

UFO

NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

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

June 1998
Number 347

JOURNAL, Albuquerque, NM - May 17, 1998 CR: K. Pflock

Aztec, the UFO and the Skeptics

■ *Many say there is not a shred of evidence that a flying saucer landed here 50 years ago*

By BILL PAPICH
For the Journal

AZTEC — Did anything resembling the crash of an unidentified flying object or any other event happen in a rugged canyon near here 50 years ago? No, nada, zippo, zilch, say the skeptics. But does that minor detail matter to this community of 6,000 in northwest

New Mexico planning a 50th anniversary celebration next week of the purported event?

No way. Consider this. Aztec was named for ruins settlers found when they arrived in 1876, believing they'd been left by the Aztec empire of Mexico.

The Pueblo buildings are actually those of the Anasazi culture. But, hey, the misnomer doesn't bother people. So neither are residents upset that most UFO researchers debunk claims that a UFO crashed near here in 1948.

The skeptics don't mince words about what they say certainly did not happen. Dennis Stacy, a former editor of the UFO Journal, published by the Mutual

UFO Network based in Seguin, Texas, is one of them.

"It's a complete, utter myth and hoax," Stacy said. "There's nothing to substantiate it."

But the crash does have its believers. Among them is the co-author of a book explaining how the alleged crash was supposed to have happened. He is said to be in hiding, fearful that agents of the federal government seek him for revealing details about the crash.

Plans for the 50th anniversary celebration starting Saturday and running through May 25 are in full swing with a UFO symposium, crash site



BILL PAPICH/FOR THE JOURNAL

GETTING READY: Aztec librarian Leanne Hathcock prepares the public library display case for the Aztec UFO crash festival starting Saturday. Festival profits will pay for more books.

tours, model rocket launchings and a band among the events scheduled.

Proceeds from the "UFO Crash at Aztec 50th Anniversary Event" will go into a fund to buy books and computers for a new Aztec public library.

The crash site is a clearing amid sandstone formations on public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Wendelle C. Stevens, who co-wrote a 600-page privately published book in 1986 titled "UFO Crash at Aztec," says people know of the crash but are afraid to speak out.

"As soon as their names are mentioned or if you even make a telephone call to them, within two days they'll be visited by the FBI," Stevens said from his Tucson home.

"They will be reminded of their national security oath, they will be threatened one way or another."

Stevens wrote the book with William S. Steinman, who Stevens says was a government quality-control inspector for the aviation industry and who lost his job when the book was published. The book reports a flying saucer crash in March or May 1948 near Aztec, with 16 aliens on board who died in the crash and were taken with their space ship to Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

The book doesn't name its eyewitness sources.

Stevens says Steinman, after losing his job, feared the worst from the government.

"Steinman is in hiding now and has been ever since the book came out," Stevens said.

The book describes the flying saucer as six feet high, with a diameter of 99.9 feet, with dead aliens inside having small, humanlike bodies.

One of the most credible UFO investigators is nuclear physicist Stanton T. Friedman, who says reports of a UFO crash near Aztec have no evidence to back them up. Friedman, of New Brunswick, Canada, is a regular on the international UFO speaking circuit and outspoken in his belief that a UFO crash at Roswell in 1947 does have evidence to prove it.

"I've seen no evidence there was a crash at Aztec. That doesn't prove that nothing happened," Friedman said.

"What am I going to say — I don't want people to support a library? I love libraries."

Karl Pflock of Placitas, a writer and UFO researcher who published

a 1994 book about the alleged UFO crash at Roswell titled "Roswell in Perspective," dismisses claims of an extraterrestrial crash at Aztec or one at Roswell. Pflock says stories about the Aztec crash began after two men involved in oil exploration finance schemes claimed they had a machine, built with alien technology, that would find oil and natural gas deposits.

Pflock said the two, both now dead, were convicted of fraud and related charges in 1953.

"They managed to persuade a number of people to actually invest money in this thing."

He said Variety magazine columnist Frank Scully picked up on the Aztec crash story and wrote about it in the October 1949 issue. Scully also wrote about the Aztec crash in his best-selling 1952 book "Behind the Flying Saucers."

The Fund for UFO Research, based at Mt. Rainier, Md., also has found no evidence of a UFO crash near Aztec. The organization is a 15-member board, most of them scientists, said UFO Research chairman Don Berliner.

"Nobody I would rate among the serious people in the field has paid any attention to that one because there didn't seem to be any reason to," Berliner said. "That doesn't mean there might have been something to it."

There is something, according to the just published book "Glimpses of other Realities, Volume II: High Strangeness" by Philadelphia author Linda Moulton Howe. One chapter of her book, titled "Military Voices," tells of a secret government photograph of a silver disk landing near Farmington sometime in the 1940s — hauled away by the government.

Farmington is 15 miles west of Aztec.

In a telephone interview, Howe said one of the accounts "is by an ex-intelligence person about seeing a file with a photograph of a classic silvery disk," Howe said, adding she must protect her sources.

Randy Barnes, of Farmington, says he knows an ex-military man who says he participated in the recovery of a UFO crash north of Aztec, but not in 1948. Barnes, who owns the Medicine Wheel School of Holistic Therapy in Farmington, said the man wants his identity protected.

"He said there were two crashes in two locations not too distant apart," Barnes said. "He told me about the one he was involved in" in 1950.

One of the most extensive

investigations of claims in Steinman and Stevens' book was by former UFO investigator Rebecca Minshall of Albuquerque. Steinman has visited Aztec, and Minshall and UFO investigator William E. Jones went to Aztec to check out what Steinman wrote.

"The stories he claimed he got from people, when we re-interviewed them, those stories did not hold up," Minshall said.

Bob Weaver, president of the Aztec Museum's board of directors, says the late George B. Bowra, 1950s editor of the now defunct Aztec Independent Review newspaper, wrote a report of a UFO crash as a joke.

"He said it would be fun to put something like that in the paper. 'Everybody pretty much knew he did these things and nobody thought anything about it.'"

UFO Event Features Speakers

The Associated Press

AZTEC — The celebration planned to mark the 50th anniversary of the purported crash of a UFO here is drawing national attention.

A weekend edition of USA Today mentioned the event in its Life section.

Librarian Leanne Hathcock has said that among the news publications and agencies that have carried information are the Los Angeles Times magazine and the CBS Radio Network.

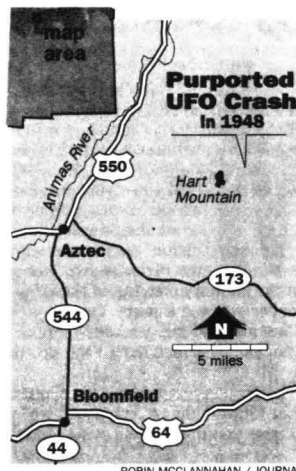
Events planned for the celebration include:

- Author Jim Marrs speaking about alleged government cover-ups.
- Author Dr. Roy Craig speaking on UFOs: An Insider's View of the Official Quest for Evidence.
- Dennis Balthaser of the Roswell International UFO Museum speaking on the Roswell incident.
- James Lujan and Anthony DellaFlora presenting a two-hour documentary on the cultural, economic and metaphysical forces behind the UFO phenomenon in New Mexico.



BILL PAPICH/FOR THE JOURNAL

THE PLACE: The alleged UFO crash site near Aztec is becoming a tourist attraction.



