

# UFO

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## 'Ufologist' urges close encounter therapy

By ROBERT NOLIN  
Staff Writer

Maybe you've witnessed strange craft gamboling across the sky. Or little gray men camped out in your bedroom. Perhaps there's this lingering sense of being kidnapped, poked, examined and scanned.

Who you gonna call?  
In South Florida, it's Paul Cohen. The amateur "ufologist" from Coconut Creek wants to mind-meld with the dozens of "experiencers" in the area — men and women who have had encounters with unidentified flying objects or their occupants.

Cohen's response to the baffling and often traumatic experiences is common to our self-actualizing age: He established a support group. With UFO phenomena on the rise in South Florida, Cohen cites a pressing need for

such a group. Encountering a UFO or being abducted — in fact or belief — can shatter one's sense of reality, says Cohen, a certified mental health counselor.

"People are reluctant to discuss it for fear they're going to be branded a nut," Cohen says. "The common thread of therapy comes in — you work with these people to vent their feelings."

The time would seem ripe. UFO support groups have taken root across the country as extraterrestrials have achieved out-of-this-world popularity. Aliens have already conquered the planet through blockbuster films — *Independence Day* — best-selling books — *Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens* — and hit TV shows — *The X-Files*. Documenta-



Staff photo/MICHAEL MALONE  
Paul Cohen started a UFO support group.

ries on the paranormal crowd the late-night dial.

And the UFO spectacle is playing to a packed house: a Lou Harris poll in August found 53 percent of Americans think there's intelligent life in space. A *Newsweek* poll later found 49 percent of Americans think the government is concealing evidence of alien visitation.

South Florida generates about a half-dozen UFO sightings a month, says Charles Flannigan of Pensacola, state director of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), a national organization that catalogs and investigates UFO phenomena.

The past few months have been typical, according to MUFON.

■ Dec. 19: A gym teacher and 13 students on a ball field at Miami-Edison Senior High School see a round object climb straight up into the sky and disappear.

■ Dec. 26: A couple videotape, and three others witness, an object like a "pink fuzzy hamburger" split in two over Homestead.

■ Dec. 25 or 26: Skeptics in Coral Gables watch a large white object flicker, plummet, then zig-zag away.

■ Jan. 5: Three people sailing off Key Largo sight a white object dancing in circles; their boat compass goes crazy.

■ Feb. 3: A Perrine woman walking her dog observes five lights in a domino pattern glide silently overhead, then soar into space in a flash of red.

Though things cosmic have become all the rage, those who experience them firsthand are the most skittish about going public. Experiencers are uneasy talking about something bound to cause eyes to roll and brows to rise.

One of the people with whom Cohen has worked is "Jody," a Coral Springs woman who says she's been keeping reluctant company with interplanetary visitors since childhood. Jody's tale of cross-generational extraterrestrial contact has been studied by abduction experts, widely published throughout the UFO community and reported (unfairly, Jody says) in the *Nova* segment "Kidnapped by UFOs?" aired in February 1996 on PBS.

From age 7 through 9, Jody says she endured almost weekly visits from bug-eyed little gray men at her remote, upstate New

York farmhouse. "I cried in the beginning a lot," she says. "I learned to shut up about it."

She said the unearthly visits tapered off. Jody earned a degree in social work, married and moved to Florida. Her husband was a tolerant nonbeliever. Then he said he witnessed the return of her strange friends. This time the target was their children.

The husband said he woke one night to find their living room awash in light. He said he was thrown to the floor paralyzed, and stared helplessly as their son, then 3, floated out a window. The boy later reappeared, apparently unharmed.

They said the episodes continued sporadically, with the couple's children sometimes waking in the morning to ask about walking through walls, "houses" that had materialized in the yard or levitating tables with no legs. Jody underwent counseling. The family learned to co-exist with the unexplained.

"We're positive people," Jody says. "This is just a part of our lives."

Jody argues for a local group where people such as herself can exchange ideas — and comfort. "When something major happens to you, you've got to have somebody to go and share it with," she says.

Dawn Sullivan of Boca Raton says she has shared Jody's emotional state as well as her experience. From an early age, Sullivan says she remembers nighttime visitors. Her mother, however, admonished her for believing in dreams. As a teen, Sullivan had a convincingly real vision of three robed and hooded figures.

Now 31, Sullivan said she once looked up from her TV to find a pudgy gray alien-type in her living room. He stared, then disappeared.

"It didn't frighten me, I didn't get upset about it," she recalled. "I think that just tripped my curiosity to dig deeper."

Since then, Sullivan has immersed herself in UFO studies. With the help of a West Florida couple, she's even constructed an Internet page on alien contact. "What I'm doing, I'm trying to find out what all this is," she says.

Like Jody, Sullivan is a girl-next-door type. Both are mothers living in polished, middle-class neighborhoods. Their husbands hold respectable jobs.

"I'm so normal," says Jody. "If it could happen to me it could happen to anybody."

"It" also happened to the patients of Cheryl Landy, a licensed psychologist in Miami who's treated a dozen people traumatized by UFO experiences.

"Many people would be shocked," Landy says. "They're quite sane people, quite respectable. They don't want to talk about it with anybody. They have good judgment, they'd get laughed at."

Landy, in practice for 14 years, says patients usually only discuss their UFO trauma after entering treatment for more mundane disorders. Landy then treats the UFO anxiety.

"People are going to be in a fearful place about this, it's going to freak them out on some level," Landy says. "You want to reduce the mental isolation, the feeling of shame."

She's had a case in which a mother and daughter both felt they had been abducted. Another involved a woman whose two children and husband complained of being kidnapped.

"This was a particularly sane, rational woman," Landy says. "The cases that have struck me are when you have well-functioning, constructive members of society."

Despite her patients' credibility, Landy is ambivalent about the existence of UFO abductors.

"It's untenable to accept it, but it's just as difficult to reject it," she says. Her patients, she adds, have nothing to gain by disclosing UFO encounters to her, especially at \$160 an hour.

What counts, she says, is the patient's own belief.

Cohen concurs. Though he's convinced extraterrestrials have visited Earth — his own alien experience is limited to an encounter with a small glowing ball in his back yard — Cohen acknowledges much of what we believe about aliens is speculation.

Yet "the fact is people have problems and they want to talk about it," Cohen said. "That's the reality."

Those who want to join a UFO support group may contact Cohen at 954-646-6385. Sullivan's UFO contact page can be found at: (<http://www.tech-gnosis.com>). The South Florida MUFON page is: (<http://www.elink.net/cm/skyscan.htm>).

EASTSIDE JOURNAL,  
Bellevue, WA - May 11, 1997

## UFO reports get attention at city hall

The Arizona Republic

PHOENIX — It's not exactly the kind of made-for-TV case those X-Files agents would investigate. But, says Frances Emma Barwood, those strange lights in the Phoenix sky should be checked out by city staff, at the very least.

"I asked them to find out if it's a hoax or what," the Phoenix councilwoman said Friday. "I did not see it. I wish someone would have called me."

"Apparently, people all over the city got video of it. They all said it was as big as a football field."

So Sculley — Sheryl, the assistant city manager, not "X-Files" FBI Agent Dana Scully — has asked police to look into the sightings, at Barwood's request.

"I guess they'll ask Sky Harbor, ask the military, look at videos. I'd love to see all the videos," Barwood said.

In March, callers from Prescott Valley to Tucson flooded the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle to report the appearance of a boomerang-shaped, lighted object.

The center called it "the most dramatic sighting" reported in the past two or three years. In the following weeks, it drew hundreds of calls — even one from Las Vegas — and resulted in an inch-thick stack of written reports, center Director Peter Davenport said.

Then, in April, the sighting was featured on the out-of-this-world radio program called "The Edge of Reality," which is produced in New York City.

"Personally, I think it's something the Air Force is working on, some sort of large transport," Barwood said.

Does she believe in UFOs?

"That's a good question," she said. "I guess I have an open mind." Since God created the universe, she said, "why couldn't he have created others?"

UFO researchers so far say they have no explanation, despite asking questions around Luke Air Force Base and local airports.

Davenport, meanwhile, is thrilled to hear that a public official is taking the sightings seriously.

"As far as I know, this is the first time I've ever heard of a local or state body taking an official stand," he said. "I'm encouraged. I'm heartened by that."

At a City Council meeting this week, Barwood said she was "a little curious" about the recent sightings. She said a television news crew asked her about the lights and piqued her curiosity.

# Believe it or not, city had own UFO 100 years ago

By MATT MOLINE  
Special to The Capital-Journal

**T**he crowd had gathered in downtown Topeka. People craned their necks toward the night sky, looking for the real or the imagined.

A few blocks away on the steps of the Statehouse other curious Kansans peered upward. They, too, scanned the sky for a glimpse of the unknown.

What they saw, or thought they saw, remains a mystery. But what is certain is that they all were caught up in the first U.S. hysteria related to the phenomenon of unidentified flying objects, or UFOs.

The eight-month nationwide UFO panic reached Topeka on the night of March 27, 1897 — 100 years ago this Thursday — with the alleged appearance in the sky of a blood-red "mystery airship." It reportedly was witnessed by more than a thousand residents.

About 200 of the observers watched the sensational light

display at the corner of S.W. 7th and Kansas Avenue beginning at about 9 p.m., according to an account in the next day's Topeka Daily Capital.

"There the monster was," a reporter wrote, "and it made the cold chills run up and down many a man's spine. People were watching it to see if they could distinguish any wings. Some said it was stationary, others were certain that it moved."

Some of the onlookers told reporters the object might be a comet hurtling across the night sky, or perhaps only a mirage. Still other eyewitnesses claimed to see an object resembling a gas-filled dirigible carrying a huge searchlight whose menacing beam of light frequently swept the ground.

Among those who gathered to view the heavenly spectacle at the Capitol was Gov. John Leedy, who could offer no reassurances to anxious citizens. However, Leedy called upon the intruder above the Statehouse to help lower railroad shipping rates for the state's farmers.

"I don't know what the thing is," Leedy said, "but I hope it may yet solve the railroad problem."

To add humor to the night, Topeka resident Tom Anderson offered his own explanation to the Daily Capital's team of six reporters dispatched to cover the story.

"Oh, rats!" exclaimed Anderson. "If that isn't Venus, I never saw her before. I've known her since she was a young girl in petticoats. Don't you know Venus is the evening star now?"

Almost as quickly as the mysterious object had appeared overhead, it vanished, the newspaper reported. However, the damage to citizens' nerves had been done as countless Topekans reportedly moved to their storm cellars for protection against the "phantom airship."

The March 1897 sighting over Topeka was part of a much larger wave of national flying saucer reports that began in California in November 1896, according to UFO historians.

The reports of mystery lights gradually tracked eastward during the next few months, affecting nearly every state, except for Florida and the New England area, researchers have said. The hysteria didn't fully subside until June 1897, said George Eberhart, director of publications at the Hynek Center for UFO Studies in Chicago.

In an interview last week, Eberhart said the hubbub was fueled by exaggerated newspaper accounts, as well as a vivid public imagination.

Preposterous tales began to circulate in many cities during the epidemic of sightings, including accounts of pilots working the con-

trols of airships overhead while passengers gazed out of observation windows. Many tales represented outright hoaxes, some of them perpetrated by circulation-hungry newspaper executives, Eberhart said.

"Many people were actually looking at stars and planets and a very bright Venus," Eberhart said. "But once the newspapers started exaggerating the reports and talked about airships, people started seeing lots of other things."

Eberhart said communities competed with each other for bragging rights to having the most fantastic airship sighting stories, especially in the Midwest.

"People would make up stories and not think too much about whether they were true or not," he said. "Consequently, every town wanted to have their airship sightings, and if you didn't have any, you made up your own."

In Kansas, the wave of unexplained celestial lights began to appear in late February 1897 when citizens of Valley Falls in Jefferson County claimed to have seen the outline of a dirigible-like flying machine behind a bank of moving lights, according to reports gathered by UFO historian Jerome Clark, of Canby, Minn.

In the week prior to the Topeka occurrence, residents of Belleville, about 150 miles to the northwest, reported a meteor-like object overhead on four consecutive evenings.

"Americans at the time were fascinated by the emerging air transportation technology which would soon have the capability of flying people across the country and maybe off the planet," Clark said. "But it's the sightings that generated the situation in 1897, and apparently these were generated by peoples' experiences, not the hoaxes and exaggerations."

One of the greatest hoaxes in UFO history took place in Kansas during the 19th century outbreak of sightings. It involved a rural Woodson County farmer named Alexander Hamilton.

Hamilton contended that aliens aboard an airship had carried off a heifer from the family farm on the night of April 19, 1897. The man's claim had been substantiated by two sets of affidavits signed by the leading citizens of the LeRoy community, Clark said.

Not until 1976 was Clark able to expose the fabricated story as untrue, following an interview with one of Hamilton's descendants.

"I think by now it's a part of American folklore," Clark said. "You really can't keep a good lie down, or a bad one, either."

# Plaskett did the right thing

Although everyone has the right to an opinion, I believe Brendan Smith's recent column on talk shows and the UFO healing of former Volusia County Council member Lynne Plaskett was very mean spirited. Many people share my reaction.

As Lynne's husband I can say this experience did happen. There is medical documentation to verify the unbelievable cure from cancer, and the case is in the American Medical Journal. There is also a witness to part of that event.

It has been insinuated that the timing for bringing this story to the forefront was wrong. Maybe so, but when would the timing have been right? Lynne's statement "If you believe in something, no proof is necessary; and if you don't, no proof is sufficient" is quite appropriate.

The majority of people believe in a higher power, usually called God. No one has seen God, and yet we faithfully believe. And why has man for centuries looked toward the stars for the answer to his own existence? Are we so egotistical to think we are the only intelligent life form in this vast unknown?

There were no claims of little green men, only a disk-shaped object, alien (foreign) to her. Its significance would be realized only a few years later.

There was an abduction by which she was held in

isolation, probed and prodded. Bone samples were taken. There were spinal taps and biopsies. She was literally a guinea pig in the name of science. But it wasn't by aliens; it was by the American Medical Association.

This case has received international attention, all because a politician had the courage to tell it. How soon we forget that Jimmy Carter, as governor of Georgia, publicly stated he saw a UFO. Astronaut John Glen while on a NASA Apollo space exploration mission reported sightings as did many other astronauts, airline pilots, military personnel, etc., over many years.

Why was the story told? It was time to share it. The response has been overwhelmingly positive.

Lynne's TV appearances were not about 15 minutes of fame. She did not seek out the opportunities. They came to her. She has always fought for what is right for those less fortunate and the environment. There has been enough fame from her position on re-moving cars from the beach and trying to save Rose Bay and Spruce Creek to last a lifetime. No one could have known the magnitude of this experience. But the interest it has stirred in people all over the globe is the assurance that the decision to "tell" was the right thing to do.



Plaskett

BILL PLASKETT  
New Smyrna Beach

## SKYWATCH DIARY BY CAROLE BAKER

**A**s mentioned in last week's Skywatch Diary, there has been a lot of UFO activity in neighboring Baldwin County, Alabama. The cattle mutilation that was reported in January has been followed by ongoing sightings including a daylight sighting approximately one half mile from the mutilation site. Investigators Clopton and Sue Jones who live in Foley, Alabama have been keeping me abreast of developments and I received the following report from Clopton this week.

At approximately 11 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8th, a young couple was driving on Hwy. 32, approximately six miles west of Summerdale, Alabama when they observed a bright light not too high in the sky ahead of them. The 21-year old man borrowed a camcorder from his girlfriend's mother in the hope of capturing the UFO on video if it appeared again. Three hours later, around 2 a.m. on the morning of Wednesday, April 9th, the man spotted the UFO northwest of his home. He shot some very clear video, including some outstanding close-ups of the craft. The UFO appears to be swaying like a falling leaf, the underside of the craft appears illuminated.

The craft is cone-shaped with white and green lights below and red flashing lights on either side. On Wednesday, April 9th, at approximately 11 p.m. the UFO was observed again. The witness was able to obtain more video footage, which shows a dark cone-shaped object with a flashing red light on top.

The story of these sightings was carried by The Robertsdale Independent and Fairhope Courier and as previously mentioned, some of the video footage and accompanying interviews were featured on the WKRG TV5 (local CBS affiliate) news on April 23rd. Coverage was factual as to the events and the report was

not done from a skeptical or sarcastic viewpoint, as is so often the case. Clopton Jones states that the newspaper reporter and Channel 5 newsmen were both very impressed by the video and seemed to have no reservations whatsoever about the reality of it.

Events continued on Thursday, April 24th at 9:15 p.m. when the witness' mother and sister observed a stationary, or very slow moving "white-orangish" light in the southwestern sky near their home. There was a lot of air traffic in the area at the time, but the light appeared at a higher altitude than the planes. The witness was called outside to observe the light, but was unable to make any video recording since the camcorder had been returned to its owner earlier in the day. The witness left to purchase film in the hope of capturing some still photographs of the UFO. At 11:15 p.m. the witness and his mother observed the craft again to the east of their position. It was at least as close as when the witness had video recorded the craft previously. The witness took several photographs using 200 speed film and an inexpensive camera. It was a clear, bright night, and one of the pictures shows a craft which seems to be identical to the one photographed by Ed Walters and featured on the cover of the book "The Gulf Breeze Sightings" by Ed and Frances Walters. They observed the craft until it disappeared before their eyes "like a light being turned off."

The investigation of these events is ongoing and the events are reported here for information purposes only. The validity of the photographs and video will hopefully be examined in the coming weeks and I will make every effort to continue to report events as they unfold. There are several other reports of sightings during the months of March and April this year in the Baldwin County area, some of which will be

included in next week's Skywatch Diary. This is an interesting series of events that certainly warrants further investigation and I wish to express my sincere thanks to Clopton and Sue Jones for relaying these reports to me.

We were visited at Shoreline Park on Tuesday evening, April 29th by a crew from the NBC affiliate in New Orleans. Mike Morris and his cameraman from WDSU were at Shoreline Park to discuss the sightings that have occurred there and in the surrounding areas since 1987. Mike was very interested to hear that sightings have been reported in the area for many years, the earliest report having been found in a 1952 Pensacola News Journal article. A group of about twelve skywatchers assembled for the evening watch and were filmed and interviewed by the New Orleans crew. They will be using the footage as part of the promotion for NBC's upcoming "Invasion" movie. The piece will air on May 4th and 5th. The New Orleans crew were interested to hear that another of their NBC affiliates from Montgomery, Alabama had also recently visited Shoreline Park.

There are no sightings to report from the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze area this week, but the continuing activity in neighboring Baldwin County, Alabama has everyone's interest. Sightings from that area are being reported as recently as Monday evening, April 28th. We are hoping to be able to travel to Baldwin County in the next week or so and skywatch there. Maybe we'll be able to have a sighting over there!

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



# Billy Dee says aliens stalking him

## Door Co. man claims family was abducted

By Terry Anderson  
Press-Gazette

FORESTVILLE — Last week, Billy Dohmeyer is sure, he was abducted by aliens.

It was just for a couple of hours, and took place while he and his wife, Sharon, slept. Dohmeyer, also known as Billy Dee, doesn't remember much about it, but he's certain the aliens did something to his leg. It's hurting more than ever.

"I think they're trying to shut me up," he offered. "They'll go to any lengths to shut you up."

For two decades, aliens have stalked his family, Dohmeyer said. In fact, he claims each member of

**"I awoke in something like a hospital bed. They were all around me and stuck me with a hypodermic thing, and it was real painful. I asked him to take it out and he said, 'It will be over soon'."**

— Billy Dohmeyer, describing his abduction by aliens



his family has been abducted.

Three years ago, he began talking about his experience with other-worldly visitors.

And recently *Above and Beyond: UFO Exploration with Billy Dee* has become a hit on Sturgeon Bay's cable access Channel 13.

Alternately chain-smoking and swigging grape pop, Dohmeyer tells a rambling tale of sadistic aliens and a government coverup that involves secret military bases and

covert operations.

His black pompadour bobs as he rattles off names, places and studies vague to most, but clearly familiar to UFOlogists — Area 51; Roswell, N.M.; The Jason Society; MIBs (Men in Black).

Dohmeyer is disabled with back disorders, the result of a wild youth and a lightning strike 10 years ago. Yet he's moved his family several times to give the aliens the slip — to no avail.

Specific memories often are blurred, he said, as if in a fog or drugged. But he can describe one abduction: "I remember I went to sleep in my bed and I awoke in something like a hospital bed. They were all around me and stuck me with a hypodermic thing, and it was real painful. I asked him to take it out and he said, 'It will be over soon.'"

Why?

"The aliens like the human body and would like to combine their intellect with the human form," he explained. "They test us medically and physically."

Don't confuse him with cults or the occult, Dohmeyer said.

A lay pastor with the Assembly of God church, Dohmeyer has established Sky Searchers International, a 200-member support group for Christians who've had alien

encounters.

Dohmeyer acknowledges that the UFO world includes people who are mentally unstable and others who have joined cults.

He puts the Heaven's Gate in the latter: "There are people like the 39 cultists who give us meat-and-potato UFOlogists a bad name."

Dohmeyer may be in the minority as far as experiencing a close encounter of the fourth kind — abduction. But he's not alone when it comes to believing we're not alone.

According to a recent poll in *George* magazine, 53 percent of Americans believe aliens have visited earth in the past century.

And last year, a *Newsweek* poll found that nearly half of all Americans believe the government is hiding facts about UFOs.

And Channel 13 programming director and co-host John McKinnon believes that some nights, Billy Dohmeyer's show out-draws the network broadcasts among Sturgeon Bay cable customers.

"People love the show. It's definitely the most popular show on Channel 13," McKinnon said. "(Billy Dohmeyer's) very articulate for a guy who believes in UFOs."

"I go to the bank and the teller tells me she tapes the show. At City Hall, the secretary talks about the episode. The other night I was in a convenience store at 11:30 p.m. and a local minister was talking about it."

McKinnon deftly sidesteps whether or not he's a believer.

"No matter who is the guest, if it's (state Sen. Dave Hutchinson) or Billy Dohmeyer, my job is to take them as seriously as possible," he said.

"Who knows, maybe there are UFOs around here. Maybe there is a secret military base in Door County. One guy might be right. The world's a weird place."

Dohmeyer and family have produced a movie, *Aliens in the Hills*, which depicts a three-month ordeal the family believes it suffered when they lived south of Baraboo in rugged Sauk County.

They sell the homemade movie on their Internet web site.

Dohmeyer has no apology for those who grumble that he's trying to make money from his experience.

"We went through hell. Why not make money?" he said. "We deserve it."

MORNING NEWS, Springdale, AR - April 20, 1997

# UFO conference brings people from all walks of life

On Friday and Saturday last weekend, I attended the UFO conference in Eureka Springs.

Ever since I was a teenager, I have believed UFOs exist — some are government experimental vehicles and weaponry (and not just our own government!) I have never accepted the swamp gas

and balloons bunkum, but I believe others live under the oceans on this planet and some come from places other than earth. So sue me.

While you will find gullible ninnies and kooks in any organization — work, school, church, body of legislators, etc. — 99.9 percent who attend the Eureka Springs conference each year are thoughtful, questioning, educated and respected. Some are members or former members of the military, law enforcement, teachers, housewives, engineers ... Aw, heck. They come from all walks of life.

By the way, I have never heard anyone talk about little green men — mostly little "grays," white or silver-suited and Nordic-looking blondes. Yes, I've also heard about reptilians and insect-looking ones as well. (I concede

that the reptilians might be green.)

While I have heard Linda Moulton Howe (who has appeared at all nine of these annual conferences) a number of times, and find her to be a credit to broadcast journalism and an ethical human being, it wasn't Linda I was interested in hearing at this conference (although she was great and had new information on the 1947 Roswell UFO crash).

