

UFO

NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

November 1997
Number 340

#2 CANEY VALLEY DRIVE • PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 USA EDITOR/PUBLISHER: LUCIUS FARISH

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Sept. 17, 1997

SKYWATCH DIARY

BY CAROLE BAKER

Where to begin? What a weekend, what a week! So much has been going on—Jaime Maussion's visit, sightings at Shoreline Park, some interesting correspondence—that I may not be able to include it all in this week's Diary, we may have to hold some things until next week!

The sightings at Shoreline Park began, perversely, on Sunday evening, the only evening of the weekend that Jaime and his film crew did not come out to sky-watch! They had had an extremely busy schedule all weekend long since their arrival Thursday afternoon and had an early flight out on Monday morning. Jaime Maussion is one of the most interesting people I have met in a long time. He was the kind of person you could spend long hours with in discussion of this interesting phenomenon. One thing that struck me about him, apart from his objective journalistic approach, was his intelligence and integrity. His views on this phenomenon are very close to my own, which led to some interesting conversations during the weekend.

The presentation he made on Sunday at the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON meeting was outstanding, the best program we have had in a long time. The videos that Jaime shared of sightings in Mexico were nothing short of phenomenal—flotillas of up to fifty individual ships in the skies over Mexico City at one time—credible stuff! He also showed many other videos, including those from the eclipse in 1991 where many separate individuals had video taped UFOs while taping the eclipse. He has over five thousand videos in his possession! Jaime went on to show some pictures from Carlos Diaz of the plasma craft sightings in Tepotzlan, Mexico and compared the case with the Ed Walters case from Gulf Breeze. He stated that he had no problems with the photographs in these cases, but was unsure about the witnesses themselves. He went on to say that he had encountered problems with Carlos Diaz regarding the provision of photographs and negatives and has heard from other researchers that contactees are often "difficult to deal with."

It seems that right now Mexico City is the world hot spot for UFO sightings and the videos that are coming from there are the best evidence of the phenomenon I have seen to date. The videos are

incredible (making the Gulf Breeze footage appear insignificant in comparison) and if anyone has the chance to see Jaime present them, I strongly recommend it!

For the second half of the program Jaime shared videos of the victims, both animal and human of the "Chupascabras," whose attacks have become frequent in Mexico. These videos were disturbing to watch. They showed the characteristic two 6cm holes in the chest of the animal victims, and deep scratch marks left by the claws of the Chupascabras. The blood is drained completely and totally from the animal, to the point where even latex gloves being worn by investigating doctors are totally clean, even though the doctor's hands have been inside the body cavities of the animal handling the organs. A substance is introduced into the victim by the Chupascabras that preserves the activity of the nervous system of the animal for some time after all the blood is drained. One hypothesis is that this keeps the heart of the victim pumping, aiding in the complete draining of the blood. This is as Jaime put it a "very scary" situation. The humans who had been attacked by this creature had been successful in beating it off and had not been severely injured, but it was plain to all how deeply disturbing the attacks had been. One woman who was attacked at night outside her home showed deep scratch marks on her cheek left by the creature and stated that it was "trying to get to my neck." The whole situation is being investigated, but the stock explanation in the Mexican press is thirsty "gatos u caninos." This seems like a very inappropriate explanation!!!!

To close his presentation, Jaime spoke of the Mayan and Aztec prophecies concerning the Sixth Sun (the sun that began with the 1991 eclipse). The Aztec prophecy says that it is the sons of the Sixth Sun who will voyage to the stars.

Jaime's program Tercio Milenia can be picked up on certain satellite television stations, it airs on Televisa in Mexico on Saturday and Sunday nights. Those who have this network on their satellite or cable system should be able to get the show.

And now we turn to the local activity that began on Sunday evening, September 7th, 1997. I had left Shoreline Park at around 9:15, and the activity began around 9:55 p.m. Ray Pollock called me on his cellular phone

during the activity and related some of the events, but even after we hung up, further sightings were observed. Ray put together a very comprehensive report and I quote from it directly. Those present were Ray and Elise Pollock; Beverley Pilcher, her daughter Lisa and friends Mark and Anthony; Pat Gerbig; Judy Francoeur and her daughter Vicky and another unknown couple.

"At 9:57 Pat yelled from her vantage point on the boardwalk that there was a red light near Fort Pickens. Those at the table looked, but the gazebo type structures on the boardwalk were in the way and we did not see it. We got up from the table and started up onto the boardwalk and missed a second sighting on the way, but were witness to five more at very short intervals (approximately five minutes between sightings) after we got there. With the previous two sightings, there was a total of seven in all. Of those witnessed by the entire group, one was a mostly reddish orange light, which seemed to be pulsing, though three distinct red segments were visible at one time. It was low over Santa Rosa Island, just west of the Tristan Towers, over the parking lot near the entrance to Fort Pickens. Pulsing occurred several times, with slight movement in between each pulse. There was another red light spotted over the Fort Pickens area then another red/amber light was spotted near the Sans Souci apartments. All of the preceding sightings were low on the horizon, maybe 2-4 degrees elevation.

Two other sightings were located just beyond the entrance to Fort Pickens, to the west, that were about 15 degrees up and were huge by comparison with the others. These were massive saucer shaped lights of mostly red defining the saucer-like shape and yellowish colored segments seeming to define windows or ports fairly evenly distributed throughout the lighted center of the object. From our vantage point, these covered a diameter of a half-dollar piece at arm's length with the second of these sightings being somewhat wider in diameter than the first. It may well have been that the second, or larger sighting was the same phenomena, only closer. It was the consensus of opinion from those present that this was probably the case. In each of the sightings, the phenomena simply disappeared suddenly and instantaneously without apparent dimming or brightening. (See the graphic illustration.)

There were no aircraft observed in the area before or during the sightings, but a small propeller driven plane (perhaps a Navy trainer) did fly from west to east along Santa Rosa Island through the area where the last sighting occurred. Once past the area of the sighting it banked and returned toward the Naval Air Station. My thanks to Ray for providing all this information about these great sightings and the graphic of the final sightings of the evening.

On Monday night, a series of red lights was observed beginning at around 9:30 p.m. West of Sans Souci apartments about two degrees up a red "burst" or close combination of lights appeared for a few seconds and then a few seconds later above Tristan Towers at about five degrees elevation the same configuration appeared for a few seconds, then blinked out. A third configuration appeared fifteen minutes later at approximately 9:45 p.m. east of Sans Souci and this was more spectacular than the first two. It was a very straight row of ten red lights in very close configuration that at arm's length appeared to be approximately three quarters of an inch across. The lights all came on simultaneously and then blinked out simultaneously after about ten seconds.

Telephone calls were made to Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field and NAS Pensacola, as well as the local Coast Guard and all of these agencies stated that they were not doing any exercises, particularly flare exercises at the time of the sightings. Now, it is up for conjecture as to whether or not the military will tell you if they are up to something or not. However, we have had occasions where we have called the aforementioned agencies and they have told us that they were doing flare exercises at the same time that "sightings" have been reported. Ergo, if we are going to go with what they say when they admit to being active, then we must also go with what they say when they deny any involvement whatsoever. As many of you are aware, since we are virtually surrounded in this area by military installations, it is easy for the naysayers to jump at a "military exercise or test" explanation. All we can do is report what we see and investigate it to the best of our abilities.

Sightings occurred again on Tuesday evening. There were mul-

multiple witnesses at Shoreline Park and Marie Arredondo provided the following report: At 9:34 p.m. to the west of Sans Souci apartments one orange ball appeared. It stayed on for about ten seconds and then blinked out, then another similar one blinked on to the west of Tristan Towers at 9:39 p.m. and a third further west over the Fort Pickens toll booth at 9:53 p.m. These lights all were at an elevation of about ten degrees. Shortly after, at 10:00 p.m. a larger ball of amber light blinked in over the middle of the Bob Sykes Bridge between Gulf Breeze and Pensacola Beach. This was about twice the size of the first ones and about thirty degrees elevation. It lasted about fifteen seconds. Then at 10:15 p.m. over the Fort Pickens toll booth a row of nine lights appeared in very close proximity to each other. They were at about a forty five degree elevation and appeared from right to left. When all nine were lit, the configuration appeared to be between one and a half and two inches long at arm's length. Behind the eighth light there was a blue/green light that was partially obscured by the orange light. These lights stayed lit for about fifteen seconds after the ninth one came on and then went out one at a time from right to left. We did not see any planes flying in the area of any of these sightings at all.

To help with orientation regarding these sightings along Santa Rosa Island, if you are looking south from Shoreline Park, the names of the buildings we are referring to run from east to west: The Yacht Club; the Dunes Hotel; Sans Souci apartments; Tristan Towers and then a larger distance west to the entrance to Fort Pickens where the toll booth is located. The distance from the south end of the Bob Sykes bridge to the Fort Pickens Toll booth is approximately a little over three miles, with these buildings fairly evenly spaced along that distance. Well, the rest of the news will have to wait until next week or I will outstay my welcome here on the pages of "The Islander". So for now, if you have a sighting or encounter to report, or wish to contact the local Experienter Support Group, I can be contacted by e-mail at Cbakewd@aol.com or at P. O. Box 17152, Pensacola FL 32522-7152, or you can call the hotline at (850) 438-3261. Keep Looking Up!

BANNER, Nashville, TN - Oct. 3, 1997 CR: B. Kinnard Woodbury: UFOs again spotted over mountain

They're back.

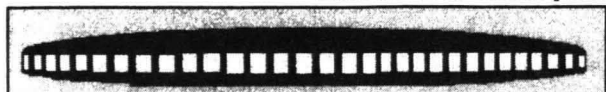
For the second night in a row, residents of Cannon County reported seeing strange lights in the sky over Short Mountain.

The colorful, pulsating lights appearing as a "hundred shooting stars" first appeared over the mountain Wednesday night. They reappeared Thursday night, a dispatcher for the sheriff's department in Woodbury said.

"A resident said: 'It's out there. I don't know what it is, but it's out there,'" she said this morning.

Another resident, claiming he and his wife are fearful of an alien invasion from the UFOs, reportedly has grabbed his goose gun and taken up a defensive post in his yard.

Officials with a Seattle group that tracks unidentified flying objects said there have been an unusually high number of unusual sightings this week in Tennessee, Kentucky and Florida.



Excerpts from "Inside the Mysterious Valley"

by Christopher O'Brien

Since 1992, I have devoted a great deal of time investigating current and past reports of unusual phenomena witnessed by residents here in our magnificent San Luis Valley. My first book, *The Mysterious Valley* (1996, St. Martin's Press) barely scratched the surface. I am pleased to say, book two will be published by St. Martin's Press in the late spring/early summer of 1998. The following is a brief excerpt from Chapter One:

Inside The Mysterious Valley by Christopher O'Brien, (St. Martin's Press 1998)

Whether you're a hardened skeptic or a true-believer, you have to admit we live in a strange and mysterious world. There's little doubt that our reality inspires, awes, and even frightens the human species into addressing energies and events that we have not yet begun to define or explain. I personally believe, unquestionably, that something's going on around us, and it probably always has been. "It" doesn't happen often, but invariably our mundane lives provide us with direct contact with these mysteries, sometimes so irrefutably, we're compelled, almost forced, to seek answers. Or, hide our heads in the sand. Some of these events are as simple as thinking about a friend and ring they call you on the phone, or as complex as the "alien abduction" scenario, or quantum physics.

Human history is rife with examples of philosophical and scientific jump-starts. Plato's Republic, Gallileo and Hubble's telescopes, Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, Bell's Theorem, etc. We may even have a genetic compulsion, or predisposition to explore the farthest boundaries of our reality in an attempt to explain the last dwindling secrets hidden from the light of truth. This has always been so, and this propensity doesn't appear to be ending soon. The very fact that you are reading this book is an indication that you are intrigued by these subtle aspects of our so-called "consenses reality." This book attempts to provide a different context for examining these last remaining scientific and sociological mysteries.

Yes, folks, UFOS, abductions, unusual animal deaths, religious

miracles, the motivations of serial-killers, psychic powers, crop circles, strange fantastical creatures, ghosts, undefined natural phenomena, treasure legends, folklore, secret government activity, Indigenous People's myths, famous "healers," to name a few, are but a modest sampling of these sensational, last remaining unsolved riddles puzzling the curious people worldwide. On the surface these phenomena seem unique unto themselves, separated by time, circumstance and distance.

Unbelievable as it may sound to you, the above sampling of phenomena are found in a single, well-defined geographic location. Welcome back to the San Luis Valley in south-central Colorado/north-central New Mexico. There may be no other place with the variety and intensity of examples of "the unexplained" in all of North America. And it is all occurring above 7,000 feet at America's rooftop. One could literally call this wondrous place, "the high ground."

Sacred sites exist in one form or another, worldwide. The pyramids of Egypt, Central American and China; the megalithic structures in the Peruvian Andes; Stonehenge; the sites of Fatima and Lourdes; the great temples, shrines and monasteries of the East...The list is impressive and so are these sites which have always been considered "special" and important locales. The perception of these specific sites as "holy places" often survives the downfall of one civilization and the rise of another. Most, if not all, of the great European Cathedrals, for instance, were built on important pagan holy-sites. Many are located where Druidic rituals and observances were conducted, in particular sacred oak groves.

There is quite an impressive body of data that supports the idea that the ancients had special knowledge relating to earth energies and connecting "ley-lines." Countless books have been written about the standing stones and megalithic sites in the British Isles, immense stones carefully placed at key locations by ancient and mysterious builders. But as these sites are scientifically investigated, an important point should be made. We must remember that these sites occur in "local" areas

that also feature specific local phenomena and a resulting cultural mythology. These phenomena may have a unique character that directly relates to the beliefs of the current and past inhabitants.

Parts of the world have their own peculiar myths and legends. Some symbolic images are shared, but why don't genies appear after rubbing Coke bottles, or why isn't Nessie, the Loch Ness Monster, sighted undulating in the Ganges?

The San Luis Valley in south-central Colorado and north-central New Mexico is considered a sacred site by many of its original residents. As you will see, along with the designation comes a bewildering kaleidoscope of paranormal phenomena.

Inside The Mysterious Valley is part-two of my first book, *The Mysterious Valley (TMV)*. In *TMV*, I attempted to objectively scrutinize the amazing so-called "UFO," and "cattle mutilation" reports that I investigated from 1992 to the spring of 1995, along with presenting a detailed examination of the historical record of these occurrences. I attempted to give the reader as complete a feel for the region's activity as possible. I quickly realized that I could not have possibly covered all of these events in one book.

Since the July, 1995, completion of *TMV*, a fantastic array of high-strange, real-time events have occurred, some of historic significance. We will cover and analyze these current cases fully.

Along with the periods of intense activity, I was rewarded with months of quiet time, when I received no reports for weeks on end. During these down-times, I utilized my time to research far back into this wondrous locale's history, myths and legends. I am convinced there are clues to be found and pondered in the dim past.

Needless to say, *TMV's* documented history of unusual events in "the world's largest alpine valley" only hinted at the dazzling variety of anomalous phenomena reported here. As you will discover, there is even more mystery to wonder at. Up here at the High Ground, we'll peer into the dark corners nestled inside North America's virtual attic. We'll visit haunted houses and a labyrinth of caves. We'll discover religious altars and cryptozoological nests, skeletons in closets and Spanish arrastras and treasure-chests. Along with the dozens of reports of current unexplained activity, *Inside the Mysterious Valley* addresses the many additional mysteries I've found.

I've attempted to convey the process of discovery concerning the events and information in this book. The fact that we all discover, or are exposed to, data in a sequential manner is important. Our brain is set-up to accumulate linear data in a non-linear fashion. A subtle, fluid dance of synchronicity weaves through our lives, interlocking the possibilities of choreographed awareness. Coincidences challenge us toward expansion. The perceived meaning has meaning, if we are sensitive enough to interpret its flow.

I have a curious, inquiring mind. What some find tedious, I find compelling—like rooting around in old newspaper archives or dusty library shelves. The research aspect of my investigative endeavors is a constant source of enjoyment, for you'll never know what you'll find with the simple turn of a page. My "microcosmic approach" dictates that the interested investigator/researcher must cover his defined geographic area like a soaked blanket. I am convinced that any particular "location" has unique indicators, in the form of unexplained phenomena, that may contribute to our further understanding of all paranormal phenomena. In my mind, UFOS and unusual animal deaths are inexorably linked to religion and belief, haunted house and spook lights are related to sub-cultural interpretations found in local legends and myths; and secret military activity and underground bases are entwined in perception of Identified Flying Objects (IFOS) as UFOS.

One area I concentrated on was researching some of the San Luis Valley's notable characters from the past. I was convinced that this region had some fascinating historical characters—especially because they lived here. I wasn't wrong.

PLANE NUTS!

By Don Robertson



UFO Healings

Preston Dennett openly admits that he was skeptical of the existence of UFOS. "I was sure that UFOS were figments of people's imaginations. Now, however, I have come to a new conclusion." On hearing of a sighting in Alaska, he asked his family what they thought of UFOS. His brother said he had seen a UFO. His sister-in-law had encountered two aliens, and several friends explained they had been abducted. All of them had chosen to remain quiet about it all. It changed his life. "UFOS can be put under many labels and can be interpreted in a variety of ways. Belief in one theory or another

means absolutely nothing. The best way to view the UFO phenomenon is with objectivity," he said in his book *UFO HEALINGS, True Accounts of People Healed by Extraterrestrials* (Wild Flower Press). Dennett maintains the same is true when regarding any questions regarding UFOS and abduction.

While reading about people who have had contact with ETs and those who were abducted by them, Dennett came upon more and more cases of those who had been healed while in the company of the extraterrestrials. He began uncovering first-hand contactee stories of his own,

within them many reports of healings. "Those pesky healing stories just wouldn't go away. I decided to examine the accounts of UFO healings and see if they were true. To my surprise, I found over 100 solid reports. It soon became obvious that if I wanted to include all the accounts it would take a book."

UFO HEALINGS is a compilation of 105 cases of people that have undergone complete cures by extraterrestrial entities. There is a whole chapter on cancer, minor illnesses and ailments, eye cures, tuberculosis, liver and kidney cures, the lungs, serious illnesses and chronic diseases. "Although some cases have been more fully investigated than others," said Dennett, "the majority of them have been verified in some way by doctors as well as investigated by well-known figures in the field of UFOS." Dennett became more and more caught up in the subject. "The types of healings seemed right out of science fiction. People reported their bodies being opened and

closed with lasers that left no scars. They told how various organs were removed and put back again. They reported instantaneous cures of serious conditions like pneumonia or liver disease, and even reported healings of serious diseases like cancer," said Dennett.

"Researching this book has proved to me that ultimately, extraterrestrials are people very much like humans, only different. Some are here as scientists, some are here as explorers. Some are here as doctors," Dennett said. "Hopefully, the future will bring about open contact with UFOS and humanity. All life in the universe shares a common heritage of consciousness. We all come from the same universe. And we all must learn to live in the same universe together," he concluded.

I urge you all to buy this book and read it. I think you will find it's different than the run of the mill UFO account book, and entertaining. I enjoyed it very much.

SKYWATCH DIARY

By CAROLE BAKER

We sure had a lot of visitors this past weekend at Shoreline Park! The weather was pretty good for skywatching, the sky remaining nice and clear, with the three quarter full moon bright in the southern sky. Venus, Jupiter and Saturn also were very bright and clearly visible, as well as the fall season constellations of Orion and the Pleiades rising later in the evening. We saw a spectacular shooting star at one point that streaked across the southern sky in a northeast-southwest trajectory. It lasted several seconds and you could clearly see the brilliant whitish green glow and orange-red sparks coming off the tail. The only downside to skywatching on this weekend was the wind! We joked that any UFOs out there better have some good stabilizers! Both Saturday and Sunday evenings saw strong south-southeasterly winds of 15 to 25 miles an hour! Our lawn chairs were blowing over as soon as we stood up from them! The winds were a result of an approaching cold front - which actually made it through the area on Tuesday morning dropping temperatures from 74 degrees at 7 a.m. to only 60 degrees at 2 p.m. We have enjoyed cooler, but cloudier weather for a few days. Personally, I hope that we've seen the last of the 80 degree temperatures for this season. Bring on the fall!

We have a new "regular" skywatcher. His name is Andy and he just moved to Gulf Breeze from Birmingham, Alabama. He is very excited to have found himself in Gulf Breeze and able to come to Shoreline Park regularly. He is a welcome addition to our group. It is interesting that as old friends leave and move on to new things, new friends come in to add to our skywatch group.

Now to visitors. We were very pleased to see Phil Medley, who visited a couple of years ago, return to Shoreline Park. Together with Denise Booth, Phil made the trip from England for a second tour of duty on skywatch! Last time Phil visited us, he had a pretty good sighting, but this time, there were no sightings at Shoreline Park during his visit. This was one of those weekends out skywatching where you hated to leave, the conversations were so interesting. We talked a lot about earth changes and shared lots of stories about UFO sightings and experiences. Also visiting this weekend were Bill and his friend from Clearwater, Florida. Bill works at a power plant and had shared a sighting with a friend recently of two small, high altitude objects flying in close proximity to each other who suddenly split away and flew apart from each other at great speed. Bill is interested in learning as much as he can about the phenomena now, and we recommended that since he lives so close to Tampa he may want to check out the upcoming Project Awareness UFO Conference that will be held in Tampa, October 31 through November 2. We also saw Beverly and her family on skywatch from Mobile, Ala. If they don't watch out, they're over so often, we'll be calling them "regulars" too! John Horrigan, of Needham, Massachusetts, a writer for the Boston Herald, was in

Gulf Breeze over the weekend, gathering information and interviews for an article. He video taped and audio taped interviews with several people, both regulars and visitors. John has been traveling all over the world studying various phenomena including Big Foot, the Loch Ness Monster and Chupacabras. He belongs to the "Paranormal Investigative Lecture League" (PILL), investigating scientific phenomena and historical anomalies.

Monday evening saw visitors at Shoreline Park from Michigan and Navarre. We also heard a report of a power outage on Monday night on Santa Rosa Island across the Sound from Shoreline Park that was precluded by a brilliant flash. The flash was apparently bright enough to turn off some of the lights at Shoreline Park. (The sensors on them must have registered enough light to trip them). It could be that what the witness saw was a transformer exploding, but I am not sure that this would have been bright enough, considering the distance to cause the lights at Shoreline to go off. I have not had the opportunity to talk to the witness who reported this personally, so I am hoping to gather more information shortly.