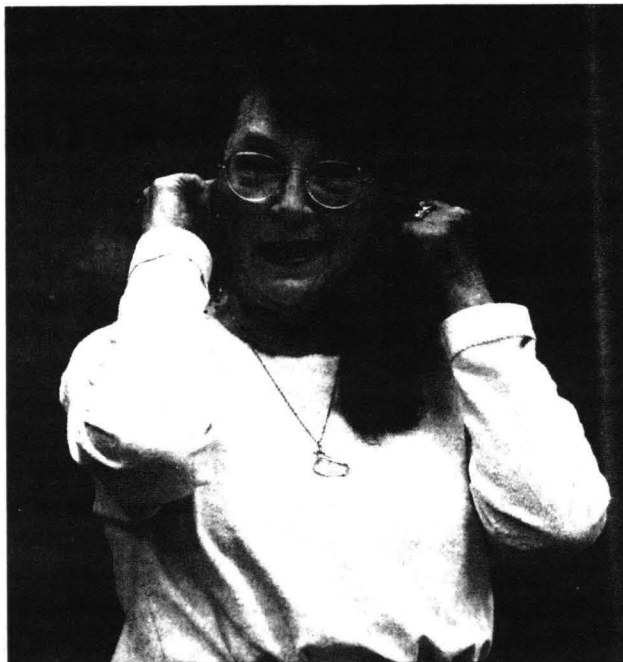
ROBIN MCCLANNAHAN / JOURNAL

SAN MATEO CO. TIMES,
San Mateo, CA - May 7, 1998
Daly City

Strange sighting: A Daly City police spokesman said two residents who live off the Skyline Drive area reported a green glowing object falling from the sky into the ocean off the coast Tuesday night. Lt. Mike Scott said the neighbors spotted it a few minutes after 9 p.m. directly due west off Mussel Rock.

Daly City police asked the Coast Guard to try to determine what the object was. A Coast Guard spokesman said he contacted a tugboat operator who was in the area at the time. The operator of the inbound tug Robert L. said he saw three green lights in a vertical line as bright as traffic lights that were visible for a half-hour before going out, the Coast Guard said.

UFO SIGHTINGS



Chieftain photos by John Jaques

Marian Butler shows with her hands how a UFO visited her and invited her on board in July 1976 on Cumberland Pass.

That's her story and she's sticking to it

By PETER STRESCINO
The Pueblo Chieftain

Marian Butler said she's never felt at home on Earth. In 1976, she found out why. Ms. Butler, a diminutive woman with red locks cascading to her tiny shoulders, held sway with an audience of about 30 people last week, when she described her "visitation" on a mother ship from the Pleiades. She was speaking at the monthly meeting of the UFO Institute at McClelland Library.

It wasn't until she was age-regressed last summer that she recalled all the details, she said.

Her visitation occurred near the Cumberland Pass in Pitkin County, when she was in the mountains painting a fascinating cloud in the sky.

"I finished painting the cloud, and it disappeared," she said, the center of the universe for like-minded people at the library meeting room. "Then I saw the mother ship. Not a saucer, not a runabout, but a large, silver, beautiful ship."

"I was half frightened and half happy. The one thing I ever wanted from life was to visit a ship."

The next thing she recalled was hearing herself say, "But I want to stay."

For years, the encounter was hazy. Then last year a friend age-regressed her to that summer day in 1976, she said.

"I was (on the ship) for about three, three and a half hours," she told the audience, who ranged in age from their teens to their 60s. "There was nothing detrimental about it. It wasn't an abduction, but a visit."

She said her hosts had very white, glistening skin, were blond and blue-eyed — "Nordic looking."

"There were hundreds of people on the ship," she continued. "In classrooms, teaching. When I meet people who I feel I've met before, I conclude that's where I met them (on the ship)."

The Pleiadians told her they had left her on Earth earlier, and she had a mission to accomplish before she leaves. "I begged them to let me stay. I tried to talk them into it."

"I was told I have a brother and sister and other family in the Pleiades. I had chosen to come to Earth, but I didn't know it would be so hard living here."

She said Pleiadians and Arterians are the ancestors of earthlings.

Ms. Butler said she has a bump behind her right ear that she discovered that day. The bump allows her to read thoughts, see auras, speak with plants and animals (they speak back) and hear music that no one else hears.

"Our brothers and sisters in space want us to know them," she said. "They are celestials, and we are part of them and they are part of us."

She said looking at trillions of stars in the night sky and believing no one else is there is like looking at the city lights in Pueblo and thinking nobody's there.

"There's someone home," she said. "Otherwise, why would the lights be on?"

Ms. Butler said that the world has always looked different to her than to many others.

"When I was a child, I was fascinated by the stars," she said. "I spent a lot of time outside, watching the stars."

"I was like E.T., wanting to call home."

She said she saw colors around people — red around the angry and blues and greens around the calm — and had invisible friends.

When the headlines hit about unidentified flying objects in Roswell, N.M., in 1947, she wondered what the fuss was about.

"I thought everyone believed there were people on other planets," she told the crowd.

She remembers early dreams of three doors, and a golden one that opened to the cosmos. Ms. Butler said she traveled all over the universe, night after night.

"No one ever had to coerce me to go to bed," she recalled. "I had places to go and people to see."

In 1975, she was teaching school and painting, and lived in Ohio City in Pitkin County. She was near a stream and told the rolling water that she would sing to it.

"The stream played instrumental music and also sang back to me," Ms. Butler said, told a rapt audience. "On the ride home, I began to hear music from the rocks and the plants, all in harmony."

Trouble was, she said, the silent symphony never stopped, and finally it became so annoying she sought medical attention. The music died; she said she missed the cosmic concert.

Later, in Pueblo, she said she "ghostbusted" for a family, riding the household of a family of spirits who died in the 1920s.

"The father worked at CF&I, and every day he went off to work, just like he did when he was alive," Ms. Butler said. "The little boy went to school and the mother stayed home and cooked."

"The children of the family who lived there when I was asked to help had seen the little boy when they were young and accepted him. But when the children became older they were afraid."

"The living family would smell Italian sausage cooking at night, and smell wine, which the father drank. There was also an Aqua Vella smell in the kitchen," she said.

"That's when I realized there has to be another dimension on Earth. I told the family God loved them, go to the light and go to their relatives who were awaiting them." The mother and child did go, Ms. Butler said. But the father did not.

"He was guilty about something and wanted to stay. I thought he left, but I found myself buying sausages and for three days I was cooking Italian sausage and frying spaghetti. I don't eat pork. He was with me, and I had to tell him to go."

But most of her experience were with the out-worldly, not other-worldly.

In 1992, she saw a spaceship over the Pueblo Reservoir near her home. Ms. Butler was with her son-in-law and they saw a new, bright star in the southern sky drop down and fly toward them.

"It was a diamond-shaped ship, with lights underneath," she said. "In 20 seconds, it flew to the northern horizon and back again to the south. I was high for a week to see something like that, and have my son-in-law there with me."

Ms. Butler said she realizes that many people will think she's a "kook."

"That's my story and I'm sticking to it," she said. "I know what some will say, but there are other beings out there."

"I've never felt at home on the Earth."

"I was (on the ship) for about three, three and a half hours. There was nothing detrimental about it. It wasn't an abduction, but a visit."

MARIAN BUTLER

Mysterious Crop Circle Phenomenon

By Barbara Lamb, M.S., MFCC

An amazing anomalous phenomenon is currently happening all over the world - the mysterious formation of circles and elaborate patterns pressed into fields of growing crops by an unknown source. This phenomenon is attracting the attention of large numbers of people, and is the focus of serious, continuing scientific research and speculation. For several years our public media have shown specials about this phenomenon, including ABC television's October 20, 1995 presentation 20/20.