I wanted to hear Dolores Cannon, a friend of about 14 years, who has now become a world traveler with her books and advisory work in documentary films on Nostradamus and, now, the UFO phenomena. The second speaker I wanted to hear — but who was unable to attend — was Joe Lewels of El Paso, Texas. He has written a book on "The God Hypothesis."

Dolores was great — as always — but Lewels sent his publisher Brian Crissey to deliver the talk. Crissey handled "wearing two hats" very well. When he started his talk, he informed us that when he was "himself," he would wear the baseball cap; otherwise his "container" would be at the disposal of Lewels who was in a hospital in Texas.

I didn't buy Lewels' book, but still want to. I'd already spent my money on three other books by the time Crissey spoke. Maybe I can get Lewel's at the next conference.

I picked up a book I've wanted on the Roswell, N.M., crash. It's a story I've followed for many

years, and — like others — I ask, "If it was just a weather balloon, how come after 50 years it's still classified?"

Back to "God." Actually Crissey was quite frank (as he spoke for Lewels) in telling how Lewels simply gathered much of his book's information from other previously written sources. So he had little to say that I hadn't read already or figured out for myself — he just said it better. Because lectures and slides can put you to sleep even when interesting, Crissey's talk, filled with humor, was much enjoyed.

Lewels believes — much as I do — that science and religion aren't necessarily exclusive to one another and that they can be compatible.

I won't go into all the instances in the Bible that can be made to sound like extraterrestrial visitations — there are too many, and those of you who read it daily, as I do, already know those passages.

Yes, angels can be made to seem like visitors from another planet. I will not touch the impregnation of the virgin Mary, but I will say it proves again that the Bible can be used to back up just about any side of any argument. This is why it doesn't pay to argue religion.

For those of you who don't question and accept — literally — everything written in the Bible (and sometimes I envy you greatly), none of this will have any meaning or relevance to you, and that's fine. You can quote Spring-

dale Mayor Charles McKinney and tell me to go right to the hot place.

The one thing I do at this — or at any — conference is try to keep an open mind. I always learn something, even from those with whom I may disagree the most.

While on the subject of McKinney: Why shouldn't he say what many of us have wanted to say lots of times over the years to reporters and journalists who get in our faces? I don't criticize him for skewering the news media — we're used to it. I don't think it was wise to echo that sentiment to someone with whom you must work closely — in his case, a council member. The council member could be questioned as to why he felt it necessary to report the incident to the papers? Airing dirty linen can be very dangerous, almost as much so as keeping a lid on it.

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No term limits for anyone — even when I don't like them, trust them or find them competent in office. The voters can vote anyone out of office in elections or remove them by legal means. Those are the only term limits I need. The error isn't with the system that allows some elected to stay too long in office, but with the voters who are too gullible, too ignorant or have self-interests that keep them from voting their representatives out.

KAY HALL is a former writer for *The Morning News*.

NEWS & OBSERVER, Raleigh, NC - May 24, 1997 CR: E. Benjamin

# UFO sightings abound in western Piedmont

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

YADKINVILLE — When some sky gazers saw stars on a bitterly cold night in December, Bill Foster saw other lights.

He's not alone.

North Carolina is a haven of sorts for UFO sightings, but there's division over whether the sightings are flights of fancy or real incursions by aliens.

Foster says he was driving on a desolate stretch of U.S. 601 near here with his wife and two friends when he spotted a triangular object with red lights at each corner. It was about the size of half a football field and hovered silently above the treetops, he said.

"I'm thoroughly convinced that it was nothing we have the technology for. It's powered by something we don't know," Foster said. "Whatever was driving that thing could probably blow us off the map."

From October to January, seven unidentified flying objects have been reported from

Boone to Germantown.

"If it had just been me in the car, I don't think I'd have told anybody," said Foster, who is the advertising director of a publishing company.

Foster got in touch with the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina, which sent investigator Barbara Thompson of Lewisville to meet with him. Thompson said she checked with local airports, weather services and law-enforcement agencies and could find no explanation for the lights.

"Reports have been picking up everywhere," said George Fawcett, the founder of MUFON in North Carolina. "I'm inclined to believe something is really happening."

UFO believers estimate that only one in every 10 sightings is ever reported. Most people are too embarrassed to tell anyone what they saw, Fawcett said.

North Carolina may have sightings reported because it has a strong MUFON chapter. MUFON's presence in North Carolina is so strong that the organization held its nation-

al symposium in Greensboro in July.

"You have more people with their antennas up," said Walt Andrus, the director of MUFON.

The majority of UFO sightings — 90 percent to 95 percent — turn out to be weather balloons, a bright Venus or military aircraft, Andrus said.

The western Piedmont area of the state earned a reputation for frequent UFO sightings in the early 1970s. On Oct. 24, 1973, more than 50 people, including Surry County Sheriff's deputies, reported strange lights from Shoals to Mount Airy.

The stretch of U.S. 421 from Boone to Winston-Salem has also been a hot spot for UFOs, Thompson said. She believes that there is a window near Pilot Mountain where UFOs travel from one dimension to another.

Pilot Mountain is an isolated peak that survived after ancient mountains eroded away. The large monolith was a landmark for Indians and early settlers.

"It's got some very powerful draw to it," said Erica Johnson of the Center for Life Enrichment in Winston-Salem. "The energy flows toward it. ..."

Thompson believes that aliens may be attracted to the granite at Pilot Mountain or the quartz crystals in the Sauratown Mountains.

Fawcett believes that extraterrestrials tap into the transmission towers and power lines atop mountains.

Dr. Tom Mutton of the Forsyth Astronomical Society said many strange things in the sky have scientific explanations. A moving star probably is a satellite.

"A lot of times meteors or shooting stars will fly over and even explode," Mutton said. "Those look a lot like UFOs to some people."

Gus Jamison, an air-traffic controller at Smith Reynolds Airport, said that the area contains several military training routes. One training route follows U.S. 52 from Winston-Salem to Mount Airy. Another follows Interstate 40 from Winston-Salem to Statesville.

# Tales from the dark side of flying saucer research

## The UFO field has become permeated with 'kooks and nuts'

By Keay Davidson  
EXAMINER SCIENCE WRITER

The "UFOlogy" movement has attracted so many questionable characters selling so many strange tales that embarrassed veteran UFO investigators have distanced themselves from the field.

Last week's mass suicide of UFO cultists is simply the latest example of the increasingly bizarre evolution of the "flying saucer" field.

In the 1950s, the weirdest UFO tales involved handsome aliens who befriended ordinary people, took them on interplanetary tours of Mars and Venus, expressed faith in God, and pleaded for peace on Earth.

Now, the movement resembles a nonstop episode of the bleak, para-

noid TV series "The X-Files."

Reading UFO books, magazines and Web sites, one would think that thousands of Americans have been kidnapped from their beds, hauled aboard saucers and medically examined by aliens; that laser-wielding UFOonauts land in pastures and carve up cattle; that space beings try to create "hybrids" of humans and aliens; that a UFO crashed in Roswell, N.M., in 1947; and that the U.S. government keeps the alien crash victims' pickled bodies at a secret military base in Nevada.

"You see enough of this, and you get more skeptical," grumbles veteran investigator James Moseley of Key West, Fla., whose long-lived, gossip newsletter Saucer Smear has made him the master chronicler of UFOlogy.

After more than three decades in the field, "I don't believe any of the (UFO) landings. I don't believe in Roswell," Moseley said. "Certainly people are seeing things in the sky that we can't explain, but I don't think we have any proof" they are aliens.

"I don't think the government

Joes, either," Moseley added, thereby violating one of the cherished canons of UFOlogy: that the government knows the "truth" about saucers but is keeping it secret to "prevent panic" or for some other mysterious reason. "The government... is so horrendously incompetent and disorganized that they are incapable of covering their own tracks, much less a mystery of this magnitude."

Another victim of disillusion is Stanford-trained physicist Irwin Wieder of Los Altos.

Over a decade, Wieder spent his spare time investigating a celebrated UFO photo taken in Oregon in 1966. When he discovered that the photo had a mundane explanation and that the photographer — a seemingly credible man with a doctorate and a respectable military background — "was not reliable," Wieder largely soured on the field.

"There's an awful lot of New Age people in the (UFO) field," Wieder said Friday. "There are still some serious people working in UFOlogy... but the bulk of them,

unfortunately, are not."

When Wieder published his negative findings in 1993 in the Stanford-based Journal of Scientific Exploration, he ruefully admitted in print that for years he had "remained oblivious to an abundance of evidence that should have signaled something was wrong (with the photo). If anything can be learned from this, it is that UFO researchers need to be more diligent in applying the principles of scientific research."

Now, Wieder studies mainly ball lightning, a frontier subject in atmospheric physics where the investigators "are far more serious, more scientific than the average UFO researcher."

He says he believes that this extremely rare, controversial form of lightning — which appears as slow-moving, glowing "balls" — may account for some UFO reports.

The last few years have been rough on the most acclaimed UFO "event" of the last half-century — the alleged "crash" of a saucer at Roswell, N.M., in July 1947. This tale has excited so much interest that it played an important part in last year's mega-cosmic movie blockbuster, "Independence Day," and in many TV shows and books.

## The 'saucer' was a balloon

In 1995, under congressional pressure, the U.S. Air Force declassified documents that revealed the true identity of the "saucer": It was fragments of a special balloon launched to detect possible radioactive debris from covert Soviet nuclear explosions.

Worse for UFO buffs was the discrediting of a top Roswell investigator, Donald R. Schmitt. Schmitt had co-written a book about the Roswell case and was "director of special investigations" for the most cautious pro-UFO group, the Center for UFO Studies in Illinois, founded by the late astronomer J. Allen Hynek. Schmitt's writings carried special credibility because he claimed an illustrious background in law enforcement.

Then, Gillian Sender, a reporter for Milwaukee magazine, discovered that Schmitt had no background in law enforcement, nor was he working on a doctorate in criminology, as he claimed; he hadn't even finished college. Instead, he was a mail carrier in Hartford, Wis., population 8,000. Schmitt admitted he had "made false statements about certain things."

Schmitt's co-author, Kevin Randle, split with Schmitt and charged in 1995: "I went out on a limb for this guy... and he sawed the limb off."

The scientific community ignores UFOs, Randle complained at the time, "because they don't want to be associated with a field full of kooks and nuts. And the fact is, it is full of kooks and nuts."

In San Francisco, another famed UFOlogist is wrestling with the field's wild twists and turns. In the mid-1960s, astronomer-computer expert Jacques Vallee wrote an acclaimed book, "Anatomy of a Phenomenon," that critics called one of the few intellectually interesting books on the subject.

But a few years ago a bitter letter attributed to Vallee popped up in Moseley's World Wide Web edition of Saucer Smear.

"My decision to withdraw from the (UFO) field is consistent with the observation that serious, constructive scientific work is impossible in present conditions," it said. "Over the last few years ufology has squandered close to one million dollars... in absurd, unscientific procedures centered on abduction 'research,' the Roswell fiasco... and various field investigations of the Roswell and Gulf Breeze type. I cannot afford to remain associated with any of this, so it is time to go away quietly."

The Gulf Breeze, Fla., case generated many sightings and photographs in Florida in the 1980s. The case climaxed when someone discovered a small model of a UFO hidden inside a home formerly owned by the prime witness, who was then accused of using the model to fake his photos.

Vallee, who is traveling, couldn't be reached for comment. But his wife, Jeanine Vallee, said the letter "sounds just like him. I know he probably did (write) that. As he just said in the letter, the (UFO) field has changed so much and there's not so much research; things are going off the deep end."

Vallee's publisher, Richard Grossinger of North Atlantic Books in Berkeley, said Vallee hadn't so much abandoned the UFO field as distanced himself from parts of it.

"He doesn't want to be associated with so-called inquiries into alien abductions and cattle mutilations," Grossinger said.

NEWS, Lima, OH - May 6, 1997 CR: J. Timmerman

## Reports of UFOs intrigue researcher

By YOLANDA PUTMAN  
The Lima News

It was almost 50 years ago that John Timmerman read his first article about UFOs. He hasn't stopped reading them since.

"If we ignore this, then we may be ignoring one of the most important things happening in our lifetime," said Timmerman, the guest speaker at the weekly Lima Rotary Club meeting Monday. "It's an intrusion into our environment of a life form of some place else in the universe that knows more than we do, that's much older than we are, that is examining us."

The long-time UFO researcher and treasurer for the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO studies in Chicago has taken on the mission of informing others about the importance of UFO research and the need to take UFO reports more seriously.

Timmerman shared unpublished stories of military officers who say they have cited UFOs. His accounts included the story of a former fighter pilot who spotted an "elliptically-shaped object" while flying 20,000 feet in the air over northern Texas at midnight.

"They were close enough that (the pilot) thought he could distinguish the lines between the various plates that made up the vehicle. But the windows in the UFO were too dark to see inside

them," he said.

The instructor and the object flew together for about 20 minutes until the instructor became frightened when a light beamed from the object into the back cockpit of his F-84 fighter jet, Timmerman said.

The pilot gave a report to the Keesler Air Force Base and to a representative of the Pentagon, but no record of the report can be found, Timmerman said.

The next story was of a 1948 UFO encounter at Godman Airfield at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Capt. Thomas F. Mantell was killed in a plane crash while pursuing an unidentified object in his F-51 craft. The Air Force filed a report saying the captain was chasing a weather balloon. But the examining engineer disagreed, saying the plane had totally disintegrated at a high altitude and that debris was scattered for miles from where the engine was found with Mantell's decapitated body.

Efforts to confirm Timmerman's reports were unsuccessful. The Pentagon could not verify reports of any information presented as of press time Monday.

Nevertheless, Timmerman said there is plenty of proof out there.

"There is no question that UFO reports exist," Timmerman said. "This is a fact, a very persistent fact which has been documented worldwide for centuries.

UNION BULLETIN, Walla Walla, WA - May 5, 1997

## Monday's Wash

We're not making this up... A Colorado filmmaker says he can identify the unknown flying object caught on video by three Wa-Hi students last fall. "It appears that you have Rod activity in your area," Jose Escamilla told us. Just what are Rods? Escamilla says they are an "unknown life form." The cigar-shaped creatures "swim through the air like fish," with a snake-like slithering motion, he said. And the thin, silvery image on the Wa-Hi videotape fits the description of the Rods that Escamilla has been studying for the past three years. His Web site ([www.roswellrods.com](http://www.roswellrods.com)) explains how he first spotted the Rods while videotaping a series of UFO appearances over the desert near his hometown of Roswell, N.M. But Rods are "not one of these way-out things where we think they're aliens," Escamilla said. In fact, he said, there is fossil evidence of mysterious rod-shaped creatures dating as far back as Earth's pre-cambrian period, in the earliest days of life itself. Escamilla referred us to his Web site, which includes information on Rod sightings and ways you can buy Escamilla's videos showing Rods in flight. Escamilla seems to have created a stir in some corners of the Internet. "(T)his B.S. about rods is all a ploy by you and your cohorts to fool the public into spending their money on your videos. Get a life," wrote "D.S." But then another e-mail note assured Escamilla that "you are on to something here." A different Web page dedicated to the paranormal says Rods are evidence of a "dimensional collapse," the second writer advised. "What you will be seeing is fourth and fifth density craft moving through space, not having the slightest clue that they are flying right through us." The writer added that "I read this statement to a very good psychic friend and she confirmed the truth in this." Escamilla said he heard about the Walla Walla sighting through a syndicated TV show called "Strange Universe," which did a feature on the Wa-Hi students and their videotape.



# UFO? No one knows

By Ed Brock  
Staff Writer

Somebody call Agent Mulder and Agent Scully, we might just have a sighting in Baldwin County.

Actually, the Marlow resident who videotaped a very strange object floating above the trees behind his residence on Baldwin County Road 32 is reluctant to call it a UFO, except for the fact that he can't identify it. Neither does his father, who served a couple of tours in Vietnam and can identify most manmade aircraft.

"We don't know what it is," the photographer, who asked not to be identified, said.

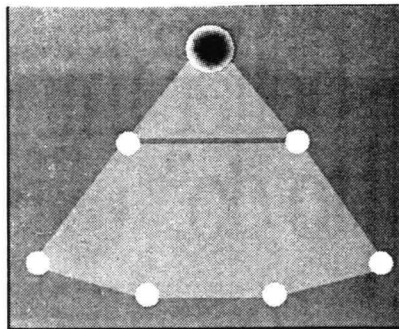
The photographer sighted the object last Wednesday evening around 11 p.m. while driving down County Road 32 with his girlfriend, who also saw it. When the object

returned at 1 a.m. Thursday morning, hovering over a line of trees directly behind the residence, the young man grabbed his video camera and shot about a minute of footage of the strange thing.

On the videotape, the object appears to sway back and forth like a balloon. An illuminated undercarriage forms a slight crescent shape with a shadowy, cone-shaped structure that tapers up to another set of lights, two white/green lights below and on either side of a flashing red light.

The object returned again the following night, and the photographer again shot some video of what appears to be, from a distance, a blob of light capped with a single flashing red light.

When given a description of the craft, employees at the nearby Fairhope Municipal Airport said they weren't sure what it could



Artists rendering of unidentified flying object based on video tape supplied by Barnwell resident who reported that the object was last seen in his neighborhood on Friday night.

be. Because the object was reported to hover silently, like a balloon, a phone call was made to Susan Shallow of Gulf Shores, who's husband Bob flies hot air balloons. She said she didn't know of anybody who flew balloons in that area of Baldwin County, and the description didn't fit any kind of balloon to her knowledge.

"Balloons don't fly at night, and if they do they have one light that's red on the bottom of the basket," Shallow said.

Larry Cook, a spokesman for the Mobile Downtown Airport at Brookley Field, said he didn't know of any aircraft at that airport that fit the description. He said there is a lot of traffic for the downtown airport that vectors over Baldwin County on approach to land there, but it was hard to tell what could be there at that time.

In fact, authorities say there is little radar coverage for Baldwin County at the time the object was sighted. A spokesman for the regional airport in Mobile said their tower closes at 11 p.m., and Robert Aubin at the Pensacola airport said his tower only monitors traffic in that area that has filed a flight plan with them.

"There wouldn't be a whole lot of folks around who would see something like that," Aubin said.

Keith Cornett at the Pensacola Naval Air Station in Pensacola said they did not have a plane that fit the description except for a few C-2 transports, some of which have radar domes on top of them. Those are propeller planes, however, which make a lot of noise and do not float like a balloon.

At Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss., Lt. Todd White said they also do not have any aircraft that looked like or flew like the Marlow object, but he did take a report on the details of the sighting. Repeated phone calls to Eglin Air Force Base in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. were not returned in time for this article.

The object was generally sighted flying between County Road 32 and Baldwin County Road 33. Some of the other residents in the area who were interviewed said they had not seen the object, but they also said they weren't usually out at that time of night.

By the way, the photographer said he is sure the object is not the Hale-Bopp comet, and it has been sighted at times after the comet sets.

Anybody with information regarding the nature of the object, or if you have also seen it, is asked to call the Fairhope Courier at 928-2321.

## No UFOs or ETs have dropped in at spooky ranch

Researchers will remain, hoping to witness 'spacy' phenomena.

By Zack Van Eyck  
Deseret News staff writer

Research scientists who took control of a Uintah County ranch last fall will remain on the property even though they haven't seen the UFOs and other phenomena they were expecting.

A spokesman for the Las Vegas-based National Institute of Discovery Science said the researchers have yet to see the flying craft, cattle mutilations and dog-killing "balls of light" that Terry and Gwen Sherman said they experienced while they owned the 480-acre property near Randlett.

"There have been some minor observations, but nothing you would stand behind," said John Alexander, the institute's director for scientific liaison, who would not elaborate. "Those of us who are familiar with phenomenology know that they tend to be very fragile. It's like a watched pot."

Robert Bigelow, a Las Vegas real estate magnate who founded the institute, bought the ranch last September, three months after the Shermans first told their bizarre story publicly in the Deseret News.

The Shermans reported seeing several types of UFOs, some of which emerged from circular "doorways" that seemed to appear in midair. Three of their cattle were found

dead and partially mutilated, and at least seven other cattle "disappeared" from the ranch.

The couple put up with the activity for a while but decided to sell after their three dogs vanished one night last summer. The pets were last seen chasing a strange, flying "ball of light," which had approached the family's house and appeared to be monitoring the area. The Shermans reported hearing a yelp shortly after the dogs chased the baseball-size object into the woods and the next morning found three burned circles on the ground in the same area.

Alexander, former director of nonlethal weapons testing at New Mexico's Los Alamos National Laboratories, said nothing like that has been observed since at least two scientists and a veterinarian set up an observation post on the ranch.

"Definitely no craft. No, we haven't had any dog-zappers. . . . Nobody has landed," Alexander said. "There has not been anything of significance. . . . We don't have anything to work with."

Ryan Layton, a Davis County UFO researcher who met with the Shermans several times before they sold the ranch, said he "seriously doubts" the reported phenomena have ceased.

"The question is how much are they filming, how much are their sensors monitoring, how much are they learning? We don't know," Layton said. "Has it slowed up because of their presence, or are the phenomena putting on a display for them?"

Layton, Colorado researcher and author Chris O'Brien, Illinois

investigator Gary Hart and others continue to be frustrated that Bigelow and the National Institute of Discovery Science staff have not released details of their research on the ranch. Alexander said any findings the institute decides to release would be posted on its web page (<http://www.accessnv.com/nlds>).

Other UFO researchers "don't want any information that might be breakthrough information to be privatized and not brought forth to the public," Layton said.

Uintah County Sheriff's Sgt. Steve Hatzidakis said no one has reported UFOs, unusual animal deaths or any other strange activity since Bigelow bought the ranch. He said two cattle mutilations on a neighboring ranch were reported last summer.

Sherman signed a nondisclosure agreement with Bigelow after selling the ranch and has declined subsequent interviews with the Deseret News. Sherman, however, gave new information to Colorado writer and cattle mutilation researcher David Perkins for a story in this month's "Spirit" magazine.

According to Perkins' article, the Shermans had a bizarre experience the last night they spent on the ranch: They woke up to find their bed sheets "covered" with blood and one-eighth inch deep "scoop marks" on their right thumbs.

## Off beat ...

# Crack in the Cosmic (UFO) Watergate

Nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman calls it the Cosmic Watergate.

Cosmic, as in crashed flying saucers.

Watergate, as in a 50-year effort to keep the greatest secret of all time hidden from the American people.

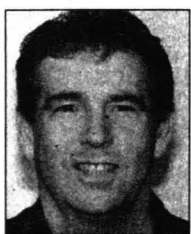
Now, 50 years after the alleged crash of an extraterrestrial craft outside Roswell, New Mexico, evidence is growing that could put an end to five decades of official denials that this planet has been visited by beings from far, far away.

This summer, the former head of the Army's office of foreign technology will publish a book claiming he participated in an above-top-secret program to study the technology of captured alien spacecraft. Publication is intended to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Roswell Crash.

Philip Corso was a former Army intelligence officer and battalion commander at the White Sands Missile Range who decided to tell what he says is an insider's account of the country's most closely guarded secret.

Before dismissing Corso's claims as an act of imagination or faulty memory, you should know that Corso is but the latest, although highest-ranking, of a growing number of purported whistle-blowers. Each claims that the United States — or highly compartmentalized elements of the intelligence, military and industrial communities — has absolute knowledge of extraterrestrial visitors because we have recovered alien crafts that have crashed.

A fellow I knew who worked at the now-notorious Area 51, said that managers of the secret program al-



PATRICK  
McCARTNEY

ways feared what would happen as the thousands of participants in the off-the-books, unacknowledged programs finally retired after 30 or 40 years.

Some might eventually be willing to defy the severe penalties of their security oaths, and tell their families, or the world, about their activities.

In a variation of the UFO-research concept of "escalation of hypothesis," in recent years there appears to be an escalation of credibility of the self-described witnesses who have stepped forward:

■ Las Vegas resident Bob Lazar electrifies the UFO community in 1989 with claims he worked at a secret site outside Area 51, where he was asked to back-engineer the propulsion system of a flying saucer.