I received a letter from a friend in Texas, Doug from Cedar Creed last week. He wrote that on October 1, he had seen, while skywatching in his backyard, "a speck about the size of some of the larger stars" near one of the brighter planets. "It (the speck) was moving from east to west. It was not like a satellite and did not have the green or red lights that you see with planes. I thought it may have been a jet real high up and was waiting to hear the small jet roar after it passed on by. It passed the planet... (when) all of a sudden, it became about the size of half a dime held at arm's length. I couldn't believe it! Then it took off in an upward and right direction (at) about a 45 degree angle from its original course. Then it reduced in size down to nothing." Doug conjectures that what he saw was an object flying in a straight line at a very high altitude which then turned toward space and returned on some sort of rocket "that shot it into outer space so fast that it was out of sight in about four seconds." I found Doug's sighting of interest, in view of all the other reports we have received about anomalous lights in the skies on the night of October 1.

I was reading a report in Michael Lindemann's CNI News recently about the resurgence of activity in the San Luis Valley in Colorado. Christopher O'Brien is the researcher that chronicles the strange happenings in the San Luis Valley and his book "The Mysterious Valley" is a good read. Chris has a web site at <http://www.amigo.net/tmv/>. I was personally struck by some of the similarities between what is witnessed in the San Luis Valley and what we witness here in Gulf Breeze. The recent activity in Colorado has included the mysterious dropping of a "huge box" in Huerfano County by a C-131 transport plane. People searching for the box witnesses various strange events including men with "jet packs on their backs flying around," a craft that had the appearance of a large bubble, and

personnel searching ranches and barns in the area. One particular report from the San Luis Valley that reminded me of something I had personally seen here in Gulf Breeze recently was a report from there of a sighting on August 22 at about 8:30 p.m. where witnesses reporting seeing two lights in the sky looking like "huge car headlights," and also a "large golden colored light" in the sky. There is also a report from two Mesita, Colorado witnesses from Thursday, September 4 at 8:30 p.m. of the observation of "two large craft, each with a row of six whiteish-orange lights, moving in unison." The craft, each estimated as "being a little longer than a (C-131) transport plane" slowly drifted south, stopped and then turned back north. This is not dissimilar to the sightings in the Gulf Breeze area on the night of September 7.

News from Marc Davenport and Leah Haley this week about a conference they are organizing in Memphis. Called Contact '97 Memphis First Annual Tennessee UFO Awareness Conference. The event will be held at the University of Memphis and runs November 7, 8 and 9. The fee for the whole weekend is \$35 pre-registration and \$40 at the door. Speakers include Colin Andrews, Jeanne Marie Robinson (Contactee), Lyssa Royal, Vance Davis, Leah Haley, Licia Davidson (Government involvement), Marc Davenport, Forest Crawford, Anita Allbright (Reptilian contacts), Robert Buck and Jim Dilletoso with the Phoenix video and sightings. Greenleaf Publications will have books and videos for sale. You can't beat the price for this three-day event, and it sounds like it would be money well spent. More information can be obtained from Quest, P.O. Box 771716, Memphis, TN 38177-1716 or by calling (901) 526-0190.

Finally! They have opened the new bathroom building at Shoreline Park! (Just as well since one of the porta-potties blew over in last weekend's high winds—we believe that no one was in it at the time, but we said we would definitely have to discount any reports of a "blue humanoid creature seen stalking Shoreline Park!") and a very high class bathroom it is too. It has the kind of toilets and faucets that work automatically. There's a little motion detector in the wall behind the commode that causes flushing to occur, and one under the faucet that causes the water to turn off or on. Very posh! The first time I used the bathroom, though, I must admit I thought I was having some kind of anomalous experience when the minute I stood up, the toilet flushed all by itself! So, now we have a space-age bathroom! Interesting! Really, though, all joking aside, this is one improvement at Shoreline Park that I wholeheartedly am grateful for. Let's hope the vandals don't spoil it—they certainly used to do a number on the old bathrooms every once in a while!

If you have a sighting or encounter to report, or wish to contact the local Experienter Support Group, I can be contacted by e-mail at Cbakewd@aol.com or at P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, FL 32522-7152, or you can call the hotline at (850) 438-3261. Keep Looking Up!



Author Erich Von Daniken, preaching about ancient aliens at UFO Encounter '97 in Roswell, N.M.

Diary Take Him to His Readers

Erich Von Daniken Rides Again
On His Creaky 'Chariots'

By Joel Achenbach
Washington Post Staff Writer

ROSSELL, N.M., July 3
Erich Von Daniken has rematerialized. Wasn't he dead or in jail or something? The paleo-ufologist is by far the biggest star to surface at Roswell UFO Encounter '97, though there are rumors that hometown girl Demi Moore and husband Bruce Willis are here, and maybe Arnold Schwarzenegger. The Hollywood types may be struck by how much this thing is like a county fair, only with a UFO theme, right down to the \$39.95 alien embryos floating in a jar.

Von Daniken, short, stout, tanned, undoubtedly rich, now 62, claiming to have sold 56 million copies of his books in 28 languages, delivered the same pitch that he did two decades ago in his prime: Those poor, half-naked, primitive peoples in places like South and Central America couldn't possibly have built those impressive temples and pyramids without the help of space aliens.

"There is absolutely no way for a Stone Age society to cut this stone in such a way," he said today after showing a slide of some delicately cut granite slabs. "This is not technology of primitive Indians 4,000 meters above sea level in Bolivia."

Von Daniken may have once upon a time been the most influential UFO writer in the world. He was not a ufologist, per se, because he focused not on alien artifacts but on human ones, like the big stone faces on Easter Island. He peaked in the 1970s and then began to fade as it became clear that not only was he shy of any scientific credentials—"charlatan" is a label that he endured—but his philosophy was also implicitly racist, built on the refusal to believe that ancient peoples could stack stones so neatly.

His first book, "Chariots of the Gods," which he published in 1968 when he was still a hotel manager, sold millions of copies and set the standard for an entire industry of books whose titles jumped off the cover, typographically screaming. In one book, "Gold of the Gods," he claimed to have discovered a vast underground cathedral of gold in Ecuador. I asked if he'd ever found his way back. He said no. He didn't really know the way, but was led there by a Hungarian, he said. Apparently the Hungarians can't find his way back, either.

The extraterrestrials are observing us again, he thinks. Where are they? On the moon? Invisibly watching us from across the street? He smiled and said, "We don't make diplomatic contact with chickens." Translated into English this means, I think, that the aliens are so far superior to us they don't bother to say hello.

Von Daniken lives in Switzerland and is still a big deal in Europe. As for his critics, he said: "These people don't take me serious, I don't take them for serious. In this country a lot of garbage was written 10 or 15 years ago about me."

Von Daniken captivated his audience at the New Mexico Military Institute. Hardly anyone in the hall stirred for 90 minutes as Von Daniken suggested, for example, that inside the Great Pyramid of Cheops is a secret room holding secret information

(continued on page 4)

'Dos Equis' Reveals Aliens

By Roberto Rodriguez
Patrisia Gonzales

They lied to us about Roswell. Of course. They also lied to us about the Mexican-American War and Columbus. So what haven't they lied to us about?

Roswell, New Mexico, has captured the imagination of the world, and yet, few people seem to know the real story behind the world's most famous purported UFO incident. In July of 1947, the Air Force reported that it had captured the remains of a UFO, only to retract the story the following day, claiming what it had found was in fact only a weather balloon.

Curiously, in all the current media mania over the 50th anniversary of the "Roswell Incident," the name of Lincoln LaPaz, an expert in meteoritics and a key figure in the government investigation, appears nowhere.

LaPaz was a University of New Mexico professor at the time, who had earlier been part of the ultra-secret Manhattan Project which developed the world's first atomic weapon. When the government began to investigate the purported UFO crash, and a second nearby crash site where alien bodies were allegedly recovered, agents found that most of the nearby residents spoke primarily Spanish. Because of the English-only laws for military personnel back then, the government found itself with a communication problem. As documented in the 1991 book "UFO Crash at Roswell," the government enlisted the services of LaPaz to interview the residents. LaPaz scoured the countryside, visiting homes, farms, and even bars. It is through his interviews that the trajectory of the UFO was determined.

According to heavily censored

government documents given to us by a former intelligence agent code-named "XX" (Or *Dos Equis*) whom we met at one of the bars that LaPaz visited, scores of ranch hands in the area also stumbled onto the bodies of three or four aliens. The laborers left hastily to other parts of the country, afraid that the government would make them "disappear" because of what they had seen.

Another top secret document revealed that, for years after LaPaz's interviews, Army intelligence agents tried to track down the farm laborers, even hanging out at bars for years at a time, but to no avail.

Despite the recently released bogus 231-page United States Air Force report, LaPaz's work, as well as the entire Roswell investigation, is still classified as "Top Secret." Archivists at UNM told us he left no papers.

"*Dos Equis*" claims there's an even bigger conspiracy than has been imagined. Frustrated by its inability to track down and "neutralize" the farmworker witnesses, the United States government created a massive ruse to find them and to ensure that what they witnessed at Roswell would never be revealed in public. This resulted in "Operation Wetback," a program designed to deport Mexicans, citizens and noncitizens alike. Since the government wasn't sure who the several dozen actual witnesses were (who happened to be Mexican migrant workers), it opted to just deport as many Mexicans as possible, just to be safe.

Apparently, the operation succeeded in its objective because nothing was ever heard from these migrant workers again. However, government officials

readily admit in the classified documents that it would probably have been less expensive and better to individually track down the specific workers, rather than deporting close to one million random Mexicans, since most of them probably didn't see the alien bodies.

To find the witnesses, they deceived the public by trumping up a threat, an "illegal alien" invasion, a theme that continues to be repeated to this day in other government sectors. The objective was to silence the witnesses so as not to tip off the Soviet Union about the United States possession of alien technology. So the Cold War was actually a race to replicate advanced alien technology, and not a deeply entrenched historical clash over political systems and deep philosophical differences between capitalism and communism.

Years later, concerned with the hatred unleashed against immigrants, President Nixon, against the advice of intelligence officials, was prepared to admit to the whole "illegal alien" ploy. Unfortunately, Watergate, our source said, rudely interrupted Nixon's plan.

According to "*Dos Equis*," presidents Carter and Reagan were also prepared to call off the war on "illegal aliens" and admit to the existence of the real extraterrestrials, but the Iran/Contra affair made the revelations not such a good idea at the time, as both presidents were suffering from credibility problems. In office, Carter never recovered his credibility and Reagan "couldn't recall" being at Roswell in 1947.

President Clinton himself has been prepared to offer a national apology to Latinos for the nation's trumped-up war against "illegal aliens" and has also been ready to tell the truth about Roswell. However, his credibility problems have deterred him from speaking on the issue.

"*Dos Equis*" confided in us that the so-called presidential "scandals" of the past few decades have in fact been manufactured by forces more powerful than the presidency. When presidents have been close to revealing the truth about aliens, they have been removed or thoroughly discredited. Our source claims that the answers to all these mysteries lie in two places: Texas and Mexico. "*Dos Equis*" claims that the character in the TV Show, "X-Files," named "cancer man," who is held responsible for every conspiracy of the last half century, is patterned after a real-life high government official who lives in Texas. And Mexico's "*Bosque de Silencio*" ("Silent Forest") is where many alien aircraft are said to be buried.

It's time for the government to declassify the truth about its alien controversies. Or, as Lalo Lopez of East Los Angeles National Pochismo Institute says, look to the mariachi sombrero, which resembles a UFO spaceship, for a clue as to the true origin of aliens in this country.

(continued from page 3 - POST, Washington, DC - July 4, 1997)

about ancient visitors. He showed cave paintings of figures that looked a bit like spacemen, though they are somewhat rubbed out and unfocused, an ancient version of the infamously blurry UFO photographs of today. Von Daniken showed aerial shots of a plain in southern Peru, crisscrossed with lines, that he believes is an ancient airport. He did not explain why the "runways," as he called them, also seemed to run right up into the mountains and across jagged peaks.

He had one line that seemed to address the question of whether he believes primitive people were stupid.

"I do not think our ancestors were so stupid and so primitive to construct temples for their entire lifetimes for nonexistent gods," he said. In other words, they wouldn't have built these things if the gods were simply imaginary. The reason they called the alien spacemen "gods" and failed to describe any actual alien spaceships is, he said, that they "misunderstood technology."

Afterward the reviews were positive. After all, the buzzwords of the week are:

"It did. They are."

"He alludes a lot of authority," said Phyllis Hunt of Phoenix. "He believes in what he's saying, and when a person believes in what he's saying, his charisma goes out to the audience."

Her curmudgeonly husband, William, said he wasn't convinced. He believes that alien visitors wouldn't be helping us with our architecture.

"If they come, let's hope we can kill them before they kill us. It comes down to who's going to be the dog food."

There was one public debate that actually broached the possibility that the Roswell UFO Encounter '97 is a bit hollow from a purely factual standpoint. Wednesday night a relatively skeptical ufologist named Karl Pflock squared off against one of the Roswell case's biggest promoters, Kevin Randle.

Pflock's calmly logical presentation was flawed only insofar as he had to admit that he was once a data collector for the Central Intelligence Agency—a red flag that provoked one audience member to question Pflock's credibility. Randle was loud, indignant, even huffy at times, and bedeviled by a fly that had gotten into the room. A couple of times he appeared to pound the lectern not from conviction but simply as an attempt to kill the fly.

Pflock said the military is telling the truth when it says that the only thing that crashed near Roswell was a test balloon from Project Mogul, a top-secret program to build sensors to detect Soviet atomic weapons tests. Randle rejoined, "To me there is no doubt that it was a craft constructed on another planet and piloted by a crew not born on this planet."

Randle admitted that the crash debris bore a "gross resemblance" to the materials used in Project Mogul, but said it wasn't an "exact match," noting that the Mogul material was made of ordinary tape and sticks and plastic, while the stuff found on the ranch supposedly could not be burned and had other odd properties. Shouting, Randle then pulled Scotch tape, string and aluminum foil from his pockets and showed how easily they could be cut or crumpled. He showed a burnt stick.

"That's Project Mogul! It does not make sense!" he bellowed, as the audience clapped enthusiastically.

Even among the believers, though, there are degrees of skepticism. Sometimes they are thinking: It didn't. They aren't. For example, there's Jim Moseley, a ufologist who publishes a magazine called *Saucer Smear*, which makes fun of some of the more tortuous extraterrestrial beliefs.

"This is the wonderful thing about America," he said: "that we can have the 50th-anniversary celebration of nothing."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To read a special report on the "Roswell incident," click on the above symbol on the front page of The Post's Web site at www.washingtonpost.com

LINCOLN TIMES-NEWS, Lincolnton, NC - Oct. 31, 1997

Letters To The Editor

To the editor:

Recently I found time to read the so-called final explanation to the Roswell crash and bodies and other reports in the 50s and 60s published by the USAF and the CIA.

I was amazed to find that the Air Force used time travel and a space warp to explain the Roswell incident in that the dummies dropped from high altitude missed the crash site by seven years (1954) and 70 miles, and that a check on U-2 and SR-71 spy plane flight schedules in the '50s and '60s showed they accounted for a few radar and pilot sightings at best.

The SR-71 that first flew in 1964 was apparently painted black from the start. Its nickname was the Blackbird. The U-2 spy planes were painted black later and "could not reflect the rays from the sun, especially at sunrise and sunset as reported."

During this period of time in UFO history there were thousands of reports of structured craft at ground level (and on the ground) that made humming sounds and created electro-magnetic (E-M) effects worldwide.

Thus the spy planes did not often appear as fiery objects to observers below, since they were flying at 60,000 to 80,000 feet or 15 miles, nearly the edge of space. A check of records show that UFO reports actually decreased rather than increased during spy plane missions.

Therefore, the government deception on UFO issues continues after 50 years and the question remains, why? After 53 years of UFO research and investigations, I will continue to seek answers for the UFO enigma.

It is my feeling that "open hearings" in Congress and a truly scientific investigation are both long overdue.

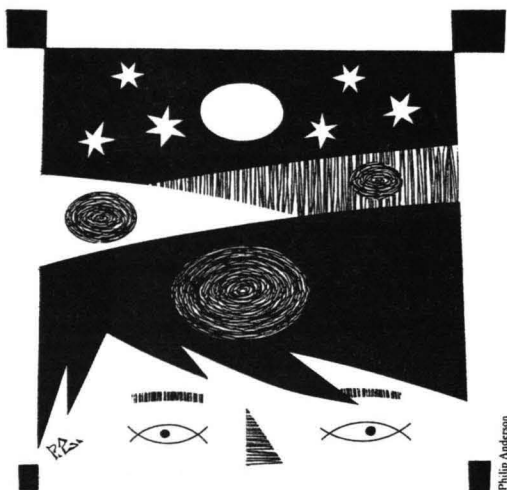
Sincerely, George D. Fawcett
MUFON-NC, Inc.
Field Investigator

CR: G. Fawcett

DISTURBANCES IN THE FIELD

IN HER SMALL Cambridge apartment, researcher Nancy Talbott maintains an extensive, well-organized set of files on her subject of study. Each dossier contains reports from on-the-scene observers, who follow a field protocol Talbott provides to them. Also included in the files: aerial and land photographs, field diagrams, and reports from a Michigan lab detailing the results of X-ray crystallography and other tests on both sample and control groups. Deep-voiced and good-natured, Talbott readily admits that she is not a trained scientist. She is, however, scrupulous about following the scientific method and defers often to the lead scientist on her research team, biophysicist William C. Levengood. "I worked as a research analyst at Harvard years ago, but I don't know squat about science," she says. "But Dr. Levengood is about as meticulous as anybody on earth."

Talbott's job is to get the data in and the word out. When an event is reported to her, she forwards samples to Levengood at his home in Grass Lake, Michigan. Levengood, retired from the University of Michigan, is a specialist in the development of grain. Drawing on his observations of samples Talbott has brought to him, Levengood has developed a hypothesis. In 1994, the agricultural journal *Physiologia Plantarum* published his paper titled "Anatomical Anomalies in Crop Formation Plants" - in



WHEN PEOPLE try to apply science to an area of study that most scientists dismiss as a fraud, feelings run high.

other words, what happens to the plants inside those mysterious phenomena called crop circles.

Sober-minded scientists and science fans reading this piece probably will now guffaw. Crop circles are widely considered to be an out-and-out fraud. In his final book, *The Demon-Haunted World*, no less an *eminent* than the late Carl Sagan dissed them as the product of "nocturnal commando operations" cooked up two decades ago by British hoaxsters Doug Bower and Dave Chorley and perpetuated by the sly-minded and the gullible ever since. The leading skeptics organization, the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, or

CSICOP, based in Buffalo, regularly sounds off against "cerealologists." And any self-respecting journalist who tracks the fads and fables of paranormal America - present company occasionally included - usually lumps crop circles in with popular delusions and the madness of crowds.

Talbott and Levengood know they have a tough row to hoe. Too many New Agers, UFO cultists, and nutty but lovable British eccentrics have seized on crop circles as interplanetary, interdimensional, or spirit-world signs and wonders. Talbott is free-spirited enough to enjoy the motley crew. Levengood, however, cringes. Fad followers, he complains, "have created a hor-

rendous problem of credibility for us."

And what Levengood has seen in the grass from more than 200 crop circles has convinced him that they're no hoax. "There's something pretty interesting going on here," he says, detailing the deformation of seeds, the pitting of the cell walls of plants, and holes in plant-stem nodes.

Levengood is cautious about what he says next, but he has a theory as to what is going on. "I know it sounds incredible," he says, but he believes that 40 to 60 miles above ground level, clouds of ions, or charged particles, organize themselves much as thunderstorms do in a "plasma vortex." As the ion storm grows, it draws in more particles, becoming a complex collection of forces, he says. Then it starts to descend, getting pinched by magnetic fields, electrical forces, thermals, and other factors before whamming into a field.

What accounts for the strange and beautiful patterns in the fields? These, Levengood believes, may be random patterns, similar to giant snowflakes, born in an ionospheric storm system. Forty years ago, he published research on vortex rings in the journal *Nature*, so he is not a novice in this field. "Chaos patterns happen in nature all the time," he says. "I don't find it surprising or awesome."

Bunk, says Joe Nickell, a researcher with the CSICOP organization. "Why are there no historical reports of patterns left in wheat?" he asks. "We have photos of the wheat fields of America dating back to the '30s. We have spy satellites, aerial fly-

overs. Nobody reported crop circles in America until Doug and Dave created the hoax and it spread through England and *Unsolved Mysteries* brought the virus to us." Nickell looks askance at Talbott's and Levengood's methods and is critical of Levengood's theory-making. "The fact that they aren't saying it is paranormal or supernatural," he says, "doesn't mean it is any more credible."

Nickell has served as a one-man truth squad, shadowing Talbott in particular as she has done interviews in locales where crop circles have appeared. "Joe Nickell pops up all the time and calls me crazy," she says. "I don't let it bother me."

In truth, although she tries hard to keep her comments to the straight science, Talbott admits she can't help but consider other explanations. She finds crop circles "elegant and stunning" and verges on saying something more, something about intelligence behind them, before she catches herself. "I don't like the word 'paranormal,'" she says. "But maybe it's like when cave-men thought that lightning was God throwing thunderbolts."

From her small apartment in Cambridge, Nancy Talbott has a window on a mystery. If crop circles are hoaxes, she has been wasting her time and everyone else's. Nickell says that's the case. Talbott is convinced otherwise. "I think it is a big adventure to learn what is out there," she says. "But I sure as hell wish I had studied science in school." □

To share an idea or to comment, e-mail the author at ideas@globe.com.

Meteor Crash Rattles N.M., Texas Border

Boom, 'Bright Flash' Mistaken for Missile

BY MIKE TAUGHER
AND RENE ROMO
Journal Staff Writers

A meteor flashed across the sky Thursday over southern New Mexico and West Texas, startling residents and shaking houses.

The El Paso Police Department said there were reports of broken windows in the Texas city, but no injuries.

"It seemed like a bright flash - like something that was on fire in the air," said Steven Marquez, who recently moved to the Las Cruces area from Los Angeles. Marquez said he saw the flash from his back yard.

"The vapor trail itself was up there for a good hour," he said.

Witnesses reported hearing or seeing the meteor about 12:47 p.m. at least from Las Cruces to Fort Davis, Texas, 175 miles southeast of El Paso.