I have personally visited, investigated, and flown over many of these formations during each of the past five summers, and have shared information and slides with many groups all over the U.S. and England.

An extraordinary variety of formations has been occurring in crop fields for perhaps many centuries, with recorded sightings in the 1600's, 1800's, and into the 1990's, with special interest, which increases yearly, beginning in the 1980's. Each year the formations become more complex, beautiful, and numerous.

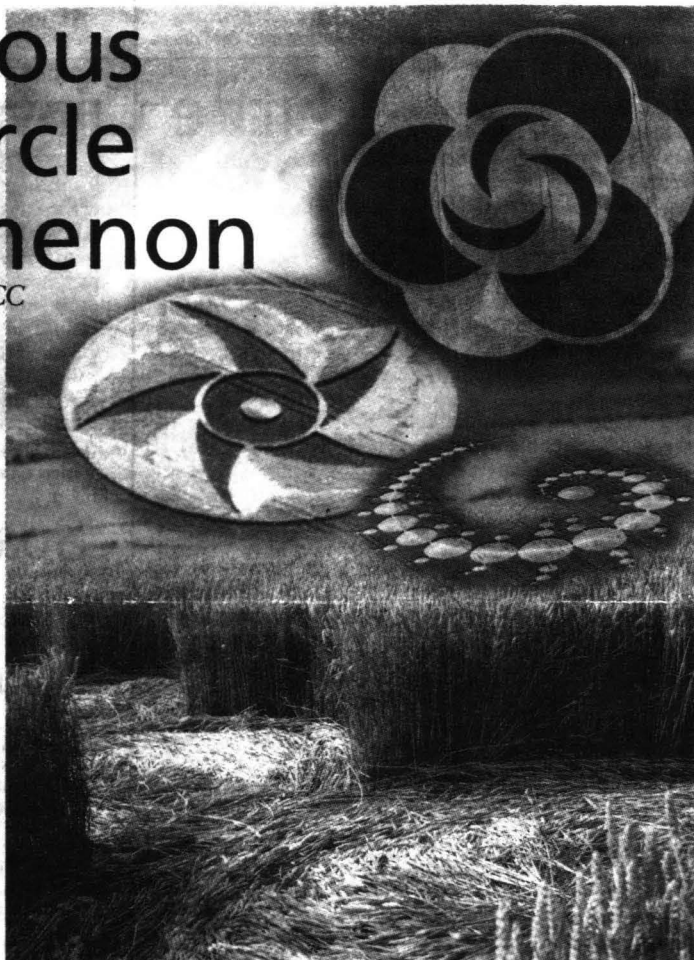
The shapes of the formations vary remarkably, and include combinations of circles, circles surrounded by rings or semicircular rings and arcs, large circles flanked by smaller circles, circles flanked by smaller circles, circles joined by long straight pathways (forming dumb-bell shapes) circles with "donut" effects, circles with extending spurs and fingers, and scrolls, and geometrically perfect and imperfect circles. These circles combine with other shapes to form beautiful patterns and elaborate hieroglyphics, the most complex of which are called pictograms, and ones looking insect-like and called insectograms.

In each formation, the crop (usually wheat, barley, or oilseed canola) is bent over at ground level, swirled in a circular direction, and left lying perfectly along the ground to grow and ripen. Whichever direction the circle is swirled, the surrounding rings and lateral circles are swirled, in the opposite direction.

The size of the formation is impressive, with circles ranging from 20 to 40 feet in diameter, with formations reaching 2,300 feet long!

Locations of the crop circles are spread around the world, including England, Canada, Japan, Australia, Russia, other European countries, and the United States. The main concentration seems to be in the Wessex/Wiltshire area of England; notably near areas of ancient sites and mystical happenings, and in areas renowned for UFO sightings.

Thousands of circle formations have been photographed, with each one shown to be different. Common factors include: an absence of trails or tracks leading to or from them; an absence of



Photography by Barbara Lamb

evidence of machinery or of people having formed them; rapid appearance without the cause being seen (even when witnesses see crops being pressed down by "an invisible force and swirled like a lady opening a fan"); strong energy fields being detected for weeks by dowsers, psychics, and by scientific instruments; and by electrical-type discharges from the Earth.

Bizarre experiences often happen to crop circle researchers, changing their outlooks from structured theories of modern science toward a more mystical view of reality, a sense of divinity, and a living universe. Many experience events typical of poltergeist activities - equipment failure and being zapped by intense energy.

In and around formations many have seen anomalous visual effects such as blue flashes, black darts, small luminous points, ringed circles of lights (white, red, and orange) descending to the Earth as if to make an imprint like a giant cookie-cutter. Some people have reported strange smells, receiving spirit messages through channeling, seeing unearthly beings and other visions, and witnessing anomalous

"Bizarre experiences often happen to crop circle researchers, changing their outlooks from structured theories of modern science toward a more mystical view of reality, a sense of divinity, and a living universe."

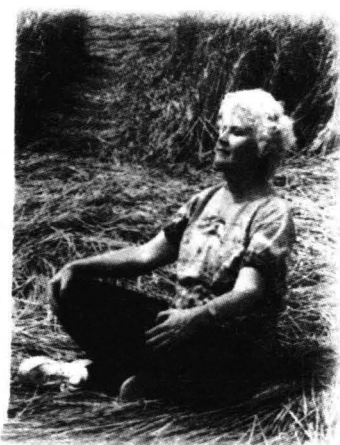
occurrences. Some feel a mental link between themselves and the phenomena. Strange sounds such as trilling, tapping, humming (as with high-tension wires) electrostatic chattering or cracking, or high-pitched wavering and whirring sounds are commonly heard.

UFO sightings and anomalous lights over and near fields have been reported, subsequent with the forming of the crop circles. Two women distinctly saw a UFO land in a field near a formation during daylight, and were approached by a humanoid. Many report seeing a large dark object streaking across a field at night, along with a ring of flashing red lights and sounds, followed by the appearance of the formation the next morning.

Serious scientific research during the past eleven years has yielded no conclusive proof of the origin, purpose, or means of creating the crop circles. This is significant in itself. The elusive mystery is intriguing to many people. Even all-night vigils of researchers with sophisticated recording equipment have yielded no hard, fast evidence. Nevertheless, crop circles continue to rapidly appear, and can be visited by anyone wishing to see them. The phenomenon has led most investigators to consider the idea of some other than human intelligence.

Theories vary about the making of the formations. Some people have witnessed the formations being made by sound, some have seen metallic discs spinning in a field, some have witnessed a beam of light swirling the crop down into patterns.

Some UFO researchers believe the formations are made by large extraterrestrial craft (which surround themselves with a force field that renders them invisible) stamping out well-planned, deliberate patterns in well-chosen fields where they will be seen.



Barbara Lamb meditates in "dumbbell" type crop circle, Roundway, Dwizes, England.

The meaning of the formations is also widely contested. Some people purport the Earth is bringing up ancient symbolic patterns from former inhabitants. Others postulate an unknown intelligence (perhaps extraterrestrial beings) deliberately giving us messages of importance to avert ecological disaster. Could they be a spontaneous protest from the Earth, as some believe, or some other kind of ecological warnings by a caring, unseen intelligence, or from some other dimension.