Strong points: His naval intelligence W-2 form and sightings of strange flying objects on the nights he predicted. Weak point: Lazar's educational claims appear bogus.

■ Las Vegas broadcast journalist George Knapp claims to have 14 other sources who corroborate Lazar's story, but none are willing to go public.

■ Retired U.S. Army Sergeant-Major Robert O. Dean begins to tell the story of his last assignment, in 1963, at the headquarters of NATO in Paris, France.

Dean said he reviewed NATO's top-secret assessment of the UFO phenomenon, which describes UFO

crashes other than Roswell, alien autopsies and different species of extraterrestrial visitors.

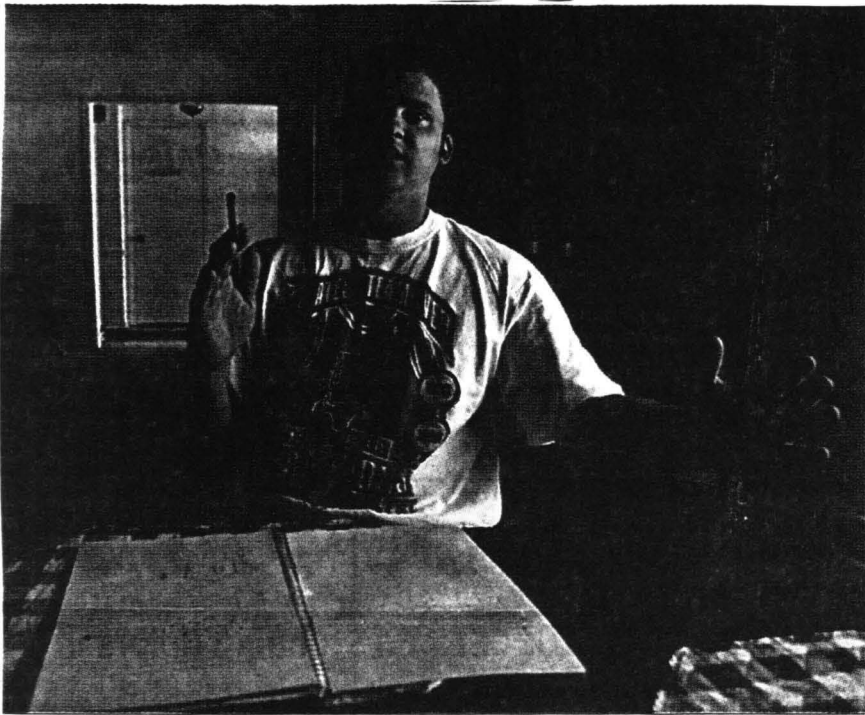
■ In 1994, a 70-year-old mechanical engineer from southern Nevada, Bill Uhouse, tells Area 51 researcher Glenn Campbell that he worked on a secret program to build a flight simulator for an anti-gravity spacecraft for 20 years. Uhouse furnishes mementos from his top-secret career, and his family supported his story.

■ North Carolina physician Steven Greer launches Project Starlight, a campaign to encourage members of what some call the satellite government to step forward and share their stories. In 1996, he appeals to the president and government leaders to release the willing witnesses from their national security oaths, saying the secret saucer program has been operated outside constitutional boundaries.

■ This year, a member of the New York Academy of Science, Michael Wolf, announces that he too worked on alien technology in a secret program at Area 51. Wolf said that he is dying from a spinal disease and wants to tell what he knows before he dies.

■ Add to the above the claim by a man in his 80s that he filmed an autopsy of an alien in New Mexico in 1947, and handed the film over three years ago to a British record producer. The cameraman of the notorious alien autopsy has not been identified, and the film itself is still subject to a heated debate over its authenticity.

While UFO researchers still do not have an indisputable piece of physical evidence, the amount of personal testimony is approaching a point of critical mass. If there is a Cosmic Watergate, 1997 may be the year that it cracks wide open.



Steve Lee describes the lights he spotted. 'There was definitely something out there,' he says.

STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS SEWARD

## UFO objects of enthusiasm, skepticism

BY KEVIN POTTER  
STAFF WRITER

It was nearly midnight when Steve Lee spotted the cluster of 30 odd yellow lights over his North Raleigh neighborhood.

They looked like fireworks — but didn't fizzle and fade. They reminded him of hovering helicopters — but didn't make a sound. He watched for 10 minutes as they moved slowly to the north.

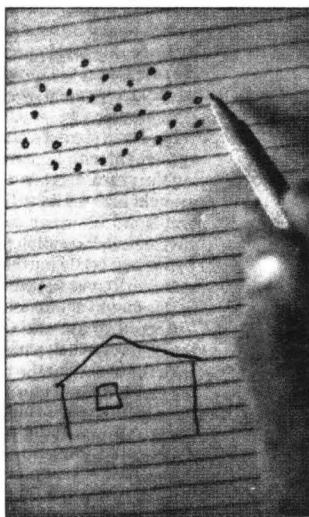
"I was amazed because I had never seen anything like this," said Lee, who called the Raleigh police to report the unidentified flying objects.

The officer who checked it out didn't find invading aliens or even strange lights, but he did have a close encounter with another phenomenon: The persistent and growing belief in UFOs.

That fascination — some would say obsession — has exploded onto the American mainstream, racing down the information superhighway into home pages created by UFO enthusiasts, and fueled by scientific discoveries that suggest life may be possible on other planets.

UFO interest even touches the highest levels of government. Last week, a former NASA astronaut and a doctor from Asheville called on Congress to conduct hearings into an alleged cover-up of extraterrestrial visits to Earth.

The fascination turned to horror last month with the



Steve Lee makes a sketch of the cluster of lights he saw passing over his North Raleigh neighborhood.

STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS SEWARD

mass suicide in California of 39 Heaven's Gate cult members. Those followers of Marshall Applewhite claimed that an alien spaceship trailing the Hale-Bopp comet would whisk them away once they shed their "earthly containers."

Those cult members — many of them avid viewers of the "X-Files" and "Star Trek" TV series — took their own lives despite 50 years of skepticism by scientists and government officials.

Many UFO researchers trace the first credible sighting to pilot Kenneth Arnold's June 24, 1947, report of nine disk-shaped "flying saucers" near Washington's Mount Rainier. Two weeks later, New Mexico residents reported that an alien spacecraft had crashed near the town of Roswell.

Since then, technology has expanded human ability to understand — and debunk — strange sights in the skies. But those advances haven't dispelled UFO interest. Indeed, they may have fueled the belief that we are regularly visited by beings from other worlds.

A 1996 Newsweek poll, which surveyed 769 American adults, found that 48 percent believe UFOs are real, and 29 percent think humans have made contact with aliens.

Among the believers — although he prefers to call himself a "non-skeptic" — is George Fawcett of Lincolnton, who has investigated 1,200 UFO reports over the past 53 years.

For the first seven of those years, Fawcett was skeptical. But then, on a July morning in 1951, he saw a strange object hovering over the campus of Lynchburg College in Virginia. "I estimate that 300 feet above the ground was this disk-shaped object, and it was orange," he said. "This persuaded me pretty quickly that there was something to UFO sightings."

Now a popular speaker at UFO conventions across the country, Fawcett wants to establish a \$5 million UFO museum in North Carolina.

He attributes the growing UFO acceptance in part to scientific discoveries that suggest the conditions necessary for life may exist on other worlds. Astronomers theorize that primitive life may have existed on Mars and Europa, one of Jupiter's moons. And they believe they have found planets orbiting faraway stars, some of which may harbor life.

The information superhighway is adding to the fire. An Internet surfer can wade for weeks through Internet home pages created by UFO believers. Some insist that extraterrestrials regularly visit Earth from great distances, or from different dimensions — able to avoid human detection.

That's nonsense, according to skeptics. They say UFOs are the result of less exciting causes such as natural phenomena, military maneuvers and over-active imaginations.

"I can almost guarantee, if you spend three hours staring at the night sky, you can see something you can't explain," said Philip J. Klass, a contributing editor to *Aviation Week & Space Technology* magazine.

In 30 years of investigating UFO sightings, Klass hasn't found a shred of credible evidence that beings from other worlds have stopped by our corner of the galaxy.

As assistant director of the Morehead Planetarium at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Austin Guiles is no stranger to UFO reports. But at least half the sightings he hears about are easily explained.

Sometimes a "UFO" is the planet Venus, he said. Other times, it may be a military airplane or an atmospheric testing rocket launched by NASA from Wallops Island, Va.

"With all the military activity on the east coast of the state, we get some strange things that people see that can be explained by military maneuvers," Guiles said.

If the U.S. government is to be believed — and some UFO believers doubt that it should — the Air Force determined in 1969 that only 701 of 12,618 reported UFO sightings lacked clear explanations. That followed the military's famous "Project Blue Book" UFO investigation between 1947 and 1969.

Fawcett — known by friends as "Mr. UFO" — thinks the government isn't telling all it knows, but objects in the sky can't be kept secret.

The nation is experiencing an upswing in UFO reports, he said, part of what he calls a 10-year cycle. In North Carolina, where most reports are from the western Piedmont and the mountains, that has included a spate of about five sightings late last year.

On one occasion, two people driving on N.C. 66 near Rural Hall, in Forsyth County, said they witnessed a floating object with a dome-shaped top and a triangular underside. Jack Edwards told a local newspaper that the UFO, which he and his boss saw about 6:45 a.m. on Dec. 19, was "as big as a jumbo jet."

An emergency room physician from Asheville, meanwhile, believes that several alien civilizations have bases in our solar system.

Dr. Steven M. Greer, director of the Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence, said human leaders should contact the extraterrestrials in the neighborhood.

Greer traveled to Washington last week with former astronaut Edgar Mitchell to encourage a new national UFO policy. Greer and Mitchell, who has walked on the moon, also urged congressional officials to investigate an alleged UFO cover-up by the government.

"What has been lacking is an appropriate response from planet Earth," he told a reporter for *The Boston Globe*. "Look at our response so far: ridicule by the media [and] denials by our officials."

Klass, the skeptic, acknowledges that many regular folks believe in UFOs. He attributes UFO mania to "pseudo-documentary" television programs, such as "Unsolved Mysteries," and to leaders of the

(continued on page 7) 6

## The truth is out there

Thought you saw an unidentified flying object streaking through the North Raleigh skyline? Before contacting the police, consider these logical explanations first.

### Stars, planets or other celestial bodies

Sometimes a cloud floating past a star creates the illusion that the star is moving. Often, simply staring at a star in the night sky can cause it to appear to move.

### Satellites

Either re-entering the atmosphere or still in orbit, these sparkling metallic objects may seem like a strange spacecraft to the naked eye.

### Meteor fireball or shooting star

With their long, luminous, tear-drop shaped tails, these are often confused with UFOs, especially ones with a horizontal trajectory.

### Weather balloons

The National Weather Service sends these into the atmosphere twice a day from Greensboro. They rise until they burst.

### Light reflected off clouds or haze

Large beams of light reflected off clouds or haze in the sky probably originated from a fixed ground light, such as a search light.

### Military or commercial aircraft

A row of lights moving at a slow, steady pace across the evening sky is probably an airplane.

### UFOs don't follow the rules

Many UFO sightings contain these unusual characteristics: a very large object capable of supersonic flight hovering directly overhead, often 4 times the size of a 747 airliner or larger and is totally silent. If you see something that fits this description, contact the 24 hour UFO report hotline at (206) 722-3000 or submit an online report at [www.ufocenter.com](http://www.ufocenter.com). You may have seen a UFO.

Source: Philip Klass, contributing editor *Aviation Week* magazine, National UFO Reporting Center

WOODY VONDRACEK, GREY BLACKWELL / The News &amp; Observer



(continued from page 6 -  
NEWS & OBSERVER, Raleigh,  
NC - April 16, 1997)

nationwide UFO-abduction movement.

It's generally harmless for Americans to believe they've glimpsed alien spacecraft, he said. But he has long believed that the UFO abduction movement — led by Whitley Strieber, author of the 1987 best seller "Communion," among others — would prove "dangerous."

"When people get caught up in this, there's no convincing them otherwise," he said.

UFO enthusiast Fawcett insists that misinformation and misuse of the Internet are to blame for the Heaven's Gate tragedy. That incident shouldn't be lumped with legitimate experiences pointing to the existence of UFOs controlled by "non-humans," he said.

His investigations have indicated that 20 percent of UFO sightings are legitimate, he said. "They're not coming from drunks and crackpots."

Unfortunately, according to Charlotte resident George Lund, many credible people are reluctant to talk about UFOs. "As soon as they start talking about UFOs in certain circles, they're automatically ridiculed," said Lund, who is assistant director of the North Carolina chapter of the Mutual UFO Network.

For that reason, the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Wash., does not release the names and addresses of the people who phone the organization's hotline.

"At least 50 percent of the reported sightings are not worth the ink they're printed with," said Peter Davenport, the group's director. But others are lent credence by credible sources and large groups of witnesses, he said.

Specifically, he recalled a barrage of calls in March about a cluster of "bizarre" lights passing over Arizona. According to a document on the organization's web site, witnesses said the object or objects — described with red, yellow or white lights — passed silently overhead.

"All of the observers volunteered during their telephoned reports that they had strained their ears, trying to hear some sound from the object, but none was heard, which contributed to the eerie nature of the sighting," it said.

Those sightings seem at least vaguely similar to Lee's over North Raleigh.

Lt. M.E. Matthews, the Raleigh police officer who investigated that UFO report, doesn't have any theories about the origin of the mystery lights. Nor did he file a police report about them. "It's tough to investigate UFOs," he admitted. "We do what you can do — we go out and look."

Lee, the North Raleigh resident, doesn't think that law enforcement officials take UFO sightings like his seriously. Someone should have made more of an effort to find out the origin of the mysterious lights over Brentwood Avenue, he said.

"There was definitely something out there, and somebody should have investigated that, somebody should have sent aircraft up there," said Lee, 29.

Lee said he believes there's a logical explanation for the lights, which he watched for 10 to 15 minutes. Several possibilities crossed his mind that March 4 evening: Top-secret military aircraft. Debris falling from space. Alien vehicles passing above Raleigh.

"I believe there's a lot of stuff out there; I'm sure there is," he said. "We're not the only ones. It's big out there."

Kevin Potter can be reached at 836-2882, or [kpottor@mundo.com](mailto:kpottor@mundo.com).

# My life in the light

## Alien experience in Superstitions leads couple to new path

By Barbara Yost  
The Arizona Republic

When Kaye Kizziar had an encounter with an alien being in 1987, she kept silent about it for six years.

Extraterrestrials visiting suburbia is not the stuff neighbors share over the back fence.

Even her husband, Wayne, was at first skeptical that, while he was asleep one fall evening in their Ahwatukee home, his wife was visited by a creature who entered their bedroom on a sparkly stream of light, put his hand to hers and whisked her away to caverns in the Superstition Mountains.

She was gone for four hours. "It was fantastic," Kaye said. "It was not a dream. I was not asleep. He told me what I am. At one time, I was a light being."

Why was she chosen to make the journey?

"He told me, 'You are part of the puzzle.'"

Kaye dubbed her host V.G. — Visitor from another Galaxy.

In 1993, she broke her silence by writing the first in a trilogy of novels about aliens in the Superstitions. She was inspired, she says, when the voice of V.G. whispered, "Tell your story" and guided her writing.

Kaye and Wayne published her book, *Eyes of the Superstitions*, through their company, Az-Tex Publishing.

Calls started coming in from other people who had encountered aliens, and Valley residents who said they, too, had seen V.G. Kaye published two more novels about aliens and went on the lecture circuit.

Wayne is a true believer now, and both are convinced that other forms of life and other dimensions exist alongside our own.

"We are a spiritual being having a physical experience," Kaye said.

A year ago, Wayne decided to tap into the market of UFO followers and people who believe they have had close encounters. Like Kaye, many are reluctant to discuss their experience, he says. They need an outlet.

On June 1, the Kizziars will begin publishing a newsletter featuring reader accounts of alien visits, as well as essays, commentary and poetry about other worlds and dimensions.

"So many people have something to say — an experience they've had — and they don't know where to go where they won't take ridicule," Wayne said.

Those folks will find a comfort zone in *The Superstition Chronicles*, to be published semimonthly by Az-Tex.

Wayne isn't worried that some contributors will lack credibility. Some reports may be untrue, he concedes, but sincere writers will have their voice.

"There's fakes all over the world," he said, shrugging.

He predicts contributions will pour in. Several works already have been submitted from as far away as New York and Alaska.

"We have a wide spectrum of people writing for us," he said.

"By the time we come out in June, we'll be able to pick and choose quite easily."

*The Superstition Chronicles* also will have an Internet Web site: [www.laserweb.com/aztex](http://www.laserweb.com/aztex).

A six-issue annual subscription will cost \$15.95. Wayne expects a circulation of 400 to 500 by August.

Many subscribers will be fans of Kaye's book, she says. Readers will range from students to retired peo-



Michael Meister/The Arizona Republic

In June, Wayne and Kaye Kizziar will begin publishing a newsletter featuring accounts of alien visits, as well as essays, commentary and poetry about other worlds and dimensions.

ple, "people who are looking for knowledge."

"Knowledge comes in all forms," Kaye said. "It's like a snowball going downhill. The more you get the more you want."

People shy about discussing their experiences find a sympathetic listener in Kaye, she says.

"A lot of people feel very comfortable talking to me. I am non-judgmental."

Critics have not always been as kind to her books. One reviewer called it "unreadable," she notes. A reader scolded her for putting her name on the work. Some people think she's crazy — "You can tell by the look in their eyes."

Kaye used to be a skeptic herself. She didn't believe in UFOs. She had done a little meditation, but only to relieve the stress of her job as a technician at Motorola.

Wayne's experience with aliens and UFOs was limited to movies.

Then V.G. dropped by.

"I was like a 12-volt battery that had been charged," Kaye said.

"That's why this newsletter."

"To enable people to tell their stories," Wayne added, "to give people that voice."

The marketing opportunity that comes in the wake of the Hale-Bopp comet and the Heaven's Gate suicides is not lost on the Kizziars. Although plans to publish a newsletter were begun before Hale-Bopp drew near, "it might be what pushed us to do it," Wayne said.

Kaye believes people were energized by the comet's appearance.

"It's like a scalpel opening up

the consciousness of the planet," she said, eyes glowing. "I love it."

Three years ago, the Kizziars sold their house in Ahwatukee and moved into a mobile home in Apache Junction to be near the Superstitions. Kaye can't climb the mountains. She contracted multiple sclerosis before writing her first book, believing fate played a hand in her illness in order to give her time to write.

MS has left much of her left side immobilized, barring trips into the peaks that rise just down the road from their upscale trailer park.

"But I can see the lights" in the mountains, she said.

She believes "things go on there." People have vanished, and some have returned looking healthier than when they disappeared. V.G. has been there often, she says.

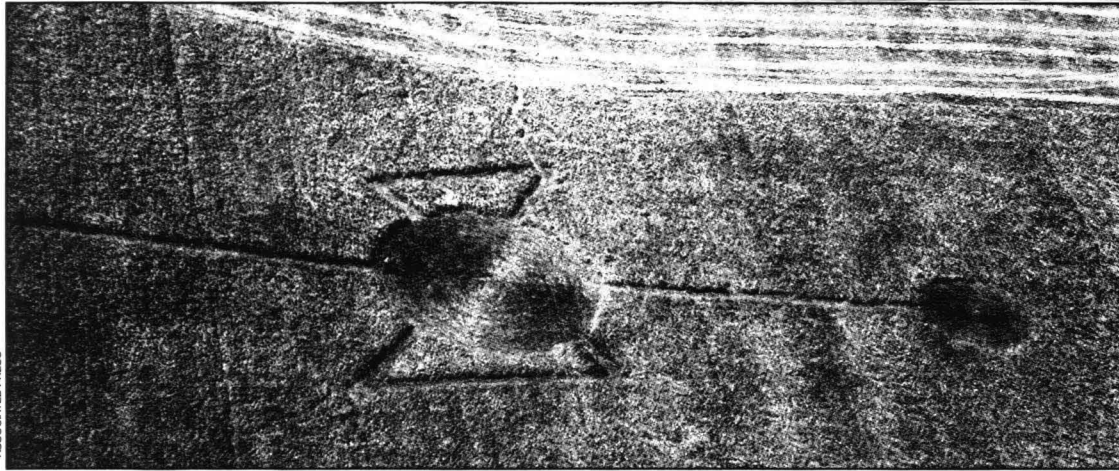
The Kizziars, who have been married for 22 years, are not at a loss for projects. They have written a TV commercial for coffee based on the goings-on in the Superstitions. They have signed a contract to turn *Eyes of the Superstitions* into a film. Kaye continues to write and will be a major contributor to the newsletter, which they expect to turn a profit.

"As long as we can help people and it can maintain itself, I have no doubt it will be successful," Wayne said. "There are too many people looking for an avenue to vent their feelings."

"I think it will be an absolute screaming success," Kaye said.

"The best part is people won't feel so alone."

More information on *The Superstition Chronicles* is available by writing Wayne and Kaye Kizziar, P.O. Box 5903, Apache Junction, AZ 85278.



Researchers have concluded that pattern in a Cache County barley field wasn't made using boards, ropes or other techniques.

## Hot clue on crop circle: High heat was involved

By Zack Van Eyck  
Deseret News staff writer

People who want to believe something other than a human prank created a circular pattern in a barley field near Logan last year now have scientific evidence as support.

A team of research scientists, including a Salt Lake geologist, has released a report concluding the crop circle was not made by humans using boards, ropes or other techniques.

According to tests performed by former University of Michigan biophysicist W.C. Levengood and his associates, creation of the crop design involved the use of high heat, perhaps similar to microwave energy.

In recent years, Levengood has advanced the theory that most crop circles are natural phenomena created by swirling waves of heat energy thrust to the Earth's surface from the upper atmosphere.

The Logan design, like the majority of grain formations Levengood has analyzed, had all the characteristics of an "authentic" crop circle that could have been formed by what Levengood calls a "plasma vortex."

Levengood's BLT Research Team found changes in the internal structure of plants from the Logan formation that are consistent with exposure to high heat and commonly found in crop circles. Tests on clay from the soil inside the design, conducted in Salt Lake City by Diane Conrad of Meridian Environmental Co., show the ground also was exposed to a heat source.

The crop circle, found Aug. 23 by farmer Gerald Alder, was actually two cir-

cles of flattened barley — one 58 feet across and a smaller one measuring 30 feet. The circles were connected by a 258-foot-long row of flattened plants that pointed almost directly at the Logan LDS Temple. Two wing- or handle-like designs were attached to the larger circle.

The field is located in the Providence area south of Logan on the southeast corner of 1200 South and U-165, easily accessed from either road.

Alder, who leases the field from cousin Seth Alder, recently planted the field and is anticipating a "normal" harvest this year — one that won't prompt hundreds of curious onlookers, sheriff's deputies, elementary school classes, UFO researchers and TV camera crews to trample his crop.

Some folks drove from out of state last year to see the mysterious configuration of twisted and flattened plants before Alder plowed it under.

Alder and his wife, Sandra, still don't know what caused the formation to appear. The Cache County Sheriff's Department is equally puzzled. At one point, the sheriff's department thought hungry gophers might have been responsible.

The Alders have yet to receive a copy of the research team's report but are aware of Levengood's hypothesis.

"Everybody has his theories. That's just theirs, I guess," Sandra Alder said. "It was other worlds is what we heard, just to let us know they're out there. Some thought it was cult members doing it. I mean, everybody has his own little theory."

"It was very interesting. I made an album on it, and I took pictures so I'd be able to show my great-grandkids because you don't see that very often."

Alder said while she and her husband make no claims about the crop circle, they

wouldn't be surprised if the design had something to do with UFOs. That's because the Alder family had a UFO sighting of their own in the 1970s while driving through Emigration Canyon late one night.