Capt. Larry Wilkins of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office said metallic flakes were floating in the air like dry snowflakes in parts of the county after the incident.

"I personally drove through some of it," he said. "It was like small



pieces of aluminum foil, but very light."

Unconfirmed reports of witnesses seeing or hearing the meteor came from along the New Mexico-Arizona border, Lordsburg and even Albuquerque.

Witnesses flooded emergency dispatchers with reports of a flash of light, a loud boom and a crashing sound.

"Everybody thought it was a missile test, but it wasn't," said Don Montoya, a spokesman at White Sands Missile Range in southern New Mexico. "We have gotten a lot of calls."

An air patrol out of El Paso reported finding an acre-size burn patch on West Texas ranch land about 27

miles east of El Paso that police said could be where the meteor crashed down. But a rancher later told authorities that he had recently done a controlled burn in the area.

"We're not sure (the meteor landed there)," said officer Al Velarde of the El Paso Police Department. "I heard it. It sounded like a double explosion. We've had a few reports of broken glass."

It is not unusual for meteors to enter the Earth's atmosphere, but they normally disintegrate quickly, said Ron Wilhelm, an astronomer with the University of Texas' McDonald Observatory in Fort Davis, Texas.

"Most of them never really make it to the ground," he said.

The sound witnesses heard was probably a sonic boom caused by the meteor's high speed breaking the sound barrier. And the flash of light was probably the meteor burning in the friction created when it entered the atmosphere, according to Wilhelm.

In Las Cruces, a report that something crashed into the Organ Mountains east of the city led to the deployment of a search team including about 15 officers from State Police, the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Department, the Organ Fire Department and the county's Office of Emergency Preparedness. An Army Air National Guard heli-

copter, carrying a heat-sensitive detection system, took off from the Las Cruces Airport, "looking for any mass that might be much, much hotter than the earth," said Las Cruces city police spokesman Sgt. Joel Cano.

Nothing was found.

Two members of a surveying group told a Doña Ana County sheriff's deputy that they saw a fiery object with a smoke trail traveling north to south over the Organ Mountains.

New Mexico State University astronomy professor Kurt Anderson said daytime sightings of meteors are unusual, "but not that unusual."

"An object bright enough to be seen in the daytime is usually fairly large," Anderson said.

"Meteors big enough to make it to the ground and actually do some damage are extremely rare," Anderson said.

To those concerned about the meteor's proximity to a large population center, Anderson said, "The chances of a 747 losing power and crashing into your house are probably greater than a meteor collision. I've heard of people getting killed in airplane collisions, I've never heard of anyone getting killed by a meteor."



Research specialist Robin Knott, assistant state director of Southern California for MUFON Georgeanne Cifarelli, and abduction therapist Barbara Lamb.

STORY BY DARCY BERRY • PHOTO BY GREG FRY

Are there ALIENS among us?

While some scoff at reports of people being abducted by extraterrestrials, there are others who take them seriously

help after 25 years due to his nagging feeling he had, at some point in his life, made contact with extraterrestrials. Lamb said she has helped more than 160 people uncover their own alien experiences.

In recent years, television shows and movies about UFO sightings and creatures from other worlds have taken over the airwaves. More and more people are interested in the subject that was once the stuff of comic books.

Georgeanne Cifarelli, the assistant state director of the Mutual UFO Network of Los Angeles, said she remembers a publication called "Flying Saucer Digest" that chronicled the experiences of alien abductees.

"The subject was never really taken seriously," said Cifarelli, who started as a field investigator with MUFON-LA.

She took a night course in the early '80s, sponsored by MUFON, where she received a certificate to investigate alien

sightings. The course consisted of studying celestial objects, the history of ufology (the study of alien life forms and alien worlds), UFO photography, sounds and other physical effects and witness reactions.

Cifarelli says her primary objective is to establish and maintain a statewide investigative network. There are currently section directors in 13 counties.

MUFON still sponsors such classes and offers them through the organization's county chapters.

As far as television shows and movies on the subject go, "there's a lot of sensationalism, which can take away from the seriousness of the subject," said Cifarelli, who lives in San Marino.

"For the public to separate the truth — they don't know the truth," she said. "They see these things and don't know what to believe."

MUFON has chapters throughout Southern California, where believers gather to discuss

recent UFO sightings and listen to speakers talk about the latest theories and finds. The most recent speaker at MUFON-LA's meeting was Brian O'Leary, a former astronaut and planetary scientist.

O'Leary was appointed in 1967 to go on the manned Mars project before it was canceled by NASA. He served as a NASA scientist/astronaut during the Apollo program.

Robin Knott, who has been attending MUFON-LA's meetings for the last three years, said the organization has provided her with some peace.

"It's also gotten me in contact with people like myself, who believe the same things I do," said Knott, a Pasadena resident. "I don't have to feel like I'm crazy."

Knott, who has a degree in marriage, child and family counseling, said her background in psychology makes her an investigator at heart, one who has to see it to believe it. And even though

The 17-year-old boy awoke suddenly one night from a deep sleep aware there was someone touching his feet. He sat up and came face to face with something out of this world.

The "being" at the foot of his bed was thin and gray with a big head, a slight indication of a nose and a slit for a mouth. Its eyes lacked pupils, it had no ears, and a ridge extended from the beginning of its forehead to the top of its large cranium.

It wasn't alone. There were two other beings just like it in the room. And to his dismay, his brother, whom he was sharing the room with, was asleep and couldn't be roused.

He was taken on board their circular spacecraft. Telepathically, in a language he understood, the beings said they had come to tell him about the earth's likely future demise, unless humans change their ways. That was back in 1972.

The young man's experience, what UFO experts call an alien abduction, was recently told under hypnosis to Barbara Lamb, a regression therapist for past lives and extraterrestrial contacts. Lamb, who works out of her home in Claremont, has been studying alien abductions since 1991. She holds a master's degree in behavioral science from the University of La Verne.

Lamb takes the person, in their subconscious state, back to the time of their encounter. The 17-year-old boy sought Lamb's

distinct difference. With people who have had contact with aliens, "there's a lot more that opens up about the experience," she said.

Another distinction, she said, is that dreams don't usually leave people with physical evidence. Many clients have come to Lamb with bizarre indentations and other marks on their bodies after their experiences. Common among them are thin slits in the skin, triangular-shaped burn marks and pin-prick dots on hands and arms.

In May of this year, Lamb had her own experience with aliens while traveling a lonely stretch of the 101 Freeway late at night. A craft landed and took her on board, where they took information from her brain, she said.

"I think I had that experience because I'm doing this work," she said. "I've been brought to their attention."

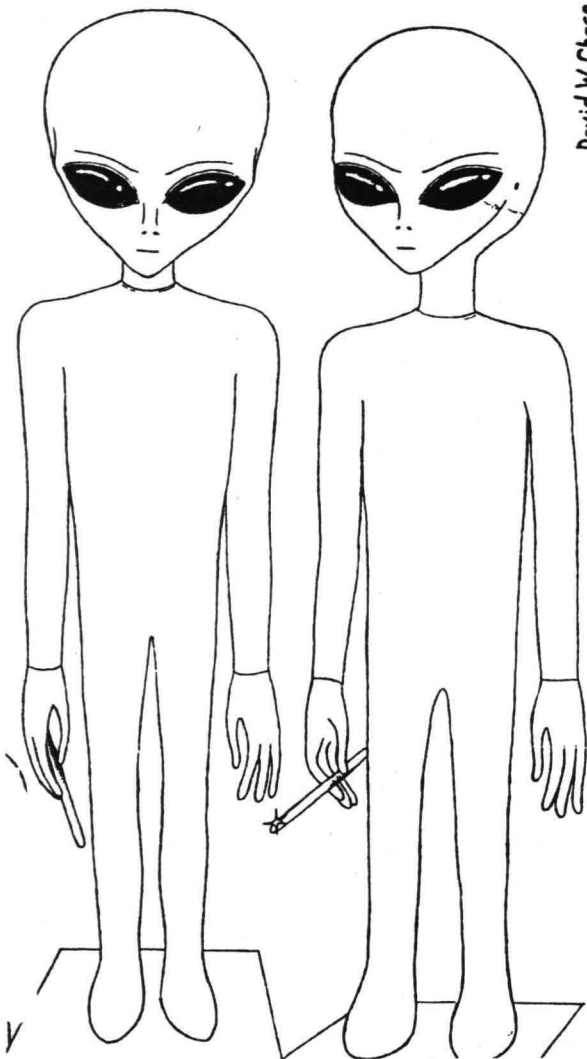
Testimonies at MUFON meetings of pilots, astronauts and scientists who have seen these beings make her take notice. "We're talking about no-nonsense people, here," she said. "These are heavy scientific observers. People who have been trained to assess things."

Lamb, who was recently the keynote speaker for MUFON's San Bernardino chapter, said that while there may be critics, it's hard to ignore the experiences of so many alien abductees.

"These are people who have never met one another," she said. "And many of them have had similar experiences."

Critics dismiss reports of alien abductions as dreams or hallucinations, but Lamb said there's a

(continued on page 7) 6



David W. Chace

This artist rendering shows some of the typical beings described by people who believe they have had encounters with aliens.

"I think it was so that they could see how they and the other extraterrestrials are affecting people here."

Cifarelli, who worked as a consultant for the "Intruders" miniseries a few years ago, said the public's awareness in recent years has been heightened by the media exposure and recent scientific discoveries.

"The subject is more widely entertained by the average person and more readily acceptable than ever before," she said.

This doesn't mean that everyone's going to jump on the bandwagon, she said, but UFO sightings, abductee experiences and discoveries like the alleged face on Mars "make the case for the possibility of extraterrestrial life and probability of extraterrestrial intelligence stronger."

F.Y.I.

To contact MUFON-LA, call its hotline number: (825) 405-MUFON, or visit its web site at www.mufonLA.com.

SKYWATCH DIARY

BY CAROLE BAKER

We had a lot of visitors at Shoreline Park this week, particularly on Tuesday evening. It was not a very clear night, rather hazy, but the weather remains cool in the evenings with lows in the mid sixties (which is about ten degrees lower than it should be for June), so it was pleasant to skywatch.

Visitors included David from Cleveland, a former Pensacola native who has skywatched regularly over the years on his trips back to the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze area. Also visiting was Jeff from Tennessee, who told of an amazing sighting of a diamond shaped craft, which sparkled and changed colors, silhouetted against a mountain across a valley from his viewpoint, seen in Tennessee several years ago. Jeff was accompanied by Binny from Melbourne, Florida. Binny is originally from south Yorkshire, England, so we had plenty to chat about, as well as UFOs! The only interesting thing observed in the sky on this evening, unfortunately was a couple of satellites. There was a lot of helicopter activity with a Navy helicopter and Coast Guard helicopter making several passes along Santa Rosa Island and across the Sound. Presumably they were taking part in some kind of exercise.

I spoke with a woman in Milton, Florida, this week. She

had an interesting sighting on Wednesday, May 28th, 1997 at approximately 9:10 p.m. She was driving home from Church with her children, traveling north on the bypass in Milton when they noticed a large round, pinkish red light with a strip of white light next to it, over towards the Milton Hospital. The pinkish red light was quite large, at arm's length the witness described its size as being larger than an aspirin. The strip of white light that was next to it, she thought at first was a vapor trail, but upon closer examination, she could clearly see that it was in fact a "strip" of light, narrow and about an inch long at arm's length. They continued to watch as they drove along, and observed the lights as they passed behind some trees. As they caught sight of it again, only the large pinkish red light was visible. It was flying at a constant elevation, just at or just above the treeline. The sighting lasted about three minutes. The witness arrived home and got her husband to accompany her back into the car and they drove off to see if the light was still visible. It was not.

This witness then went on to tell me of an interesting sighting she had sixteen years ago. She was driving with three friends in a car, travelling south on Stewart St. in Milton, Florida and they were driving behind a pick-up truck

which had some kids riding in the back of it. The kids suddenly started pointing at something in the sky, so the witness and her friends checked it out. What she saw amazed her and convinced her of the existence of UFOs. They witnessed a gray spherical object with a row of white lights along its center. On the bottom was an "X" shape of white lights. This craft was spinning slowly around on its axis, and hovered in the sky quite low over the road. The truck and the car in which the witnesses were travelling pulled off the road and stopped to get a better look. The UFO came down closer to them and they could clearly see it. They observed the craft from this position for approximately one minute and then it rose up and hovered off into the distance.

This is a very interesting and close-up sighting. The witness has been convinced of the existence of UFOs since this encounter in her teenage years and the sighting she had last week is the only other one that she has had, as far as she can recall.

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

Unexplained light attracts UFO-watchers

By MARCIA SAVAGE
of the Mail Tribune

So was that bright light in the Medford area early Monday morning a visitor from another planet or just a sight for tired eyes?

Well, a group that tracks UFOs thinks the Rogue Valley may have experienced the bona fide thing.

The National UFO Reporting Center, based in Seattle, Wash., is launching an investigation after receiving reports from two men who said they spotted a bright light that lasted nearly an hour. The center describes itself as a nonprofit organization "dedicated to collection and dissemination of objective UFO data."

"This is a very good sighting from our experience," said Peter B. Davenport, the

center's director.

"My sixth sense is telling me this certainly is not a twinkling star."

Davenport said the men — both night workers at two different locations in Medford — reported seeing a bright light rise in the west from behind a building at about 1:50 a.m. He would not identify who the men were or where they worked.

The light "did a right angle and started moving north" and "apparently did some complex maneuvering," he said. One of the men who had binoculars reported seeing a single, tiny white object streak off, return, and streak off two more times.

One of the men with a police scanner said he heard three officers talk about the light, Davenport added.

Neither Medford nor Central Point police

could confirm the strange sighting.

Central Point police Lt. Steve Macartney said his agency received calls Monday morning from people asking about talk they heard on the police scanner about the light.

"It means nothing to us," he said. "It wasn't a police problem."

Jan Dabrowski, science director at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland, said the reports didn't sound as if they were of an astronomical nature. But he added that there are many things in the sky that aren't astronomical — such as planes.

"Seeing things at night isn't as simple as it sounds... When we see something strange, we can interpret it in many ways," he said.

can be subjected to technical research and analysis. (See, for example, the late Paul Hill's *Unconventional Flying Objects: A Scientific Analysis*.) As Hill demonstrates, there is a great deal of solid physical data to study; however, civilian researchers have made relatively little progress for the simple reason that the US government has never allowed it. Early in the controversy, UFOs were judged to have national-security implications, and all research on the subject became classified.

This is not speculation. It is well supported by the testimony of military personnel, scientists, astronomers, and the US government's own documents, obtained in the face of considerable opposition using the Freedom of Information Act.

As outsiders, we can only speculate about the progress our military has made in understanding UFOs since it first took an interest in the subject in World War II. Rumors

abound but the truth, though it may be out there, is simply not available to anyone without the appropriate security clearances. According to a recently published book by Col. Philip J. Corso, *The Day After Roswell*, a great deal was learned from the study of alien technology recovered at Roswell.

UFO investigators are still mulling over the significance of Corso's account. Some indication of its significance, however, is suggested by the fact that the Air Force launched a massive PR blitz precisely as the Corso book was released, denying that the Roswell crash was due to an alien spacecraft. This, of course, is exactly contrary to what Corso has maintained, and it looks suspiciously like media spin control.

In place of the outdated, contradictory, and sometimes inaccurate sources Crowley lists in his sidebar, I recommend Timothy Good's well-documented book, *Beyond Top Secret* (an updated version of *Above*

Top Secret). Good's evidence will help readers better understand why the US government is so desperate to deny what tens of thousands of people have witnessed, and sometimes photographed and videotaped.

Note: I have studied the UFO controversy for some decades, including during graduate school at the University of Minnesota's School of Journalism and Mass Communications, and have written about it in various contexts, including for the *Minneapolis Star & Tribune* and National Public Radio. In addition, I have organized and moderated two major symposia on "The Science and Politics of UFO Research" for the Science Museum of Minnesota.

Terry Hansen
Seattle

The truth is out where?

As one of those annoyingly persistent people that *New York Times* reporters inevitably refer to as "UFO buffs and conspiracy theorists," my interest in seeing the *Weekly* tackle the UFO controversy is tempered by a familiar feeling of disappointment at Walt Crowley's vague and confusing conclusions ("They came from way out here!" 6/25). His article leaves readers with the impression that UFOs are simultaneously real and mythological, and there's just no way to decide what or who to believe. We can only be amused and confused by the whole matter, and go back to work.

In truth, UFOs are just like any other physical phenomenon in the sense that they

Beam us up, Scotty! UFO info available on many Web sites

By JACK BROOM
Seattle Times staff reporter

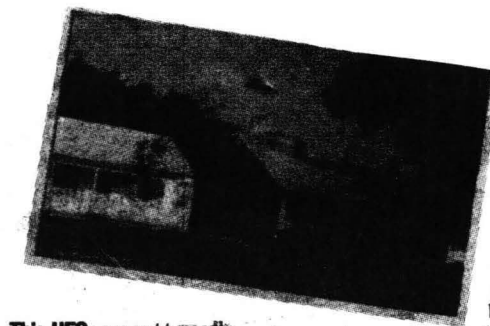
Whether you want to see creatures from outer space, hear from people who've been abducted by aliens, or just fake your own UFO photos with ordinary household items, you may find what you need on the World Wide Web.

As a couple of key anniversaries in the "UFO era" approach, the Web is crawling with people and organizations that want to proclaim, debunk, debate, explain, question or simply cash in on UFO-mania.

Outer space and cyberspace seem to fit together in a harmonic convergence; common search tools on the World Wide Web identify hundreds, if not thousands, of sites mentioning UFOs.

The March suicides of Heaven's Gate cult members in California, who broadcast their beliefs on a Web site, followed extensive chatter in Internet newsgroups about whether a UFO was hiding behind Comet Hale-Bopp.

Now, UFO-related activity on the Web is fueled by the 50th anniversary of two mile-



This UFO was supposedly photographed over officers quarters at Nellis Air Force Base in 1993.

stones: On June 24, 1947, a private pilot saw objects over Mount Rainier that became known as the first "flying saucers."

Two weeks later, U.S. Army officials reported finding a crashed flying saucer near remote Roswell, N.M. The next day, they insisted it was nothing but a weather balloon,

but rumors persist that the military actually recovered alien corpses and performed autopsies on them.

That controversy, and plenty of others, are still alive on the Web. The following is not intended to be a comprehensive list of UFO-related sites, but merely to show the diversity of what's "out there."

• UFO Online Link Page

<http://oasi.shiny.it/Homes/CISU/english/http1.htm>

Whether or not it's the "largest collection of UFO sites," as it claims, it does offer links to nearly 200 other widely varied sites dealing with UFOs and other strange phenomena, including Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster and the Bermuda Triangle.

Believers and skeptics alike can find sustenance here. There are links to discussions of Roswell, places to report UFO sightings and a link to the Skeptical Inquirer, a magazine that pooh-poos UFO encounters.

• The Mutual UFO Network (MUFON)

<http://www.mufon.org/>

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - June 18, 1997

SKYWATCH DIARY

By CAROLE BAKER

Finally! A sighting at Shoreline Park! It was an unusual Monday night this week, a total of 13 skywatchers had gathered at Shoreline Park including David, still here on vacation from Ohio and two other Ohioans, Joe and Judy, also here on vacation specifically to skywatch at Shoreline Park. We were commenting on the large crowd and how great it was to be seeing "poppers" again. For those of you who have visited at Shoreline Park, the vernacular is familiar, but for those of you who have not, let me explain. A "popper" is a small quick flash of light in the sky (like someone turning a flashlight on and off immediately). We see them frequently, but for the last few months have not seen very many at all. On Monday night we saw between 8 and 10 in an hour. The other words used to describe events at Shoreline Park, are, of course "Yo! Bubba!" — which means we really are having a sighting and the term "Tinkerbell" which has been coined to describe the small (anywhere from golf ball to basketball sized) lights that zip around, out over the water, through the parking lot, overhead and around in the woods.

The regular skywatchers all felt that the proliferation of "poppers" on Monday night may be an omen of an event in the offing, but no one was actually saying so out loud. We were all sitting, watching, waiting and hoping. And at 8:54 p.m. we were rewarded. A large amber/white light popped in and flowed up brightly in the south eastern sky out over Santa Rosa Island. It lasted only a few seconds and the shout of "Yo! Bubba!" went up. This was a "classic Bubba," as Ray, one of our veteran skywatchers noted. We were all on our feet scanning the sky with binoculars when a few seconds later, the light popped in again just a few degrees west of its original position. It was an amber/white color and extremely bright. This light again only stayed lit for a few seconds, then went out. It was followed by three more lights coming on a few seconds apart and lasting only a few seconds progressing from east to west across the southeastern sky. We were all very excited

since it had been over 5 months since the last sighting reported at Shoreline Park. The wind was brisk and coming from the east and the temperature was in the mid-seventies. It had clouded up quite a bit earlier, but by the time of the sighting the cloud was clearing off and the stars were visible. We watched for another hour after the sighting, but nothing else showed up. There was some light commercial air traffic in the area, none of which exhibited the qualities of the lights seen during the sighting. It was a rare evening, especially since our visitors also got to witness a sighting, something that unfortunately rarely happens.

Don Ware was the speaker at the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON meeting this last Sunday, June 8. His lecture entitled "Transformation: Spiritual, Physical & Political" was both interesting and informative. A retired Lt. Col. from the United States Air Force, Don is a familiar face at many UFO conferences around the country and worldwide. He had his first encounter with UFOs in Washington, D.C. during the 1952 flap and has continued and deepened his involvement ever since. During his lecture he explored the types of extra-terrestrials that we are encountering during experiences and explored what those experiences are teaching and showing us and how the hybridization program fits into the picture. Don feels that the hybrid children that many experiencers have are going to be the beings that inhabit our planet more and more, once certain changes take place. In some remote places on this planet, there is evidence that right now, hybrid children are living their lives with their terrestrial parent openly and fully accepted by those around them. This acceptance is a major stumbling block and the reason that more of these hybrid children are not seen in society except in remote areas. Don feels that this situation will change over time. The human race is being groomed and made ready to take its fully conscious place in the Universe and understand its place among the other species of beings that inhabit the galaxies. One thing

that Don was very clear on through was that God is real, as are all the species of extra-terrestrials, and that God is in us all whether terrestrial or extra-terrestrial.