In 1994 many of the crop circle designs took the form of celestial bodies and cosmic events. Four formations symbolized galaxies; the Pleiades "seven sisters," followed by two other "spinning galaxy" depictions, and culminating in the design of a circle of heavenly bodies and a crescent moon encircled by a ring.

Large "scorpion" types of formations seemed to depict the ongoing phenomenon of the Schumaker-Levy comet approaching Jupiter. A formation with a head and a long tail of twenty-one circles appeared just before the first of the twenty-one pieces of the real comet actually collided with Jupiter... Each time another piece of the comet hit its target, out in space, another crop circle appeared, minus one circle, until all the pieces of the comet had collided with Jupiter. Was the "intelligence" creating crop circles trying to represent this great astronomical event?

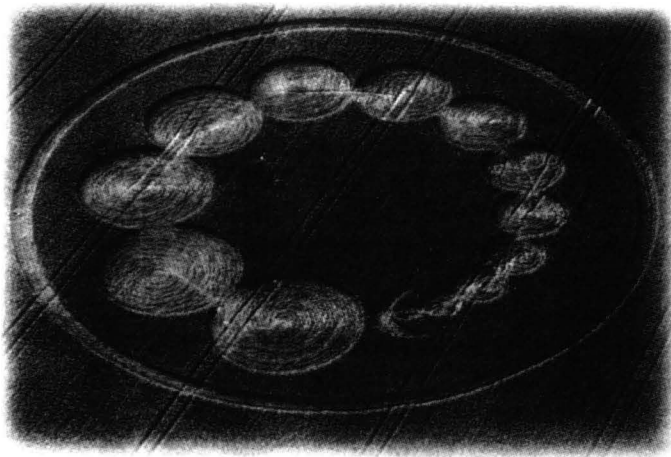
Crop circles, also in 1994, appeared as the infinity symbol or moebius strip, as the earth radiating waves of energy as a giant "bee goddess" symbol as many forms of long scorpions, as the flower of life symbol, and as the longest formation recorded anywhere: 2,300 feet long!

Unusually strong energy emitted from some of the 1994 crop circles: simultaneously knocking over and making unconscious three researchers, who became very ill for five days and zapping another researcher with energy which apparently cured his Muscular Dystrophy during the next several months. Three small extraterrestrial beings were witnessed by four young adults from the top of Silbury Hill, flying in a craft and then lighting an energy grid on the ground.

The 1995 crop circle formations continued the cosmic theme with designs of spinning stars, our solar system (with the Earth missing!) different planetary systems, The Milky Way galaxy, spinning galaxies, the asteroid belt, the Earth

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3 - WEST COAST WELL BEING,
San Dimas, CA - June 1998)



Large "scorpion" types of formations seemed to depict the ongoing phenomenon of the Schumaker-Levy comet approaching Jupiter.

protected by sixteen rings or hoops (as in the Hopi tradition) a band radar pulse, the Earth's magnetic fields, and electricity flowing around the tip of a cathode. There were some outstanding sacred geometry designs: visca pices designs, a vector equilibrium design, some Tao designs, and a ratchet form which corresponds to the perfect sacred geometry of the nautilus.

All of the above mentioned crop circle formations are considered genuine, according to research and laboratory testing, that is, made by the anomalous intelligence which we believe is neither human, nor man-made or hoaxed. The mystery goes on.

Carl Jung wrote of UFOs being the agents or portents of great

change in human thought patterns, compatible with the end of an era.

Albert Einstein said, "the most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all art and science." ♦

Barbara Peterson Lamb, M.S., MFCC, is a licensed Marriage, Family, and Child Therapist in private practice in Claremont, California. She is a highly experienced regression and past-life therapist trained by the Association of Past Life Research and Therapies. Her specialty is regressing people to past-lives and to experiences with extraterrestrial beings. Barbara explores unusual phenomena such as crop circle formations.

CHIEFTAIN, Pueblo, CO - April 19, 1998



Jason Lucero and Jason Tompkins, both 17, tell about seeing a spaceship near Pueblo earlier this month.

Spaceship buzzed Pueblo recently, youngsters report

Marian Butler wasn't the only person to report "sightings" last week at the monthly meeting of the UFO Institute.

Two Central High School students reported that they saw a spaceship over Pueblo on April 10.

Jason Lucero and Jason Tompkins, both 17, said they were out at 9:07 p.m. when the ship approached and frightened off an airplane that they thought was headed for Pueblo Memorial Airport.

"We were playing laser tag and I looked up to the southwest and saw what looked like a plane," Lucero said. "It had flashing lights pointed toward us and was real bright."

Lucero said the ship was zigzagging and scanning the area with a light that was akin to a spotlight.

"It made turns a plane could not," Lucero said. "We saw a big airliner coming from the north and the UFO circled it and then changed."

"It looked like cells dividing," said Tompkins. "It divided into different colors."

"The plane tore off. It got out of there fast." Another voice rose from the membership. "They do that, man," said John Sandoval, who later described himself as a American Indian shaman.

The youths described the ship as triangular. "The triangular ship has been around for 2,000 years," Sandoval said.

Sandoval also said that 125 U.S. Army Green Berets were assaulted by aliens in February on Mount Blanca in the San Luis Valley.

"Their ship was clear like a bubble and then changed to lime green as it landed," Sandoval reported. "It was 300 feet across."

"The aliens fired 12-inch gas balls at the soldiers. The balls emitted a gas that had the soldiers dropping immediately."

The soldiers, he said, are quarantined on Fort Carson, being kept in tents. They are ill, Sandoval said. The people of the valley are being told to keep quiet.

Sandoval said that there are two warring alien factions in the universe, and they are fighting over Earth.

Ms. Butler said she was not surprised.

"They are really interested in Earth," she said. "It's still a prime piece of real estate."

— Peter Strescino



John Sandoval speaks of an alien assault on soldiers near Mount Blanca.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Feb. 11, 1998

SKYWATCH DIARY

"It happened! It happened!" This was the reaction from Boots Eckert, Veteran skywatcher and chairman of the local Experienter Support Group, to a spectacular sighting he shared with several other witnesses on Pensacola Beach on the evening of Friday, January 30.

Boots was one of the local Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON group involved in the photo shoot at Pensacola Beach last Friday night with Whitley Stieber and photographers from *Life* magazine. During the photo shoot, the photographer asked them all to turn and look in a particular direction, and to their surprise, the familiar Gulf Breeze red light UFO was putting in an appearance for the occasion.

Since I was not a personal witness to this sighting, I will detail events as they unfolded for me on Friday evening and Saturday morning. I received an e-mail on Friday evening from Andy Chapple saying that he and his brother had experienced a sighting from their home near Tiger Point that evening at around 6:30 p.m. By the time I got the e-mail, it was rather late so I did not call Andy back until Saturday morning. After I retired on Friday evening, Vicki Lyons left me a long and detailed telephone message regarding the sighting at the Beach. On Saturday morning, I telephoned Andy and got his eyewitness account, then called Vicki Lyons and Boots Eckert to begin gathering information about the sighting the group on the Beach had witnessed. It soon became apparent that Andy had seen the last few minutes of the same sighting that those who were out at the Beach were reporting.

As it turned out, there were these two reports of sightings on Friday night, January 30, then on Saturday night, January 31, there was another sighting from the three-mile bridge while on my way to Shoreline Park on Saturday evening. All in all, quite an active weekend. In this article, I will deal with the reports from Friday and next week give details of the events on Saturday evening, since space is a consideration.