"It was so huge and so bright. It came down and just hovered over us. It really scared my husband," she said. "It stopped in the middle of the road and, as soon as we stopped, it shot out into the middle of the air."

Nancy Talbott, a Massachusetts-based field research coordinator and the "T" in the BLT Research Team, found that revelation consistent with other crop circle cases.

"It's amazing how many people, farmers who have had these things on their land, eventually come forward with stories like that. Quite a number of them have over the years," Talbott said. "I don't know what to do with (that information). I just make notes of it. Whether it means anything I don't know, but it's very curious."

Ryan Layton, the Davis County man who collected the samples for Levengood, doesn't have the answers, either. But he suspects crop circles are the product of "a creative, intelligent life with some type of agenda."

Talbott said the occurrence of crop circles "may signal significant alterations in Earth's environment, changes which all of us would be better off understanding than denying."

"There is no question that something highly unusual is taking place and we think it is worthy of scrutiny."

The Logan design was one of more than 40 such formations reported in the United States last year. Dozens more were recorded in other parts of the world.

Talbott said Levengood, who runs Pinelandia Biophysical Laboratory in Grass Lakes, Mich., has worked through the winter to examine a backlog of plant samples sent to him from crop circles

around the country — including fields in Ohio, Indiana, South Dakota and Washington state — and from Canada and Europe.

Until recently, the phenomenon was relegated primarily to southern England, where it reached its zenith in the early 1990s. Crop circles continue to show up there and around the world, despite the well-publicized admissions of two British hoaxers several years ago.

According to Levengood, the idea that a natural phenomenon could create intricate designs like those found in crop circles is not unprecedented. Snowflakes are another example.

According to the research report, the stem nodes of plants taken from inside the Logan formation were literally blown open to form what the researchers call "expulsion cavities," an effect they say is unique to crop formations. Expulsion cavities can be reproduced in a lab setting through "a very rapid rate of heating," according to the report.

N.W. FLORIDA DAILY NEWS,  
Fort Walton Beach, FL

June 6, 1997 CR: R. Reid

## Thurmond regrets link to UFO book

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Strom Thurmond wrote the foreword for a new book about an alleged UFO cover-up after being led to believe the author, a former staffer, was writing an autobiography, the senator's aides said Thursday.

"The Day After Roswell," by retired Army intelligence officer Philip J. Corso focuses on the rumored crash of an unidentified flying object near the city of Roswell in the New Mexico desert in 1947.

Corso, with help from William J. Birnes, wrote that the government confiscated the UFO and gleaned secrets from it that led to advances such as laser technology, fiber optics, night-vision capabilities and the microchip.

But Chris Cimko, Thurmond's chief spokeswoman, said a 21-page outline from Corso on which the foreword was based did not mention UFOs.

It was presented as a memoir by Corso, titled "I Walked With Giants: My Career in Military Intelligence," she said.

Corso was not available for comment Thursday, said a relative who answered the telephone at his home in Fort Pierce.

Corso handled military matters for Thurmond during separate stints in the 1960s and 1970s, Cimko said.

She said that both she and Thurmond's chief of staff also were told by Corso's son that the original book had been changed.

"We've been totally blindsided by this man and his publisher," Cimko said. "The book that's coming out is not the book outline that was provided to us."

In the introduction, Thurmond praised Corso as a person of integrity who has "many interesting stories to share with individuals interested in military history, espionage and the working of our government."

But Thurmond, R-S.C., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, issued a statement disavowing his connection to the book because it appears to bolster claims of a government conspiracy.

WORLD, Coos Bay, OR - April 12, 1997

## Meteor lights up sky, phone lines

■ Late night flash: UFO center in Seattle has busy night taking calls, reports.

By Andy Porter  
Staff Writer

A brilliant light in the sky early Friday which lit up police switchboards was most likely a meteor, astronomers and UFO watchers said.

Described by some as "a large ball of light," the phenomenon caused a spate of calls to police dispatchers in Coos, Curry and Douglas counties between 1 and 2 a.m., as well as to the Coast Guard's North Bend Air Station.

At least two callers to the Douglas County Sheriff's Office described the light as a fireball and claimed to have seen debris being scattered into the ocean, a dispatcher said.

Another report came from an Agness woman who reported seeing the light at 1:25 a.m., said Peter B. Davenport of the National

UFO Reporting Center in Seattle.

"She said she saw a light that was extremely bright, extraordinarily bright, that passed from west to east from her vantage point," Davenport said. "She could see it though the curtains, it was that bright."

He added that the woman said the phenomenon lasted between two and three seconds.

Davenport said, in his experience, "what she has described is not inconsistent with a typical, large meteor coming in from space."

Coos Bay resident Greg Alexander didn't see the sky directly but was looking into his backyard when the flash occurred.

"It was like a huge fluorescent light had been flipped on for a few seconds," he said. "We thought it might have been lightning, but we went out to check the sky and it was completely clear."

Mark Dunaway, resident astronomer at Pine Mountain Observatory near Bend, said that, aside from a meteor, another possible explanation for the light or lights was an aurora borealis display caused by a recent solar flare.

"It could have been stuff coming in through the magnetosphere from the solar flare," he said Friday.

Coquille resident and amateur astronomer Doc Cullers agreed Friday that, judging from the descriptions, a meteor was a likely culprit behind the light. Culler noted that the Lyrid meteor shower is due April 21 and that Friday morning's light could have been a stray particle from that, or even a particle from the comet Hale-Bopp's tail.

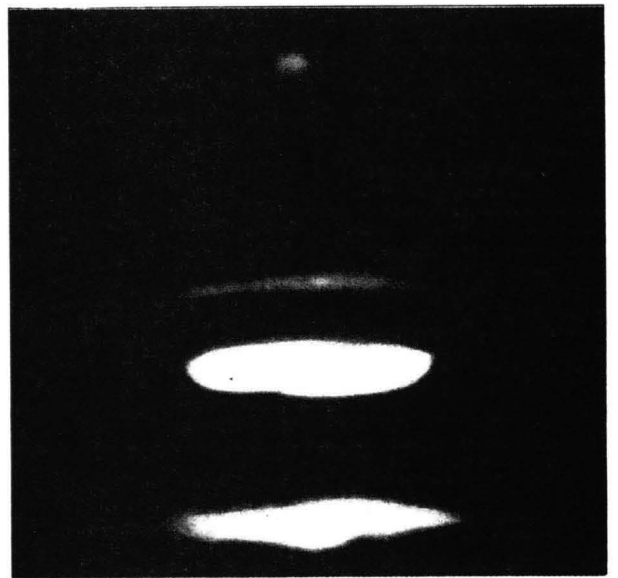
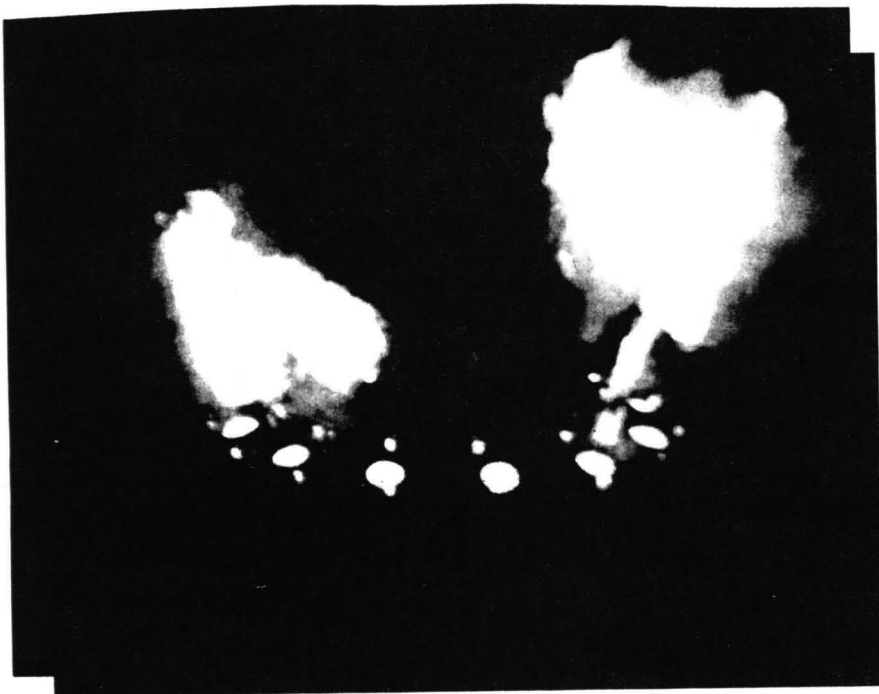
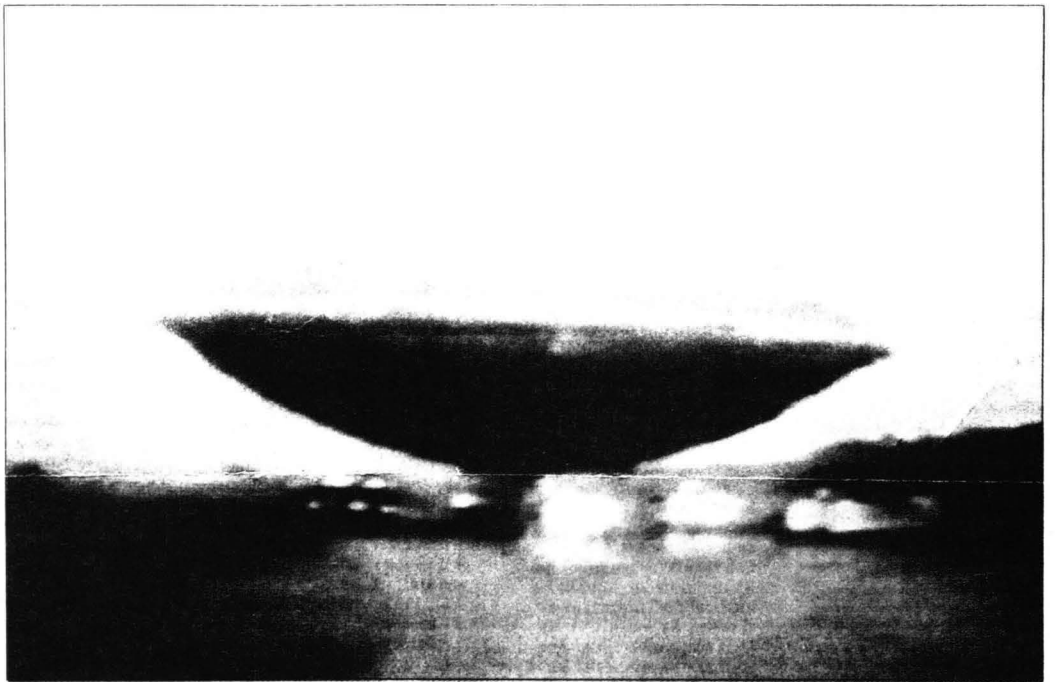
Davenport said that the South Coast sighting was one of several the center received between Thursday evening and Friday morning. At about 11:15 p.m. Thursday a "very strange object" was reported to have landed near Newport, Wash., and at 2 a.m. PST near English, Ind., northwest of Louisville, Ken., there was a "seemingly credible report of an estimated 10 or 11 objects that passed overhead of two women who were out walking in a rural area," Davenport said.

Finally, at 4:40 a.m. Friday "we got a very dramatic sighting report from the vicinity of Reno, Nev., of a complex-shaped object with regularly blinking lights on it," he said.

"So it was a very busy night for us," Davenport said.



*A retired  
Air Force major  
from Medford  
believes the  
government is  
telling less  
than it knows  
about UFOs*



# THE FILER FILES



By AL KLIMCKE  
Courier-Post Staff

**R**etired U.S. Air Force Major George A. Filer was a navigator in a tanker plane back in 1962 when he had his first brush with an unidentified flying object.

"We were flying over Oxford, England, near the Stonehenge ruins," recalls the Medford resident. "London control asked us to investigate a UFO report."

"I got a blip on my airborne radar, and then we saw a light down below about a mile ahead of us," he says. "All of a sudden it took off almost straight up at a high rate of speed."

"When it had departed, London control said we could resume our mission," Filer recalls.

But the brief encounter made a lasting impression on the young flier.

"It may sound foolish to some people, but once you see a UFO, you become a believer."

## 100,000 reports

Filer shares his belief with some 6,000 other members of the Mutual UFO Network, Inc. (MUFON). He was recently appointed its eastern regional director.

"We are an international scientific organization composed of people seriously interested in studying the phenomenon known as UFOs," Filer says.

Based in Texas, MUFON is

the largest organization of its kind in the world, according to Filer. He has been a member for 10 years and says he has collected more than 100,000 reports of UFO sightings.

They have come from individuals, MUFON members, and "various sources" all over the East Coast. He says he often gets six or seven a week.

"You'd be surprised at the number of serious people all over the world interested in this phenomenon, including scientists, medical doctors and astronauts."

## 'Awesome experience'

Serious researchers got a black eye with the recent mass suicide of 39 members of the Heaven's Gate cult in San Diego, Filer says.

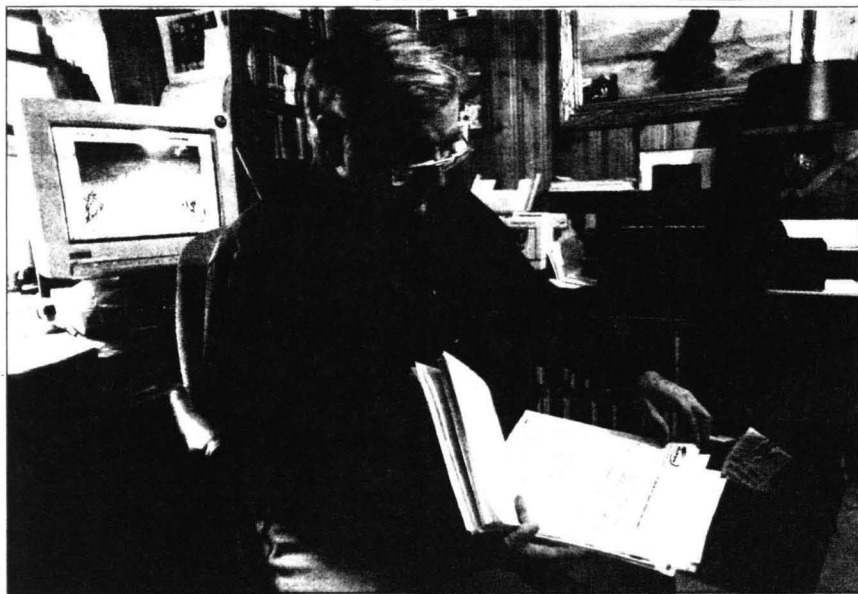
The cultists believed once they had shed their bodies, they would be taken aboard a UFO following behind Comet Hale-Bopp.

Filer believes they were "duped by a very clever leader. I think he used evidence of sightings to misguide them. I don't know it for a fact, but I suspect many of them had experienced sightings."

"When you see a craft it is a very awesome experience," he says. "I don't know how those people came to the conclusion they did, but there are misguided people everywhere."

A sturdily built 5-foot-9 with graying hair, Filer is married and the father of three

(continued on page 10)



**Evidence:** George Filer reviews documentation of UFO sightings at his home in Medford. The files include a photo of a flying object made by the Russians (top), but also images he believes may be extraterrestrial spacecraft.

By Scott Anderson, Courier-Post

grown children, all living in the Philadelphia area.

He says his wife is not entirely comfortable with his interest in matters extraterrestrial. "I don't think she likes it," he says.

Filer served 20 years in the Air Force, retiring in 1978. He experienced a second sighting near his home on Briarwood Lake in Medford in 1980.

"It was a saucer-shaped object, about 25 feet in diameter, with a small dome on top," he says. "There was a blue haze all around it and it appeared to be emerging from the water of the lake."

He says UFOs are often seen coming out of or entering bodies of water, and MUFON speculates seas and lakes could serve as hiding places for them.

Sightings can be quite spectacular.

"In New Hampshire last December, a man reported seeing a craft the size of an ocean liner, over 300 feet long and 75 feet wide, with various structures and lights on it," Filer says.

It made no sound, hovering in the air near his home. "The man estimated it was flying at 800 feet," Filer says. "He called his 19-year-old son out of the house, and he saw it, too."

Filer has scores of such stories to share, some reported in South Jersey.

"We don't know where UFOs come from," Filer says. "They could be aircraft the government doesn't tell us about. Or they

could be from some undersea or underground civilization that wants to remain separate."

Sightings rarely happen to individuals, Filer adds. And people who have had the experience prefer to remain anonymous.

"UFOs are often seen by people in twos and threes," he says. "The sightings usually are three to five minutes in duration, and it's most likely to happen on a Wednesday or a Saturday night."

"Most people see them when they are hovering," he says.

"When they move, they move so fast it's hard to follow them. When people videotape sightings, the craft is usually only on a few frames of the tape."

"But when you start looking

for them, and you know where to look, you see them more readily," he says. "They're usually right above the treetops. Most people don't think to look that low."

Filer says several locales in the U.S. have been identified by MUFON as "hot spots" of frequent UFO activity.

Some of these are Gulf Breeze, Fla., near Pensacola; La Grange, Ga., near Atlanta; Pine Bush, N.Y., in the Hudson Valley near West Point; and the Wanauke Reservoir area in the northernmost end of New Jersey.

Most of these areas are near substantial bodies of water, Filer notes.

He says reports suggest "these are objects with power equivalent to a large railroad diesel engine. They produce a lot more electrical energy than anything we have that flies — enough to power a small town."

This produces halos of colored light around the crafts, he says.

Filer says evidence of UFOs sometimes appears in video transmissions sent back to Earth by space shuttle missions.

"Shuttle astronauts see UFOs all the time," Filer says. "They usually cut off transmission when a UFO comes by, but sometimes they miss it. That makes big headlines in London, England, but you don't see anything about it in U.S. papers."

Filer says he has met three former astronauts — Gordon Cooper, Ed Mitchell and Brian O'Leary — who believe UFOs are real.

"Soviet cosmonauts have taken some excellent pictures of UFOs flying in formation with the Mir space station," Filer says.

Filer is preparing an appeal he will send to philanthropic foundations for funding to prove the existence of UFOs scientifically.

The project would attempt to "identify their advanced propulsion systems and technologies

and investigate claims of alien abductions."

"Up to now," he says, "anyone investigating UFOs is spending their own time and money and has very limited resources."

"MUFON has been severely handicapped in its search for the truth by lack of funds to carry out a scientific analysis of UFOs," Filer writes in his proposal.

"As researchers, pioneers and explorers, we claim our world may be being visited by non-human intelligence. At a minimum, the UFOs are some type of unknown natural phenomenon that may benefit or harm mankind."

"Astronauts and military personnel claim the government knows a great deal more than it admits," he writes. "The UFO community believes the government is withholding the evidence from us."

Most of the available evidence is based on non-scientific visual sightings and a few photographs, Filer writes.

"Our present system collects thousands of reports that have little scientific value. Computerizing and cross referencing of the reports we have would be very helpful for scientific analysis of the data."

Filer says he speaks frequently to public gatherings and appeared on March 26 before a group of gifted fourth- and fifth-graders, part of the Western Burlington County Fine Arts Gifted and Talented Consortium at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Cinnaminson.

"I spoke to about 60 kids in two sessions, and when I asked who believes in UFOs, virtually every hand went up," he says. "I think the kids are way ahead of us adults."

"Either there is a big coverup, or we're just not paying enough attention to this," Filer concludes. "The information is not reaching the right people."

U.S.1 NEWSPAPER, Princeton, NJ - April 16, 1997

## Ready to Meet the Aliens? Pack Your Bags!

Next time you have a hard time getting out of bed in the morning, consider this: In 1988, Jim Sparks, a real estate salesman from southern Florida, began having a strange, recurring dream. A small person would come into his house in the middle of the night and escort him from his bed, through a wall, and into a clearing in the woods. A few hours later, he would be escorted back to bed, where he would wake up the next morning, unable to move nor able to fully recollect the past evening's events. "I would be paralyzed for several seconds," Sparks recalls.

Six months later, Sparks came to realize that this recurring event wasn't a dream at all, and that those small people escorting him into the woods weren't even people, but aliens with environmental agendas, here to farm humans for their genetic material so that they could conduct large-scale biomanufacturing projects to spin off working-class alien clones.

These gray aliens, Sparks reports, need sperm samples and other specimens from genital areas as raw material for their genetically manufactured slave class of "worker beings," which are not unlike Aldous Huxley's Epsilon-class humans in "Brave New World." Therefore, in order to protect their investment, these aliens need us to clean up our planet.

So far, he estimates, these particular aliens have been here conducting para-sexual experiments on humans for hundreds if not thousands of years. They could be genetically responsible for who we are, says Sparks.

Sparks, a pseudonym for a 42-year-old who lives in Fort Myers Beach, Florida, claims he continues to be abducted twice a year, but no longer to fulfill his original demeaning vocation as a human sperm donor. For the last three years, he says, he has been promoted to the job of "calming" the herds of new test subjects being pulled nightly out of their sleep on to the alien ship.

Not surprisingly he also sells his services as a speaker, and will appear at a day-long event sponsored by Frontier Research Seminars, "Alien Abduction and the UFO Phenomenon," in New Brunswick, on Sunday, April 20. Just in time for Hale-Bopp, this UFO conference also features Leonard George, a psy-

chologist from Vancouver who has reputedly witnessed UFOs twice; Maurice Hathaway, a "neurophone" expert; Jason W. Hinson, a high energy physicist who is a visiting fellow at Cornell; and Jim Marrs, an author and "remote viewing" authority.

Sparks' story has not convinced everybody. Elaine Showalter, Princeton University English professor, and author of "Hystories: Hysterical Epidemics and Modern Culture" (Columbia University Press), catalogs alien abductions, along with other sociological pathologies like satanic ritual abuse, past life regression, imaginary illnesses, and conspiracy theories as part of a pattern of millennial crackpots now coming out of the woodwork to add their own two cents' worth to the fin-de-siecle hysteria. "Even for those who accept satanic ritual abuse, alien abduction seems a little over the top," she writes. "It's one thing to fear the Devil, and another to believe in visits from small gray ETs."

Showalter will be at Encore Books on Thursday, May 1, to sign her new book. She is also making numerous radio and television appearances to challenge the sensationalists — including a face-to-face confrontation with some of the afflicted on the Rolanda show.

Several of the alien abduction "experts" whom Showalter takes to task, including the Harvard Medical School professor John Mack, and Whitley Strieber (whose novel "Communion" was made into a motion picture), are participating in a documentary film about Sparks' experiences, which, he claims, could be completed in May. Sparks is also writing a book, and claims he earns a full-time income from sharing news of his encounters.

Sparks was asked what he thought about the Heaven's Gate mass suicide that coincided with the approach of the Hale-Bopp comet and the infamous spaceship trailing close behind. "Absolute garbage," he replied. "Judging from my experiences, I think you have got a cult or group that had delusional thinking to begin with. I mean, they were castrating themselves!" (No future for sperm donors here.) But, Sparks reasons, if the government would only come forth with what it knows about the real aliens, then cults like Heaven's Gate would have to find something else to fantasize about.

— Peter J. Mladineo

Frontier Research Seminars, Rutgers University Continuing Education Center, New Brunswick, 908-873-8587. "Alien Abductions & the UFO Phenomenon." \$30. Sunday, April 20, 9 a.m.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE,  
Little Rock, AR - April 11, 1997

## Pentagon: Sightings of missiles doubtful

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Navy tested two Trident D-5 missiles off the coast of Florida last month, but a Pentagon spokesman said Thursday that it "stretches the imagination" the missiles might have been seen by pilots flying near New York.

The National Transportation Safety Board is examining pilots' reports of possible missile flights March 17 in the New York area.