Don went on to explain that the reason that souls are incarnating now is changing and those who choose to work from love and in service of each other are becoming more and more prevalent. Don believes that those who are concerned with self (such as Hitler and Saddam Hussein) are not being allowed to reincarnate on this planet, so that eventually, the change will come about. The encounters with extra-terrestrials and angels that are so often reported now are all part of our coming of age and joining the galactic society.

The political aspects of the transformation have to do with the "not so secret" World Government and groups like the Bildeburgers and the Club of Rome. Many notable people are part of these groups and most lay persons do not realize that we have in fact been living under the World Government for 75 years. The implications of the World Government are far reaching and explain the unfolding of a lot of recent history, such as the end of the Cold War and the destruction of the Berlin Wall. Well known organizations are promoted by the World Government and these include groups such as The World Wildlife Fund, Planned Parenthood, The Nature Conservancy, The World Bank and the IMF, The Carter Center and the Gorbachev Foundation USA.

This is an interesting perspective on why things are changing and how and the whole lecture was extremely interesting and ultimately gave a very positive outlook on our future. Don will be giving this lecture again at a UFO Conference in Brazil, Brazil at the beginning of December.

If anyone has a sighting or unusual experience to report or would wish to contact the local Experiencer Support Group, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at (904) 438-3261. Keep Looking Up!

This is the home page of a national, nonprofit organization created to collect reported UFO sightings and gather scientific information to document them.

• Washington MUFON

<http://www.pdsnorth.com/>

~mufonwa/

Same as above, but for this state. Details and depicts a few local UFO sightings, such as a red ball of light seen over Enumclaw Feb. 13, 1996.

• Roswell, N.M. UFO Picture Archive

<http://www.rt66.com/>

~roswell/image.htm

Is seeing believing? Here are autopsy photos of those unfortunate aliens that crashed in the desert, pictures of their wreckage and assorted other UFO's.

• Skywatch International

<http://www.wic.net/colonel/>

ufopage.htm

Want more photos? A retired Air Force colonel shares his collection of a couple dozen UFO photos from around the world. Lotsa flying saucers here.

• Skeptical Resources on UFOs

<http://www.hugin.imat.com/>

~sheaffer/ufo.html

Want even more UFO photos? Make your own. This page's author shows spacecraft photos he faked with aluminum plates, cottage-cheese containers and banana-split dishes. Includes links to other sources debunking UFO reports.

• Alien Message to Humanity

<http://www.compuser.com>

ab.ca/hnhtld/

This is not an endorsement, but for \$2.99 a minute, this site promises to play a live message from a real alien. You have to be at least 18 years old, which makes us wonder just what the alien has in mind.

• Best UFO Links on the Net!

<http://www.sierratel.com/newage/ufo.html>

Another index of links to UFO-related sites, divided into research groups, five-star UFO sites, good UFO sites, link sites and miscellaneous.

• Encounter '97: The 50th Anniversary of the Roswell Incident

<http://www.sierra-vista.com/roswell/encntr97.html>

What do you do 50 years after the greatest alleged government cover-up in history? Party! Some 50,000 visitors are expected in Roswell next month to tour the crash site, swap conspiracy stories, buy T-shirts and take part in the "flying saucer pancake-eating contest."

• Heaven's Gate Popular Culture Page

<http://www.lib.msu.edu/lorenze1/hgate.html>

They're gone, but not forgotten. A librarian at Michigan State University has assembled links to articles, commentaries, satire pieces and a quiz about the Heaven's Gate cult.

• National UFO Reporting Center

<http://www.ufocenter.com/>

Report your UFO sightings here, and check out the reports from elsewhere.

• The Skeptic Tank

<http://www.stbbs.com/personal/frice/FLIST045.htm>

This alphabetical, too-long-to-count list offers articles and reports casting doubt on UFO and alien encounters. Check boxes for the ones you want e-mailed to you.

• World of Mystery

<http://members.aol.com/swagner911/mystery.htm>

On the lighter side, this site explores not just the UFO-abduction phenomenon, but the other great mysteries of our time: where do missing socks go and how did "Baywatch" get to be the most-watched television program on the planet?

TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER

A roundup on UFOs, alien abductions and the search for intelligent life on earth

BY C.D. STELZER

Condon report, a study that refuted the existence of UFOs. Edward U. Condon, the University of Colorado scientist who headed the investigation, claimed that Blue Book's UFO files were filled with bogus accounts and hoaxes. But other members of the scientific group dissented, taking exception to the selective case studies. Condon chose to examine.

This much is known: The CIA and Air Force were created under the charter of the National Security Act of 1947, and both took a prompt interest in UFOs at the same time they sought to discredit eyewitness and radar reports of the phenomena. Speaking before an audience of aeronautical engineers in St. Louis in 1966, retired Marine Maj. Donald K. Kehoe charged that efforts to debunk UFO sightings by the Air Force were being carried out on orders from the CIA, which was in turn aided by a variety of "kooks." Interestingly, Kehoe then headed a group called the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena that included former CIA director Hillenkoetter among its ranks.

Kooks and spooks. There have been more than a few who have gravitated to the UFO field. Within months of the 1952 sightings over the nation's capital, author George Adamski claimed he had made contact with a Venusian named Orthon. Adamski later published his tale in a book titled *Flying Saucers Have Landed*. Among earthlings, Adamski is known to have associated with William Dudley Pelley, leader of the Silver Shirts, the 1930s American fascist movement. Both men are thought to have been influenced by the "I AM" religious cult. "I AM" members, who in many ways acted as an advance guard to the current New Age movement, incorporated extraterrestrials into their belief system and considered California's Mount Shasta sacred. Not surprisingly, the superhuman aliens who visited Adamski were said to possess Aryan features.

By the early 1960s, the fantastic stories of alien contacts had been replaced by terrifying accounts of abductions by short, gray humanoids with slanted, almond-shaped eyes. The case of Betty and Barney Hill is perhaps best documented. While the Hills were traveling down Route 3 through the White Mountains of New Hampshire on the night of Sept. 19, 1961, a bright light in the sky began following the Hills' 1957 Chevy. They arrived home two hours later than expected. After several months of high anxiety, a psychiatrist hypnotized the couple separately and both gave similar accounts of being taken aboard a spacecraft and given medical examinations by beings who communicated telepathically. The aliens were said to be more mystified by the difference between Betty's teeth and Barney's dentures than the couple's interracial status.

Since the Hills' interrupted journey, the number of alien-abduction stories has increased precipitously. By 1992, a Roper poll indicated 2 percent of the U.S. population reported having paranormal experiences that are associated with alleged alien-

abduction scenarios. The mass delirium shows no signs of reaching its zenith. In late March, the Twilight Zone suddenly went pitch black when 39 members of the Heaven's Gate cult laced up their Nikes and committed mass suicide in a macabre effort to link up with a spaceship they believed was hiding behind the Hale-Bopp comet.

Despite the delusions, astrophysicist Jacques Vallee is among the few scientists who hasn't abandoned the field of UFO investigations. Vallee believes that although the physical existence of UFOs may indeed be real, the sociological aspects of the phenomena are of equal or greater importance. In his book *Revelations*, he postulates that some UFO sightings are carefully engineered hoaxes that are in essence "covert experiments in the manipulation of the belief systems of the public."

Vallee further speculates "that someone inside the U.S. government is using the stories of crashed saucers to hide something else."

In 1994, the Air Force finally conceded that the object that dropped from sky over the New Mexico desert in 1947 was not just an ordinary weather balloon, as previously claimed, but one designed to monitor Soviet nuclear tests. In June, the flyboys offered additional evidence that the alleged aliens seen by some witnesses were actually crash-test dummies used to study the effects of high-altitude descent. The problem with that explanation is that dummies weren't employed until 1953; the Roswell incident occurred six years earlier.

"Frankly, what keeps me interested in that particular case and UFOs in general is the very peculiar behavior of the Air Force," says Don Berliner, the co-author of *Crash at Corona*. "If ever an organization acted guilty, it's the Air Force. Their most recent report is just preposterous from my viewpoint."

Conversely, the Air Force has accused Berliner and his partner, nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman, of refusing to accept the word of scientists who participated in Project Mogul, the secret plan to use balloons to spy on the Soviets. The latest Air Force report also takes issue with one of the alleged crash sites promoted by Berliner and Friedman. On this point, Berliner admits that he has lost confidence in one witness cited in his book.

The official response to the Roswell incident came only after U.S. Rep. Steven H. Schiff (R-N.M.) requested in 1993 that the General Accounting Office investigate the matter. Prior to that, the Air Force had refused to release any of the case records. "When a U.S. congressman himself can't get a straight answer, you know something is amiss," says Barry Bitzer, a spokesman for Schiff. Despite the Air Force's recent candor, some documents have been destroyed, according to the congressional aide.

In the 1994 report, the Air Force admits that its "research team found the usual number of problems in many of the records centers (particularly St. Louis) with misfiling, lost or misplaced documents, mismarking of doc-

uments, or the breaking up of record groups over the years and refiling in different systems. This included, for example, a small amount of missing 'decimal files' from the 509th Bomb Group at Roswell that covered the years 1945-1949, that were marked on the index as 'destroyed.'" Fire is known to have damaged the Army records center here in 1973.

While the debate continues as to exactly what fell to earth, the historical context of the event has received little attention. Army Maj.

Following the 1947 sightings, UFOs were reported to have invaded Washington, D.C., air space in the summer of 1952. Both military and civilian aircraft pilots observed the objects, which were also tracked from three radar installations. On July 26 of that year, the Air Force dispatched two fighter jets from New Castle County Air Force base in Delaware to intercept the UFOs. One pilot made visual contact, but couldn't overtake the objects, whatever they were.

After the thwarted dogfight, the flak commenced in earnest on the ground. Within days, Maj. Gen. John A. Samford, chief of Air Force intelligence, held a press conference to debunk the sightings. He assured the press corps that the unknown objects were not a threat to national security, blaming them instead on human and technological errors caused by a temperature inversion. Military protocol silenced other officers who disagreed.

Despite the public denial, it is now clear the national-security

arm of the federal government was concerned about the phenomena — or, more precisely, the popular reaction to it. In early 1953, the CIA convened a secret meeting of civilian scientists chaired by mathematician H.P. Robertson of Cal Tech. The Robertson Panel concluded that UFO reports — not UFOs themselves — were the real threat to internal stability. According to the panel, such reports could cause a "morbid national psychology in which skillful hostile propaganda could induce hysterical behavior and harmful distrust of ... authority." The panel recommended an education program be established to debunk and thereby reduce the number of reported sightings.

The conclusions drawn by the Robertson Panel supposedly represented the CIA's only involvement with UFOs. But documents released through the Freedom of Information Act have since shown the agency, along with the military, participated in a series of wide-ranging domestic mind-control operations during the same era. Indeed, Samford, the chief of Air Force intelligence, and CIA director Roscoe Hillenkoetter both oversaw Project Bluebird, a secret behavioral-modification program initiated in 1950. Based on briefing papers of questionable authenticity, some UFO researchers now believe Hillenkoetter was a member of Majestic 12 (MJ12), the secret committee allegedly assembled to investigate the Roswell crash.

For its part, the Air Force responded to the UFO flap with three overlapping programs: the Sign, Grudge and Blue Book projects, the last of which closed in 1969, after the release of the

Jesse Marcel, the intelligence officer who collected the aerial debris, was assigned to the 509th Composite Group at Roswell. Two years earlier, the 509th dropped the atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. At the time that the extraterrestrial craft allegedly crashed, elements of the same air group were engaged in atomic atmospheric tests on the Bikini atoll in the Pacific. The 509th is now assigned to Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER IN THE FIRST PERSON

I could hear him out of my car speakers yelping like a hound dog in heat over the rush of air that enveloped the open sides of the jeep. It was well beyond midnight, and we were hurtling south through the darkness on Route 61, across a flat and seemingly one-dimensional landscape. The late-night radio talk-show host wasn't buying into the Air Force report published in June, which again completely debunks the theory of the crash of an extraterrestrial spacecraft near Roswell, N.M., in July 1947. Instead, he promulgated the latest revelations that, in his view, confirm the veracity of the story.

Prattle-chatter-patter-babble-boom. Through the bug-speckled windshield, the headlights illuminated the fleeting white highway stripes. The dashboard gave off a phosphorescent glow. There was no turning back. Weirdness had achieved critical mass.

I had traveled about 60 miles north of St. Louis that night with the intention of searching for UFOs. My partner in this quixotic quest was a former newspaper photographer and unwavering skeptic who dabbles in astronomy. After a few hours of stargazing, we packed up his telescope and prepared to leave the conservation-area parking lot that had served as our temporary observatory. As we both looked up for a parting view of the sky, something strange happened. A bright, white light pulsed over our heads and then vanished in less than a second. By the time we crossed the St.

Charles County line, I was still laughing — but I wasn't sure why.

There are those who believe this is no laughing matter. Earlier this summer, for instance, retired Army Col. Philip J. Corso published a memoir, *The Day After Roswell*, in which he claims to have viewed an extraterrestrial corpse at a Fort Riley, Kan., veterinarian clinic in 1947. Without a hint of levity, the former intelligence officer recalls being tipped off to the alien presence by a member of his bowling team. Later in his career, while stationed at the Pentagon, Corso maintains he oversaw the research and development of defense technology based on alien materials recovered from the Roswell crash.

Fact can be stranger than fiction. But when it comes to UFOs, it is often difficult to distinguish the two. One thing is for sure: The phenomena is obfuscated more by activities on earth than any anomalies from on high.

On the way to our close encounter, we drove north on Route 79, passing green stands of corn and gas stations selling live bait and cold beer. At dusk, just beyond Lost Creek, in the town of Elsberry, I asked a young Lincoln County deputy whether he recalled a series of cattle mutilations and UFO sightings that occurred in the vicinity back in 1978. The law-enforcement officer looked at me askance and then peered back at the crossroads. He had no idea what I was talking about.

For more than 20 years, animal mutilations have been associated with the appearance of UFOs. The Elsberry incidence involved five bovine casualties whose organs were removed with utter precision. Some investigators speculate the sacrificial cows are being dissected as part of some extraterrestrial genetic experiment (see accompanying interview).

Aliens are not the first to be blamed for the wanton destruction of livestock, however. After World War II, Western ranchers accused the federal government of being liable for such carnage. The Department of Energy files contain more than 1,000 references to the radioactive contamination of cattle by nuclear atmospheric testing.

I have stopped laughing.

— C.D. Stelzer

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9 - RIVERFRONT TIMES,
St. Louis, MO - July 30/Aug. 5, 1997)

STRANGE VISITATIONS

LINDA MOULTON HOWE IS THE AWARD-winning broadcast journalist who produced *A Strange Harvest*, a 1980 documentary that tied animal mutilations to UFO phenomena. The film first aired on the KMGH-TV, the CBS affiliate in Denver. She now operates an independent film-production company in the Philadelphia area and contributes to Art Bell's syndicated radio program, *Dreamland*. The following interview has been condensed from an extended telephone conversation.

RFT: When you began to investigate cattle mutilations occurring in Colorado and New Mexico in 1979, you thought the cause might be environmental contamination. But after interviewing ranchers, a much more incredible possibility surfaced.

Howe: In one month, I had logged approximately 75 interviews with law-enforcement officers and ranchers in multiple states, not just Colorado and New Mexico. In those conversations were stories about beams of light or a football-field-size orange glowing light over or in pastures, where these animals were found with bloodless cuts and no tracks around them. The one thing the sheriffs kept saying was: "Listen, this is off the record."

After nine more months, I began to describe the story as a hall of mirrors with a quicksand floor. I found I could not find hard answers but could amass a pattern of increasing amounts of circumstantial evidence, including what eyewitnesses described as nonhuman creatures in pastures, in some cases carrying cattle that were later found mutilated.

When the film was first broadcast on May 25, 1980, the phones never stopped at the TV station, the letters began to pour in. Then I realized what I had done was only scratch the surface of the apparent knowledge that a tremendous number of people in the general public had about this phenomena.

In the February edition of *GQ* magazine, author Jack Hitt claims that cattle mutilations are really the result of birds and insects foraging on the carcasses of dead animals. He cites Ken Bonnell, a former FBI agent, who has investigated the phenomena. Would you care to respond?

GQ magazine, which is long known for doing articles on men's clothing and fashion, clearly was out of its element. And the man writing the article was also out of his element and did not know how to do apparently any research, because there was

no research done. There was nothing in the article that even addressed the phenomena that he was supposed to be writing about.

You have suggested extraterrestrials may be collecting DNA to create clones or robots or something unimaginable.

In the scene at the end of *A Strange Harvest*, a (hypnotized) woman named Judy Doraty remembers seeing a brown-and-white calf rising in a beam of light and watching two beings — with snakelike eyes and four long fingers — remove tissue from the same calf. Doraty came away with the impression that whatever was happening had a connection to a survival problem. The survival problem was involving these nonhuman creatures, and they were harvesting genetic material from our planet for their survival.

Beginning in the late 1940s, Western ranchers complained to the federal government about cattle being contaminated by nuclear fallout. Do you think this may in some way relate to the mutilation phenomena?

That would be trying to second-guess the motive directly from whatever it is. Right now I have no doubt that we are dealing with a nonhuman intelligence interacting with the plants, animals and humans on this planet. I have no doubt that the government's knowledge and coverup of this fact is a huge problem. The motive of the nonhuman intelligence is something that I frankly don't think is clearly understood by the government insiders, either.

In 1983, Richard C. Doty, an Air Force intelligence officer with whom you conferred at Kirtland Air Force Base, allowed to you see allegedly classified documents of the government's purported knowledge of the existence of UFOs.

He opened up a drawer in the desk and he pulled out a plain envelope and said, "My superiors have asked me to show this to you." The opening paragraph was about how the U.S. government had retrieved extraterrestrial craft and extraterrestrial biological entities (EBEs) from at least half-a-dozen locations in the Southwestern states and the northern part of the nation of Mexico, south of Laredo. One sentence I have never forgotten. The sentence said: "These extraterrestrials manipulated DNA in already evolving primates to create *Homo sapiens*."

— C.D. Stetler

The Boys in Blue (who do a jimdandy job of flying fighters and bombers, at least most of the time and should stick to that) say those witnesses who saw some alien with slitted eyes and a head kinda misshapen were really looking at a USAF captain injured in a balloon accident. Problem with that is that captain's accident happened in about 1951 and no Air Force personnel were injured in Roswell's area (near a big airbase) in '47. Oh, those darned inconvenient dates.

Charred alien corpses littered about, according to the USAF, were most likely the result of a plane crash near Roswell which claimed the lives of 11. Difficult to wedge this in, too. That accident didn't happen until the '50s either.

Or maybe they were all the dummies the Air Force pushed out of planes to test parachutes. Guess what? That didn't happen until three or four years after the alleged alien "incident" in Roswell. Do you detect a trend here? Tell the gullible and the public any facts no matter how absurd and most of them will believe it.

The Air Force was supposedly also testing special parachutes and balloons and all manner of things, all they reassuringly tell us, in the same itty-bitsy piece of real estate in New Mexico on the same date. My gosh, didn't they have any place else to test things in those whole big United States?



This is one of the dummies people, the Air Force says, mistook for aliens. Musta been Americans with really bad eyesight.

I wish our government officials wouldn't take us all for patsies, chumps and too unsophisticated to be told things which might worry us.

I'm not saying aliens really landed. Not at all, though that's possible. It may have been the first tests for some vehicle more fabulous than we can imagine and which we're keeping secret until aliens (or Russkies or Chinese) do really attack and we can respond. Who knows? But don't insult our intelligence with repeatedly changing the stories.

Maybe it was an alien craft. And maybe just two years after fighting off the monstrous tyrannies of Tojo and Hitler and staring at Stalinist Russia and a China engulfed in Civil War, the Truman Administration didn't think Americans were ready for an extraterrestrial threat as well?

Yes, I am cynical. And, yes, I do think our government lies to us, perhaps with what they see as good motives but they lie nonetheless.

No wonder people believe (as I do) that TWA Flight 800 was downed by a U.S. missile which should have been destroyed after one of the arms reduction treaties with the Russians but wasn't.

Major Frederick Meyer (ret.), Air National Guard, was piloting a Guard helicopter and actually saw the explosion of Flight 800. He told the FBI and NTSB he saw an "ordnance explosion" near the airplane, preceded by a streaking projectile. The FAA and all those other alphabet agencies never followed up his interview and at least one NTSB spokesman denied he had talked to their agency.

Major Meyer was a combat chopper pilot in Vietnam so he knows explosions. A year ago he was passed over for promotion to Lt. Colonel and then retired. Coincidence? Or was it a slap on the wrist cuz he didn't keep his yap shut? I know what I think.

Ask the Tuskegee African-Americans who were left untreated with syphilis whether our government lies or does evil things with the best of intentions.

Ask the men and their survivors of soldiers who had A-bombs exploded near them in the 1950s to "see what will happen to soldiers on a nuclear battlefield" what they think.

Ask the soldiers given LSD without their knowledge about how honest our government is.

And hw about those communities who had radioactive isotopes dribbled into their municipal water supplies without residents' knowledge?

CHRONICLE, Cambridge, IL - Oct. 2, 1997

Back Words

Tom Terry

The United States Air Force in the white heat of its 50th anniversary celebrations has released a more than 200-page report on that supposed space alien landing in Roswell, New Mexico.

It came from some sort of gizmo we were using to spy on Soviet nuclear tests. I feel much better now. My government has staked its whole credibility and told me this.

Yeah. Uh-huh. Sure. Bunkum!

It would be a little more believable if they hadn't already had two or three earlier stories which they eventually changed.

It would also be more reassuring if someone had noticed that it was Americans testing nuclear weapons in New Mexico, not Russians (though some people, including the U.S. Passport Agency, think New Mexico is a different country). The Russians blew up their nukes in Siberia and countries ending in -istan which didn't have many Russians living there. Yes, it is true the Russians would have liked to have exploded bombs in the United States but we didn't give them that opportunity.

The USAF also indicated the "flying saucer" was some sort of thing devised by NASA. Even though NASA didn't exist as an agency in 1947 (it was founded 11 years later!). Details. Details.

Welcome to New Hampshire's North Country, where America is considered a foreign power and alien spacecraft have been dropping in for years

The Extraterrestrials of Indian Stream

BY ELLEN BARRY

ACROSS THE FLAT white expanse of Lake Francis, ice-fishermen's shacks are scattered like thrown dice. They are tiny and solitary and not built for comfort. As she bumps along Route 3 in her grandmother's battered Dodge Dart, Sandy Black looks out at the shacks and smiles.