At approximately 6:28 p.m. on Friday, January 30, 12 witnesses including Whitley & Anne Stieber were standing near the Gulf shoreline

south of the Dunes Hotel on Pensacola Beach. As the photographer from *Life* magazine asked them to turn and look to the northwest, the group noticed a red light UFO at an approximate 20 degree elevation in the north-northwestern sky. The UFO proceeded during a sighting duration of eight minutes to travel in a straight line to a position almost directly overhead of the witnesses whereupon it blinked out. The wind direction was almost exactly opposite that of the path of the UFO, being out of the southeast. Sky conditions were clear, and the moon was clearly visible high, almost overhead in the western sky. Both the *Life* magazine photographer, and Art Hufford were able to take several photographs of the UFO. In Art Hufford's pictures, a bright, pulsating object is seen traveling through the individual frames of his photographs, showing up as a streak of bright red light with brighter pulsating spots along it. No information is available at this time regarding the photographs taken by the *Life* magazine photographer. All of the witnesses at this sighting state that there was no discernable noise from the UFO. One of the witnesses told me that she felt that there was more than one light, possibly a central light with smaller ones around it. Also, one of the witnesses describes being able to see "a small white bead of light where the red light went out, for a few seconds after the red light went out." Another of the witnesses states that the red light faded to white before it gradually dimmed out. A few minutes later, low to the horizon to the east-southeast, another red light was spotted by the group on the Beach. This was visible for between three and four minutes before it went out. It was very distant, and several of the witnesses state that it was so far away, it was difficult to determine exactly what it was. The witnesses to these events were: Whitley & Anne Stieber, Vicki Lyons, Boots Eckert, Art and Mary Hufford, Bruce & Ann Morrison, Pat & Buddy Crumbley and two *Life* magazine photographers, Tim & Steve.

Andy and his brother were returning from dinner with their parents,

and drove their vehicle into the driveway of their house near Tiger Point. "As I got out" Andy states, "I happened to look up at the sky and just below the moon, there was this bright red light. It was moving slowly kind of towards us. We watched it for between two and three minutes, then it seemed to flash and just go out." Andy jumped back into his Jeep and headed to Shoreline Park to try to find me to report his sighting. He states that the clock in his Jeep read 6:35 p.m. when he got back into the vehicle. Since I was not at Shoreline Park, he e-mailed me and we talked the next day about his sighting. Andy said he was very excited to see something, particularly excited for his younger brother to see something and really glad that a whole lot of other people saw the same thing too! There is no doubt that Andy witnessed the last couple of minutes of the sighting that the group at the Beach experienced. The position in the sky in regard to the moon is exactly right, the timing, and direction of travel check out also. Further research and triangulation will be carried out and any further information regarding these amazing events will be reported here as it becomes available. I would like to express my thanks to Boots Eckert and Vicki Lyons for their detailed verbal accounts of this sighting and to Anne Morrison and Art Hufford for their excellent written reports.

For information about the Project Awareness Gulf Breeze UFO Conference to be held March 20-22 on Pensacola Beach, you can hit their website at: <http://www.projectawareness.com>, write to Project Awareness, P.O. Box 730, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561, telephone them at (850) 432-8888 or e-mail: vickilyons01@sprynet.com.

For information on the annual Ozark UFO Conference to be held April 10-12, 1998 in Eureka Springs, Arkansas contact: Ozark UFO Conference, 2 Caney Valley Drive, Plumerville AR 72127-8725, telephone (501) 354-2558.

If you wish to contact me, please e-mail me at Chakerswd@aol.com or write to me at P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola FL 32522-7152, thank you. And remember - Keep Looking Up!

Was it the Same Sighting in 1973?

By Tom Manni

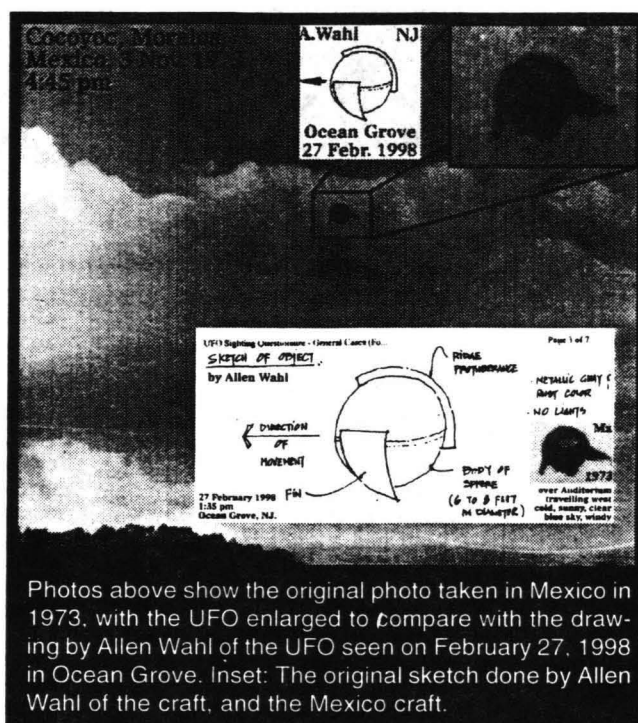
X-File 042998
Ocean Grove, New Jersey
April 29, 1998
10:00 AM

After the sixty day field investigation and verification period had run its course, the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) has officially released the official report on the Ocean Grove UFO sighting. This release consists of drawings and photographs, as well as the actual transcripts of the field report, which was filed as #9-1998 MUFON Skywatch Investigation. George Filer, the MUFON Eastern Director, released the following transcript.

"On February 27, 1998, at 1:35 PM, architect Allen Wahl was walking his dog along Pilgrim Pathway in the vicinity of the Great Auditorium in Ocean Grove, New Jersey. This location is about thirty miles south of New

York City. He decided to rest and looked toward the ocean, since it was a crystal clear and deep blue sky. A strange looking ball shaped UFO with fins flew over his position moving from east to west and close by the Great Auditorium. Allen stated he never saw a UFO before, but this made him a believer. 'It looked like a diving bell or bathysphere about ten feet in diameter'. It reminded him of a Jules Verne science fiction antique ship with lines of rust running down its side.

The UFO appeared as it may have come from the sea, although he had not specifically seen it come out of the sea. About thirty minutes later, an Army helicopter with what appeared to be guns sticking out the front, passed directly over his position. The next morning at 9:00 AM, more helicopters were also flying in the area at a very low level, possibly searching for the craft. He is sure there were other wit-



Photos above show the original photo taken in Mexico in 1973, with the UFO enlarged to compare with the drawing by Allen Wahl of the UFO seen on February 27, 1998 in Ocean Grove. Inset: The original sketch done by Allen Wahl of the craft, and the Mexico craft.

nesses."

Thanks to Allen's drawing skills and quick thinking he was able to quickly document the information regarding the appearance and conditions that existed at the time of the sighting. In addition, his architectural skills came into play, as is evidenced by the drawing that he presented to Dr. Bruce Cornet, noted UFO investigator, during his field investigation. After further research, Dr. Cornet discovered a picture of an unidentified craft that was taken over Mexico in 1973, which bears a startling resemblance to the craft that Allen Wahl described and drew.

It's quite obvious to anyone who has spoken to Allen or read the extensive field investigative reports that the question is no longer whether he saw a craft, but rather, what was the origin of the craft that he saw and so capably documented with his detailed drawing. Considering that he only saw the object for about ten seconds, his memory for detail is, at the very least, remarkable.