"We're looking at it as we would any reports of this type," Ted Lopatkiewicz, a board spokesman, said Wednesday.

The St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press reported in a copyrighted story Wednesday that the pilots of three passenger jets have told federal investigators they think they saw a missile or rocket over the New York area the night of March 17.

The possibility that a missile caused the explosion of TWA Flight 800 July 17, killing 230 people, hasn't been ruled out by investigators.

At the Pentagon, Navy Capt. Michael Doubleday said the Navy missiles were sent eastward over the Atlantic toward the Azores, and had been launched from the submarine USS West Virginia.

"It stretches the imagination that anybody could see 1,900 to 2,000 miles, no matter what altitude they are flying at," he said of the pilot reports.

The Pioneer Press reported one of the pilots was on a Minneapolis-bound Northwest Airlines flight. The other flight crews were from Delta Air Lines and USAir.

Doubleday said the military notifies the Federal Aviation Administration whenever there is a missile test "so that pilots, mariners, even people who might be affected on the ground, are notified that there is going to be such a test."

No such tests are conducted around New York, he said.



# UFO researchers describe ever-bolder incursions

*Some say aliens will rescue Earth, change our species. One says they're Christian.*

Reuter News Service

ZURICH, Switzerland — The cross emblazoned on Giorgio Bongiovanni's forehead was barely discernible as he stood in the dimly lit hall, his back to a giant screen showing what speakers at the UFO World Congress called a ~~major~~ breakthrough.

"This is a fleet of UFOs," the Italian medium declared to a rapt audience, white fingerless gloves covering the stigmata on his hands as he gestured to a string of V-shaped lights he said were photographed near a Russian military facility in the city of Tver.

The unidentified flying objects may well have reached our planet via a "dimensional gate" through which spacecrafts made of plasma materialize, he explained as a panel of other prominent UFOlogists looked on in awestruck silence.

Bongiovanni — who says God has marked his body to underscore the message that alien races have accepted Jesus Christ's gospel and are coming to Earth to spread the good news — said he got the photos from Russian military officers.

Their first-ever showing in the West was a highlight of the UFO Congress in Zurich this month and drew high praise from other experts with no less strange subjects to relate.

"Because of his honesty and pure heart he can open doors that others cannot open," intoned Robert O. Dean, a ponytailed former U.S. Army sergeant major who now tracks UFOs for a living. "I'd like to have him come to Washington and get some honest answers from my own government."

German UFO researcher Michael Hesemann was impressed that Bongiovanni had persuaded the Russian military to part with photographs that were such a hit at the three-day conference.

"I get the feeling these officers know a lot more. They are tossing a few crumbs to UFOlogists, but they know a lot more," Hesemann told 100 or so people taking in the spectacle.

Organizers billed the World Congress as a leading gathering of experts trying to smash through government cover-ups and bring the truth about UFOs to people who have not only the right, but also the need, to know what is really going on.

"These experts are here not just to talk humbug, but to present evidence," said conference organizer Acedaih Dafi, her pink jacket setting off her oversized star-shaped earrings and the blue streaks in her otherwise black hair.

But the distinction between humbug and evidence split even the experts, who presented talks on abductions by aliens, passed on messages from survivors of UFO crashes, detailed artificial structures on Mars and pondered the mysteries of the pyramids.

Virgil Armstrong, described as an ex-CIA agent and extraterrestrial scholar, saw great significance in the absence of former U.S. astronaut Gordon Cooper from the conference.

"Since Gordon Cooper is not here it sends us a very clear signal about what is happening right now," he said, suggesting Cooper was busy coordinating with President Clinton on how to brace world public opinion for the imminent arrival of UFOs.

"I said three years ago here in Europe that there would be mass landings beginning in 1996 and particularly in 1997. And there will be. And there are," he insisted to reporters.

Warming to his subject, Armstrong said authorities had recovered the bodies of five aliens whose spaceship crashed near Sao Paulo recently. Hundreds of UFOs are being spotted every day outside Mexico City, he added, drawn by stockpiles of nuclear arms and atomic reactors.

"The effects of the photon belt have made all of them unstable at this point in time and the world government is worried sick because they can't do anything about it," he said.

"If those things go off, it will blow this planet to dust. Since it is beyond our means to control, we are of course going to have divine intervention in the form of UFOs."

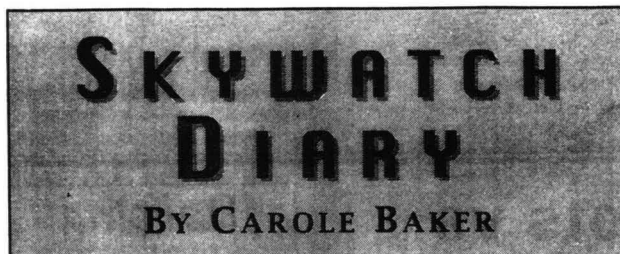
This was a bit much for some of his colleagues, but none wanted to play down the overall importance of their message.

"This is not only the most important issue of our time, it is really the most important issue in the history of the human race," said Dean, whose soft-spoken manner belies the urgency in his voice when he talks about embracing the other-worldly.

"We are facing the transcendent transformation of the human race. We are making a transition into a new species. We are about to make a major step, for the first time in our history, out into space to take our rightful place in the universe, to find our destiny out there with our family," he said.

Dean loved the opportunity to spread the word among the believers at the congress, where people hawking esoteric books, lamps made from crystals and New Age music lined the lobby.

"I guess what bothers me is, a lot of these people are eccentric," he told Reuters with no hint of irony. "But this is real. This is not something off the wall."



I am still trying to understand the "improvements" that the City of Gulf Breeze is making to Shoreline Park. There seems to be a trend that makes it necessary to allow people to be out-of-doors, but not "in nature" so to speak. They enjoy walks along the Beach, but not feeling the sand between their toes, or the gently lapping water around their feet. Rather, they walk on boardwalks so they don't have to deal with the sand. Perish the thought that some residual sand should end up on the floor of their car! What is happening to humankind? As a whole, humankind is removing itself more and more from the natural world, and potentially will lose its place in it altogether. Now I fully understand that in some cases boardwalks act to protect the natural environment, such as at the Dune Nature Trail near Fort Pickens, while allowing people to enjoy the area. Here the boardwalk meanders unobtrusively above the sand and among the dunes. You can hardly call the structure that the City of Gulf Breeze is putting up at Shoreline Park unobtrusive. No longer will we be able to sit at the picnic tables and watch the water as it quietly laps the sand. No longer will we be able to watch the sandpipers bob along the water's edge and the herons fish. No—our view will be obscured by an extremely large and long boardwalk structure, replete with handrails and three twelve foot square gazebos with roofs! They are making the area of water between the boat ramps and the fishing pier an area for personal watercraft—so the peace and quiet will be shattered by the insistent whine of ski-doo! This will affect anyone within earshot, even if you are sitting at the other side of the fishing pier toward the pavilion. With the roofed gazebos, so much of the sky will be blocked out that it will inhibit skywatching greatly. The saddest thing is that the natural beauty of Shoreline Park has been lost and the place has become urbanized. We will have to resort to trying to skywatch on the end of the fishing

pier, and dodge fisherman and mullet nets or go back to skywatching at Wayside Park at the end of the three-mile bridge or over on Santa Rosa Island. Understand, it is not just for the reason of skywatching that I am disturbed about the "improvements" at Shoreline Park; it is from the standpoint of a naturalist who has spent many quiet daylight hours at Shoreline Park enjoying what nature has wrought and now must deal with looking at what man has wrought instead.

We heard of some exciting activity in nearby Baldwin County, Alabama. There have been a lot of sightings in that area recently and also cattle mutilations. The CBS affiliate from Mobile, WKRQ TV 5 ran the story for the most recent sighting complete with video shot by the witness on their Wednesday, April 23 evening news broadcasts. Two of the Gulf Breeze Research Team, Clopton and Sue Jones, were featured in the piece having been out to speak with the witness and begin the process of investigating the event. Clopton Jones is preparing a report which will be included in full in Skywatch Diary next week. The Jones' are veteran investigators, having been involved in the Gulf Breeze Sightings with Ed Walters and many other cases since. They are hoping to be able to have the video provided by the witness, who at this point wishes to remain anonymous, analyzed and enhanced. On first look, the video seems very interesting, showing a fairly close up view of a craft not unlike those photographed by Ed Walters, and there are other shots of a craft at some distance also. There have already been a couple of reports received from other witnesses who state that they have seen similar craft in the Baldwin County area recently. The investigation of these events is ongoing.

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

# Neighbors deny reports of abandoned Area 51

By ROBERT MACY  
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Reports of the demise of a top secret base in the Nevada desert may be premature, according to a Washington source and folks at the Little A'Le'Inn.

Popular Mechanics magazine, in a cover story in its June issue, said the top-secret facility known as Area 51 has been abandoned and operations moved to a site in eastern Utah.

"That's ridiculous," said a congressional source in Washington, D.C.

The source, who requested anonymity, said it would cost \$5 billion to move the operations and such an expenditure is unthinkable at a time when Congress and the Pentagon are weighing a new round of base closings nation-

wide.

The public affairs office at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas referred inquiries on Area 51 to the Air Force media relations office in the Pentagon. Repeated phone calls to the office went unanswered Wednesday.

Residents in the tiny hamlet of Rachel, Nev., some 20 miles from the secret base, say there's every indication it is still operational.

Area 51, a remote base 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas, has been the site of development of America's top-secret aircraft, dating back to the U-2 spy plane more than 40 years ago. The SR-71 Blackbird and F-117A stealth fighter were also tested at the desolate location adjoining the nation's nuclear testing grounds. A new genera-

tion aircraft, known as Aurora, is currently believed to be in the testing stage at the site.

The site was so secret that Air Force officials refused to acknowledge its existence until recent years when a federal lawsuit by former workers forced their hand. Now they acknowledge simply that training and testing activities take place at Groom Lake, a dry lake bed at Area 51.

Popular Mechanics science/technology editor Jim Wilson said Area 51 operations were being moved to a location in eastern Utah known as Area 6413.

He said the Utah site would be used for testing of a military version of NASA's X-33, the next generation of space shuttle now being developed by Lockheed Martin Skunk Works in Palmdale,

Calif.

The X-33, known as Venture Star, will have vertical takeoff and horizontal landing capabilities and will be able to deliver payloads of up to 40,000 pounds to low earth orbit.

The magazine said that the Air Force has an assets-sharing agreement with NASA on future use of the X-33 and that Skunk Works designers are researching ways to adapt it for military use.

The magazine said Area 51 had been shut down because of radioactive residues from nearby nuclear weapons testing and growing public exposure of the top-secret base. For years, under an open skies treaty, Russia has been able to photograph the base with spy satellites while curious Americans were kept seven miles away by armed guards.

The reported closing was met with skepticism by Pat Travis, 53, who operates the Little A'Le'Inn, a cafe in Rachel.

"I think the thing about the base closing is supposition," Travis said in a telephone interview Wednesday. "We get people in here every day who work out there. I think the report is a way to get people to not come out here."

Travis's cafe, filled with UFO lore, is a gathering point for people in the tiny town of 100, as well as workers at Area 51 and the nearby Tonopah Test Range, where the F-117A operated under a shroud of secrecy for years.

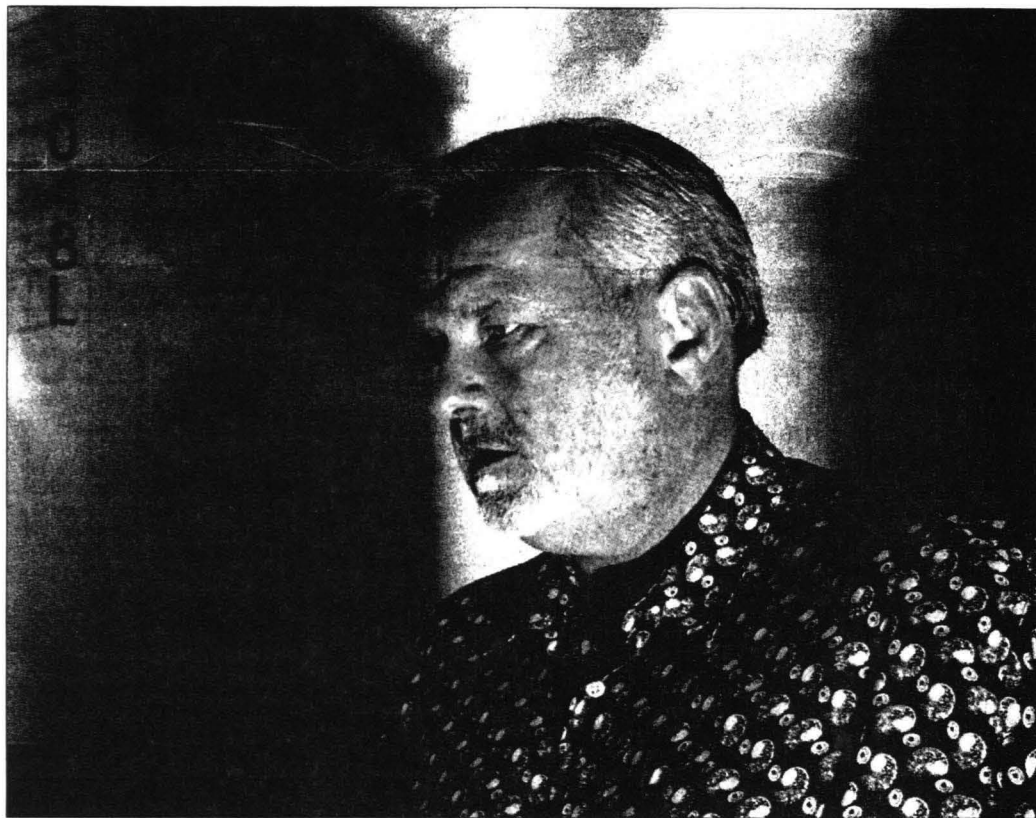
UFO aficionados claim that research involving space aliens has been conducted at Area 51.

Travis's daughter, Connie West, 29, reported seeing activity at Area 51 when she and her husband escorted a television crew to a site several miles from the base two weeks ago.

CR: J. & L. Nicholson

Accounts of strange lights and objects are on the rise in Northwest N.C.

# UFO-watch



Bill Foster says he saw a UFO shaped like a triangle south of Yadkinville recently.

JOURNAL PHOTO BY DAVID ROLFE

## Believers say ridicule deters reports

By Paula Christian  
JOURNAL REPORTER

**T**he bitter-cold night was lit up by a million stars and twinkling Christmas lights strung on houses. And suddenly, Bill Foster saw other lights.

Foster was driving on a desolate stretch of U.S. 601 near Yadkinville. Foster, his wife and two friends were returning from a fund-raiser at Bermuda Run about 11 p.m.

Foster said that it looked like a triangular object with red lights on each corner. Hovering silently above the treetops, it was about the size of half a football field.

"I'm thoroughly convinced that it was nothing we have the technology for. It's powered by something we don't know," Foster said. "Whatever was driving that thing could probably blow us off the map."

Foster is one of several people who have reported seeing strange lights and objects in Northwest North Carolina recently. From last October to January, seven unidentified flying objects have been reported from Boone to German-ton.

"If it had just been me in the car, I don't think I'd have told anybody," said Foster, who is the advertising director of a local publishing company.

Foster got in touch with the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina. The network sent a veteran investigator, Barbara Thompson of Lewisville, to meet him. Thompson said she checked with local airports, weather services and law-enforcement agencies and couldn't find any explanation for the lights.

"Reports have been picking up everywhere," said George Fawcett, the founder of MUFON in North Carolina. "I'm inclined to believe something is really happening."

A growing number of people believe that UFOs and aliens are very real.

In 1996, *Newsweek* magazine surveyed 796 adults and found that 48 percent believe that UFOs are real and 29 percent believe that aliens have contacted humans.

This fascination with extraterrestrials is reflected in the popularity of the television show, *The X-Files*, and in movie theaters where *Independence Day*, was a blockbuster last summer. Such science-fiction movies as *Contact* and *Men in Black* are expected to be big hits this summer.

### Afraid to talk

People may be fascinated by UFOs, but many are afraid to admit it.

### Seeing the Light

Since early October 1996, there have been several reported UFO sightings in Northwest North Carolina and elsewhere in the state. Here's a list:

■ **Oct. 2, Boone** — A round blue object was spotted for a few seconds, before it took off at bullet speed toward Wilkesboro.

■ **Nov. 15, Yadkinville** — A large triangular object, about half the size of a football field, with red lights on each corner was spotted on U.S. 601. It was silent.

■ **Dec. 14, Pilot Mountain** — A triangular object was seen with red, white and blue lights on each corner and a strobe light on its front.

■ **Dec. 19, Rural Hall** — An object with a dome-shaped top and triangular bottom with bright white lights on the corners of the bottom was seen. It also had a band of five bright lights around its middle.

■ **Dec. 29, King** — A triangular object with red, green and white lights on each corner

was seen moving very slowly on N.C. 66. It moved east, then west, then north toward the mountains.

■ **Jan. 5, King** — A silent triangular object with three red lights on each corner was seen on N.C. 66 for 10 minutes before it moved toward Hanging Rock State Park.

■ **Jan. 7, Germanton** — A solid blue disk moved in a straight line without noise or exhaust. It moved north to Hanging Rock State Park.

■ **Jan. 8, Lincolnton** — A round, very bright object with windows, the size of a plane, was spotted at a water plant.

■ **April 12, Salisbury** — Three people spotted a bright orange ball of light.

■ **May 5, Wilmington** — Three people saw an intense white light swirl around and then streak across the sky. It had an aura of light green and a shell of cobalt-blue light.

**SOURCE:** The Mutual UFO Network and the National UFO Reporting Center.

The director of a Greensboro UFO study group didn't want his name or any information about the group publicized. People who truly believe will find the group anyway, he said.

UFO believers estimate that only one in every 10 sightings is ever reported. Most people are too embarrassed to tell anyone what they saw, Fawcett said.

"In most circles, you're a certified nut if you say you've seen a UFO," said Jack Edwards, who believes he saw a UFO while driving to work on N.C. 66 near Rural Hall.

Just before sunrise Dec. 15 Edwards saw an object with a dome-shaped top and a triangular bottom. The craft was as big as a jumbo jet with white lights on each corner and a band of lights around the middle.

"Are you going to ridicule me?" Edwards asked a reporter. He is careful whom he tells about his experience.

The fear of ridicule is one of the reasons

why more sightings are reported in such states as North Carolina that have strong MUFON chapters, members say. More people reveal their sightings in these states because they know who to call.

"You have more people with their antennas up," said Walt Andrus, the director of MUFON, the world's largest UFO organization.

### State with a reputation

MUFON's presence in North Carolina is so strong that the organization held its national symposium in Greensboro in July. Between 600 and 800 people from across the country attended.

In a 1979 report by the Center for UFO Studies, North Carolina was ranked fourth in the nation for sightings. But UFO researchers did not know whether the state still held such a ranking.

The Western Piedmont earned a reputa-

tion for frequent UFO sightings in the early 1970s. On Oct. 24, 1973, more than 50 people, including Surry County Sheriff's deputies, reported strange lights from Shoals to Mount Airy.

The stretch of U.S. 421 from Boone to Winston-Salem has also been a hot spot for UFOs, Thompson said. She believes that there is a window near Pilot Mountain where UFOs travel from one dimension to another.

Pilot Mountain is an isolated peak that survived after ancient mountains eroded away. The large monolith was a landmark for Indians and early settlers. Now it is a mystical symbol to some.

"It's got some very powerful draw to it," said Erica Johnson of the Center for Life Enrichment in Winston-Salem. "The energy flows toward it . . . A lot of people go there just to be in nature and just as a grounding place."

Thompson believes that aliens may be attracted to the granite at Pilot Mountain or the quartz crystals in the Sauratown Mountains.

Fawcett believes that extraterrestrials tap into the transmission towers and power lines atop mountains here.

"Who really knows what they want," Thompson said. "They appear to look at us like we look at insects or cattle that we tag for experiments."

### Scientific explanations

Dr. Tom Mutton, a member of the Forsyth Astronomical Society, said that many strange things in the sky have scientific explanations. For example if you see a star that moves, it is probably a satellite.

"A lot of times meteors or shooting stars will fly over and even explode," Mutton said. "Those look a lot like UFOs to some people."

Gus Jamison, an air-traffic controller at Smith Reynolds Airport, said that this area contains several military training routes. One training route follows U.S. 52 from Winston-Salem to Mount Airy. Another follows I-40 from Winston-Salem to Statesville.

"In nearly 30 years of investigating UFO cases I have yet to find one that cannot be explained," said Philip Klass, a contributing editor for *Aviation Week & Space Technology* magazine.

Klass is the founder of *Skeptics UFO Newsletter*.

He believes that aliens are "the adult equivalent of Santa Claus."

He also believes that all UFO sightings can be explained if investigators are thorough and devote enough time to solving the mysteries.

"One of the problems is that some investigators don't want to go out and check the reports . . . go to the site and talk to witnesses," Andrus admitted.

### Where it began

The first credible UFO sighting is widely believed to have occurred June 24, 1947, when a pilot spotted nine disk-shaped objects near Mount Rainier in Washington. Two weeks later, the infamous Roswell crash happened.

Residents of the tiny New Mexico town reported that an alien spacecraft crashed. It has been the "Remember the Alamo" cry of UFO believers since then.

They believe that the government recovered bodies of aliens and pieces of the spacecraft at Roswell yet hid it from the public.

"They've been covering up for 50 years," Andrus said. "There's no president who wants to come forward and admit the government's lying."

If aliens are visiting this planet, Klass wonders why earthlings have never recovered any proof.

The vast majority of UFO sightings — 90 to 95 percent — turn out to be weather balloons, a bright Venus or military aircraft, Andrus said.

"We try to separate meteors from UFOs," said Peter Davenport, the director of the National UFO Reporting Center. He was skeptical of a UFO sighting reported May 5 in Wilmington during the peak of a meteor shower.

Believing in UFOs is harmless, Klass said, until it becomes an obsession. He said that a grandmother in England, who believed she had been abducted by aliens, stabbed her two granddaughters to death to spare them from the same fate.

Thompson sees things differently. "There are two kinds of people in this world. Those that believe in UFOs and those that will."

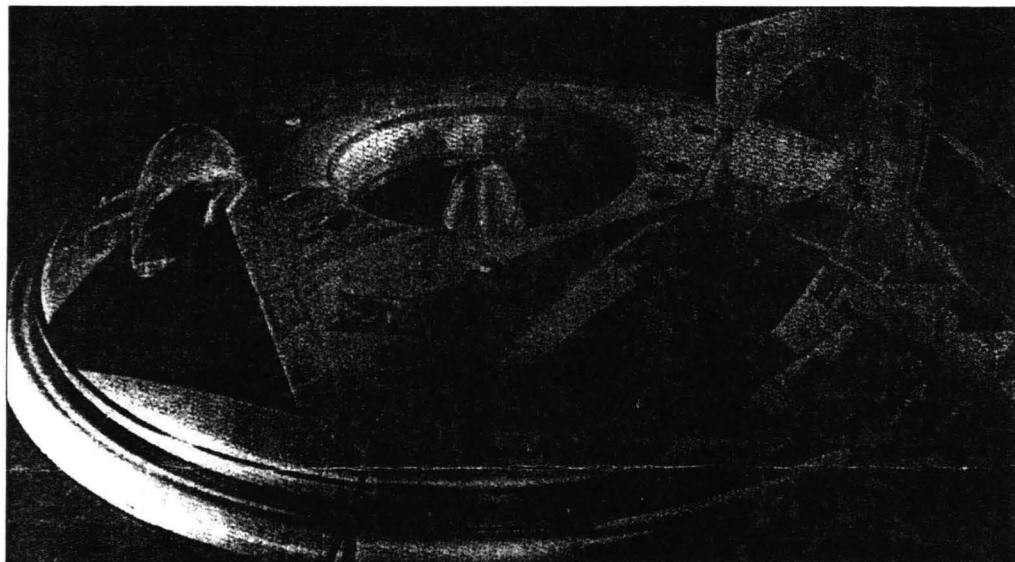




STAR, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - April 26, 1997 CR: M. Deschamps

## BOOKS

# They're here . . .



**THE AVROCAR:** This contraption was commissioned by the U.S. military from A. V. Roe Canada Ltd.

### The UFO Files: The Canadian Connection Exposed

By PALMIRO CAMPAGNA  
Stoddart, 207 pages, \$26.95

By BARRY WATERMAN

These are troubling times for ufologists. With the publication earlier this decade of British researcher Timothy Good's exhaustive bestselling two-volume study of the alien invasion phenomenon *Above Top Secret* and *Alien Contact* — works that set the tone and standard for all future inquiries — it would seem the limits of what might be said on the subject of UFOs, aliens and conspiracies have nearly been reached.