"They think my hobby is silly," she says. Black is a flatlander — in other words, she was born well south of the 45th parallel — and it is perhaps because of this that she can hold forth about what is, in the North Country, the only way of life imaginable. The people who live here don't notice things about themselves, but five years after moving up here from Virginia, Black still notices. The winters. The isolation. The extraterrestrials.

As she drives along Route 3, she reels off five years of local anomalies — mostly nocturnal lights and UFO fly-bys, but some close encounters and a few instances of direct contact.

This past winter, a woman saw a spacecraft light up the whole side of Magalloway Mountain, then sweep toward her and land in a cove on First Connecticut Lake. In Stewartstown, one man reported aliens in his home, though Black has doubts about this story. ("His wife, who is deceased, offered to make them nachos.") In February, a well-respected 73-year-old woman reported that 12 alien beings sat around her kitchen table for hours, taking notes and talking among themselves. Over in Canaan, a teenage boy saw a nine-foot yeti.

Most of it is the UFOs, though. So far this year, in her capacity as investigator for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) — the country's only grassroots UFO investigative organization — Black has reported some 14 different UFO sightings, which is a record for this area and has drawn national attention. She doesn't pry stories out of people, because she doesn't have to. On a recent Saturday morning, Black — a large blonde in sweatpants and an E.T. lapel pin — demonstrated her information-gathering method by surveying a series of waitresses; before noon, she had leads to an alien base in North Hill, as well as a reported sighting of a cricket the size of a man.

Black, who is 47, had always believed in UFOs, but when she moved up here, she stumbled into a gold mine of anomalies. It was only a few miles south on Route 3 that Barney and Betty Hill reported the first famous alien abduction case, in 1961, and that was by no means the region's first brush with the supernatural. Peggy Cheries, 40, a cashier at George's Pizza, in Colebrook, estimates that "a couple hundred" locals have seen UFOs — she can actually recall a cookout that was interrupted by several hovering crafts — but adds that before Black came to town, people didn't talk about it.

Not so now. Once they are collated and mailed to MUFON headquarters, in Texas, these reports will constitute what UFO experts call a "flap" — in other words, a notable upsurge in localized sightings.

All of which has brought an abnormal amount of national attention to these small towns in the North Country, where looking for alien spacecraft is one way to spend a Saturday night — something like going to the movies, but less of a drive.

"We've been watching them for 10 or 15 years now," says one 63-year-old convenience-store owner, who has never spoken publicly about it and asks to remain anonymous. "When I go out at night, that's what I look for. I look for things in the sky." And sometimes not in the sky. One of his neighbors, he mentions, "had 14 of them over for breakfast."

ONE OF the qualities that people in the North Country notice about outsiders is a tendency to mention every single thing that happens to them.

"You just see things," says William Griffin, who has lived in Colebrook for 11 years and still considers himself a new arrival. "Most of the people who do tell people about things are flatlanders. Even a natural thing — like a hawk. A flatlander will run and tell someone 'I saw a hawk.'"

A native — and we're talking about families who received their land for service in the Revolutionary War — probably would not bring that hawk up in conversation. People up here keep their own counsel, and they're not used to outside interference. Sandy Black realized this early on; when she first started collecting UFO reports, one old lady assumed she had come to take away her food stamps.

The feeling of separateness has run deep here for 300 years. An entire strip of this area — bordered to the west by Indian Stream and to the north by Hall Stream — actually declared independence from the United States for four years in the mid 1830s, establishing the short-lived Independent Republic of Indian Stream before "yielding to New Hampshire" in 1836. According to local historian Granvyl Hulse, the republic fell when a representative of the US military barged in on the president of the Indian Stream Republic and threatened to kick his teeth in.

And today, pockets of secessionist spirit still linger.

"From the Notches on up should probably be its own country," says Ron Scott, 65, a Boston-born man who moved up here after two disillusioning years of military service in Korea. He suspects communist infiltration of the government. "I'll tell you, I don't think the state government or the federal government are worth a hill of beans."

This visceral distrust of Washington is intertwined with the alien phenomenon. Virtually every witness interviewed in the North Country backs up personal experiences with the classic X-Files syllogism: if the government lies, and the government says there are no UFOs, then there are UFOs. Denial equals proof.

Ultimately, though, it's an outsider who has made Colebrook's aliens into a talked-about phenomenon. Bobbing from booth to booth in a diner, distributing her MUFON



SIGHTSEER: a MUFON investigator, Sandy Black considers acceptance of the physically impossible to be a survival skill for the next millennium.

business card, Sandy Black has helped make it respectable — even exciting — to come forward. Right now, she's planning a little party for people who have seen them.

"I'm even beginning to notice a little bit of envy among people who don't have [these experiences]," she says, with a touch of pride. "One of my friends asked me, 'Why don't I see them?' I said, 'You're not one of the chosen few.'"

Certainly reported sightings have gone up abruptly. "Maybe people just weren't looking at the sky before," Cheries muses. Well, they are looking now. Every night at nine, when he closes his convenience store, Ron Scott strolls out and scans the skies for spacecraft.

"I gotta see one of these," he says. "I want to be a believer."

SANDY BLACK rolled in here from Herndon, Virginia, five years ago. She

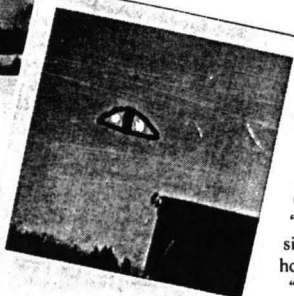
thought at the time that her new home "would be something like that TV show, *Northern Exposure*." But as she and her husband made their way farther north, the landscape just got emptier. The road signs read FROST HEAVES and then FALLING ROCK and then MOOSE COLLISION. It wasn't much like anything she had seen on TV. "I kept thinking we'd driven off the end of the earth," she remembers.

In a way, she had. Certain influences just don't penetrate into the North Country, or if they do, they penetrate at a very slow pace. This 256,000-acre strip of land is actually classified as a different meteorological zone from the more temperate areas to the north, south, east, and west of it, Hulse says. There are towns here with no retail at all. "Down below" means "south of Portsmouth." Ask locals for phone numbers, and many of them will give you four digits.

(continued on page 12)



EVIDENCE of alien life in Polaroid snapshots, and an artist's sketch.



Over time, the area's isolationist credo has rubbed off on Sandy Black. Once active as a union lobbyist on Capitol Hill, she has stopped following politics altogether, because she considers most of what is released to the public "a diversion." A lifelong Democrat, she has begun to see the appeal of Pat Buchanan. Everything below the Notches has begun to seem more distant.

"I lost interest in what's going on in the world. It's not concentrating on what's important," she says. What's important, in her view, is the way we are "destroying the planet" with chemical poisons and toxic sludge and volcanoes spewing carbon into the air, she says. She sees disaster in the future.

Black did bring one thing with her: ideas. She had seen UFOs before, when she lived in Arizona, but in her 30s she became deeply involved "as part of a personal-growth thing," and offered her services to MUFON, the world's largest UFO investigation network. An avid fan of Harvard psychologist and abduction theorist John Mack, she is part of the New Age wing of UFO theory.

This line of thinking goes far beyond flying saucers; it is suffused with environmentalism, politics, and spiritualism. According to Mack, encounters with aliens are mystical and subjective, and they may have the potential to change your life for the better. Essential to the theory is a deep concern for the environment. Mack suggests that the aliens are warning us to stop ravaging our planet, like "butterflies coming back to stop the caterpillars from denuding the bushes." When they return from their abduction experience, abductees — or "experiencers," as Mack prefers to call them — are transformed people.

In stark contrast to the nuts-and-bolts recordkeeping of 1950s ufology, this new school of thought has dispensed with the task of physical proof, convinced that encounters and abductions are happening in a "fifth dimension."

In his academic-sounding 1994 alien-abduction manifesto, *Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens*, Mack writes that "experience, the reporting of the experience, and the receiving of that experience through the psyche of the investigator are, in the absence of physical verification sufficiently robust to satisfy scientific requirements of proof (there is physical evidence but not proof), the only ways that we can know about abductions." Crucial to the abduction theory are phenomena "for which we can conceive of no explanation within a Newtonian/Cartesian or even Einsteinian space/time ontology."

In other words, physical science is no longer a useful tool for dealing with abduction stories. You just have to believe. To Black, scientific method is not simply beside the point; it is an obstacle.

"Scientists work in the three-dimensional world. That's all they can relate to. They want to hear about metal — knock knock knock on the side of the craft," she says over waffles at a diner. "I have no interest in knowing how these things fly, propulsion systems and so on," she says. "It might be how women look at things, as opposed to men."

A form of this philosophy has rubbed off on locals. Their explanations veer from the extremely mystical to the extremely literal.

"I think they're looking for a place to move to," says Cheries, who has seen a "Star Wars-type thing" the size of a 10-story building hovering over her own house.

"It's something about the 45th parallel. There's a fifth dimension," explains Gifford, whose wife, Beverly, reported a UFO to Black. "Also, it's sparsely populated up here, so there's more room."

Black, meanwhile, looks with some pity on scientifically minded people who are "stuck in their little three-dimensional box." She considers acceptance of the physically impossible to be a sign of forward thinking — a survival skill for the next millennium.

Here's an example: Black recently took a report from a lady who said a two-and-a-half-foot sphere of light had come floating in her window in the middle of the night. The ball of light stopped, and four or five aliens emerged.

How tall? I ask. Black holds her hand four feet off the ground.

How could five four-foot aliens fit in a two-and-a-half-foot sphere? I ask.

"See?" she says. "You're dealing with old physics."

TO THE hard-science wing of ufology, which still puts a great deal of stock in "old physics," Sandy Black's theories are — to say the least — frustrating. They are also spreading very quickly.

"I'm always disappointed in what people will believe," says Dr. Mark Rodeghier, scientific director of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, or CUFOS, in Chicago. "The standard of proof is pretty low. Most of these people are not trained in science. I've seen this time and time again."

The abduction story has made UFOs sexy again; cinema, television, and the popular press are saturated with images of inky-eyed Small Grays toddling into our homes. But far as Rodeghier is concerned,



the field is in danger of getting mired in magical thinking.

"What has happened is, while there has been more interest, there has been less scientific interest," Rodeghier says. "The abduction phenomenon has had a negative impact on attracting serious people to the field."

The change began right outside Colebrook about 30 years ago, when Betty and Barney Hill electrified the UFO community with that first report of alien abduction. The Hills' account went this way: they were driving south on Route 3 when they saw a low-flying spacecraft, stopped the car, and immediately slipped out of consciousness. The next thing they knew, they were driving down Route 93, and had somehow "lost" two hours. Under hypnosis, the Hills said they had been paralyzed and taken on board the spacecraft, where they had undergone some kind of physical examination.

The conventional wisdom within the community now holds that aliens are abducting humans in order to crossbreed with them. Abduction stories have been cropping up more and more often in popular culture, and an oft-cited Roper Poll taken in 1991 concluded that more than half a million Americans had had supernatural episodes consistent with the abduction experience.

Once the abduction stories started, they changed the field of ufology forever. A rift opened up between the conservative, "nuts-and-bolts" ufologists — who consider that the vast majority of sightings reports are bogus — and the psychosocial abduction theorists like Mack or Budd Hopkins, who believe the interbreeding stories on the strength of witnesses' emotional authenticity.

And even for hardheaded ufologists who distance themselves from the abduction phenomenon, the ante has gone up. When people across the country can describe having

MUFON on the California suicide

The Heaven's Gate mass suicide may have sparked new interest in UFOs in the major press, but the UFO-research community doesn't think much of the attention. For starters, says Ray Fowler, MUFON's national director of investigations, the spaceship trailing Comet Hale-Bopp — the vessel that was supposed to take the cultists on their final ride — wasn't a UFO at all, and it was nowhere near the comet. "It was a star," Fowler says, adding that it was in the same line of sight as Hale-Bopp, but light-years and light-years away.

Though Fowler tried explaining that fact on the Internet, the explanation obviously didn't take; he sees the spaceship notion as part of the traditional hysteria surrounding a comet's appearance, updated for the space age.

Sandy Black says she doesn't even read articles about Heaven's Gate. (The press, she says, closed in on the story "like sharks to a bloody steak.") "That bunch of nuts in California has nothing to do with serious UFO research," she says.

Fowler says he figures that the suicide story "hurts legitimate scientific UFO research" and makes it easier for the government to downplay and suppress its own UFO information. And, he says, the story continues a trend in coverage that keeps "legitimate sightings" by sober-eyed witnesses such as airline pilots out of the news. "It's only the fantastic that usually gets in the newspapers," he says.

— Tom Scocca

sex with aliens, even experts admit that mere sightings are pretty humdrum stuff. People don't want to hear about how the aliens arrived when they can find out how they brought captive women to orgasm. As for strange lights — well, forget about it.

"Nocturnal lights are blasé," says Ray Fowler, MUFON's national director of investigations, who is presently at work investigating a four-person abduction incident that took place on the Allagash River in northern Maine. "I'm very reluctant to even look into nocturnal lights. I get more excited about CEs [close encounters of the third kind, or coming within 500 feet of an entity]. That type of experience is far more appealing to me now. People want something they can sink their teeth into."

And as the subjective approach comes to dominate the field, even investigators are involved on a fiercely personal level; it's not as simple as seeing lights in the sky. Where abduction is concerned, skepticism can be an insult.

"To me, if you're skeptical, that's just ignorance," Black says. "But if you're saying something to make [abduction theorist] Budd Hopkins look bad, then you're siding with the devil."

Both Black and Fowler hint at abduction experiences of their own. As representatives of the Mutual UFO Network, though, they don't talk about them to the press. They're not supposed to talk about what else they believe, either. It's right there in the Investigator's Manual, under the heading WORKING WITH THE MEDIA: "An impression of inextricable ties between UFO research and other esoteric pursuits serves to confuse the audience and erode the UFO researcher's credibility."

WHATEVER THE scientists might make of her, Sandy Black has brought many people in the North Country into the UFO fold. The Mutual UFO Network is the only national UFO investigation network, and relies on its local representatives to spread the word among the populace. Along with Peter Geremia, the state MUFON director, Black has passed out innumerable business cards and introduced herself to innumerable strangers. She's tramped through the snow to knock on back doors.

"One of the things I try to instill in sec-

Definitions (from the MUFON manual)

Following are the formal definitions. Field Investigators, analysts, researchers and interested readers of this manual should come to know the definitions and use them in their personal work and communication with others. Let MUFON headquarters know if you find cases clearly within the realm of flying saucer phenomena that cannot be classified within one or more of these "types."

	1	2	3	4	5
AN ANOMALY					
FB FLY-BY					
MA MANEUVER					
CE CLOSE ENCOUNTER					
Sighting	Physical Effects	Living Entities	Reality Transformation	Lasting Injury	

CHART COURTESY BALLANTINE BOOKS AND JACQUES VALLEE/DIAGRAM BY PATRICK O'BRIEN

tion directors is that you have people everywhere that are interested in the subject, and if they don't know you're there, it's going to be like looking for something in the dark without a flashlight," Geremia says. "Sandy has done an outstanding job of letting people know MUFON is there."

If the quantity of reports is any measure of success, then Black is succeeding. Locals are coming forward from every direction to say they had been seeing UFOs all along. Black attributes this to destigmatization. She knows how this works, because it happened with her own mother.

"She was really frightened when I first got into this stuff," Black recalls. "Now she sends me all these UFO magazines all the time. She actually took a cattle-mutilation report for me in Texas last year."

Black doesn't try to convince people —

"It's like religion. People develop spiritually at their own rate," she explains. It's not really necessary, either; it is fairly common, for instance, for family members to follow each other into this realm. Johanne Rodrigue, a 33-year-old jeweler from Stewartstown, says there is only one person in her immediate family now who hasn't seen a UFO.

"It's funny the way it happened with my father," says Rodrigue, a bouffant brunette in a tiny miniskirt. "When I first joined MUFON, he had the greatest time with it." But he recently had another experience, Rodrigue says. "He comes to me and he goes — he's got these big, big hands — he says, 'I'll put my hand right in the fire. It was real.'"

And once a person accepts that what they saw was real, UFO investigation is a welcoming world. Part of what drew Black into the field was an expansive quality among the investigators she meets; they have "kind souls," she says.

Black herself has the same quality — she is engaged, and open, and infinitely reassuring, if a little overcome by wayward case files.

And she's had some success in recruiting investigator trainees — 10 local people are card-carrying members. As with any volunteer network, recruiting is part of the job. The MUFON Investigator's Handbook advises recruiters that "civic, fraternal and professional organizations offer excellent opportunities for recruitment, as their members are typically intelligent, enthusiastic and proven joiners."

The "Elks Club" quality disturbs John Horrigan, who runs Boston's Paranormal Investigative Lecture League. Recruiting is a double-edged sword: it roots out unreported sightings, but it also prompts bogus ones. And one particularly charismatic field investigator can easily touch off a flap, he says.

"When you go in there, you're bringing a pathology with you. Bang, the UFO bug has hit the state of New Hampshire," Horrigan says. "When you have a small neighborhood, word gets around. The story is told and retold. It's a nice little literary genre."

To a certain degree, though, that's the point: Ray Fowler says grassroots UFO investigators like Black are doing the job that the government should have been doing all along: "conditioning" the populace to believe in the presence of extraterrestrial life.

"In a small way . . . MUFON [is] conditioning people without the government having to do anything," Fowler says. At press time, 48 percent of the American public believed in UFOs.

IN THE North Country, the sky seems close and the state capitol seems far. That's been true for three centuries.

Colebrook physician, historian, and geologist William Gifford — who is still called "Doc Gifford" even though he gave up his

license in protest of bureaucratic interference — tells a story about a whole town that was impounded in the mid 19th century because the farmers refused to pay taxes. One of Gifford's wife's ancestors purchased the town, for \$18.04, and he took a trip over to inspect his property. He banged on one farmer's door and asked him — just out of curiosity — how much he owed. The farmer said, "Seventy-five cents."

"It was just 75 cents, but he would not pay it," Gifford adds. "There are still people around here who think like that."

But it is in precisely this rocky, resistant atmosphere that the UFOs — and the body of ideas connected with them — have found purchase. To Sandy Black, as to many, many Americans, aliens are a part of the same narrative framework as the Trilateral Commission and the approaching destruction of the planet. "All the Whitewater stuff is a diversion," she says. "Our society has got-



A BELIEVER: Johanna Rodrigue, a MUFON member, says only one person in her family hasn't seen a UFO.

ten the point of bread and circuses."

Her beliefs are strong and sincere, and she considers them a guard against cataclysm. She tells people about them. It's part of a process — ideas multiply themselves through the media, through the Internet, or through people, and the UFO story evolves. The ufologist Jacques Vallee explained the evolution of ideas this way: "Conventional science appears more and more perplexed, befuddled, at a loss to explain. Pro-ET ufologists become more dogmatic in their propositions. More people become fascinated with space and the new frontiers of consciousness. More books and articles appear, changing our culture in the direction of a new image of man."

Here, in an area that seems to have more than its share of anomalies in the first place, the mysterious closeness of nature has combined with deep-rooted politics, creating an organic theory of government conspiracy and the supernatural. The ideas — whether they were born in John Mack's forums or in Internet discussion groups — bring meaning to what was already there: the eerie field, the hovering spacecraft, the huge insects, the yeti, the night lights, the day lights, the inexplicable humming of the earth.

Except that — as people up here will tell you — they've been seeing UFOs for centuries. That's how Black figures it, anyway. To her, she's just scribbling notes on a phenomenon that dwarfs her. Asked whether the number of local reports bears any significant relationship to the amount of UFO activity in the area, she is quiet for a long time, thinking. "No," she says at last.

People see what they see, she points out. She does not, in the end, consider herself a vital figure.

Ellen Barry can be reached at ebarry@phx.com.

NEWS, Lima, OH - Oct. 30, 1997 CR: W. Jones

Indian Lake night sky activity intrigues Timmerman

REPORTS: People say they witnessed three orange balls of light hovering in the sky on Tuesday.

By CHAD D. LERCH
The Lima News

The truth might be out there. Not in some Top Secret government vault in New Mexico and not in science fiction books, but perhaps looming over the western Ohio sky.

John P. Timmerman said he has received at least two new reports that suggest something unusual happening in the evening sky just north of Indian Lake.

Three bright orange balls of light were witnessed by two people who say they saw the swift-moving objects in the sky around 8 p.m. Tuesday.

The unidentified objects hovered for a while before rising up in the cool night air.

When the balls departed, one went left, one to the right and the other just vanished without a trace, Timmerman said.

Timmerman, a Logan County resident and board member of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, said there have been 50 to 100 similar sightings over the 25-mile area in the past five years.

"We didn't have a lot of activ-

ity last year," he said.

The past few years, Timmerman has tried to determine if the "fireballs" were helicopters being flown at night. The objects are silent and evidence to prove they were helicopters has not been obtained, he said, adding that the people who saw the objects are reliable and their vision is fine.

Their names have not been released because of privacy concerns, Timmerman said.

Most sightings happen in the fall, raising the concern they are the work of Halloween pranksters. "The nature of many of the reports suggest that it is not," Timmerman said. "If it was a prank it would be a local prank. But there are worldwide sightings."

Tuesday's witnesses saw the objects while in different places, he said, and told him the objects were larger than stars and smaller than the moon.

Timmerman said he hopes other witnesses will come forward.

He said the information will be turned over to scientists who study the UFO phenomenon.

"I'm looking for other witnesses of light sources to give a rational explanation," he said.

Anyone with information on this or other occurrences can call Timmerman during the day at (937) 843-3834.

DAILY BULLETIN, Ontario, CA - July 13, 1997

UFO group has home in Ventura County

By Gloria Gonzales
N.Y. Times News Service

LOS ANGELES — The membership of the Ventura County chapter of the Mutual UFO Network ranges from people who merely believe that extraterrestrial life exists to those who believe in alien abduction, implants and a government cover-up at Roswell, N.M.

A member who falls closer to the latter category is Agoura Hills podiatrist Dr. Roger Leir, who believes he may have seen evidence of a UFO while driving along the Ventura Freeway near Parkway Calabasas last October.

Leir says that he has removed alien implants from the hands — and toes — of seven patients in the past two years and the details of his "implant removal surgeries" can be observed on a World Wide Web site, www.anw.com/first, he maintains.