Obviously, when one sees something of this nature, it is not easily forgotten, no matter how fleeting the glimpse might be.

Was it a military craft of some kind? Was it a weather device? Was it a craft from another planet? These are questions that beg for an answer. Obviously, Allen was not the only person to witness this craft, so we are again asking for help from the public in solving this mysterious sighting. If you've seen this type of craft at any time past or present, we ask that you call (732) 775-3950.

As has been the case with many other sightings that were reported, your sighting will be officially registered with MUFON. The response thus far has been somewhat overwhelming, however, there have been no other reports of this particular type of craft being seen. All calls will be held in strict confidence so there is no reason to feel that you'll be ridiculed or even that your sighting will become part of the public record unless you give MUFON the right to release the information.

UFO Museum plans to expand

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROSWELL — With eyes as big as saucers, the International UFO Museum and Research Center is envisioning a \$15 million expansion into the next millennium.

The three-phased program would include a new 25-acre site west of Roswell, a high-tech computer research facility, interactive museum and gift shop, office complex, a children's museum and perhaps someday an auditorium — all focused on alien beings from outer space.

"We want to become the clearinghouse for information, not just the place that information is gathered," museum director Deon Crosby said Thursday, "but to go to the next level by technically compiling, studying and distributing to the public this information."

Attendance is expected to reach 340,000 this year, Crosby said, and the existing museum soon will be too small. To get Phase I rolling, the museum has taken out a five-year option to buy the 25 acres on U.S. 70 from a local development company, United Continental New Mexico, Crosby said Thursday.

The museum expects to raise \$7.5 million to cover Phase I before the five years expire, she said.

Phase II would include about \$3 million for a children's museum and traveling exhibits, she said, describing Phase III as a \$5 million "wish list" including an auditorium that would be available for community use as well.

So far, the museum has amassed about \$30,000, Crosby said. The facility is having proposals written to seek library- and museum-development grants, she said.

Admission to the museum is free.

"We have seen that receipts in the gift shop are higher if you don't charge admission," Crosby said.

The gift shop sells more than 900 items, including board games, books, flying saucer Frisbies, windsocks, cups, mugs, T-shirts, key chains and hundreds of other souvenirs, she said.

"Attendance is floating between 54 and 64 percent above what we did last year," she said. The museum reported attendance of about 192,000 last year.

"That's a lot of people coming to Roswell," she said.

According to the now-famous story, the government supposedly recovered a crashed spaceship and alien bodies from a ranch northwest of Roswell in July 1947.

A 50th anniversary celebration was held in town last summer. An estimated 48,000 people attended.

The Air Force has long contended the wreckage was actually a high-altitude balloon. And last year an Air Force report said people may have mistaken parachute test-dummies for alien bodies.

But witnesses who say they saw something near Roswell 50 years ago, and those who have heard their stories, have argued that there has been a long-term government conspiracy to hide the truth about it.

SKYWATCH DIARY

BY CAROL BAKER

Sighting reports continue to be received concerning the night of January 31, 1998. As mentioned last week, there was a sighting from Pensacola Beach that was confirmed by another witness in Pensacola. Bill Ford, Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON's Chief Investigator also shared information with me from a call received by another man in Pensacola who, along with his neighbor had also had a sighting that night, possibly of the same object. Also, I myself had a sighting that evening. Here are the details of what occurred on the evening of Saturday, January 31, 1998.

I planned on arriving at Shoreline Park early, at around 6 p.m. to see if there was a repeat of the sighting from the previous evening. I was delayed in leaving and was still at home at 6:28 p.m. when Vicki Lyons called me on her cellular phone from Pensacola Beach. She and a group composed of Art and Mary Hufford, Topper and Marianne Jones, Pat and Buddy Crumley, Bruce and Anne Morrison and Whitley and Anne Streiber had gathered at the public parking lot east of Tristan Towers on the Gulf side, and were having another sighting! They were witnessing a single, steady red light to the north of their position, at about seven degrees above the horizon, back over towards Pensacola. It was either varying in intensity, or the high, light clouds that were in the sky that evening were passing over it. It was estimated that it was between six and ten miles distant from their position. At one point Whitley Strieber said that through binoculars he thought he could determine that it was in fact a ring of lights, rather than a single light. The light appeared to travel slowly towards their position and to the east, on a south-easterly course. The sighting lasted from 6:22 p.m. until 6:48 p.m., a total of twenty-six minutes before the light faded out. The wind was from the south at about 5 m.p.h.

Immediately gathering up binoculars, jacket and cellular phone, I left my house and drove quickly to the three mile bridge between Pensacola and Gulf Breeze. My house is only about a half mile from the north end of the bridge, so I was traveling on the bridge in just a few minutes. There is a clear view of the sky over Gulf Breeze and much of Pensacola to the north, east and west from the bridge so I hoped to be able to confirm the sighting the skywatchers were having from the Beach. I was driving slowly, at about twenty to twenty-five miles per hour searching the skies to my right, the west, for anything anomalous. I did not see anything at all in that direction. However, something, I don't know what, caused me to look to my left, the east, and low to the horizon at

about five degrees elevation over an area known as Garcon Point, I saw two red light UFOs. They were in close horizontal proximity, being about one inch apart at arm's length and it has been speculated that there may have been lights on one object, rather than two separate objects. Each configuration comprised of a central larger light, appearing at arm's length to be the size of the eraser at the end of a pencil. Each of these lights had a smaller light on each side, in very close proximity and I would judge these lights to be about half the size of the larger one. The right hand configuration, the southernmost one, also had a second small light on the right hand side, that appeared slightly higher, giving me the impression of it being on the edge of a circle, or ring. I slowed down immediately to around ten or fifteen miles per hour to observe these UFOs. I watched them for approximately one and a half minutes (the clock in my car read 6:35 when I first saw the configurations and 6:37 after they blinked out) until they blinked out. Immediately, I tried to call the skywatchers at the Beach, but Vicki had turned off her cellular phone so I drove out to the Beach to report my sighting.

As I was pulling into the parking lot where the skywatchers were on Fort Pickens Road, I received a phone call from Ray Pollock from his home in central Pensacola. He and his wife, Elise, had just come inside their home after having a sighting over his house that lasted from 6:22 p.m. for approximately twenty six minutes—the same time frame as the sighting the observers at the Beach had witnessed. I will quote directly from Ray's report: "It was the typical Gulf Breeze red light—it appeared approximately halfway between the horizon and the moon at that time of the evening and gradually moved north and rising until it was approximately the same elevation in the sky as the moon from our vantage point. It moved from 240 to 270 degrees to the north then changed direction to an east, southeast movement until it was around five degrees shy of being directly overhead—and faded out. There was a dimming and brightening more or less constantly during all this time, though it remained various intensities of red. There was no sound associated with the sighting—the object could be clearly observed passing stars all along its path until it disappeared. There is little doubt that Ray and Elise Pollock were observing the same object as the witnesses on Pensacola Beach.