Of course, there have been and will continue to occur isolated incidents that warrant book-length investigations. As for alien abductions of humans, too many books are already filled with dull, unconvincing transcripts of hypnotists' sessions with self-described abductees.

Wisely, then, in *The UFO Files* Palmiro Campagna avoids the researcher's sin of repetition and instead offers an original and comprehensive overview of the alien invasion as it has unfolded in Canada from its earliest recorded beginnings to the present. It is a detailed and convincing portrait presented with an astonishing array of archival evidence and photographs. These range from sources as obscure as a March 7, 1911 report in *The Windsor Post* of a brilliantly lit airship hovering above Chatham Township, to government documents declassified through freedom of information procedures pursued by Campagna himself, a defence department engineer in Ottawa.

Largely, *The UFO Files* concerns itself with three intriguing case studies. The first is that of Wilbert Smith, engineer-in-charge of the Canadian transport department's Project Magnet in the early 1950s. For many in the international ufology community, Smith is one of the smoking guns who provides a key link between the government's conspiracy of silence and the presence

on our planet of extraterrestrials.

The second study examines the creation of the Avrocar, a flying disk commissioned by the American military and built by the Canadian A. V. Roe company, allegedly as a smoke screen for test flights of recovered extraterrestrial flying saucers.

The third explores Stefan Michalak's 1967 close encounter with a landed saucer in a Manitoba forest. Michalak, an amateur geologist, approached the vehicle and was badly burned from its exhaust. His case was investigated by the RCMP, which found no evidence of a hoax.

Replete with appendices, references, and an extensive bibliography of source materials, there is much in *The UFO Files* to keep alien invasion enthusiasts debating for years. As such, it is a welcome addition to the canon of ufology and adds further evidence to support nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman's view that we are indeed living amidst a cosmic Watergate.

Barry Waterman's novel *After The Monsoon* is published by van der Reest.

STANDARD, Cotswold, England - Jan. 7, 1997

# UFO group's 'out of this world' year

CONSPIRACIES, cover-ups, mysterious flying black triangles, and alien abduction - not bad for one year's worth of UFO activity.

Circular Forum, a voluntary group that investigates alien spaceship movement throughout Gloucestershire, has published its end-of-year report - and discovered the county is fast becoming a UFO hot spot.

The increase in sightings also mirrors the world-wide rush of intergalactic antics that have followed agents Scully and Mulder in *The X-files* and the release of *Independence Day*.

The Forum received a total of 71 individual reports, either through their

By Iain Akerman

mobile sightings hot line or monthly meetings. Of these, 49 relate to 1996 and involve a total of 81 witnesses. Eighteen are believed to have rational explanations.

One of the sightings was reported in the *Standard* in October.

Former air gunner Ron Bassett was putting out the empties for the milkman when he saw a cigar-shaped UFO hovering over Fosse Close in Cirencester.

"It was a very strange experience - I've never seen anything like it in my life," said Mr Bassett.

Robin Cole, head of investigations

and based in Cheltenham, said: "The UFO phenomenon is far more complex than just rooting out every sighting that takes place."

"I believe that some aspects are sinister. But knowing how to sort the wheat from the chaff is very difficult."

The Forum has also investigated crop formations and taken part in an international skywatch.

The group of volunteers is dedicated to finding the truth and has travelled up to 6,000 miles trying to do so in the last year.

This year has also seen the launch of *RADAR*, a type of Green-Cross-Code for those who see a UFO in the area. This is included on the hotline card.

INFORMER, Staines, England - Dec. 6, 1996

# THE XMAS FILES

## UFO spotted on Dec 25

A NEW report of three UFO sightings over Heathrow last Christmas was uncovered this week.

Last week, we reported that hundreds of people spotted a UFO over Heathrow a fortnight ago.

The author of the new report, UFO investigator Terry Knight, says the story, which involved RAF jet planes, was first brought to his attention by a radar controller at the airport.

The controller received a radio message that three 'unidentified' were approaching the airport on Christmas Day last year.

Radar confirmed the report. Traffic controllers are said to have seen a large glowing white ball accompanied by two smaller glowing balls.

They hovered over the runway for 15 minutes.

Two jets then approached the objects.

The two smaller globes broke off to the left and right at terrific speeds.

The controller claims the larger ball ascended at a speed of 2,000mph and that the jets were definitely from the RAF, and probably Tornados.

The Civil Aviation Authority, which monitors air traffic in and out of Heathrow, referred the Informer to the RAF when we asked about the sightings.

An RAF spokesman said: "We were certainly not called to do anything on that day."

"It is a busy area and there would be records of any incident."

## UFOs? He's no sceptic now!

RETIRED businessman Raymond Hampson said his days of being a sceptic are over after he saw a UFO circumnavigate Taunton.

Insomniac Mr Hampson, aged 82, of Palmerston Road, Taunton, was awake at 3 am last Friday when he heard a droning noise in the sky.

He thought it was an aircraft and stayed in bed but after a while got up to look out of the window.

Mr Hampson told the *County Gazette*: "I couldn't believe what I saw. It was absolutely fascinating."

"I was looking up at this huge object sideways on. It was a large circular object with a ring of blue lights and a much larger wing of orange and red lights."

"The red lights kept flashing. It was so clear I could draw it. I think the object I saw was just camouflage for the larger power unit inside."

Mr Hampson has reported his sighting to the National UFO Society and is hoping to see a local representative this week.

"Seeing this was just as exciting as when I watched tests of planes with no propellers at Farnborough during the Second World War!"

Sightings of UFOs are becoming more commonplace as many people are less afraid to speak out.

This week there were press reports of strange sightings in the Trull area of Taunton kept under wraps since 1962.

ALYSON STOODLEY

## UFO mystery

A UFO was spotted by three separate groups of people in the Colchester area on New Year's Day, it has been claimed.

A couple returning to Clacton from Colchester claimed to have seen a large triangular-shaped object in the sky with three red lights and one white one.

Eight people in a minibus saw the same object as they came off the Little Clacton bypass into London Road, Clacton, and a person in Colchester also claims to have seen it.

Ron West, chairman of the Essex UFO Research Group, appealed for more witnesses to call the UFO hotline on 01255 670003.

COLCHESTER EXPRESS, Essex, England - Jan. 9, 1997

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

## AROUND THE SHUSWAP

# The truth is out there

BY JAMES EKE  
SHUSWAP SUN STAFF

They may already be among us. Imagine sitting on your deck, gazing up at the clear night sky when you suddenly see something that shouldn't be. Something that defies explanation, expectation and rational thought. It moves noiselessly overhead.

Sound familiar? Perhaps a case for Mulder and Scully? Or does it sound familiar because it's happened to you?

Sightings of strange craft and other close encounters have long been a hot topic around the Shuswap. *The Shuswap Sun* decided to find out if there is any truth to rumors that this area is a hotbed for extraterrestrial contacts.

Michael Strainic, Canadian National Director of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network (MUFON) in Vancouver, represents the largest organized group seriously studying the phenomena. He says he has a folder full of reports from the Shuswap which are now familiar to both Canadian UFO researchers and enthusiasts. But, he points out, with no database up and running it's hard for MUFON to get a handle on exactly what is happening in the Shuswap. More than 150 reports worth looking at come in each year in B.C. alone.

"There are quite a few reports from the Shuswap, most around Salmon Arm," Strainic says the most famous case from the Shuswap was reported in the late 1960's. "We've had ... and still have ... people coming to talk about this case. It doesn't matter where we go... people always come up

## UFO sightings in the Shuswap have contributed to the mystery

and say 'Do you know about what happened in Seymour Arm?'"

For MUFON, at least, the case revolves around a report from a Washington State pilot who flew people into the bush near Seymour Arm, from Salmon Arm airport.

"He tells of how something came down in that area ... and then the military blocked the whole area off including air traffic. No one was allowed in or out. That's about all we know ... but we have enough people telling the same story that we are pretty sure something was going on there."

Another case, a few years later on the mountains surrounding Salmon Arm, brings the sightings closer to home. In 1973, a father and daughter reported something white and dome-shaped in the Fly Hills area.

According to Strainic, the man who reported the case said he was looking through a telescope and thought he saw a dome-shaped rock formation.

"He apparently left it at that but about two weeks later - after a big forest fire on the mountain - he and his daughter noticed a 'vehicle' of some sort hovering over that dome-shaped object for at least a week."

In 1977, another Salmon Arm man on a trucking run from Prince George to Salmon Arm, reported an eerie encounter on the highway. "He said he saw a fast-approaching light. He swerved and then the next thing he

remembers is waking ... and another car parked beside him in the opposite direction. Both drivers were aware of a 15 minute time lag. Both later reported that the 'light' became more visible as it came closer. Both described a craft with alligator-like skin on its outside surface and two rings or circles underneath."

One of the most disturbing reports from here happened in the late

1970s when six carloads of people - traveling to or from Kamloops - reported seeing something strange in a field.

"Our report states the military was already there when these people drove up. They were then taken into the U.S. and forced to sign a document saying they would never talk about what they saw."

But it wasn't until 1993 that UFO reports began flooding in from the Shuswap.

"We were literally buried alive with reports ... we had 700 reports that year."

Strainic says that within a 100 kilometre radius of Kamloops, MUFON received call after call from people reporting sightings of what can best be described as a "bar of light" on the horizon.

"We have mountains and mountains of evidence something of major significance was going on ... but not one shred of proof."

Strainic noted that one of the major stumbling blocks for UFO researchers is getting at the truth.

"There are a lot of small towns like Salmon Arm around North America where

this stuff happens. Unfortunately, small towns act as a buffer zone and it really is amazing how often the information doesn't filter out. The stories keep going around and around ... but never out of the town."

As for skeptics, Strainic says most haven't done their homework.

"Sure there are cases that can be easily explained and we do that whenever they come up ... but there are even more that can't."

When you have person after person coming to you and telling you a similar story that you wish you couldn't believe you know there is something happening.

These are normal people, not crazy ones and something has happened to them."

Even television is a problem to researchers.

"We all have been so contaminated by TV that everyone knows ... what an alien is 'supposed' to look like. That can really mess things up. Skeptics don't want to believe ... and nothing you can do will change that."

Strainic's own vision of what is going on can best be summed up with these words: "Anything that hovers over homes, people and vehicles ... and doesn't make a sound ... can't be up to any good."

## MARK TONNER



Out of the blue

# UFOs over Kingsway

My first thought was that extraterrestrials may be class-conscious. Last week, a man stopped me to say he'd seen an unearthly craft hovering over Vancouver's Kerrisdale district.

He described it as resembling an interstellar flagship, or battle cruiser. Huge, with a squat shape evoking images of military conquest, it hung silently, three or four hundred feet up. He ran for a camera and returned too late.

His tale was compelling, especially considering I'd heard a similar one days earlier. A woman from Vancouver's east side claimed harassment over a period of weeks by unidentified flying objects. Her apparitions appeared first as lights in the sky, but soon drew near. Small and triangular, the objects swooped about her house like some kind of scouts.

It seemed the mother ship had found our affluent centre and sent underlings to poke around elsewhere. Nosing about a little on my own, I found something different entirely.

Vancouver police department files referred me to defence dispatchers, who claimed no knowledge. Commercial air-traffic controllers at Vancouver International Airport insisted nothing had shown on their radar — that no UFO had ever been scanned by them, and radar coverage is virtually unbroken across B.C.

They directed me to Michael Strainic, director of MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network. Patiently explaining military and air-traffic-control reticence, he claimed 50 to 60 sightings a year are

reported to MUFON from the Lower Mainland.

B.C. folk see all shapes and sizes, though the triangular outline has caused a recent worldwide stir. Beginning in 1988, in New York and Belgium, triangular craft have been seen by thousands.

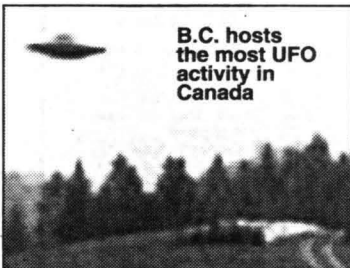
B.C. hosts the most UFO activity in Canada. Locally, MUFON identifies a corridor over-represented in sightings: From the coast, it runs through Surrey, Langley and Abbotsford and, perhaps meaningfully, carries many of our high power lines.

I was overwhelmed. Several sightings had been reported by drivers along Kingsway, at midday! Strainic claimed knowledge of an ex-B.C. Hydro executive who had been abducted, more than once. On Vancouver Island's west coast, a saucer shape was actually seen to rise from the ocean, transmute into a small propeller plane and fly away.

Strainic meets his share of rubber-room types, but these reports were said to be made by steady folk. Do galactic visitors walk among us? I've long believed them to be driving automobiles here. Either way, police reference files in Vancouver will be updated.

Write me (c/o The Province) if you've seen anything similar. MUFON is eager to hear of sightings at 683-6168 or 271-6313. Its Web site is [www.renaissance.com/ufoCanada](http://www.renaissance.com/ufoCanada).

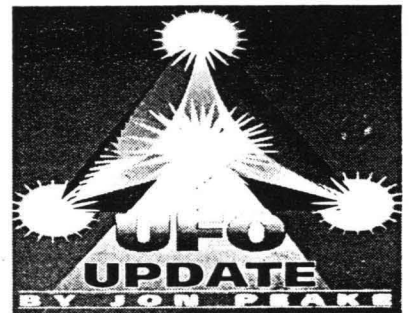
Const. Mark Tonner is a Vancouver police officer. The opinions and statements contained in this column are those of the writer, and not necessarily those of the Vancouver police department or the police board.



B.C. hosts the most UFO activity in Canada

REPORTER, Wigan, England - Jan. 16, 1997

## Man's night swarm fright



AN UNUSUAL tale to report in this week's UFO Update. But a very interesting one as well. It comes from a man called Rob from Hindley.

In his own words, Rob writes, "At approximately 10.30pm, I went to bed as usual to listen to the radio before going to sleep. After about half an hour I switched it off and soon went off myself."

"I was awakened by a high-pitched piercing sound, I had been in a deep slumber though and was only really half awake."

"The noise got louder and louder, it reminded me of the sound of a swarm of bees. That's the best way I can describe the noise."

"When it reached its peak it was almost vibratory and very intense. The sound gradually subsided after about 15-20 seconds."

"My apprehension stopped me from getting out of bed to investigate as did the strange feeling of dizziness I had."

"My main concern at the time was if I had got up to try and find where the noise was coming from and opened the window, a swarm of bees would have flown in. This seemed odd as the sound seemed to

be coming from inside the room itself rather than outside."

"During the strange phenomenon my wife was unaffected and was still fast asleep. I couldn't understand this as the sound was so intense."

"I checked the time and it was 1.52am. I woke my wife and she was oblivious as to what had occurred."

"I lay awake for about 20 minutes contemplating what had happened and then drifted back to sleep."

"In the morning I awoke feeling very tired and very agitated and needed to tell someone of my odd experience."

Rob told Quest International investigator Bill Eatock about his experience. Bill said: "My house is just across the road from Rob's and I only went to bed around 2am that night. I saw and heard nothing out of the ordinary but Rob was very agitated and shaken up at what had happened."

Have you seen or heard anything strange in Wigan? If you have and want to share your experience write to UFO Update, Wigan Reporter, Martland Mill, Martland Mill Lane, Wigan WN5 0LX.



# Alien-abducted local man gives collection thumbs-up Book reveals Close Encounters in Wigan

SOME of Wigan's weirdest goings-on have been brought together for the first time in a special local history book on UFOs.

The Wigan Area Society for Paranormal Study and Investigation, WasPsi, has compiled a slim paperback volume documenting 30 years of bizarre sightings and even more dramatic incidents including alien abductions.

The book, called Wigan UFOs - A Brief History, was today sanctioned by one of those abduction victims, Ince's Bill Eatock, who has since gone on to become one of the country's leading UFO investigators for Quest International.

His experience happened in 1991 when he says he was driving round Red Rock near Standish trying out a walkie-talkie with his wife Janice. Suddenly there was a high-pitched screaming noise and he became disoriented.

## Stunned

After what he thought was just a couple of minutes later it stopped and Janice came back on the walkie-talkie saying why had he not been answering for half an hour. When he got home Bill says his wife was stunned to find him staggering into the house, his clothes dishevelled, the left side of his face curiously sunburnt and blood pouring from his left ear - an injury presumably caused by the noise.

He could remember nothing at the time but was later regressed by a hypnotist and says he was able to recall small grey-coloured creatures with large black almond-shaped eyes drawing him and his car into their ship.

The 46-year-old says his life has never been the same since

By CHARLES GRAHAM

and his health has deteriorated badly. Since becoming involved with Quest he has been able to speak to many other people who have undergone similar frightening experiences.

He is impressed by the new Wigan book but even he is not convinced that every single sighting will be a true alien encounter.

Bill said: "I am sure that most incidents can be explained in some way, regardless of the earnestness of the people who experience them, but it would be folly to dismiss them all."

"What the book does show is that there is an awful lot of unexplained activity going on out there, even in a relatively small area such as Wigan."

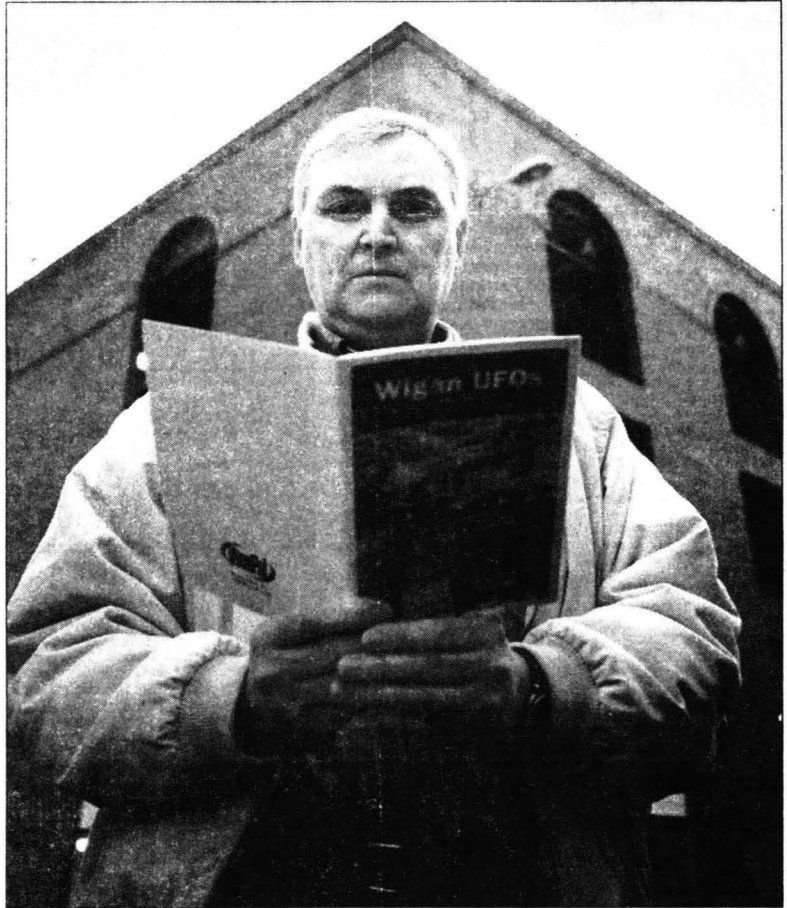
Ian Hawthorne of WasPsi has compiled the book referring to verbal accounts, old local newspaper articles and other publications.

He said: "When WasPsi was founded a year ago, we were hoping we would become a repository for information on paranormal happenings in the Wigan area that people could refer to as and when the need arose, but many people wanted to know what we were going to do with the information. Surely we were not going to hoard it?"

"The answer was 'no' and this is the first example of what we are doing with it. The book is a concise compilation of testimonies and accounts of unidentified flying objects in, around and over the Wigan area during the last 30 years."

"It includes two very personal accounts of abduction experience, a report of triangular craft over Blackrod in 1979 and two close encounters with alien beings in Platt Bridge."

The book is now available from Smith's Bookshop on Mesnes Street, Wigan.



WEIRD WORDS: Bill Eatock with the new book featuring his abduction story

WESTERN MAIL, Cardiff, Wales - Jan. 4, 1997

PARANORMAL: New society to discuss UFO sightings, ghosts and spiritual healing

## Flying triangle joins balls of light on roll call of mystery

PARANORMAL investigators are studying a spate of sightings of a mysterious black triangle in the sky.

The triangle craft, and a series of other unexplained balls of light in the sky around Cardigan Bay, have been reported by about 20 people to the newly formed West Wales Paranormal Society.

Now the society is recording all the information it has received onto a new database of UFO sightings in West Wales.

And information is being passed on to similar bodies worldwide through the Internet in the hope they can discover whether the craft is really something out of this world or has a basis in more mundane reality.

"Ultimately we hope to get to the bottom of it all," said the society's organiser Adam Whaley from Newquay.

"But we have no videos, no photos and no multiple witnesses so it's a bit like trying to catch shadows."

He said the black triangle craft,

which was first seen in the US around 1988, has since been spotted by hundreds of people worldwide but there has been no official explanation for its existence.

Whether of military or alien origin, it invariably appears in the night sky preceded by a flash of lightning.

Witnesses say it is huge and moves from a stationary hovering position to hundreds of miles an hour within seconds.

It was first spotted in West Wales some months ago.

But on the night of November 21 last year there were around half a dozen separate sightings along with numerous other accounts of mysterious colours lighting up the night sky around Cardigan Bay.

"People definitely saw something," said Mr Whaley.

"There are too many different accounts for it to be merely the work of the imagination."

"My own view is that it is probably some sort of secret military craft which the authorities want to

keep quiet."

The investigation into the mysterious black triangle is the first major research project to be undertaken by the paranormal society which meets once a month in Lampeter.

But unexplained UFO sightings is only part of their interest.

The 50-strong group will also discuss any phenomena for which there appears, as yet, to be no scientific explanation, such as ghosts, spiritual healing, ley lines or crop circles.

"We'll look at anything," said Mr Whaley. "Our members range from those deeply committed to spiritual explanation of events to those more like myself who are sceptical and keep an open mind."

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence dismissed reports of any UFO sighting and said it did not believe there were any real or tangible sightings of UFOs.

"We only investigate occurrences if they have a defence implication," he said.

REPORTER, Wigan, England - Dec. 12, 1996



WELCOME UFO fans once again.

This week in the column, as promised, another sighting, this time in Appley Bridge, of the famous black triangle.

The letter comes in from a lady named Samantha and reads: "It was a clear night, on November 4, and myself and three friends were just about to pull out of Hullet Close, in Appley Bridge, when one of my friends spotted a UFO."

"We all looked up and behind the trees an unexplainable object started moving upwards, then it shot to the side in a jagged manner and across Back Lane."

"Within a few seconds it had gone, well out of sight."

"The object looked like a triangle, or even a hexagon."

"I say a triangle because it had three search lights in the shape of a triangle."