MUFON chapters across the nation do not discriminate on the basis of fine distinctions of alien beliefs, said Alice Leavy, MUFON Ventura chapter president. All are welcome, and part of the mission is to provide a comfortable place to talk about unusual experiences.

"People want to know," Leavy said, sitting in her office surrounded by photographs of local sightings. "Times are different now than 50 years ago, when a radio show like 'War of the Worlds' created hysteria."

"People have their heads out of the sand, and they want to look around — and up — and with that investigating will come the understanding that we are not alone."

MUFON brings together people like Leir and a Texas hypnotherapist named Derrell Sims, who works with people who believe they have been abducted and has referred patients to the podiatrist. "Sims has been working in this

area for 27 years," Leir said. "I started looking at these patients and in some cases the implants were obvious. One woman had two implants in her big toe."

Leir removed the implants, which photos on the Web site show look like tiny, metallic black triangles. Leir said he has had the material analyzed, and that it contains metals not known to Earth.

Leir and other MUFON members remain puzzled as to the implants' function and purpose, but they hope to raise funds to continue research in the area.

The Thousand Oaks meetings of the Ventura County chapter of MUFON typically draw between 100 and 300 believers, depending on the popularity of whatever speaker is featured each month.

More than 300 people showed up to hear Whitely Strieber, author of "Communion," speak. Writers like Stanton Friedman, Bud Hopkins and David Jacobs, "ufologists" all, also have attracted large crowds. In addition to speakers, the members' \$30 annual dues buy a monthly newsletter and use of the group's office and library at 3801 Old Conejo Road in Newbury Park.

"We have nonbelievers as well as believers," said Leavy. "Skeptics come to our meetings, and our members hold a range of beliefs. There are those who believe in extraterrestrial life, but when they hear stories of alien abduction, they think — 'No way!'"

"We consider ourselves an educational organization, with a mission of education and research. We inform people about sightings all over the world and in our area through our monthly newsletter and our Web site, and we're classified as a nonprofit, educational group — and now with the Thousand Oaks Library as our home base for meetings, it all sort of fits in."



FOREIGN NEWS

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

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Nov. 9, 1997

With Beijing OK, academics train scientific eye

BY KATHY CHEN
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

BEIJING—In ever-changing China, which in places has sprinted from agrarian poverty to urban modernity in less than a decade, anything seems possible these days. Even UFOs.

That may explain why Sun Shili, professor of international trade at Beijing's University of International Business and Economics, is holding court at China's hallowed Academy of Science along with a South Korean delegation from something called the Embassy of Extraterrestrials.

In the West, unidentified flying objects and alien abductions are the stuff of Hollywood pulp and supermarket tabloids. But in China, UFOs are a matter of great national importance. Sun's group, the Chinese UFO Research Association, receives government grants, and its members include some of the nation's most respected scientists and academics—even Communist Party officials.

These enthusiasts aren't merely trying to prove the existence of UFOs, they're attempting to figure out what makes them fly, then har-

ness that power for everyday use.

"UFOs are faster than any airplane or car," Sun says. "We hope to use the UFO phenomenon to resolve China's energy and efficiency problems." The professor, 60, who once worked as a translator for Mao Tse-tung, adds that while "the focus of foreign UFO studies on sightings is a little passive," in China "we've always linked our research with science."

Of course, classifying the study of UFOs as "science" protects Sun and his group from Communist Party prohibitions against engaging in superstition. And China does have its official skeptics: Ji Fusheng, general director of the Department of Basic Research and High Technology of the China Association for Science and Technology, says, "The study of UFOs does no harm, but I believe it won't have any concrete results."

A serious scholar with a dignified air, Sun experienced what he says was his first and only close encounter in 1969, when he spotted a bright orb bouncing like a yo-yo above the horizon during a Maoist learn-from-the-peasants campaign at a rural cooperative. Not having heard of flying

saucers, "I thought it was a Soviet reconnaissance plane," he recounts. Sun only considered the other-worldly possibilities of his sighting after the author of a Spanish-language book on UFOs sent him a copy to translate. At the time, Sun was working for the government, even translating for Mao during meetings with Spanish-speaking dignitaries.

Before long, Sun had become the nation's leading UFO expert. He attended official conferences organized and funded by the government. A vice premier, Yao Yilin, wrote a commentary in 1980 urging the Chinese to respect his findings.

Sitting in his Beijing apartment in a study crammed with UFO books, Sun recounts how he helped transform the nation's UFO association from a science-fiction club, founded at Wuhan University in 1979, into a nationwide organization with 5,000 members.

One of his first moves after taking the helm in 1986 was to use his connections in government and academia to move the association's membership away from mostly students and laborers. He stepped up contact

with the outside world, attending international conferences and posing for photos with dress-up aliens. Today, he brags, "80 percent of our members are college graduates or above."

Gao Ge, 52, is characteristic of the members Sun has been trying to recruit. The scientist at Beijing Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics holds three Chinese patents and one U.S. patent for aerospace-related advances, as well as China's National First-Class Invention prize for his research on improving the efficiency of jet engines. Ever since spotting what he says was an orange UFO in Miami, where he was a visiting professor at Florida Atlantic University in 1990, Gao has been trying to build his own. What he envisions is an ellipsoid with tiny wings that he says can take off vertically and move like an alien spaceship, albeit at subsonic speed.

Gao says he has test-flown a wooden prototype with the dimensions of a king-size bed. He is confident that, someday, with his craft's maneuverability and energy-saving "vortex generator" (a device that creates lift much like dragonfly wings) "you won't need airplanes anymore." He

on elusive UFOs

can't offer much more than a description, however. He says Beijing Institute has labeled his invention top secret and has banned him from showing even blueprints to outsiders.

Strolling by a lily pond at a senior citizens' recreation center in the southern city of Guiyang, another UFO buff and association member, Ma Ruian, 54, envisions a future filled with super fast submarines, floating cars and energy-saving ships shaped like flounders—all gunned by his patented flying globe.

Ma conducts some of his experiments on this pond, using rudimentary models to test his theory. He believes that by redirecting air or water flow, his globe can decrease resistance, significantly speed up moving objects and save energy. To demonstrate, he releases a balloon fit with a special plug that controls the outrush of air. The balloon moves fast as it deflates, but Sun has his doubts about Ma's theory. "It could be a little exaggeration that the globe's speed could exceed that of a rocket," the professor says.

Perhaps the boldest dream belongs to Liu Zhongkai, 47, an official at the Beijing Meteorological Bureau with wild eyes and vertical hair. Patent authorities are weighing whether or not to register his invention, which he describes as a magnetic field that produces as much as a third more energy than it requires to run. Among other things, he claims, his magnetic field can alter time. "If you live to be 100 on Earth, in my UFO you will be able to live at least 100,000 years," he says.

Tinkering with his contraption—two steel bars with coils of copper wire at each end—Liu says his self-generating energy machine "is what UFOs must use to fly long distances because they can't use gas. It's a simple logic thing."

Which, of course, begs the question: How do these scientists know what makes a UFO run, since none claims to have ever been inside one?

"I've studied many photographs of UFOs," Ma says with a shrug. "In physics, you can work backward to figure out the theory."

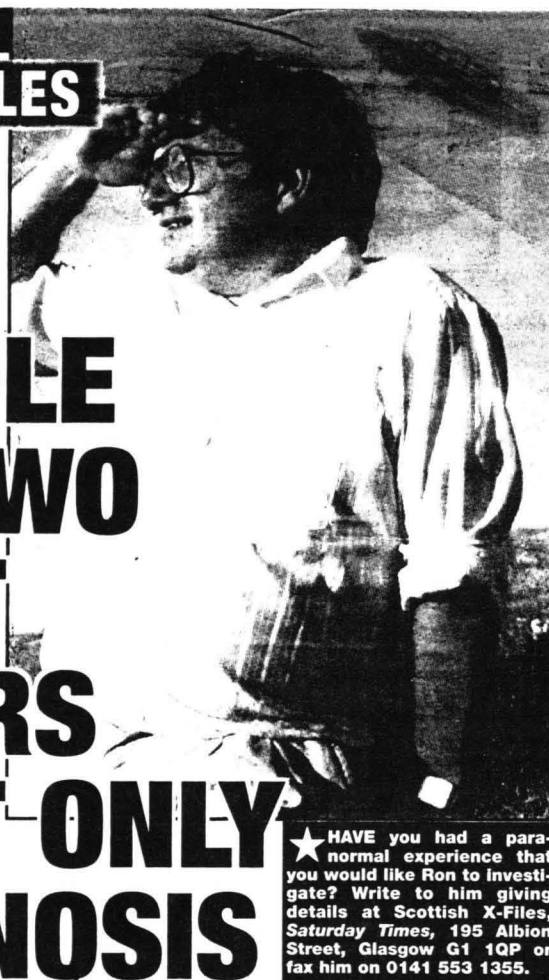
That isn't the quest isn't tough. Says Sun: "Working with UFOs is more complicated than translating for Mao."

EVENING TIMES, Glasgow, Scotland - May 24, 1997

INTRODUCING...

THE SCOTTISH X FILES

HE'S Scotland's answer to Spooky Mulder. Today and every week in *Saturday Times*, paranormal expert Ron Halliday (right) will open his casebook of real life X-Files. As chairman of the Scottish Earth Mysteries Research Group he has investigated over 1000 out-of-this-world incidents. All Ron asks is that you keep an open mind. Now read on ...



ALIEN abduction. The very words conjure images of weird beings straight from *The X-Files*.

Far fetched or so you might think if you hadn't met people like Gary, Sharon or Jane.

Ordinary Scots with extraordinary stories to tell. For them, fact really is stranger than fiction.

In August 1992, Gary Wood and Colin Wright were travelling on the A70 from Edinburgh to Tarbrax village.

They found themselves on an isolated stretch of road.

As they turned a bend a disc-shaped object, 30ft across, appeared over the road. All around an eerie blackness descended.

Shaken, Gary hammered the accelerator to escape.

They eventually arrived at their destination to discover that over two hours had mysteriously disappeared from their lives.

A journey which should have only taken 30 minutes had taken five times as long.

WHAT had happened during this missing time? Following hypnosis, details emerged of an abduction by strange beings, small and skinny with large black eyes.

Gary, it seems, had been put through some kind of medical examination.

He found his experience hard to take and doesn't want any more. Jane, however, takes a more relaxed view. She saw a UFO as a child and dates her first alien contact to the time.

About 30 years ago she saw a strange glowing figure in human shape while staying at a friend's house.

After that she would wake up tired and restless with vague memories of leaving the house in the company of non human entities.

RIDDLE OF TWO LOST HOURS THAT ONLY HYPNOSIS COULD SOLVE

Her shoes would be caked with fresh mud or grass, evidence that these events were not just bad dreams.

Jane is keen to learn more.

SHARON is less sure. She still has difficulty in coming to terms with her encounter.

The event that was to cloud her life began with a walk in the woods.

The 10-year-old had taken a picnic which she meant to eat when she reached a clearing.

Sharon recalls that all around a strange quiet descended. Even the birds stopped singing ... a common prelude to a major UFO experience.

Ahead, at the edge of the path, Sharon caught sight of a group of strange beings.

They looked human except for their distinctly small stature, about 3ft tall, reaching only to her shoulder. At that same moment the entities became aware of her moving towards her.

Sharon turned to run, but could not move.

Overhead a bright light appeared. It shone on the small beings who had taken hold of Sharon and were lifting her towards the beam.

She floated upwards and found herself lying on a metal couch.

Surrounding her were entities of different sizes.

Unlike the Gary Wood case, though, it was the taller creatures who were distinctly skinny, like living skeletons.

Sharon doesn't describe a medical examination, but has no doubt she was being inspected.

Then, in the blink of an eye, she was back in the woods. She ran home.

When she got to the farm, she learned it had passed six o'clock.

A trip which should have taken till lunch time had sucked hours out of her life.

So great was the trauma that 20 years passed before Sharon felt able to discuss the incident.

★ **HAVE** you had a paranormal experience that you would like Ron to investigate? Write to him giving details at Scottish X-Files, *Saturday Times*, 195 Albion Street, Glasgow G1 1QP or fax him on 0141 553 1355.

According to experts, abductions reveal certain characteristics including missing time and physical implants.

Sharon scores on both counts. An object has been discovered close to her nasal passage.

Is this of alien origin, or does it have a straightforward explanation?

A surgeon is planning to remove it, so we will have the evidence.

Abductees through their experiences believe there really is life beyond our planet.

Their stories may be hard to accept, but their conviction that they know something we don't is beyond doubt.

Are there aliens in Dundonald?

ARE the aliens coming?

In the week that has seen the build up to the most thorough examination yet of the planet Mars — by mankind — the question on the minds of people in Dundonald is whether or not the aliens are already here, studying us.

About a dozen people watched a strange spectacle in the sky over the town last Friday night.

For about two hours, an unidentified object appeared to drift over several houses.

At first the object appeared to be elliptical and was about the size of large radar satellite dish.

There seemed to be 14 or 15 flashing lights underneath it as the unidentified object slowly drifted around, passing over houses in Auchans Drive and Cochrane Avenue.

People watched it from about 11.20 pm to about 1.20 am on Saturday morning.

But at times it seemed to change its shape and it resembled a large letter 'M'.

Sometimes it appeared to be high in the sky and at other times it looked as if it was just above the rooftops.

Some of the witnesses were genuinely afraid, but the others were astounded.

The spectacle was seen by villagers Shirley and Arthur Woodcock and by Geordie and Rena McNally.

Debbie McNally described the thing as "a series of circles, giving off lights and rotating."

Eventually the whole thing disappeared.

But even though it was gone, the mystery continued next morning. Two neighbours each

found that when they switched on the light in their bathrooms the bulbs exploded. The object had hovered over both houses.

So what was it? Air traffic control at Prestwick, the official reporting agency for any unidentified aircraft and other airborne objects, say that nothing was reported to them from Ayrshire on Friday.

The spectacle may, however, have a perfectly natural explanation.

Dundonald people may have seen a rare example of the Gegenschein or a similar phenomenon.

The Gegenschein is rarely seen as far north as Scotland. It appears in the sky, exactly opposite the sun, after sunset and is caused by dust in the atmosphere. That dust could have come from the volcano in Montserrat. The flashing lights could have been the stars shining through the fainter light.

But even if that theory is correct, it does not explain the exploding light bulbs.

Meanwhile in Galston, a more solid object was seen last Thursday by someone who lives near the school.

He described the object as a large black silent triangle with a white light at each corner.

It was seen sometime between 11 pm and 11.30 pm and was heading south.

Did you see the mystery thing over either Dundonald or Galston? If so drop us a line giving as much detail as you can.

Write to UFO sighting, Kilmarnock Standard, 1 Bank Place, Kilmarnock, KA1 1HJ. Remember, the truth is out there.

Cattle deaths 'may be down to aliens' says investigator

By BECKY SHERDLEY

LANCASHIRE farmers are being asked to help with an X-Files-style investigation into alleged experiments on cows ... being carried out by aliens from another planet!

Independent investigator David Cayton, with the backing of the North West UFO organisation Quest International, is asking to be given access to the corpses of cattle with strange injuries.

Mr Cayton reckons aliens could be responsible for the mysterious deaths, and has advertised for Lancashire farmers to help him with his research.

Incisions

But the National Farmers Union and local farmers have greeted the request with a healthy dose of Lancashire scepticism.

According to Mr Cayton, cattle have been found with vital organs missing, limbs amputated, strange incisions in the forehead, complete blood loss and the eyes removed.

Mr Cayton said: "Some times organs have been removed from the animals, the surgery has been carried out with such precision it would be impossible for a highly skilled veterinary surgeon to carry out."

"We believe that this could be the work of something out of this world."

"Then the animal may have lain dead for a few days, in which time vermin may have got to it, but oddly it

has been left untouched. This really is like the X-Files. People may think it is strange, but we need the cattle to carry out further research to establish if there is anything out there."

But Karen Fordyce, a spokeswoman for the NFU, said: "It's certainly a very odd claim to make. I haven't heard of this happening before."

"If an animal has been killed and we were uncertain of how it had happened, we would seek the advice of a vet."

"If there was a large spate of this happening in this country, it would be something we would have to investigate further."

Dairy Farmer Pauline Anderson, of Seed Lee Farm, Bamber Bridge, near Preston added: "I have found cows dead a few times and they have been struck by lightning."

"But I have never come across anything like this and I have been farming for years."

"If I was uncertain about the death of a farm animal I would consult a vet for advice. I would not be interested in referring the corpse to this kind of cause."

"Everything in farming nowadays has got to be done properly, particularly because of the recent BSE scare across the country."

Night sky mystery

UFO Over North Devon
by Kevin Lynch

DEREK HENDERSON reviews
two new books about
widely differing subjects

OVER THE past two or three decades, there have been a number of UFO sightings in North Devon.

One in particular gets the focus of attention from Kevin Lynch whose parents, Peter and Elizabeth, claimed they witnessed a classic UFO phenomenon on July 15, 1978.

What's more, it was substantiated by an Ilfracombe couple, 29-year-old electronics worker Michael Birch and his wife Ann.

The *Journal* figured prominently in the two reports, first publishing the Birches' version on July 20 and then carrying the Lynch story a week later.

Barnstaple businessman Peter Lynch was with his wife on board their sailing cruiser, moored a few hundred yards off the Bideford end of Instow.

It was after midnight when they spotted three lights in triangular formation, travelling in a southerly direction over the hills behind Instow.

One was red, one blue and the third white. But neither person could hear any engine noise on a very calm and still night.

They continued to watch as the three disc-shaped lights passed over Tapeley house and Westleigh, finally disappearing from sight, still heading south, behind East-the-Water.

They later agreed that they had observed the lights travelling about two and a half miles at an estimated speed of 200 miles an hour.

Though the lights made a triangular formation, they looked to form a single object as through their binoculars, they had seen a sort of framework, dimly visible, linking the lights.

"It was certainly nothing like any aircraft I know," said Peter.

And they added, in eerie fashion, that they had a strong feeling that as they were watching, so too were they

being watched, though neither felt the craft was in any way malevolent.

In the *Journal* on July 20, the couple saw the report about the Birch sighting and realised they had seen the same thing.

The Birches spotted the three oval-shaped objects from their house after pulling back the curtains.

They got their binoculars and Mr Birch said: "It was like nothing one usually sees in the sky. They weren't travelling all that fast and we had them in view for almost a minute."

After the Lynch sighting had been reported in the *Journal*, they received a letter from the Birches, who said they had been contacted by the British UFO Association asking for details.

Then the Lynches were approached by the British Flying Saucer Bureau based in Bristol.

But they also handed over their notes and sketches to a man named Elliott who said he was representing a local UFO research group. He promised to return them, but failed to do so.

Their son Kevin, seven at the time, who was on board the vessel but had slept through the sighting, has now put a booklet together, pointing out that the UFO passed close to a mothballed air-force base and also the terminal point of a purported ley line.

● *UFO Over North Devon* by Kevin Lynch is published by Lionscope Publishing, Barnstaple, at £2.60.

Could be aliens, says chief Trogg

Reg Presley tunes into our corn circles

by WILLIAM TELFORD

ALIENS could be trying to contact people in Plymouth by creating the Staddiscombe corn circle, according to pop legend Reg Presley.

The Troggs frontman and international crop circle expert is keen to see photographs of the mysterious 50ft radius circle, which appeared in a field overnight.

Villagers in Staddiscombe have been flocking to view the amazing corn circle in a field near the road to Wembury.

Two people, psychotherapist Tara Solera and her student Fritz Niederstadt, reported seeing a strange pulsating yellow light in the night sky over Staddiscombe the evening before the corn circle appeared.

Geometry

Now Reg, who topped the charts in the 1960s with *Wild Thing* and *With A Girl Like You*, is taking an interest in the case.

He said that more than 90 per cent of crop circles were hoaxes but was convinced that some were genuine — and had no doubt as to what caused them.

"Someone is trying to talk to us through geometry — but why they are doing that is anyone's guess."

"Geometry is the intergalactic language and it must be a high intelligence to be able to do this sort of thing."

"I've known crop circles to be found around Dartmouth

but this one is the furthest west I've ever heard of."

Reg — real name Reginald Ball, from Andover — became interested in crop circles after visiting one near his home town in 1990, and joined the Circle Phenomena Research organisation.

The singer sank some of his massive royalty money — received when *Wet Wet Wet* turned the Reg-penned *Love Is All Around* into a smash-hit in 1994 when it was used as the soundtrack to *Four*

Weddings and a Funeral — into crop circle research.

He said: "I used to be a sceptic but I know from what I have seen that there is something flying around up there, and it's either making the crop formations or is as interested in them as we are."

"We feel crop circles are caused by energy being passed through the corn, because it actually changes the molecular structure of the corn. If you plant seeds from corn circle corn, the new crop



Reg Presley and the Staddiscombe corn circle: If the stems are bent rather than broken it would appear to be genuine.

comes up stronger and taller and even able to grow on wet rock.

"We think the high-energy input must be microwaves because it blows out tiny holes in the corn out the inside. And we have checked out crop circles and found that the magnetic field is disturbed around them."

Reg is interested in exploring the Staddiscombe circle but said: "I don't have the time to come to Plymouth — I've got a gig in Coventry on Friday. But if someone can get me a nice aerial photo of it I will look at it — if the stems are bent rather than broken it would appear to be genuine."

Do you believe corn circles are made by aliens? Write to Herald Postbag, 17 Brest Road, Derriford Business Park, Plymouth, PL6 5AA. Or send by fax on Plymouth 765530.

BROWN AT LARGE

A SLICE OF LOCAL LIFE WITH ALAN BROWN



● Scanning the skies —David Reynolds checks out a reported sighting area. Picture: CLARE BANKS

Is there anybody out there...?

ALMOST 50 years ago to the day, Kenneth Arnold was flying his light aircraft over the Cascade Mountains in Washington state when he spotted a formation of nine crescent-shaped objects skipping like plates across water.

His description led to one journalist coining an immortal term, Flying Saucers.

Kenneth Arnold's was the first modern sighting of UFOs — Unidentified Flying Objects.

Since June 24, 1947, there have been 3,500 such sightings by military and civilian pilots and hundreds of thousands by ordinary people.

Many have been close to home.

One of the most famous occurred at Rendlesham Forest, near Woodbridge in Suffolk in 1980 when airmen reportedly saw a flying saucer land next to Bentwaters Air Base.

Last week, one of the airmen, Lennie Warren, published a book on the occurrence.

Rendlesham is now the Mecca for skywatchers, UFO freaks who gather from miles around to search the night sky.