I received the following information from Bill Ford via e-mail. Two calls were made to the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON

Hotline. Here are the details from Bill's report. One call was from a man living in the Montclair subdivision in Pensacola which is near the junction of Michigan Avenue and "W" Streets. He noticed a bright red light was coming from the center of an object that was bigger than a star but smaller than the moon or about like a traffic light down to the road ahead. It (the light) shifted position from the horizon to the east, to the southeast, to northwest, to east for about a fifteen minute period. Its main position was almost directly overhead, and it seemed to put out spikes of light at times as if growing brighter in intensity. The witness called a friend who went outside and observed the object and made the second hot line phone call. This second witness states that upon receiving the call from his friend, he went out and observed the object from the same general area, but apparently got a closer look since he was able to provide a more detailed description. He spotted the bright red light in the east initially, and it travelled to the southwest, directly in front of and above him. He states that it made no noise and had an oblong shape with four triangle shapes attached or imposed on it, two on the front and two on the back. He could only see the shapes when it was red and the triangles also gave off their own red glow. It would occasionally change to white in which case he couldn't distinguish the shape due to the brightness. When it was red, it would change from a bright cherry red to a deeper dark red. It continued to move to the northeast, but not smoothly. The witness described that it would "scoot and drift off in different directions while making its way along a general path, jogging back and forth." This witness called his parents and a neighbor and the neighbor's son out to look at it with him. The witness' mother may have been able to take a couple of photographs of the object and the witness will let Bill Ford know if anything shows up on the prints. If we are able to gather any information from these witnesses concerning this sighting, we will relay it at a later date.

All in all, this was an extremely active and interesting weekend of sightings. In fact, I think the twenty-six minute duration is a record for a "Bubba" type sighting in this area. We are all hoping that the events of this last weekend in January herald the beginning of yet another Gulf Breeze flap. I'll keep you posted and remember y'all better keep looking up!

If you wish to contact me, please e-mail me at Cbakerswd@aol.com or write to me at P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, FL 32522-7152, thank you. And remember—Keep Looking Up!

Belief in UFOs coming with God fairly mainstream, scholars say

By CHRISTINE WICKER
The Dallas Morning News

GARLAND, Texas — God will come to Garland on March 31 to begin taking people away in flying saucers, according to a Taiwanese group called God's Salvation Church.

Sounds crazy to most folks. But in the broad sweep of religious history, it's fairly mainstream stuff, say scholars of religious studies.

Flying saucers are a new wrinkle but also understandable, said Dr. Lonnie Kliever, chairman of the religious studies department at Southern Methodist University.

"Those spaceships will be the sweet chariots that swing low to carry the faithful home," he said.

Since the first alleged UFO sighting in 1947, a number of new religious groups have seized upon flying saucers as a way to explain how God is going to manage the promised pickup, Kliever said.

"These groups are filled with quite well-educated people," he said. "These are not people right off skid row or the farm being hooked in ... I think what's at work here is a hunger to make a faith that sounds quite irrational rational."

Are they crazy? Not at all, said Dr. Scott Lowe, associate professor and chairman of the philosophy and religion department at the University of North Dakota.

"There is no correlation between sanity and the ability to believe outrageous theological claims," he said.

"I had a next-door neighbor who would tell you in a moment that these people were nuts, and yet he was convinced that the world was coming to an end before the year 2000, and so he didn't have to keep up his house. He was a navigator for the B-1 bomber."

The difference between a religious crazy and a visionary is often a matter of how many followers they attract, Kliever said.

"One religion's lunacy is another religion's sanity," he said. "One religion's heresy is another religion's orthodoxy."

The leader of the group in Garland, Hon-Ming Chen, has said God will appear on television Wednesday and then come in person to his front yard March 31. About 150 Taiwanese followers migrated with him last year and have bought about 30 homes in Garland, a Dallas suburb.

Although members of God's Salvation Church, also known as Chen-Tao, believe



One religion's lunacy is another religion's sanity.
One religion's heresy is another religion's orthodoxy.



— Dr. Lonnie Kliever, chairman of religious studies
at Southern Methodist University

God will look exactly like the bespectacled, gray-haired Chen, they said it will be easy to distinguish mortal from deity. God will be able to speak any language and walk through walls. He will duplicate himself into enough bodies that everyone will be able to shake his hand and ask questions, Chen said.



Chen

Lui, an interpreter for the leader, who does not speak English.

Tires and yard lanterns ring the platform. In the middle is a chair and a barbecue grill, still boxed and bound with metal packing bands. God told members of the church to put the unassembled grill on the platform as a way of reassuring animals that they will no longer be killed and eaten, Lui said. Chen and his followers are strict vegetarians.

During a recent news conference in Chen's yard, the leader, who was once a social sciences professor, and his interpreter, also a former professor, stood in the cold for hours. They answered questions with such courtesy and good humor that even the reporters and counter-cult watchers seemed disinclined to mock their ideas.

No, they will not commit suicide if God doesn't come, Chen said.

Yes, the space ships will take anyone who wants to go. Their destination will be heavenly planets.

No, God is not coming to judge humans. He is coming to rescue them.

Yes, Chen's prophecies should be regarded

no outcry from the American public over how they were treated because they had been dehumanized."

James Walker, president of Watchman Fellowship, a Christian group he describes as counterculture, will be in Chen's front yard to hold him to his prophecy.

"If he tries to set a new date, I'm going to remind him that he said they should disregard what he said if God doesn't appear on this date," Walker said. "I think that's the healthiest thing that can happen."

Lowe, a scholar of Chinese religions, argued that depriving Chen of a way to back down gracefully could be a bad tactic.

Many people have drawn comparisons between Chen-Tao and Heaven's Gate, whose members committed suicide in March 1997 near San Diego to link up with flying saucers.

But examples of groups that have proph-

ed as nonsense if God does not appear on television Wednesday.

Yes, Chen has offered himself to be stoned or crucified if God does not appear. But his followers, who are so nonviolent that they pray before cutting the grass, said they won't take such measures.

The group has welcomed Garland police, who came to investigate rumors that they might kill themselves if God does not materialize. They also have been careful to avoid offending their neighbors.

Last year, they often rode bicycles in packs of a dozen or more. A van would follow as they pedaled block after block. When neighbors grumbled about the practice, the Taiwanese put notes on doors in the neighborhood explaining that they were trying to build stamina for their upcoming journey with God.

Dr. Szu Kuan Lu is a physician who specializes in treating ear, nose and throat problems. He sold his home and left his practice because Chen's combination of Buddhist and Christian theology answered his questions about the meaning of life, he said.

"He was the only one who didn't ask for money," Lu said. "And so I believed him, because God doesn't need money."

Lu said his faith was strengthened when his son, who had an intestinal problem doctors could not cure, was healed.

"I have seen many signs and miracles," he said, explaining that sometimes 30 or 40 airplanes come over Chen's back yard, leaving behind contrails in the shape of a cross. "I have seen them," he said, looking into the clear sky. "But for some reason, they never come when the reporters are here. I don't know why God doesn't send them then."

Chen-Tao followers' extreme commitment is typical of first-generation religions, said Dr. Stuart Wright, a sociology professor at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. He estimates that 4,000 new religions have arisen the past 50 years.

"In the first generation, they are chal-

enged the end of the world and absorbed their failure without violence are far more common, the scholars said.

Prophets usually reinterpret the prophecies to explain their failure. Sometimes followers come to believe that their faith wasn't strong enough. In such cases, their belief may even be strengthened, as one well-known example illustrates.

"Early Christians were convinced that Jesus was coming in glory in the clouds in their lifetimes ... and he didn't come, just like every other prediction of the end of the world to this point, and still religions thrive," Lowe said.

In the 1800s, a Baptist lay preacher named William Miller persuaded so many thousands to sell their possessions and await the arrival of Jesus that his failure to

appear became known as the Great Disappointment. His followers regrouped and became the Seventh-day Adventists and the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Chen probably will lose some followers after March 31, said Dr. James T. Richardson, professor of sociology and judicial studies at the University of Nevada.

