it up. I'm not concerned that GM is trying to cover something up. We're hoping our inspection will provide some answers."

Morton said Delphi I will cooperate with the two environmental agencies.

"Our preliminary visual inspection revealed the specimen to be a harmless common bacteria," she said. "We're troubled by the theft of the specimen which is delaying our ability to resolve the issue. We will cooperate fully with the EPA and IDEM in their investigation."

CHRONICLE, Centralia, WA - March 24, 1997

Television crew investigates mysterious blobs

By Ron Hoss

The Chronicle

OAKVILLE — A film crew from the TV series "Unsolved Mysteries" will be roaming the roads and byways in eastern Grays Harbor County this week talking with witnesses about the mysterious blobs that fell from the sky near-

ly three years ago.

First brought to public attention by Oakville resident Dottie Hearn, the stuff came down in about a week's time in August 1994.

"After a rain shower, I stepped out on my porch and what I thought was hail was laying on everything," she said. "I found out that it was not hail, but clear, gelatinlike chunks about the

size of grains of cooked rice."

At the house that day were Hearn's daughter Sunny Barclift and son Dan Turnbow. Barclift scooped up samples of the mysterious substance and put them into Hearn's freezer. Later a laboratory in Redmond, Wash., analyzed the samples

but could find no conclusive proof of anything harmful in them.

"At first we were kind of hesitant to speak about it because we didn't want people to think we were weird," Barclift said. "But Mom finally talked to a Seattle newspaper about it."

That, plus a lot of local discussion, finally determined that Hearn was not alone in having had come into contact with the goop. And, as people began to come forward, it turned out that most reported coming down with a flu-like illness within days of contact. Hearn herself became so ill she was transported to the hospital in McCleary by ambulance. Doctors could find nothing more than an inner ear infection at the time. Other people, however, complained of diarrhea, aches and

pains, vomiting and other ailments.

Oakville police chief Jerry Grueb told an "Unsolved Mysteries" interviewer Sunday that he had talked to about 30 local residents who complained of symptoms within days of the sighting.

Putting what happened during that one-week period three years ago into a concise film format for TV will be the job of producer Kathy Williams and director Dan Gomez. They began on Sunday getting background shots of the town and talking to people who claim to have witnessed the event. It will all boil down to a six- or seven-minute segment for a show that will likely appear in May.

Williams has been with the program since its beginning 10 years ago. She has roamed across the country and as far away as Portugal in tracking down the unusual, and sometimes bizarre events, that make up the one hour weekly offering.

Will Oakville offer any unusual challenges or departures for the Hollywood crew?

"Usually we use actors to play the people involved with the story. This time we'll pretty well stick to the actual people involved," Williams said. "The only professional actor we will have will play Dan, Dottie's son, who is in Arizona and could not make it back for the shooting."

The crew plans to be in the area until Wednesday when they will return to Burbank where the program will be edited.



Sunny Barclift, the daughter of Dottie Hearn on whose farm an amorphous substance fell in August 1994, talks Sunday with the film crew from "Unsolved Mysteries."

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - April 2, 1997 CR: G. Conway

New sightings raise hope Tasmanian 'tiger' lives

GREG NEALE
The Daily Telegraph

LONDON — It was news to send the blood racing in any zoologist.

The mysterious animal attacking livestock in a remote area of Irian Jaya had all the features of a thylacine — perhaps the most celebrated of this century's lost species.

Last week's reports of sightings in the Indonesian province have rekindled enthusiasm that the animal, also known as the Tasmanian tiger or Tasmanian wolf, may not have been wiped out after all.

The thylacine (Thylacinus cynocephalus) was the largest marsupial carnivore of recent times, growing to just over 122 centimetres in length.

European settlers in Tasmania in the last century gave it its common names from the stripes adorning its back and tail and from its wolf-like head. The settlers also sealed the thylacine's fate.

They hunted the animal ruthlessly to protect their sheep. Shot, poisoned and trapped, its numbers declined rapidly.

In 1936, the Tasmanian state government declared it a protected species — too late. The last known specimen died in Hobart zoo later that year.

Scientists have largely accepted that the animal had passed into extinction, but the new reports indicate it could have survived.

"If it is going to turn up anywhere, it would be there," Simon Tonge, senior curator at London Zoo, said Saturday. "I don't think there is any chance of it being discovered in Tasmania, but in a part of the Indonesian archipelago where we know there are some marsupial species... it is just possible."

Dr. Karl Shuker, author of the book *In Search of Prehistoric Survivors*, said a fossilized thylacine jaw found in Papua New Guinea in the 1960s confirmed that the animal had lived in the region.