Two weeks ago Gena Garrett from the Essex UFO Research Group took part with 12 others in a Skywatch at Rendlesham.

She says: "All we saw this

time was a ball of light at one end of the old air base runway."

Compared with some visits, it was a poor return for a vigil lasting from early Saturday evening until 4 am Sunday morning.

Gena has only been skywatching for two years, though she saw her first UFO near her home in Weekley almost 30 years ago.

"I was 18 at the time and out with my boyfriend when we saw this red ball of light over the railway station. We thought it was a helicopter, but there was no sound. It was eerie."

Over the years she has seen many unexplained lights, including triangular shapes, which are among the most widely reported by UFO searchers. They tend to contain bright white, orange or red lights within their three sides.

Like most skywatchers,

Gena has never seen a flying saucer.

She contents herself with rare accounts by those who have — like the member of her group who reported seeing a spacecraft flying "very low" over Jaywick.

The Clacton area has been fertile ground for sightings, but according to Gena they have been "drying up."

"I don't know why — something to do with the electrical fields, I think."

Clacton's loss is Earls Colne's gain. Skywatchers belonging to David Reynolds's rival Global UFO Investigations group have had a busy time lately with up to 15 sightings some months.

Says David, who lives in Atlas Road, Earls Colne: "One reason could be that military and civilian flight paths run close by."

That could mean some sightings are of aircraft.

Rendlesham also provides a favourite skywatch for David's group and he is currently arranging one for next month.

But activity in and around Earls Colne at the moment is just as rewarding.

On May 1 three people independently saw a ring of lights over Braintree. They each pinpointed it at 10.02pm.

At 1.10am on March 26, a

David took me to the spot on the back road between Great Tey and Coggeshall where a 19-year-old student stopped her car on the night of April 19 after seeing a flying triangle.

It was 12.30am and it appeared as a fuzzy glow through a gap in the hedgerow.

But David's most treasured sighting was one reported by a married woman from Marks Tey last November.

She was taking her mother's dog for a walk after midnight when she saw a space craft appear and descend before hovering over an oak tree.

"It was about 50 feet across," says David. "She watched it for about five minutes rooted to the spot. Her dog was lying on the ground refusing to move."

The woman reported it to the police and then to the Minis-

members has reported two sightings," says David, who adds: "Her husband has seen something, too. He is an unusual man, and it seems he could have been abducted." (UFO-speak for invaded by aliens).

A picture expertly drawn by the woman clearly shows a flying saucer hovering a few feet above a field.

David himself has one sighting to his credit.

He was out with his dog one night and saw a white light with a red centre on one side of a 200 foot communications tower between Earls Colne and Sudbury.

"I watched it for five to 10 minutes," he says, "The red light was pulsating and then it moved to the other side of the tower. I phoned the electricity board and the police but they had no explanation."

David is due to meet with his group tomorrow to mark the 50th anniversary of that first US sighting.

Around the world skywatchers will be out scanning the skies for that extra terrestrial evidence of alien life.

But as David says: "If we did find it, what then? There would no longer be any mystery and it would put an end to UFOs and skywatching forever."



WESTERN MORNING NEWS,
Plymouth, England
June 18, 1997

Bright light and crop circle poser

A TOP UFO expert has vowed to investigate sightings of a mysterious pulsating light over Plymouth and the sudden appearance of a crop circle in a field near Wembury.

Author and ufologist Philip Mantle, of the UFO Research Association, linked the two X-Files-like events and said the sightings had all the hallmarks of a classic UFO happening.

He said the light, seen near the Royal Navy gunnery range at HMS Cambridge, occurred at the same time as a similar sighting near an Army gunnery range in Dorset. Mr Mantle, from Batley in Yorkshire, whose latest UFO book *Beyond Roswell* is out on Friday, said: "In the past lights have been seen in association with crop circles in different parts of the country and abroad. But we do know some crop circles are caused by hoaxers and some are genuine."

The 50ft-wide circle was spotted in a corn field on Monday by villagers in Staddiscombe, only hours after a glowing bright yellow light was seen above the area. Tara Solera, a 49-year-old Danish psychotherapy teacher, who lives in Staddiscombe, and her 44-year-old German student Fritz Niederstadt, said they saw the mysterious light.

Radars had no effect on UFO sightings

Sir, — Might I comment on a suggestion made by Jenny Randles in the *Strange But True* TV programme last Friday and in your article (EADT, June 30).

Referring to the Rendlesham/Bentwaters UFO affair, Jenny Randles was on the wrong track with her suggestion that the lights seen in Rendlesham Forest were possibly caused by plasma effects from the radar transmitter at Orfordness.

This radar, under the control of the U.S. air force, was built as a high-powered over-the-horizon radar (code named Cobra Mist), but it suffered from interference or jamming from an unknown cause.

This so much reduced sub-clutter visibility that the system was rendered useless and the station was abruptly closed down on June 30, 1973, dismantled and its component parts removed from their site, with the exception of the huge antenna array which is still there.

The Rendlesham affair did not occur until 1980 — seven years later.

This could not have been in any way connected with a radar transmitter that was no longer in existence.

RONALD HILL,
Fornham St Martin,
Bury St Edmunds



Elusive Bigfoot on former cop's most wanted list

By Cynthia Taggart
Staff writer

Tom Akren can still hear the heavy thumping on his cabin roof. He remembers the walls shaking every time the mysterious animal's feet landed.

The rotten odor still lingers in Tom's memory 50 years after the animal whisked itself from Tom's sight. "I have absolutely no doubt it was Bigfoot," he says, so secure in his belief that he leaves no room for argument.

Tom's dad tried to track the crafty animal but lost it after half a mile. Tom says he found a convincing 17-inch footprint and has never again doubted Bigfoot's existence.

Fifty years elapsed before Tom did more than read about Bigfoot. Now that Tom's 66 and retired with his wife, Marie, in Post Falls, he has time to track a recent Bigfoot sighting in Cougar Gulch.

"I'm too old to tromp through the forest," he says, "but I will drive around and see if there are any tracks by the road."

Tom learned his detective technique as a Los Angeles deputy sheriff. To celebrate his retirement, Marie bought him a

computer last January. He immediately searched for Bigfoot information.

Bigfoot abuse was rampant on the Internet, but Tom found a research group that looked legitimate. He e-mailed the group about his experience, reading and desire to research. The 12 scientists, doctors and lawyers asked Tom to join.

The group's only mission is to prove Bigfoot's existence. It sells nothing and doesn't pay for information. Tom signed on.

"I'm not interested in hunters or gold diggers," he says. "I have enough money. I don't need to pull anything."

The call from Cougar Gulch came in late July. An outdoorsman who lives in the forest heard an animal screaming around his house in the middle of the night. The sound was a cross between a peacock yell and an ape scream.

Neighbors heard the same sound. Tom says they accurately described the Bigfoot scream. Tom's gray Errol Flynn mustache twitches with excitement as he tells the story.

"I just hope and pray some event will happen that lays all the disbelief to rest," he says. "I never laugh or ridicule anyone. I make every effort to check everything out. I just want to hear stories."

To share Bigfoot stories with Tom, call 777-8686.



Akren

CR: G. Conway

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - June 9, 1997

Bigfoot true-believers assemble to swap sightings, books, videos

Abbotsford mill worker tells symposium he encountered a Sasquatch near Spuzzum.

DENE MOORE
Vancouver Sun

Standing in front of a crowd of about 50, Mike McDonald explains that up until two weeks ago he didn't believe in Bigfoot.

That was, he says, before he saw one of the legendary creatures while hunting near Spuzzum.

"I don't even know where to start," McDonald, 33, nervously told the crowd gathered at the fifth annual International Sasquatch Symposium in Vancouver on Sunday.

He was hunting brown bear, he said, and believing he had found one, set the sights of his gun on it.

The creature had its back to McDonald, so he waited and watched through the gun sight for the bear to turn around and give him a good shot.

"Six or 10 seconds later it stood up and it was definitely not a bear," he said. "My heart started pounding. I was so scared."

He waited until the creature left, then ran to his truck for his camera. When he returned, the creature was nowhere to be found.

On the way home, McDonald stopped to phone his girlfriend and tell her of the experience, but told no one else until Sunday.

"I thought, who do I contact?" he recalled. "Do I call the police? No—they're going to call me a nut. I would have thought that before, too."

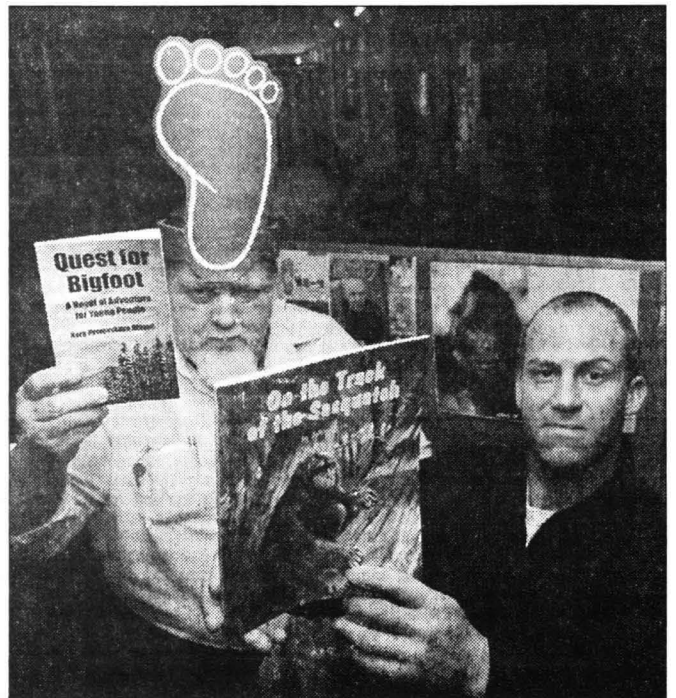
The atmosphere of the symposium hasn't put McDonald, an Abbotsford mill worker and former corrections officer, at ease.

"There are some strange people here," he said after his speech.

He stands out from the crowd because unlike many of the others, he doesn't have a name tag identifying him as a sasquatch hunter or investigator, or member of any particular cryptozoological group.

Sasquatch enthusiasts discussed everything from a link between the giant ape-like creatures and UFOs to their telepathic abilities at the weekend convention at the H.R. MacMillan Planetarium.

The walls and lectern were plastered in ads for Kokanee beer, which sponsored the symposium. Each time a new



MARK VAN MANEN/Vancouver Sun

SASQUATCH SPOTTERS: Mike McDonald (right), who says he saw a Bigfoot while hunting, and Nils Zettergren took part in the weekend symposium.

speaker took the stage a lucky raffle winner received a T-shirt from Kokanee, whose advertisements feature a beer-swilling sasquatch.

Over to the side, a large cartoon Bigfoot was propped up against the wall, its face cut out to allow visitors to stick their heads through for a photograph.

The subject of sasquatches attracts some "flaky" people, admits California-based comedian Scott Herriott, who attended the conference.

He likes to poke fun at the subject himself.

"I thought I saw one once crossing the road, but on reflection I realized it was just two hairy leprechauns on stilts," he joked.

He also showed a 30-minute video he made, a satire about how to sight a sasquatch.

But Herriott is a true believer. He, too, shared a story of his own encounter with a sasquatch.

First-hand accounts like those are

what convention-goers pay to hear.

They also dish out up to \$40 for the books describing encounters that were offered for sale outside the convention-room doors.

Around the corner, dedicated Bigfoot fans could buy a grainy poster reproduction of artistically enhanced scenes from sasquatch video footage for \$20 each, or even plaster castings of Bigfoot's big feet for just \$88.

And interest is growing. Organizer Stephen Harvey said the convention enjoyed its busiest year yet, in part because it moved to Vancouver from Harrison Hot Springs this year, and in part due to a resurgence of interest in the paranormal.

"Certainly the 15 [-year-olds] to the 20s seem to be more open because of the television programs that are on these days that are giving coverage to the unknown," said Harvey.

More than 300 people attended symposium sessions.

Some space buffs say NASA doesn't face reality

■ They're convinced an image sent in 1976 by Viking Orbiter 1 is the face of an apelike man

By RON HUTCHESON
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

WASHINGTON — More than two decades before Pathfinder bounced onto the rocky Martian landscape, another Mars probe beamed back an astonishing image that some space buffs contend is far more spectacular than the current crop of photos from the red planet.

It's called "The Face," and enthusiasts say it all but proves the existence of extraterrestrial life. While NASA scientists are slapping high fives over crystal-clear pictures of "Barnacle Bill" and other Martian rocks, some Face fans are bitterly disappointed that the Mars mission does not include a closer look at the unusual formation that was discovered in 1976 by Pathfinder's technological ancestor, the Viking Orbiter 1.

The orbiter photograph, snapped from 1,162 miles above the planet, captured a huge rock formation that looks like the face of an ape man. The NASA photo caption at the time attributed the formation's striking shape to erosion and shadows that



NASA/Knight Ridder Photos Service

gave "the illusion of eyes, nose and mouth."

But the official explanation didn't satisfy legions of space buffs who are convinced that the face is the work of alien beings. In their view, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is wasting its time looking for microscopic life forms

when it should be searching for, well, guys with skinny bodies and big heads.

"NASA is interested in finding microbial life. They're just totally blind to the possibility of more. It just doesn't fit in with any of their theories," said Mark Carlotto, a computer imaging expert who is

convinced that the face was built by some type of Martian life form. "It's just incredible ignorance and incredible arrogance."

Some true believers accuse the space agency of a massive cover-up to avoid the potential panic that could be triggered by an official acknowledgment that we are not alone

in the universe.

The face has spawned a cottage industry of books, T-shirts, posters and limited-edition prints dedicated to the formation.

Top officials at NASA do not share the enthusiasm. Associate administrator Alan Ladwig said Pathfinder and its picture-taking robot are nowhere near the face and have no plans to visit. But Ladwig said the agency may take another picture of the formation later this year when the Mars Global Surveyor maps the planet from space.

"It might hit that area, although it's kind of a hit or miss thing whether or not you'd find that exact mountain," Ladwig said. "We're kind of interested in putting this to rest as well so we can get that face on Mars put to rest and move on to the more important research areas."

Duwayne Anderson, a Texas A&M University geologist who specializes in Mars, said he doubts that NASA ever will quell speculation about life on Mars.

"People who wish to believe in UFOs and aliens coming to Earth and so forth look upon these things as objective evidence. When I look at it and study it, what I see are ordinary geologic features — hills and slopes and rock material," Anderson said.

Area 51 disavows its casualties

Government stonewalls on matters relating to worker's death

By Richard Leiby
The Washington Post

LAS VEGAS — In the dim light of her tidy trailer, the widow dabs at her eyes and presents proof that the man she loved for more than four decades — “my Wally” — existed. Proof that he was born, worked, sacrificed, lived and died. An ordinary man, but one like no other.

His name was Walter S. Kasza, and Stella Kasza wants you to know that, damn it, he existed.

She displays his Army papers: He landed in Europe in '44, fought in the Ardennes, earned three Bronze Stars. On the paneled wall hangs their wedding portrait — St. Norbert's Church in Detroit, 1950 — and pictures of their children.

“You're together that long, you eat together, you sleep together,” Stella says, her voice dissipating to a sigh. More tears, another tissue.

From the pantry she retrieves a brown paper bag full of empty pill vials. For years the doctors couldn't figure out why Wally was coughing so much, why his skin cracked and bled, turning their bedsheets red. They prescribed unguents, antibiotics, decongestants, pain killers.

His guts ached for years, too, and when they finally found the kidney cancer, even morphine didn't help the pain. He died in April 1995, a wraith, 73 years old.

“Memories,” she says bitterly, tossing the vials

nothing occurs at Area 51.

Employees there cannot talk about the work they do. Everything and everyone connected to the base is classified — part of the military's multibillion-dollar “black budget” operations. “Specific activities . . . both past and present . . . cannot be discussed,” the Air Force says in a statement.

That position infuriates Stella Kasza because it makes her husband disposable, a nonentity. She sees it this way: If, officially, Wally Kasza didn't work at Area 51 for seven years, then, officially, his death had nothing to do with his job. He didn't wake up with bloody pajamas from the fish scales, didn't hack his lungs out in the middle of the night kneeling next to the bed. Didn't get cancer. Didn't suffer so horribly that his son wanted to smother him with a pillow to end it all.

“Someday I hope to visit Stella and not make her cry,” says attorney Jonathan Turley, driving away from his client's triple-wide trailer in the Desert Inn Mobile Estates.

Turley is a law professor at George Washington University. He directs its nonprofit Environmental Law Advocacy Center, funded in part by actress Barbra Streisand. He flies here every few months to meet with the clients he is representing in a lawsuit against the government — Area 51 workers past and present and their families. He represented Wally Kasza before he died.

The brash young lawyer would meet the sick old man in secret, in cars and garages, fearful of detection by military investigators.

His campus office remains sealed by federal court order — students and others are not allowed to enter because the government says Turley's files hold documents that are classified.

In a letter, a Justice Department attorney helpfully called Turley's attention to the specific statute that, “as you know, prohibits unauthorized possession of national security information” and provides a mandatory 10 years in prison for violators. (Turley is appealing the order that classified his office.)

The Area 51 workers he represents also face 10 years in the slammer if they are caught disclosing anything about their jobs. In court papers, they are identified only as John Doe. Their affidavits express fear of “retaliation, harassment and injury” if their civilian employers or the military finds out who they are.

Turley represents more than 25 workers at no charge. He filed the case three years ago against the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Defense.

The plaintiffs aren't asking for money; they want information on the chemicals they might have been exposed to so they can get appropriate medical treatment. They also want the military to admit that burning barrels of toxic wastes — allegedly twice a week for more than a decade — was wrong.

And they want an apology. “Let them admit the truth,” one worker says.

They'll probably get none of the above.

So far, the government's arguments for absolute secrecy have largely been upheld in U.S. District Court here. Unless they win on appeal, the Area 51 workers will face the same fate as the nuclear test site workers, uranium miners and

the hapless citizens of Nevada and Utah who were exposed to radiation during the heyday of atomic bomb testing: Many got sick and died, and the courts held no one liable.

Turley had hoped that, when confronted with credible testimony about environmental crimes and evidence of the workers' illnesses, the Pentagon might cover their medical bills or allow them to be treated for free by military doctors with the proper security clearances.

He asked the Justice Department to give his clients immunity and launch a criminal investigation. Instead, the Justice Department, the EPA, the Air Force and the White House erected a stony wall of secrecy — not denying the charges, but not confirming them, either.

A few months after Turley sued, EPA officials conducted their first-ever inspection of Area 51. It was a victory, but a hollow one. Backed by Clinton, the Air Force refuses to disclose the results of the inspection, meaning the workers can't know what hazardous wastes might have been incinerated there.

“President Clinton's decision protects the environment and national security,” the Justice Department intones.

In a statement issued to The Washington Post, the Air Force touts its “strong environmental record,” but spokesmen refuse to address any questions about Area 51.

The litigation puts the government in the Orwellian position of trying to keep secret a 40,000-acre complex where airplanes and buses full of workers arrive every day. (Hundreds of them commute from Las Vegas's main airport on 737 jets that bear no external identification numbers.) Not only have Russian satellites photographed the base — huge blowups are for sale locally — but it can be observed from a nearby mountain.

The weathered metal sign at the border of Area 51 identifies it in large red letters as a “Restricted Area.” It warns that anyone who trespasses comes under the jurisdiction of military law. You may be buzzed by a helicopter or an F-16. You may be shot.

“Use of Deadly Force Authorized,” the sign says, citing, in smaller print, the “Internal Security Act of 1950.”

Established by the CIA in the mid-'50s, the base sprawls over a dry lake bed that once served as a landing strip for the U2 spy plane. The reasons for calling it Area 51 are obscure, but declassified manuals cite an equally mysterious Area 27 and Area 12 in the vast federally owned desert.

Solar-powered robotic video cameras observe anyone who approaches Area 51's perimeter; parabolic microphones pick up conversations. There are motion sensors beneath the dusty soil.

“They're watching you now,” Jonathan Turley says, hiking up a ridge about 13 miles from Area 51.

On a paved road nearby, a white-and-silver bus barrels by in a cloud of dust. The bus is evidence that people work at Area 51.

The Air Force refused to admit even that much in its legal briefs. The government's lawyers say acknowledging the existence of innocuous and essential items would place the nation at grave risk.



The Denver Post / Denver Post file photo
Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith put a comic twist on fighting alien lifeforms in this summer's movie 'Men in Black.'

A worker talks — nervously

AF van shows up outside interview site

By Richard Leiby
The Washington Post

LAS VEGAS — Sitting in a seedy motel room near the Vegas Strip, his back to the window, the man offers a handshake and introduces himself. “John Doe,” he says in a phlegmy voice.

He proceeds with his story of how 55-gallon drums of classified chemicals were trucked in from a California aircraft facility and routinely set ablaze at Area 51.

“The barrels would blow up and vaporize, like a huge smoke grenade. The smoke was dark, grayish white — it was as thick as London fog,” he hawks, wheezes and clears his throat.

“When I went up there, I was in good health — healthy as an ox,” the man says. He's never smoked, he says, and coughs again. “I'd like to know if there's a remedy to re-establish my breathing, or will I be like this the rest of my life? Has my life expectancy been shortened?”

As a condition of conducting the interview, lawyer Jonathan Turley insists that no description of the man or his work be used in any way. The lawyer believes the Air Force's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) is trying to photograph or otherwise hunt down the “John Does,” to bring charges against them for breaching national security.

Turley paces nervously, drawing aside the curtains on the room's only window, checking the peephole

at the door. He turns up the television — a precaution, he says, against electronic eavesdropping.

“I'm sure the room's clean but that window bothers me,” he says. Laser microphones can pick up conversations from vibrations on glass, even from the ice in a drink. Turley keeps up on spook technology. He once did a stint in the general counsel's office of the National Security Agency.

He instructs John Doe to take a seat farther from the window.

The man goes on, describing how workers were denied breathing masks; how he was told to quit if he didn't like it.

But the money was good — at least \$15,000 above the annual wages in Vegas. You just had to get used to a climate of fear. If you were ordered not to look up at some crazy new plane overhead, you kept your eyes on the dirt.

“It was very understood that when you left there, you never talked about this. You can't divulge anything, not even its existence. How can a guy go and make a claim for workman's comp if the investigator can't investigate what it was?”

Suddenly, Turley is pushing aside the curtains. Trouble. “A van just pulled up next to the window,” he announces. “Three guys, clean-cut, are getting out.”