"Underneath the craft it had about six rotating red lights which looked like a hexagon shape."

"It was not a helicopter, it was far too big and I've never seen an aircraft so low over anything like we saw that night."

Did anybody else see such a craft on Monday, November 4? It was there for all to see.

If you did see anything contact me, tel 228000 or write to UFO Update, the Wigan Reporter, Martland Mill, Martland Mill Lane, Wigan WN5 0LX.

# IS THIS BRITAIN'S TOP SECRET £100m PLANE?

By ALAN RIMMER

A MYSTERIOUS triangular-shaped object shoots silently through the winter sky over Britain.

This remarkable picture, taken by a landscape photographer, is being treated by UFO experts as proof that Britain is secretly developing a Stealth-type warplane that is light years ahead of the opposition.

"The strange thing was that the object, whatever it was, made absolutely no sound," said the startled photographer who was taking shots of snow scenes on the Lancashire moors, near the Winter Hill TV transmitter.

He does not want to be named, but he added: "It was a clear, still day and if it was a conventional aircraft I would have heard it."

The Stealth sci-fi aircraft take their name from their ability to evade enemy radar. Americans used them in the Gulf War to avoid Iraqi air-defence systems.

## Invisible

The Lancashire photographer noticed a slight movement in his viewfinder as he snapped snow scenes. He said: "I looked up but there was nothing there. I didn't think anything of it until I got home and developed the film."

"There, in the centre of the picture was a small silver triangle."

"At first I thought it might just be a fault on the photo. But when I examined the negative, everything was fine."

The photographer passed his remarkable picture on to UFO experts who claim it is the world's first picture of a top secret British plane codenamed HALO (High Altitude, Low Observable).

Its existence is denied by the Government. For as designers discover new methods of making



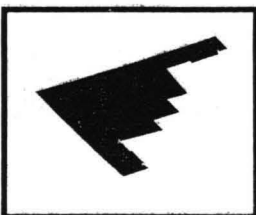
RIDDLE: UFO over the moors

aircraft invisible to enemy radars, so air-defence engineers must develop secret new ways of detecting planes.

UFO expert Mark McAndrew has no doubts. He said: "This is a very important photograph. As far as we are concerned, it's proof that the British are developing a Stealth-type aircraft which makes the American version look like an Airfix kit."

"In the last few months, hundreds of triangle-shaped UFOs have been reported all over the country, especially along the Lancashire coast and in the North West."

"Eyewitnesses have told of a



EVASIVE: Stealth could beat radar

silvery triangle-shaped object about 30ft long, with no wings or visible engines. Others have spoken of the object being escorted by two Tornado jets.

"The object flies like no other aircraft we have ever heard of. It stops in the sky, hovers, then shoots off at an amazingly high speed."

A key feature of Stealth aircraft are triangular surfaces. Radar beams striking the plane are not deflected enough to register on radar screens. Stealth planes also give off little infra-red heat energy.

Defence sources say that although America was first with Stealth craft, Britain is developing something that will be generations more advanced.

It is thought that Stealth planes will be able to fly at 3,000mph which would enable them to fly from America to Britain in one hour.

## Spent

Mr McAndrew said he believed the new aircraft was remote controlled and was being developed at the nearby British Aerospace factory at Warton, Lancashire.

Details of the HALO project are listed in the respected publication, Jane's Military Aircraft.

It talks of £100 million being spent on Stealth aircraft development, and adds: "British Aerospace are urging Government go-ahead for Stealth demonstration in 1997. Production aircraft then to be available in 2013 with international collaboration likely."

A Ministry of Defence spokesman yesterday officially denied existence of the HALO project, saying: "We don't know of any project by that name."

An official at British Aerospace said: "Silver, triangle object? Sorry, not one of ours."

## Experts to look into Norfolk UFO reports

Experts are to carry out a full investigation into reports of a slow-moving, shining object seen in the skies over North Norfolk by two policemen.

About 40 people have contacted Fakenham police with sightings of the craft since the EDP reported on the UFO, which the pair tracked for 10 miles.

Air traffic controllers had no logical explanation for the object, seen shortly before Christmas, and recorded it as a UFO.

The British UFO Research Association (Bufora) has been in contact with the two police officers and asked them to complete questionnaires on the sighting.

PC Andy Collier and Sgt Steve King stared in disbelief as the red and white lights moved across the

sky, but they lost sight of the craft when it moved out across the sea at Cromer.

"Steve spotted it first and pointed it out to me. He's not interested in UFOs at all but I am. I got him to stop and took out some binoculars," said PC Collier.

"My first reaction was this is weird. I knew it wasn't an ordinary aircraft."

"I couldn't really make out the shape of it. It made no noise. There were four lights in a square flashing and it left a vapour trail behind it."

John Copsey, of Bufora, said: "We will pass the information to investigators across the country and contact experts to find out if there is any logical explanation for the object. We will certainly carry out a full investigation."

## UFO group probes sighting of mystery object at Tintagel

A UFO research group is appealing for witnesses of a mystery object seen in the Tintagel area.

The Cornwall UFO Research Group (CUFORG) say they are investigating the "unusual event" when the object was seen in a field at Treven early on January 12.

"A local woman woke at 4am to see a bright light flickering through her window," says the group.

"When she looked outside, she saw that it was coming from a white triangular object surrounded by a pulsing halo of light."

Dave Gillham, for the

group, said it was particularly interested in tracing the driver of a car which went past at the time of the sighting.

The UFO research group would like to hear from anyone who has seen a UFO, whether in the past or more recently, and it can be contacted on 01872 76381.

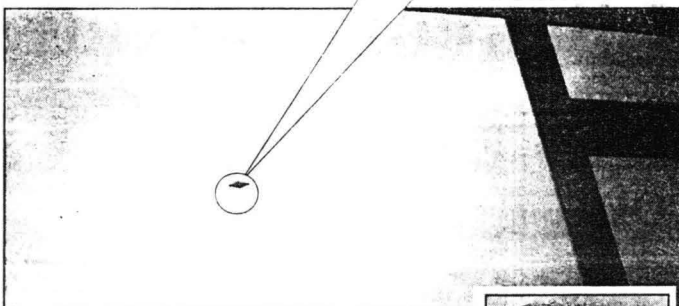
Since the group was founded in the autumn of 1995, it has been actively investigating UFO sightings and other strange phenomena in Cornwall.

The group holds regular meetings at Truro, and the next one, on February 3,

will include an illustrated talk on 'ancient astronauts' by Hayle researcher Dennis Holwill.

● THE last time the 'Post' reported a UFO seen by a couple near Week St Mary more than two years' ago, we were inundated with confirmatory sightings and reports of other similar mystery objects in North Cornwall, West Devon, North Devon, and Caradon district, all of which were passed on to local bodies investigating such phenomena.

## On trail of UFOs



FLYING SAUCER... Simon Rutter's picture from his window. A newly-formed Stourbridge 'X-Files' group is celebrating success with its first publication of a snap of a UFO.

Client man Bill Davies claims to have spotted a triangular-shaped craft hovering above his home in Belbroughton Road only a few days ago.

But it was this picture taken by his then six-year-old stepson, Simon Rutter, which has generated a wave of interest after it was featured in the national UFO Magazine.

Although members of the group claim to have seen many UFOs in the Stourbridge area this is the best photographic 'evidence' to date.

The snap — which has been confirmed by experts as a solid, airborne object — was one of hundreds taken when Simon was given a cheap plas-

tic camera by his mum Janet. Bill, a member of the new UFOFORM group, said: "It was only when Simon was older and he found the pictures he realised what it was."

"We heard him screaming upstairs then he rushed down and showed me the photo which seemed to show a saucer like object hovering in the sky."

Steve Poole, from Stourbridge UFO Group, said: "As far as we are concerned this is a genuine UFO."

"It has passed all the relevant tests and analysis of a major magazine — it is a big plus for the group."

Stourbridge UFOFORM is holding an open meeting at The Mitre on Monday February 3 from 8pm.



UFO WATCHER... Bill Davies.

## Are UFOs targeting a county A winter's tale — of a UFO encounter

By: RICHARD LOMAX

THE last thing you might expect to see from your kitchen window on a cold, dark winter's night is a UFO parked in a field, preparing for take-off.

But that's exactly what happened to a county man last year — and he still can't explain what he saw.

Mr Frederick Orton (85) lives in a bungalow overlooking ploughed fields in Chapel Lane, Sharnford, near Narborough.

It's a quiet rural village, surrounded by farmland and woods.

Mr Orton told the M-Files: "It was about eight o'clock at night, and I had just gone into the kitchen to fetch something."

"On glancing out of the window, I noticed some bright lights in the field beyond the hedge at the bottom of my garden, about 40 yards away."

"At first I thought it was a tractor, but I realised the lights were not moving."

"I watched the object for about 30 seconds, then it suddenly rose up into the air."

"I saw that it was a dark, triangular object, the two brilliant white lights were on the sides."

"There was a shower of what looked like golden snowflakes or sparks coming out from the centre of the craft and falling on the ground."

Mr Orton says that as he watched, the object started to move towards his house. "It didn't make a sound, so I knew it wasn't a normal aircraft, and it started to move towards me."

### Disappeared

"When it was about 10 yards from the bottom of my garden, the lights suddenly went out and the craft disappeared."

Mr Orton says he is not the only person to have seen the object in the area.

"Our local vicar, who



BAFFLED: Mr Orton looks out from his window to where he saw the object

is now deceased, saw something similar, and my grandson, who is a lorry driver, stopped his vehicle on the main road one day to watch a craft in a field near here."

Mr Orton remains baffled by what he saw: "I have no idea where it came from, but I am sure

it wasn't a helicopter — it didn't make any noise."

The description Mr Orton gives matches many classic accounts of sightings — but unless any other witnesses come forward, or until the Sharnford UFO shows itself again, this case will remain a mystery.





## VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

### A biggie Bigfoot story!

One of the most compelling stories of Bigfoot sightings ever! And, I found it only because I succumbed to the persuasive bookseller's description.

The book, "The Long Walk," by Slavomir Rawics, is now in my extensive Bigfoot library. And, held in highest of Bigfoot categories because of the great description of what five men saw on their final leg of a months-long trek out of the northernmost Siberian labor camp. That sighting, in the Himalayas, came prior to the big Yeti flap of the 1950s.

The account of this remarkable Bigfoot sighting is found in the book, originally published by Lyons and Burford, New York, in 1956. Before we get to the sighting, allow me to share with you some of the bookseller's words to which I succumbed: "The Long Walk is the astonishing story of a trek to freedom. In the spring of 1941, the author, a 26-year-old Polish lieutenant, escaped from a Soviet labor camp in Siberia with six fellow

prisoners, including one American. "Joined by a remarkable girl, Kristina, who gave them hope and courage, this heroic group braved the Himalayas, the desolate Siberian tundra, icy rivers, and the great Gobi desert, always a hair's breadth from death. They had no map, no compass, only an ax head, a homemade knife and fierce determination to survive."

Now, I might have given in to less persuasive statement because I have always enjoyed books recounting how humans can survive great odds when thrown to the wilds. I suppose the reading in my youth of "Robinson Crusoe" started all that. But, we digress, back to "The Long Walk" and the Bigfoot encounter.

Finally, after their long walk from Siberia, the party reaches India. The party (shortened to five by death) had scaled the last of several peaks to reach and surmount the last. Author Rawics writes: "Far off to the west I could see snow-covered giants which made a modest

hill of the eminence on which I stood. Southward the country fell away dramatically. I knew I was looking at India."

So, the place is set and comes now the description: "In all our wanderings through the Himalayan region we had encountered no creatures than man, dogs, and sheep. It was with quickening interest, therefore, that in the early stages of our descent on this last mountain Kolenos (one of the men) drew our attention to two moving black specks against the snow about a quarter of a mile below us. "We thought of animals and immediately food, but as we set off down to investigate we had no great hopes that they would await our arrival. The contours of the mountain temporarily hid them from view as we approached nearer, but when we halted on the edge of a bluff we found they were still there, twelve feet or so below us and about 100 yards away."

"Two points struck me immediately. They were enormous and

they walked on their hind legs. The picture is clear in my mind, fixed there indelibly by a solid two hours of observation. We just could not believe what we saw at first, so we stayed to watch. Somebody talked about dropping down to their level to get a close-up view.

"Zaro (another member of the party) said, 'They look strong enough to eat us.'

"We stayed where we were. We weren't too sure of unknown creatures which refused to run away at the approach of men. "I set myself to estimating their height on the basis of my military training for artillery observation. They could not have been much less than eight feet tall. One was a few inches taller than the other, in the relation of the average man to the average woman. They were shuffling quietly round on a flattish shelf which formed a part of the obvious route for us to continue our descent. We thought that if we waited long enough they would go away and leave the way clear for us. It was obvious they had seen us, and it was equally apparent they had no fear of us.

"The American said that eventually he was sure we should see them drop on all fours like bears. But, they never did.

"Their faces I could not see in detail, but the heads were squarish and the ears must lie close to the skull because there was no projection from the silhouette against the snow. The shoulders sloped sharply down to a powerful chest. The arms were long and the wrists reached the level of the knees. Seen in profile, the back of the head was a straight line from the crown into the shoulders.

"We decided unanimously that we were examining a type of creature of which we had no previous experience in the wild, in zoos or in literature. It would have been easy to have seen them waddle off at a distance and dismissed them as either bear or big ape of the orang-outang species. At close range they defied facile description. There was

something both of the bear and the ape about their general shape but they could not be mistaken for either.

"The colour was a rusty kind of brown. They appeared to be covered by two distinct kinds of hair — the reddish brown which gave them their characteristic colour forming a tight, close fur against the body, mingling with which were long, loose, straight hairs, hanging downwards, which had a slight greyish tinge as the light caught them."

The men continued to observe the odd pair of upright animals but the two refused to budge, even when Zaro did a "war dance" and even flinging pieces of ice at the creatures. Another hour passed and Rawics notes he had the "uncomfortable feeling they were challenging us to continue our descent across their ground."

At this, the American made the observation: "It occurs to me they might take it into their heads to come up and investigate us. It is obvious they are not afraid of us. I think we had better go while we are safe."

So, taking this suggestion, the party departed the scene, as Rawics concludes this closing part of his book: "We pushed off around the rock and directly away from them. I looked back and the pair were standing still, arms swinging slightly, as though listening intently. What were they? For years they remained a mystery to me, but since recently I have read of scientific expeditions to discover the Abominable Snowman of the Himalayas and studied descriptions of the creature given by native hill men, I believe the five of us that day may have met two of the animals. If so, I think recent estimates of their height as about five feet is wrong. The creatures we saw must have been at least seven feet."

— Out of print for many years, "The Long Walk" is now available in paperback at your favorite bookstore or it can be ordered for you.

SAUDI GAZETTE, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia - May 13, 1997 CR: C. Hart

### Mythical 'Big Foot' sighted in China

HONG KONG, May 12 (AFP)

RESIDENTS in China's north-western Xinjiang region claim to have sighted a mythical "Big Foot," it was reported today.

The "Big Foot" left a foot-print "the size of a lamb's leg, with a stride length double that of an adult human being," the Hong Kong branch of China news service reported.

Residents in Altun Shan described the Yeti as being "some two metres (6.6 feet) tall, enjoying moving outdoors in the snow, does not attack like others wild beasts, is heavily built but nimble enough

to leap a barrier more than a metre (3.3-foot) high," the report said.

Altun Shan is a wildlife sanctuary in Xinjiang.

It is the first reported sighting of the mythical creature in Xinjiang, which is a Muslim-dominated region in China.

For the past 40 years, Chinese scientists have been combing the forests in Shennongjia Valley in central Hubei province, following up sightings there of a tall creature that walks upright and is covered in red hair.

But no conclusive proof has been found that the "Big Foot" exists.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - May 29, 1997

## Space snowballs not so oddball now

Studies appear to redeem once-dismissed theory that comet ice hits earth daily

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BALTIMORE — Thousands of comet snowballs from outer space are pelting the earth's atmosphere daily, adding to the planet's water and delivering organic chemicals that may have been the original basis for life here, a researcher says.

The finding is a return from the scientific wilderness for Louis A. Frank, a physicist at the University of Iowa who first proposed 11 years ago that space snowballs continuously strike the earth. His theory was denounced and dismissed at the time, but Wednesday his new studies muffled criticism in a hall full of scientists at the American Geophysical Union convention.

Pictures from NASA's Polar spacecraft, orbiting at more than 30,000 miles, clearly show objects streaking toward the earth and ballooning into clouds some 600 to 15,000 miles above the surface.

Filters on the Polar cameras show that the objects contain wa-

ter, Frank said. He estimated that they are each 20- to 40-ton aggregates of ice speeding in from outer space at more than 20,000 miles an hour. They strike earth's upper atmosphere and vaporize, adding new moisture to the planet's water cycle.

"This is an enormous amount of water coming into our upper atmosphere," Frank said. "If this rate has continued for the 4 billion-year history of our planet, it could account for the earth's oceans."

The snowball-like objects also may carry organic chemicals that "may well have nurtured the development of life on our planet," Frank said.

The objects deliver enough moisture to earth to cover the entire planetary surface with 1 inch of water every 10,000 to 20,000 years, he said.

That's not enough to significantly affect sea level in the future, Frank said, noting: "The implications are more about what this

means for the history of our planet."

Many textbooks talk about earth's water being present as the planet was formed. Frank's study suggests that the water arrived as a cosmic rain of iceballs that filled the oceans over millions of years.

Frank first proposed the water-from-space theory after spotting dark spots on pictures taken by NASA's Dynamics Explorer 1 satellite in the late 1970s.

He published a photograph in a physics journal that showed the dark spots and included his interpretation that they were cometlike ice bodies streaking in from space.

Wednesday, Frank called the photograph "the image that launched 10,000 criticisms." It was published April 1, 1986, and "newspapers called to ask if this was an April Fool's joke."

Scientists denounced and even ridiculed Frank's theory. Most said that the dark spots on the Explorer pictures were instrument "noise," radio static that made

marks on the images.

In an effort to provide undeniable evidence, Frank helped design two new cameras for the Polar satellite. And the data presented Wednesday turned most attending scientists into believers.

"I was a skeptic 10 years ago. I gave up on the idea that those objects were real," said Robert R. Meier, a space scientist at the Naval Research Laboratory. "I am convinced now that those objects are real."

But Meier said that whether the snowballs provided enough water for earth's oceans "is an assumption."

Andrew Nagy, a space scientist from the University of Michigan, said Frank convinced the audience that the objects he detected are real, but "the interpretation that these are 50-ton comets needs more convincing."

"We don't have a really good name for these things," Frank said. "I guess you could call them snowballs."

# Sphinx rivets scholars, 'Pyramidiots' alike

Some say chamber beneath beast holds secrets of the past

BY DOUGLAS JEHL  
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

GIZA, Egypt — By year's end, the Great Sphinx of Giza is to re-emerge in unfettered glory, stripped of scaffolding for the first time in a decade upon the completion of the most extensive repair work undertaken since it was unburied from the sands by French explorers a century and a half ago.

The Sphinx has undergone countless such repairs, and yet remains a source of boundless fascination — part lion, part god, part Pharaoh; so old that it was ancient even to the ancient Greeks; sentry for millennia to the Great Pyramids on the plateau above.

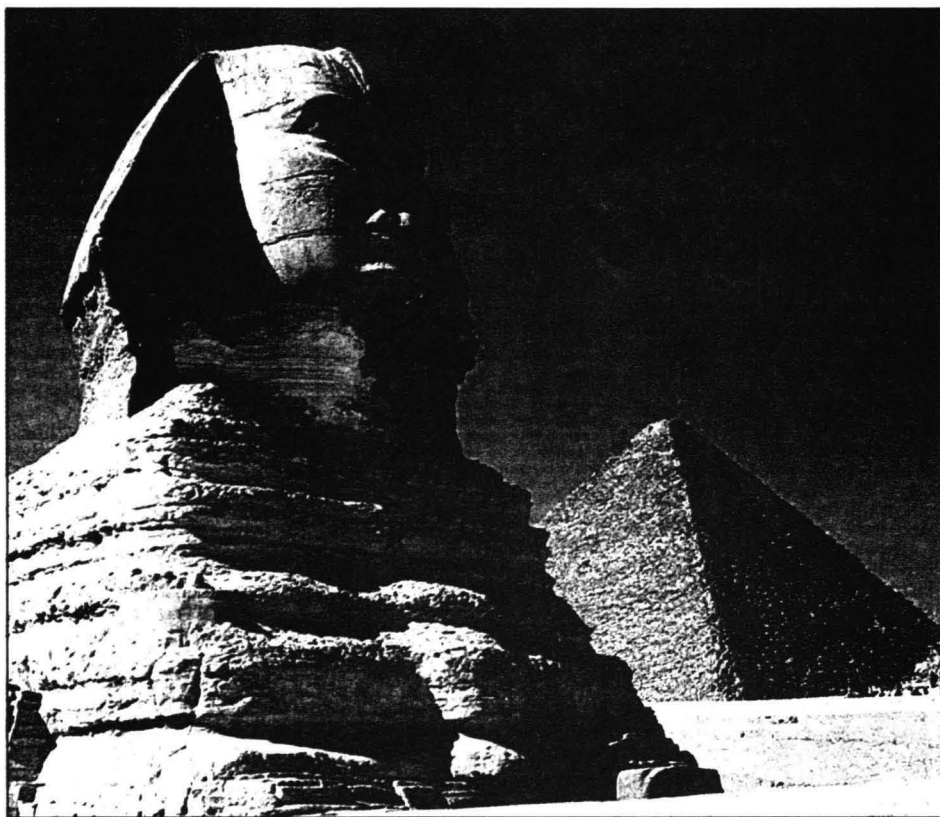
Might there be something else the sculptured beast is guarding?

That question has been asked for as long as the Sphinx has reigned, and now, just as workers are applying the finishing touches to a new protective limestone coat, it's a question visitors to this site on the outskirts of Cairo are asking with urgency.

"Zahi Hawass has basically obstructed us," said John Anthony West, an American author and tour leader whose accusation is typical of the vitriol that has turned what might have been the year of the Sphinx into one of bitterness and backbiting.

At issue is whether Egyptian officials are blocking research that might shed new light on the Sphinx and its origins. But because many of the accusers have relied more heavily on mysticism and speculation than on science, the response from officials like Hawass, the director of the Pyramids, has been equally scathing. "I call them the Pyramidiots," Hawass said of the most outspoken of his critics, who believe that beneath the Sphinx may lie an undiscovered secret chamber containing records of an advanced civilization lost to human history.

In Greek, Roman and ancient Arab texts is much speculation that something may indeed lie beneath the Sphinx, perhaps inspired by ancient hieroglyphics



Associated Press

The Great Sphinx of Giza, now undergoing its most extensive overhaul ever, is the subject of a dispute between Egyptian officials and outsiders curious about the structure's origin. Critics

that depict the sculpture as sitting atop a pedestal with a doorway beneath it.

But while ancient and modern researchers have probed various cracks and tunnels, they have found no sign of a pedestal, a doorway or the secret chamber that an American mystic, Edgar Allan Cayce, claimed to have seen in a vision. Cayce died in 1945.

But in one way or another, his vision of buried secrets has inspired a widening band of followers, including West, who produced a 1993 NBC television film about the quest, and two authors, Graham Hancock and Robert Bauval, whose best-selling book in 1996,

have accused the Egyptians of concealing information, including that beneath the Sphinx may lie a secret chamber that American visionary Edgar Allan Cayce called the Hall of Records.

The *Message of the Sphinx*, points to what they say are scientific facts to support some of Cayce's contentions.

Borrowing variously from seismography, geology and astronomy, all have argued that one can reasonably believe the Sphinx, and perhaps the Great Pyramid itself, were built not by the ancient Egyptians in about 2600 B.C., but thousands of years earlier, before any record of an advanced civilization anywhere on earth.