He terminates the interview. “We stayed too long.”

The van's passengers have put its hood up. To Turley that's a classic sign of surveillance: the old car-trouble ruse.

The lawyer picked this motel because guests must park in a central courtyard. The room's window faces a rarely used road. What is that van doing there?

A reporter and photographer drive around the side of the building to case the van. The men are gone. It's a dark blue Dodge, a bit beat up. Its license plate reads . . . U.S. Air Force. For Official Use Only.

It was all a coincidence, an Air Force spokesman at the Pentagon says later.

The “mosaic theory,” the Air Force calls it. If, say, the Iraqis or North Koreans were to learn about any materials or chemicals used at the Groom Lake base, the argument goes, they could puzzle out how we make secret weapons and radar-defeating planes.

“Collection of information regarding the air, water and soil is a classic foreign intelligence practice,” Air Force Secretary Sheila Widnall states in a 1995 affidavit, “because analysis of these samples can result in the identification of military operations and capabilities.”

The workers say that under the mosaic theory, nothing could leave the base, and that's why everything was burned — from old computers to entire tractor-trailers. Some men had to scramble into the pits after the ashes cooled to ensure complete incineration, increasing their exposure to toxins, according to the lawsuits.

“Clinton doesn't want these crimes made public,” says Turley, building up to a full-fledged rant: “When we finally prevail in this case and the truth comes out, I think the public is going to want to burn the Justice Department to the ground — followed quickly thereafter by the White House.”

Paul Fattig

Commentary



A memorial to verifiable fabrications

Ryan "Rye" Emerson bristles at the monstrous question rearing its ugly head.

Moth Man and his companion creatures are DEFINITELY NOT flights of fancy, insists the curator of the Museum of the Unexplained, which opened this past week in Dorris, Calif.

"Myths? Absolutely not," Emerson says. "All of the creatures here have been seen and reported by more than one person."

And not just civilian witnesses, he adds. "A lot of the entities here have been reported by law enforcement and military personnel," he stresses.

There you have it. We all know how easily civilians are duped. Not like federal folks who nail down their facts with \$900 hammers.

What's more, Emerson asserts the depictions faithfully followed police Identikit renditions and artist sketches of eyewitness accounts of creature encounters. Never mind that the sketches often resemble Mr. Potato Head.

OK, I'm a little skeptical when it comes to creatures that go bump in the night. After all, they invariably flee at the first light of day. Sobriety also sends them skittering back into their hiding places.

And when a serious inquiry is made into those few that tarry, the monsters writhe away into nothingness like the Wicked Witch of the West in the Wizard of Oz.

Still, there's that powerful little monster called curiosity. It may kill a few cats, but we Doubting Thomases invariably survive.

Besides, these museums are a hoot.

So let's join Emerson, 64, a retired photographer whose camera focused both on industry and wildlife, waiting to take us through the monster museum.

Ordinarily, a tour costs \$3 per adult at the museum, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week. The museum is in a 100-year-old church in this historic hamlet of some 900 — not counting monsters — in the Butte Valley some 40 miles northeast of Yreka.

This is a telephone tour. No charge today. Before entering, Emerson, a pleasant enough fellow, recounts that an incident 25 years ago triggered his interest in the weird. He and his dog were camping at Crescent Lake in Washington state.

"My dog and I saw the sasquatch at dusk," he says. "He got down on his hands and knees to get a drink. He must have been 7 to 8 feet tall, looked like a giant professional linebacker with huge shoulders, big neck. My dog was whimpering and growling."

Without a whimper, Emerson began his lifelong pursuit of Bigfoot and other unworldly creatures. Strangely enough, they are often linked to UFO sightings.

This past summer, he and his wife, Zelma, the local librarian, turned the old church into what they dubbed the Bigfoot Museum.

"But we felt these other entities, seen by common folk and police officers and military personnel, needed to be represented," he says.

They closed the museum for a month, and consulted the witness accounts. Then, using plenty of Poe-etic license, they went to work manufacturing monsters out of wood, cloth and various other materials.

A few steps past the Bigfoot exhibit lurks the Moth Man.

"He's 7 foot tall, red eyes," Emerson says. "He was seen in West Virginia in the 1960s. Over 100 people saw him. Yes, he flies."

"You'll notice he has giant wings," he adds. "He looks like a combination man and moth."

Next we have two aliens examining an abductee snatched from a canoe in Maine.

Then we come to the Dover Demon, a 4-foot-tall creature seen by seven different people in Dover, Mass., our guide assures us.

"This is our most prominent creature, the Chupacabra," he says as he moves on. "It's one of the weirdest creatures ever seen, currently active in Puerto Rico. It has killed over 2,000 goats in the last two years."

No kidding?

Emerson takes the high road, ignoring the lowly pun.

"It's about 5 foot tall, black-and-white fur," he continues. "Arms with three fingers

Town Spooked By Odd Light

By John Rogers
Associated Press Writer

HORNET, Mo. — On those moonless Missouri nights when it gets darker than dark, things can get spooky along a rugged stretch of road.

That's when, locals will tell you, the Spooklight is likely to make its appearance.

On some nights it might rise slowly out of nowhere to illuminate a broad swath of farmland. On others it might simply waltz up East Highway 50 from Oklahoma, dancing across the gravel road that doubles as the state line.

Or it could just run frighteningly straight at you, vanishing at the last second, then reappearing a heartbeat later, as it sneaks up from behind to levitate around one's shoulders.

Whatever it is, just about everyone to be found along this stretch of rolling hills and farms 20 miles southeast of Joplin, where the landmarks have names like Lost Creek and Teepee Reservation, has a Spooklight story to tell.

"It's kind of a legend around here, and it's been forever that people have gone out to look for it," said Suzanne J. Wilson, a local writer. "I've only seen it in the distance ... but I've seen it."

Noel Grisham, who lives a mile or so off Spooklight Road, thinks maybe he has seen it, too. But he is more skeptical. "It could be a flashlight for all I know," said Grisham.

"But when the weather's nice and you're sitting out in the yard at night, you'll get five or 10 people a week



Shannon Townsend, 14, of Hornet, Mo., holds a photo that members of her family believe is the mysterious Spooklight.

pulling up hollering at you," Grisham said. "They'll holler, 'Is this where Spooklight is? We want to see Spooklight.'"

So it does not really matter whether the folks around here believe. Whatever it is, it is their Spooklight, the one their grandparents stood out in the road looking for years before the tourists started showing up. And they are proud of it.

"I don't really know what it is, and I hope they never find out, it would spoil the mystery," said Joe Smith, a gregarious man who is president of the Bank of Quapaw just across the state line in Oklahoma.

Having spent all of his 74 years in the area, Smith is a Spooklight authority of sorts. So he knows that each fall, when the Halloween jack-o'-lanterns start adorning doorsteps, it is time for the Spooklight calls to start coming in.

As to just what it is, Smith has a friend, a Stanford University geologist who also grew up in the area. Smith asked him.

"He said, 'Joe, your guess is as good as mine. I don't know, but it could be caused by minerals that lie below the surface.'"

June Smith, the senior reference librarian at the Joplin Public Library, has a theory.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Oct. 25, 1997 CR: G. Conway

LETTER FROM RUSSIA

Scientists claim evidence of the missing link

NANETTE VAN DER LAAN
DAILY TELEGRAPH

Lumbering through an open clearing in a forest, an enormous ape-like creature looks straight into the camera. It is hairy, has no neck and its long arms nearly reach the ground.

After only a few seconds, the creature moves on and is lost. But for an audience of international scientists, that brief shot was enough to support their theory: the Abominable Snowman exists.

Several dozen scientists gathered in Moscow Wednesday for a two-day conference to discuss the Yeti, or Abominable Snowman, and its North American counterpart, the brown-haired Bigfoot.

Dismissed by some as crazy, the scientists are convinced that the Yeti is alive and provides the missing link in the chain of human evolution.

"Bigfoot is real and it concerns every human being on Earth, for it pertains to the origin of man," said Grover Krantz, professor of anthropology at Washington State University, one of the conference speakers.

"If you asked me if UFOs exist, I'd say 'no

way.' But I've studied this creature and I'm 100 per cent sure it is real."

Besides seeing thousands of supposed Bigfoot tracks all across North America, Krantz, like his colleagues, claims the grainy film shot in 1967 as ultimate proof.

"When I saw the film I was sure it was just a man in a suit," he said. "But we've studied that film in every possible way and there is just no way that it's a hoax."

The footage, shot in California by a rancher, is so revered that the conference was organized to coincide with its 30th anniversary.

Hollywood researchers said earlier this week the film had been proved to be a hoax.

In the former Soviet Union, where sightings of the "Snow Man" or "Humanoid" are reported regularly, the conference attracted dozens of anthropologists, zoologists and even mathematicians.

One by one, professors from the Arctic North, the Caucasus and the mountains of Tajikistan climbed on to the rostrum to announce their findings.

The participants, displaying different casts of tracks found around the world, be-

lieve the Yeti may be a living *Gigantopithecus*, an anthropoid ape, the so-called missing link in the chain of human evolution.

But Canadian John Greene acknowledges that not until a dead Bigfoot is found and analysed, will he be taken seriously.

"Something makes those bloody footprints, and humans should be able to figure out why," said Greene, who has studied thousands of tracks near Vancouver for over 40 years.

"Even if hundreds of sightings had never occurred, we would still be forced to conclude that a giant bipedal primate inhabits the forests of the Pacific Northwest. How can the scientific world just brush it off?"

Dmitri Bayanov, the author of *Bigfoot - Fact not Fiction*, is convinced that it is just a matter of time until he and other Bigfoot experts will be respected for their work.

After an exhausting seven-hour day of presentations and academic discussions, the organizers asked: "Any remarks?"

"Show the film again," shouted the audience in chorus.

As the grainy footage reappeared, you could have heard a pin drop. ◇

and big claws. He has large red, almond-shaped eyes with a thin slit of a mouth.

"A horrible looking thing," he adds. "To our knowledge, one has not been captured."

He continues talking as he takes us through the dozen exhibits. There is the Kelly Goblin, seen in Kentucky. The brown creature called the Little Terror hangs out in South America, he says. The Hovering Creature was witnessed by two men in a tipsy fishing boat in Mississippi. Or was that two tipsy fishermen?

My favorite is the Loveland Frog, spotted

in Loveland, Ohio.

"It's a 5-foot-tall reptilian creature seen by two different police officers on a bridge," our guide says. "Unfortunately, it jumped before they could get to it."

Yes, it was most unfortunate that, just as the police were closing in, the hungry frog monster leaped for its biggest meal ever — a Moth Man fluttering past.

Paul Fattig is a Mail Tribune staff writer. He can be reached at 776-4496.

Proof that bigfoot phenomenon is alive and well

HOOD RIVER — Disco was on its way out before the '70s were over. But another strange phenomenon from that decade — the nationwide buzz about a large, hairy creature walking upright like a man in Pacific Northwest forests — did not go the way of bell bottoms, platform shoes and gold chains.

They're still talking about bigfoot. They're still looking for the elusive beast. They're still out to prove the thing exists in the deepest reaches of the American wilderness.

Bigfoot does live — as a phenomenon, an enigma, something realer than folklore yet undeniably unauthentic.

Over the weekend I caught up on the latest news and gossip from both sides of the Columbia River. Bigfoot hunters, researchers and admirers were as common as wind surfers in this pocket of Cascadia.

On the south side of the river, the only people in the world paid to look for the legendary Sasquatch are embarking on a new, high-tech venture that they hope will be of great help to all the academicians and scientists not afraid to admit an interest in such studies.

On the north side, the focus is an annual festival held in the big guy's honor. I don't know how well past festivals came off, but this one draws a

modest crowd of believers to the Bigfoot RV Park in Carson, Wash. Many swear having close encounters with the creature, while others hang on their every word, nodding, sipping Budweiser from the can and snapping pictures.

The Columbia, I think, may as well have been a thousand miles wide at this point, the two pursuits seemed so far apart.

Tod Deery, research director at the North American Science Institute, works in a comfortable, second-story suite in downtown Hood River. He is one of three full-time staffers at the institute, and the only there on a sunny Friday afternoon.

Deery unfolds a large portfolio on a table, revealing a familiar set of photos. The images are of bigfoot walking away from an amateur 16 mm cameraman — stills from the Zapruder film of bigfoot sightings. The brief but intriguing shot of what appears to be a tall, ape-like being in the woods, in broad daylight, is 30 years old this year. Made by a rodeo clown and rodeo cowboy near Bluff Creek, Calif., just south of the Oregon

border, the film remains the only photographic evidence of bigfoot ever submitted to researchers that hasn't been easily dismissed.

Deery and gang haven't dismissed it at all. Their director, an expert in forensic imaging, has analyzed the film endlessly and found no evidence of a hoax. That's not to say the researchers

believe it proves anything. It's just one piece of the puzzle, and fitting all of the pieces together — the sighting reports, the casts of foot-

prints, Native American lore and Colonial history — is where the science institute comes into play.

Formerly the Bigfoot Research Project, the program bills itself as "a curator, clearinghouse and disseminator for information and artifacts related to the phenomenon." Although the institute has a private benefactor it wishes to remain anonymous, it has established itself earlier this summer as a membership organization. And membership has a price.

Deery explains the group's reincarnation as a moving from a largely field effort — 400 eyewitness reports of Big-

foot incidences were collected during the five-year research project — to a largely academic effort.

"Dozens of field researchers are out there collecting reports on a part-time basis, all across the country," Deery says. Somewhere, someone needs to be collecting, cataloging and interpreting all this data, he says. "There's never been an organized effort to unify that group of people with the scientific community."

And more and more anthropologists, wildlife biologists and DNA experts are taking a second look at bigfoot, Deery says. "They're finding their careers aren't in jeopardy like they were 20 years ago."

The institute plans to develop a research board of both professional and lay members to pursue projects and theories, whether anthropological (Bigfoot is the missing link) to sociological (sightings are a mass hallucination).

Deery expects the phenomenon of Bigfoot, which is quite real, will not be solved overnight. Finding the creature only would answer part of the question; the origin is the real mystery, he says.

Whatever the institute uncovers, its leaders intend to share their findings with the public via a periodic journal and a web site.

"We seek only to convey a message of scientific credibility," Deery said.

Back across the river in Carson, no one questions anyone's credibility. And that's the problem. But no one seemed to mind one way or the other.

When I arrive for Saturday's Bigfoot Daze, a frail, white-haired man in a wheelchair is mumbling into a microphone between sips of oxygen. I don't know who he is, but a couple dozen folks seated around picnic tables are mesmerized as he rattles on about his numerous run-ins with Bigfoot dating back 60 years.

"Bigfoot's ready to be friends... but most people want to blow his head off," says Datus Perry, who, I find out, is a long-time Carson resident.

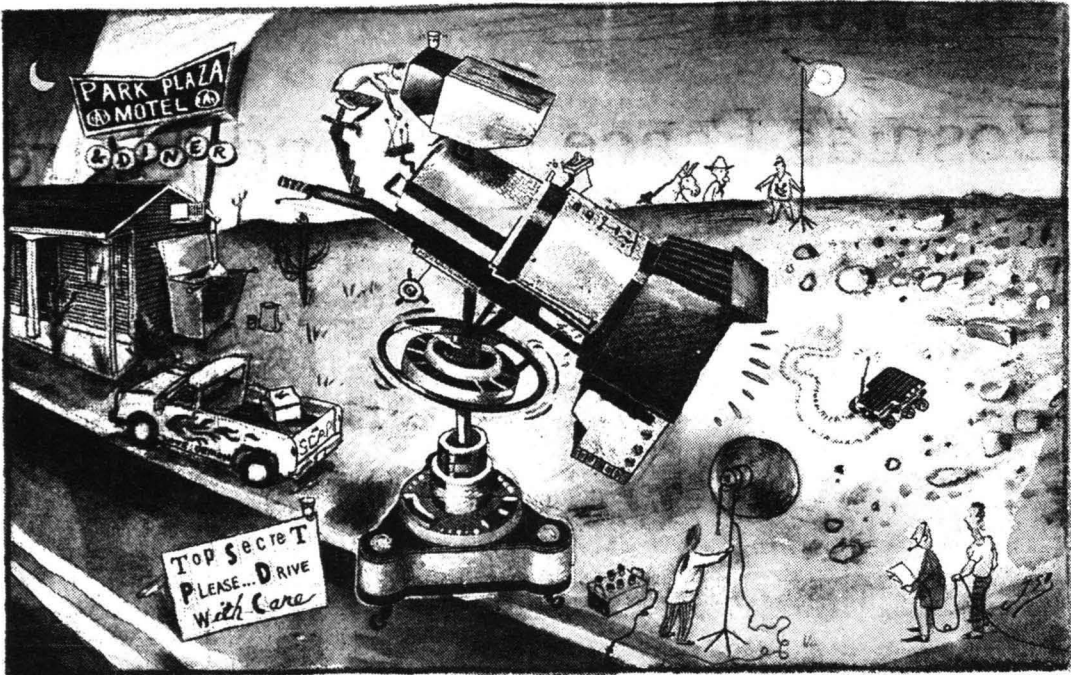
When Perry begins explaining his theory of Bigfoot's elongated cranium — "some sort of antenna for mental telepathy" — I lose interest and wander around. There are many animal pelts on display, but most appear to be from small animals. Some guy is selling knives and whips, among other junk. Then I come across a crude coffin with an ape suit sprawled out inside. "Bigfoot," says a sign around its neck, as if the connection would elude us.

Scott Maben in editor of The Spokesman.



Off deadline

by Scott Maben



John S. Dykes

NASA Flew to Mars For Rocks? Sure.

By AMY HARMON

BACK when Apollo 11 allegedly landed on the moon, conspiracy buffs complained that not enough information had been released to tell whether it really had or not.

The skeptics are still ruffled about the moon landing. "Thousands of pictures were taken of the moon during the Apollo missions and yet the public is only shown the same dozen or so — don't you ever wonder why?" one diehard demanded on an Internet news group last week.

Not even the most determined doubter could make the same case for the Mars mission. For two weeks now, earthlings have been bombarded with high-resolution images, press conferences and geological readings. Yet perhaps precisely because of the abundance of information, suspicions about the veracity of the data coming from outer space have soared — especially on the Internet, the information overload.

The amorphous network often fosters the nagging hope that if only all the data on it could be adequately sorted, truth would finally emerge. This is coupled with the utter certainty that such nirvana can never be attained, and thus the peculiarly comforting suspicion that something important is being hidden. And the Pathfinder landing plays right into such binary logic.

"There's such a glut of information avail-

way that there's a cognitive dissonance," said Richard Metzger, whose World Wide Web site, www.disinfo.com, has been a hub of Mars conjecture. "There's this incredible distrust about what we're being told about everything and it resonates through the whole culture. I think that's a good thing."

With no editing for space, taste or accuracy, e-speculation can get rather elaborate. Not much gets past the pros in alt.conspiracy, for instance. "GOLD ON MARS," is the title line of a long exchange on sci.electronics.design. A loud if not necessarily large contingent also continues to bemoan the choice of the Ares Vallis plain as Pathfinder's landing site, over the preferable Cydonia. As perhaps not everyone knows, Cydonia is a rock configuration on the other side of the planet that marks the site of "the monuments and ruins of an ancient civiliza-

The Mars mission brings out the conspiracy theories.

tion," according to one of several World Wide Web pages on the subject.

But the wide range of Internet theories about the Pathfinder spacecraft's true ac-

tivities can ultimately be broken down into two basic camps:

1. Pathfinder is nowhere near Mars. If it exists at all, it is most likely in Albuquerque, although possibly Arizona. Or Australia. If you look closely at some of the alleged Mars pictures, you can see a lizard, an Evian bottle or a speckle from the Photoshop computer program NASA is using to manufacture the pictures. The scientists, or their anonymous backers, or whoever it is that really runs the United States Government, anyway, are pocketing the cash.

2. Pathfinder is on Mars, but does the Government really think we're stupid enough to believe they would go to this much trouble just to collect a bunch of rocks? If you look closely at some of the pictures you can see a Martian footprint. Or at least some moss. The Government has for years covered up previous extraterrestrial contact and this is a) just one more piece of the big lie or b) a transparent attempt to distract attention from the 50th anniversary of the U.F.O. crash in Roswell, N.M., just as that ridiculous weather balloon story was finally about to bite the dust.

Greetings, Earthier

The NASA folks, still stinging from accusations that the Mars Observer spacecraft that disappeared in 1993 was in fact blasted out of space by aliens, don't take kindly to either suggestion, infinite variations of which have been streaming into the Jet Propulsion Laboratory via electronic mail.

"This isn't Capricorn One," said NASA's Kirk Goodall, referring to the 1978 film that portrayed a NASA-orchestrated fake Mars landing on a soundstage in the desert. "This is the first mission when we've released the pictures and results almost immediately. We're not concealing anything."

Perhaps that's the problem. When it

comes to things space age, the line between reality and its various representations has long been easily blurred. Orson Welles's 1938 reading of "War of the Worlds" found an audience all too prepared to believe in its fantastic account. In the 1971 movie "Diamonds Are Forever," James Bond drove a buggy through a fake moonscape in Nevada. And conspiracy aficionados have long contended that the moon landing was staged, filmed by Stanley Kubrick of "2001" fame.

But especially now, believing in aliens or Hollywood special effects may be more palatable than confronting the unsettling realities of what science is capable of. And the deluge of Mars information may make it that much easier to ascribe elusiveness to an obvious truth.

On the other hand, an E-mail message circulated on the Internet last week indicates that maybe the truth is not all that obvious to Martians, either. "Mars Air Force Denies Stories of UFO Crash," the message began. This was the report: "Valles Marineris (MPI) — A spokeshing for Mars Air Force denounced as false rumors that an alien space craft crashed in the desert, outside of Ares Vallis on Friday. Appearing at a press conference today, General Rgrmmry the Lesser, stated that 'the object was, in fact, a harmless high-altitude weather balloon, not an alien spacecraft.' General Rgrmmry the Lesser stated that hysterical stories of a detachable vehicle roaming across the Martian desert were blatant fiction, provoked by incidences involving swamp gas."

"But the general public has been slow to accept the Air Force's explanation of recent events, preferring to speculate on the 'other-worldly' nature of the crash debris. Conspiracy theorists have condemned Rgrmmry's statements as evidence of 'an obvious Government cover-up,' pointing out that Mars has no swamps."