All have also said the hidden chamber may lie somewhere beneath the Sphinx's paws and that its contents — Cayce called it the Hall of Records — may contain the

secrets of Atlantis.

Because Cayce predicted that the year 1998 would bring about first the discovery of the Hall of Records and then the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, the issue of delving into the ground beneath the Sphinx is seen by some with growing urgency.

"We will all begin to understand more fully what it's all about," John Van Auken, a disciple of Cayce, said before leading a group of 52 Americans on a tour that included special access to areas near the paws of the Sphinx — a proximity prized by those who come to Giza not only to marvel at

the wonders above the sands, but also to wonder at the marvels that may lie beneath them.

The most notable attempt to detect such a hidden chamber was carried out in an electrical-resistivity survey in 1977 and 1978 by the Stanford Research Institute, now known as SRI. The survey found evidence of nothing more than small anomalies in the rock around the Sphinx, some 66 feet tall and 240 feet long.

Scholars including Hawass, who have spent decades scrutinizing the pottery, tombs, hieroglyphics and other ruins from the Giza plateau, have said that not a single object found there can be interpreted as coming from an advanced civilization any older than about 3200 B.C.

But that hasn't silenced people like West, who said his own seismographic research, conducted in the early 1990s before being halted by the Egyptian government, found evidence of a substantial underground chamber, and who still hopes to win permission to conduct further tests.

In his film, narrated by Charlton Heston, West argued that the Sphinx was built in about 10,500 B.C., long before the ancient Egyptian civilization took root.

Increasingly, the prodding of the Egyptian government to permit new research has come in an atmosphere that has turned highly personal. In the United States, Britain and Australia, people who turn out to hear lectures by Hancock have signed thousands of petitions accusing the Egyptian government of maintaining an atmosphere of secrecy that might well be "hiding possible findings that could be of great importance to all members of the human race."

On Web sites devoted to ancient Egypt, the mood has turned even more venomous, with Hawass, 50, who earned his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania, denounced bitterly.

Egyptian officials say they remain open to further archeological research on the Giza plateau — as long as it is supported by accredited academic institutions, as required by Egyptian law.

"Anyone is free to believe anything he wants — that the Pyramids and Sphinx were built in space, by aliens, by whatever," Hawass said in an interview in his office near the base of the Great Pyramid of Cheops. "And you can work here if you are a scholar. But when it comes to amateurs, we say no, no and no."

## Group hopes Web site helps solve mutilations

By ANDREW STINY  
For The New Mexican

TAOS — Witnesses reported seeing a green light flying around Arroyo Seco at about the same time that a mutilated bull was found earlier this month, said preliminary reports from a new organization that wants to bring scientific investigation to cattle mutilations.

The bull's owner, Floyd Archuleta, said he did not see anything flying in the area but others did.

"They (other witnesses) had seen a green light flying in the area around the estimated time of the death of the bull," the report on the Web site of the National Institute for Discovery Science said.

The Las Vegas, Nev.-based non-profit research organization has launched a "research project" on cattle mutilations and has hired a former New Mexico State Police officer to assist them.

When contacted by phone,

NEW MEXICAN, Santa Fe, NM - May 22, 1997 CR: D. Perkins

Colm Kelleher of institute said he preferred that information about the project be taken from the Web site.

"The objective of this study is to accumulate scientific data on animal mutilations, because for 20 years there have been many theories but few laboratory driven research facts on this issue," says a letter from the institute to law enforcement agencies and others.

Retired State Police officer Gabriel Valdez confirmed that he was hired by the institute three or four months ago.

Valdez said he investigated about 36 mutilations in Northern New Mexico during a 12-year period as a police officer, but that no scientific conclusions were made.

Valdez was called to the Archuleta pasture on May 4 to investigate the death of a 400-pound, 11-month-old Hereford/Charolais cross found dead on May 1.

Any findings or conclusions of investigations would appear on the Web site, he said.

According to that Web site report, a hole was found "in the rear of the bull," as well as a hole in the neck.

The tongue, right eye and sex organs were missing and the animal appeared to have been damaged by scavengers.

Additionally, the neck hole had "charring" that suggested burn-

ing and a yellow powder was found in and around the hole.

Waves of cow mutilations were reported in the 1960s and mid-1970s in numerous states and other countries, the institute said. Typically, parts such as the sex organs are missing and there is no blood.

Two or three years ago, another wave of suspected mutilations was reported in New Mexico and Colorado. A 1980 report done for the New Mexico attorney general by a former FBI agent concluded that mutilations were the work of scavengers.

In the Arroyo Seco incident, investigators found that something had disturbed debris in the area of the dead bull and a series of "gouge marks" five to six inches deep appeared near the bull, the Web site report said.

"It appeared that some type of heavy mechanical object had made indentations 150 feet south of where the bull was found."

The absence of other tracks further away, led to the hypothesis that the object had been airborne and had landed near the animal," the report said.

Archuleta said he talked with Valdez by phone and his brother met Valdez at the site.

Archuleta said he did not see any marks in the ground but "I never even looked for them ... I don't know what to think, I really don't."

District Attorney John Pater-

noster, long an advocate of crime-scene investigations of cattle mutilations, was also at the scene.

He could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Similar gouge marks were found in a reported mutilation near Dulce in 1978, involving an animal of the same breed and age as the Archuleta bull, the report said.

No tissue samples could be taken from the Arroyo Seco bull because of decomposition, but the report will be updated if more information becomes available, members of the institute said.

In a February mutilation incident in Red River, the institute concluded that a cow did not die from causes related to any possible mutilation but possibly from the incorrect application of a lice medication.

The institute is offering necropsies and tissue analysis at no cost to ranchers or law enforcement, emphasizing the need to obtain tissue samples within eight hours of a suspected mutilation.

It is asking that suspected mutilations be reported to its toll-free number: 1-888-433-6500.

The Web address of the National Institute for Discovery Science is [www.accessnv.com/nids](http://www.accessnv.com/nids).

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK - May 11, 1997

## RIVER MYSTERY

South African villagers in a remote rural backwater are living in fear of a man-eating river creature said to have characteristics of both a fish and a horse. Ezra Sigwella, agriculture minister in the Eastern Cape region, told an astonished legislature that the beast had gobbled up seven victims in the Unizinhlava River to the north of the former Transkei black homeland. He promised to dispatch officials to hunt down the monster. His remarks drew a few titters from the lawmakers, amid calls of "mamlambo" — a reference to a beast from Xhosa tribal mythology which is said to live in rivers and, if caught, provide great wealth

CR: J. & L. Nicholson



# Scientific institute backs cattle mutilation investigations

By Phaedra Greenwood  
The Taos News

They were losing the light as Tony T. Trujillo's old pickup bounced along the dirt track that ran through his back pasture. He was leading a caravan of vehicles to a small grove of cottonwood trees beside the *Acequia Madre Llano* in Arroyo Hondo.

The ditch crew had been through there on April 12, Trujillo complained, but nobody had told him that one of his cows was lying dead close to the ditch. He had found it himself April 12 around 2 p.m. when he noticed the 3-month-old calf bawling for its mother. He said he feeds his cattle every day and had last seen the cow alive around 4 p.m. April 11. The cow was worth about \$800.

Tucked in under the trees, the white-faced 5-year-old cow was covered by a blue tarp, a measure recommended by private investigator Gail Staehlin of Albuquerque. Trujillo removed the tarp while veterinarian Leroy Martinez struggled into protective clothing — a yellow plastic suit, booties and gloves. Martinez had driven 90 miles from Cebolla with his wife, Donna Martinez, and their two small children to do a necropsy (animal autopsy) on the cow.

Gabe Valdez, a retired state police officer, was also on the scene. He has been investigating strange animal deaths in New Mexico and Colorado for 20 years and is well known and respected in the field.

Valdez, who has a notebook full of reports, evidence and photos, said he believes that high-technology aircraft are involved. He said there have been close to 60 cattle mutilations within 60 square miles around Taos in the past two years. He said he was excited and hopeful about solving the mystery because he and his team can take a scientific approach now that he has financial backing from a private organization. "I'm committed 150 percent," he said. "This is all I do."

The investigating organization that is helping Valdez fund his research is the National Institute for Discovery Science



Dr. Leroy Martinez does a necropsy on a cow while owner Tony T. Trujillo looks on.

Phaedra Greenwood

(NIDS), in Las Vegas, Nev., a private non-profit research organization founded in 1995 with a staff of qualified scientists available to lend their expertise. Dr. John Alexander, director for scientific liaison, said they need to be contacted as quickly as possible, with a goal of obtaining tissue samples within eight hours after the death of an animal. The goal is to accumulate scientific data on animal mutilations, because though these mutilations have been going on for 20 years, there has been very little laboratory research on this issue, Alexander said.

He said they use a multiple lab approach and can usually have lab results within 10 days. He said they will only publish results when they have something to say that's scientifically valid, and that the institute will protect the rancher's privacy by not naming him in the reports. Immediate results will be published on the Internet at [www.accessnv.com/nids](http://www.accessnv.com/nids) and will also be forwarded to the concerned law enforcement agencies.

Another mutilation was discovered in Red River Feb. 21, and there was an unconfirmed report of two mutilations at the Double D Ranch west of the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge about a month ago.

Trujillo's cow was lying on its

left side, nose to the west. The right ear and eye were missing, and about a third of the tongue. The anus was cored out with a clean, precise cut and part of the colon removed. A large, smooth-edged hole in the abdomen showed where the sexual organs had been taken. Donna Martinez, who was holding the flashlight, noticed a small hole in the hide where one of the nipples had been removed.

Martinez took tissue samples from various organs, including the kidney, liver and hide. "We're doing the lab work," Valdez told Trujillo. "None of this will cost you. And we'll get back to you on it."

Martinez removed the guts and skinned the animal to reveal bruises that ran in long red stripes down its side and under the sternum. Valdez noted that some of the flesh on the shoulder was "cooked." The veterinarian said the animal had not been drained of blood, and there was apparently no blood on the ground when they turned it over.

Martinez was unable to determine the cause of death.

Valdez said if you see a cow you think has been mutilated, contact him at home, 275-5943, or pager 857-1717, or call Dr. George Onet, a veterinary pathologist, or Dr. Colm Kelleher, a microbiologist, at 702-798-1700.

# Hunt for aliens shifts to scan darker realms

By WILLIAM J. BROAD  
The New York Times

**D**umb or brainy, fair or hideous, extraterrestrial life forms are often pictured by scientists and writers of science fiction as inhabiting worlds just the right distance from stars — neither too hot nor too cold. Rays of starlight in such temperate zones are seen as warming planetary surfaces and alien races, providing a ready source of energy and, most important, the right amount of heat to keep life-giving water from boiling away or turning into ice.

But a quiet revolution is now challenging this view and shaking the foundations of exobiology, the study of the possibility of life elsewhere in the cosmos.

Alien life, the new thinking goes, might not actually need the warming rays of a nearby star. It might thrive inside dim moons and planets. The dark ecosystems would be warmed by inner heat, bathed in melted ice and powered by chemicals.

Lightless realms on Earth have been found to teem with interesting creatures. Now scientists wonder whether similar environments elsewhere in the universe are home to alien microbial hordes and, in some cases, to large beasts and beings higher up the extraterrestrial food chain.

This change in thinking drives the excitement over Mars and Europa, a large moon of Jupiter, both of which have recently yielded tantalizing clues of conditions favorable to subsurface life. Scientists also speculate that the interiors of up to 10 bodies in the solar system may harbor extraterrestrial forms of life. So might the dim netherworlds around distant stars, where scientists have been finding more and more evidence of planets.

If these theories are right, alien creatures may be far more numerous throughout the cosmos than previously thought — and much closer to home. That idea is rapidly changing plans for space probes as well as for research programs that study dark ecosystems on Earth, which are increasingly seen as a good way to get to know the extraterrestrial odds.

Wesley Huntress Jr., associate administrator for space science at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, said discoveries on Earth were largely behind the changed view of the possibility of life elsewhere.

In the past, exobiologists always focused on surface life, he said. "Now we've found that life on Earth doesn't need light and can ex-

*'Now we've found that life on Earth doesn't need light and can exist under extreme conditions we never expected.'*

— NASA's Wesley Huntress Jr.

ist under extreme conditions we never expected," Huntress added. "Those aren't so different from what exists on other planets. So the probability that life may have arisen somewhere else in this solar system has gone up."

Bruce Murray, a scientist at the California Institute of Technology and president of the Planetary Society, a private group in Pasadena that backs space exploration, said the exobiology fervor was being fed by a rush of recent findings about Mars, Europa and extrasolar planets. "The confluence of new discoveries is incredible," Murray said in an interview. "They're driving the paradigm shift."

Thomas Kuhn, one of the century's leading historians of science, coined the term "paradigm shift" in the 1960s to describe how plodding science sometimes breaks into revolutionary periods in which old frameworks are quickly torn down and new ones erected. By all accounts, the field of exobiology is now in such ferment.

The tumult is changing not only mind-sets but also exploratory plans.

The National Science Foundation, the government's main source of financing for basic science, recently started a program called Life in Extreme Environments, which aims to study terrestrial darks, hells and ices for clues to the existence of otherworldly life.

And NASA is revamping its whole approach to alien hunts. Biologists are being hired to help shape the agenda as other agency experts revisit and revise plans for existing probes of Mars, Jupiter and Saturn as a first step toward the development of new missions.

"Subsurface environments," Huntress said, have rather suddenly "become as important as those on the surface," and sometimes more so.

CR: J. & L. Nicholson

# Mystery 'roo roams Sweden

The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — When a rural Swedish woman set out some sunflower seeds, she attracted the wildlife she expected — but not the kangaroo that showed up.

Vivi Berglund told the Swedish news agency TT that her unexpected guest showed up about 4 a.m. while she was sleeping. A howling house cat alerted her to the kangaroo's presence.

When Berglund sat up in bed and looked out the window, she couldn't believe what she saw. "I turned on the lamp so I could see better, but he sprang away," she said.

Eventually, the kangaroo came back.

Berglund and her husband, Bo, reported the incident to police in nearby Hagfors, about 165 miles northwest of Stockholm. They, too, found it hard to believe.

"People here have reported seeing wolves and lynx and so on," officer Kjell Birgersson told TT Tuesday. "But never a kangaroo."

But then another woman in the area reported seeing the bouncy beast. And a forest ranger inspected some animal tracks and confirmed they were made by a kangaroo.

With that question answered, authorities now are trying to figure out where the marsupial came from. No zoos or circuses in the region have reported any missing.

# Hale-Bopp hate mail rains down on NASA

Cult suicides prompt letters that demand Hubble telescope focus on comet, claim cover-up

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The latest but not the last word on comet Hale-Bopp is that NASA is being accused of a cosmic cover-up. "What are you afraid of telling us?" demanded one irate citizen.

Accusations that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration refused to photograph the comet with the Hubble Space Telescope started arriving not long after 39 Heaven's Gate cultists in California killed themselves in the expectation that they would catch a ride on a UFO they believed was trailing the comet. Some of the messages had a nasty tone, and all of them demanded that the space agency use Hubble to get pictures of the departing Hale-Bopp and publish them.

NASA's answer: It has done both.

The controversy began after lecturer Richard C. Hoagland was interviewed on a syndicated radio program. In the past, Hoagland has claimed to have seen a face carved on a milewide rock on Mars and a glass dome and other

huge structures in pictures taken on the moon.

"It has come to my knowledge that those in charge of the Hubble Telescope have either not taken detailed pictures of the Hale-Bopp comet or taken the pictures and denied doing so," one citizen wrote. "What is happening? What are you afraid of finding out? What are you afraid of telling us? Most of us who are interested in this stuff are adults and can take it!"

NASA provided a sampling of the memos at the request of The Associated Press after deleting the identity of the senders.

"These accusations are totally false," NASA said in a letter to Art Bell, host of the syndicated radio show who had interviewed Hoagland.

"Hubble has been used to observe Hale-Bopp a number of times since 1995, and the images have been widely available on the Internet, and have been in the news."

Indeed, the two NASA Hale-Bopp computer sites had 4,500 images — not all from Hubble — in

mid-April, the best time to view the comet. Hale-Bopp is now on its way back into deep space, not to return for about 2,500 years.

Ed Weiler, chief Hubble scientist, wrote Bell that most of the major discoveries about the

**"What is happening?  
What are you afraid of  
finding out? What are  
you afraid of telling us?  
Most of us who are  
interested in this stuff are  
adults and can take it!"**

— Letter to NASA

comet were made with ground-based observatories and other spacecraft.

He pointed out that Hubble's spectrograph was not yet operational and that the angle at which the comet could be photographed put the telescope in danger of being blinded and ruined by the

sun.

Hoagland took issue with the response and said, "A simple set of superb, high-resolution Hale-Bopp images from Hubble ... would have been a profound legacy for 20th century science. Instead, we have excuses."

The letters came to NASA mostly by fax.

"What are you hiding? Maybe a full scale investigation is in order," said one handwritten fax to NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin.

"I request, no, I demand that you utilize the Hubble Telescope," said another, addressed to "Dr. Goldman, director, NASA, a public funded agency."

There was a demand that Hubble "be publicly focused" on the comet.

One letter referred to the Heaven's Gate cult and its leader, saying that Hoagland "expects you will be able to get pictures of Marshall Applewhite and Heaven's Gate arriving at the alien spaceship located by the comet."

"So, if you know what's good for you, ..."

LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT, Conway, AR - June 6, 1997

## Jupiter found to be wet, dry, unstable—much like Earth

By JANE E. ALLEN  
AP Science Writer

PASADENA, Calif. — Jupiter may be a little more Earth-like than NASA scientists once believed, with expanses as dry as Death Valley and as wet as rain forests. The possibility of life, however, remains slim.

Scientists who had predicted water on the giant planet were surprised by the rather dry readings sent back from a Galileo spacecraft probe on Dec. 7, 1995. The probe eventually disintegrated in the swirling atmosphere.

But relying on other data from Galileo, scientists found there is more to Jupiter's weather patterns than first believed.

"Jupiter is wet," proclaimed Andrew Ingersoll, a planetary science professor at the California Institute of Technology.

And it is mostly wet, scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory said Thursday. Only about 2 percent to 5 percent of the planet is considered very dry, with the rest having some degree of moisture.

"We had suspected that the probe landed in the Sahara Desert of Jupiter," Ingersoll said, and their analysis proved that was true.

The variations were mapped by an instrument aboard Galileo that looks at light wavelengths near the infrared end of the spectrum. It was the latest development from data sent back by Galileo, which is more than halfway through a two-year orbital tour of Jupiter and its four major moons: Io, Europa, Callisto and Ganymede.

Europa has stolen the show of late. In April, pictures of ice prompted speculation that there is an ocean — and perhaps life — beneath the frozen surface of the moon.

As for Jupiter, Ingersoll said the planet lacks a solid surface, making it "highly unlikely" it could sustain life.

Robert Carlson, a laboratory investigator for Galileo's Near Infrared Mapping Spectrometer, showed a water map of a South America-sized expanse. It included bone-dry areas with 1 percent humidity, akin to Death Valley in California, and other places so wet, "it's either going to rain or is raining right now."

Tobias Owen, a University of Hawaii planetary scientist, said the abundance of elements found in Jupiter's atmosphere suggests the giant planet was seeded by comets.

"We think the same bombardment ... also brought the same important elements to Earth," he said.

NASA also released Galileo's images of Jupiter's very thin auroras, which glow in a narrow ring around the poles like the Northern Lights and Southern Lights above Earth's poles.

Auroras occur when electrically charged particles crash into Jupiter's atmosphere, but Ingersoll said the source of the particles is unknown.

## Odd cloud baffles Taos residents

TAOS — A puzzling cloud hanging over the Taos Valley caused more than 50 calls to emergency agencies Monday night and sent fire and police units scurrying to find the source.

"We're treating it as a fog," Taos Fire Marshall Jim Fambro said. Taos and Forest Service fire units and several law enforcement agencies could not find any source of what was reported as "smoke" and officers traveling west toward the Gorge Bridge could not smell any smoke.

Fambro, who lives southwest of Taos, said he went outside at the time the "smoke" was reported at about 8:30 p.m. "I

couldn't even see town from my house. ... We had a 20-degree temperature drop almost instantly."

The temperature went back up about 15 minutes later, he said.

An automated weather station in Taos showed that visibility dropped from seven to four miles about the time the cloud was reported, said Glenn Carrin, a forecaster with the National Weather Service in Albuquerque.

Weather conditions Monday night in Taos were not conducive to fog, Carrin said. "It's puzzling to me as well," he said.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - June 1, 1997

## Bible code, or text within text, finally solved, new book claims

Israeli mathematician says he worked it out, but doubters scoff

BY RICHARD O'MARA  
THE BALTIMORE SUN

The biggest news of the millennium — maybe of all human history — hit U.S. bookstores Friday.

The Bible code, a preoccupation for centuries of both serious philosophers and determined crackpots, the ultimate "anagram from the Almighty," had been cracked. It was a mystery that had eluded the intellectual efforts of Isaac Newton and teased the mind of Albert Einstein.

It is all in a new book, *The Bible Code*, by journalist Michael Drosnin.

Published by Simon & Schuster, it asserts that events that have occurred since the earliest books of the Scriptures were written — and events that will occur in times ahead — are all secretly inscribed in the Old Testament.

This is, as one publicist put it, "Nostradamus for real!"

In other words, "there is a Bible beneath the Bible." And that Bible, written thousands of years ago, has recorded the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, Anwar Sadat, the Kennedy brothers, Gandhi, Lincoln and all sorts of generalized disasters such as the Holocaust, the book asserts.

Drosnin is an investigative newspaper reporter who once wrote a best seller about Howard Hughes. He became interested in the Bible code about five years ago after he met an Israeli mathematician, Eliyahu Rips, who had collaborated in writing a paper on it

that was published in the journal *Statistical Science*.

Rips, a professor at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, created a mathematical model of the Old Testament with the help of Doron Witztum, a physicist. The summary of the experiment implementing this model begins: "Randomization analysis indicates that hidden information is woven into the text of Genesis in the form of equidistant letter sequences."

Using Rips' computer formulations, Drosnin claims to have learned from the Old Testament of Rabin's assassination before it occurred. Nov. 4, 1995. He tried to warn the Israeli prime minister, but to no effect.

Drosnin, who describes himself as

a skeptical, even cynical, unbeliever, was jarred by the experience. "Oh, my God!" he exclaimed. "It's real!"

This incipient cyclone of publicity, however, has not swept everybody up.

Aviezer Ravitzky, chairman of the department of Jewish thought at Hebrew University, dismisses the whole thesis of the book as nonsense.

"The probability is that a computer, with all the combinations it's capable of, also will work this way on a telephone book. It's just a question of time before you get what you want."

Ravitzky is also put off by the book for another reason. "I hope God doesn't talk to his people this way," he said. "It's not God-like."

NEWS, Taos, NM - May 8, 1997 CR: D. Perkins

## Mutilated cow found in Des Montes

District Attorney John Pateroster was down on his knees in the dandelions with a magnifying glass looking at suspicious indentations in the ground as local sheriff's deputies secured the crime scene with yards of yellow plastic tape in a field in Des Montes Sunday (May 4).

A 10-month-old calf that belonged to Floyd Archuleta was found dead Thursday (May 1)

with its tail missing. By the time of the necropsy, performed by Gabe Valdez for the National Institute of Discovery Science, the calf had been mauled by scavengers, but Valdez determined that half the tongue was gone, and so were the sexual organs. There was also a puzzling, softball-sized crater in the neck beneath the skin, which did not show from the outside,

and which was ringed by a clumpy, yellow substance that was also found on the belly.

To ask for an investigation of a mysteriously dead animal, Valdez urged ranchers to notify the sheriff's office as soon as possible, 758-4709, or himself at home in Albuquerque at 275-5943 or pager number, 857-1717, and to keep clear of the area and not blot out possible clues.