"Many people have what we call the middle-through response. They say, 'Well, hell, that one didn't happen.' So they look up an old girlfriend or get a job," he said.

People believe such prophecies in the first place because an incredibly strong drive fuels religious belief: The desire to defeat death, Kliever said.

"Human beings will attempt anything, believe anything, do anything to achieve that goal," he said.

The scholars also refuse to call such groups cults.

"The word 'cult' is a pejorative term that dehumanizes members of the group," said Dr. Catherine Wessinger, associate professor of religious studies at Loyola University in New Orleans. "That's what happened to the Branch Davidians. There was

appear became known as the Great Disappointment. His followers regrouped and became the Seventh-day Adventists and the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Chen probably will lose some followers after March 31, said Dr. James T. Richardson, professor of sociology and judicial studies at the University of Nevada.

"Many people have what we call the middle-through response. They say, 'Well, hell, that one didn't happen.' So they look up an old girlfriend or get a job," he said.

People believe such prophecies in the first place because an incredibly strong drive fuels religious belief: The desire to defeat death, Kliever said.

"Human beings will attempt anything, believe anything, do anything to achieve that goal," he said.

Although the JetHawks were on the field Thursday evening, the field they were playing on was in Visalia.

Mitch Barker, public affairs specialist for the Federal Aviation Administration, also reported no information on the object.

"We checked with our air-traffic control, facilities, and there was nothing logged during that shift, so I don't know what to tell you," Barker said.

However, it's possible that something in the sky over Rosamond might have been missed.

"A lot of people think we have surveillance of the skies taking place at all times, but that's not true," Barker said. "Our people are looking at where the airplanes are actually flying and concentrating on keeping them apart."

Calls about the object began flowing to the Valley Press shortly after 9 p.m., copy chief Jana Treece said.

"After the first couple of calls, we all said, 'Yeah, OK, sure,'" Treece said. "But between about 9:15 and 11 (p.m.), we received a dozen calls from people who were either on their way to the Albertson's to do some shopping or who were eating at the (nearby) Taco Bell."

"For the most part, everyone gave the same description," Treece said.

That description was of a large object, not quite octagonal in shape, between 100 yards and 200 yards in length, with orange and yellow lights around its bottom surface.

"One of (the callers) said cars were pulling off to the side of the road to check the object out," Treece said.

Suggestions that the object was

a helicopter blurred by windy, hazy weather conditions were discounted by those calling, she said.

"Everyone said it was not a helicopter because there was no noise associated with it," Treece said.

Of those who called, "I couldn't get anybody to leave a name," she said.

While she and her co-workers occasionally field similar types of calls, "we don't get so many all on the same night and all calling about the same thing," she said.

Hatch surmised the object could have been a helicopter, with a lighted billboard attached to the bottom, akin to the ones that occasionally buzz the games of the Lancaster JetHawks baseball team.

If the object really was 200 yards in length, "it would have been bigger than the Albertson's store," he said.

Residents report flying craft

By BOB WILSON

Valley Press Staff Writer

ROSAMOND — Authorities say nothing was there, but about a dozen people who called the Valley Press Thursday night claimed something was.

That something was described as a large craft lingering above the Albertson's grocery store at about 9:15 p.m. It made no noise, but its lights caused motorists to park and gawk, and some to call the newspaper.

On Friday, Kern County deputies at the Rosamond sheriff's station, about a mile from the grocery store, said they had no reports of such sightings.

Air Force Plant 42 spokeswoman Lorraine Sadler said she, too, had no information on the event.

"And we have some military people that live in Rosamond, too," Sadler said.

Edwards Air Force Base public information officer Gary Hatch said base operations reported no flights scheduled in that area at that time of night.

The base's command post also had taken no reports of any craft, either known or unknown, in the area, Hatch said.

Skywatch Diary

BY CAROLE BAKER

On a recent Wednesday evening at Shoreline Park, the skies were clear and it was quite cool, with a very stiff fifteen to twenty mile an hour breeze, varying out of the south. My husband and our regular skywatch buddy Tom were standing back near the parked cars, talking. I was standing near the picnic table which is our regular haunt, talking with a very interesting woman, Doris from Illinois. I caught sight of movement in the sky out of the corner of my eye. Along the boardwalk in front of us, from west to east, I observed an owl flying along on silent wings between the woods at the west end of the Park and those at the east end. I was so stunned to see this beautiful bird in silent flight that he was almost out of sight before I could point him out to Doris, or my husband and Tom. We have been hearing owls calling in the woods all winter, but this was the first time we had seen one of them!

Trappers have been working to capture the dozen or so coyotes that are reportedly in the vicinity of Shoreline Park. So far the trappers have only managed to capture one of the them. Our burly possum is still wending his way around the parking lot and underneath the boardwalk on a regular basis. Recently, during a daytime visit to Shoreline Park, I was pleased and surprised to see between fifteen and twenty loons gathered offshore in English Navy Cove. Their burgeoning "checkerboard" backs spoke of the oncoming spring and their impending long flight north to their breeding grounds. Their calls, which we often hear at night are eerie and fascinating. It was difficult to tell just how many of them were floating out there because they were continually diving down to feed and re-emerging in different positions. They certainly have my respect as far as breath holding is concerned. They can stay down far longer than I can hold my breath!

The Shoreline has suffered quite badly from erosion during the recent high winds we have experienced. Coinciding with high tides, these strong southerly or southwesterly winds have caused the beach to be cut back underneath the new boardwalk almost to the concrete pad upon which our favorite picnic table rests. One can only wonder if the addition

of the boardwalk and its rock abutments have changed the dynamic of this beach. The only other time we have seen such deep erosion was as after Hurricane Opal in October 1995.

You may recall two reports recently of sightings in our area involving a bright silver, ball-shaped object. I received the two following reports of similar objects recently. The first is from Bernie Jensen of Venice, Florida who states: "I was walking on Nokomis Beach on Saturday, February 21st, 1998 at around 11:30 a.m. when I noticed an unusual object in the sky." Bernie says that sky conditions were slightly hazy at the time. He noticed, high in the sky, a round, shiny, silvery object that was moving very fast. He only saw it for a few seconds, due to the speed at which it was travelling. He told me "I tried to point it out to my wife but it had gone too far out of sight... it was headed in a straight direction across the sky". Another similar report was shared with me by Lisa Pilcher of Mobile, AL. She and her mother Beverly have been frequent visitors to Shoreline Park in the last couple of years. This sighting report is for information purposes only. I have not been able to speak directly with the witness as yet. The sighting took place on Tuesday, February 24th, 1998 at approximately 6:00 p.m. The witnesses, Anthony Taylor and a friend were looking south toward Santa Rosa Island from Shoreline Park. They saw a small silver object that was reflecting the dying rays of the sun hovering near one of the condominium complexes on Santa Rosa Island. (I believe they are describing Tristan Towers). The witness states that it was approximately one inch at arm's length above the horizon. Anthony's friend was very disturbed and wanted to leave immediately. As they began to leave they looked back at the object and it had moved east, toward the Bob Sykes Bridge and was now at a slightly higher elevation. The sighting lasted between two and three minutes, but the witnesses left the location, so we do not have any information about how much longer the object was visible or its method of departure.

The science section of our local news-

paper ran a very interesting article recently. It concerns "dark matter", an undiscovered form of matter making up most of the universe. "It means that humans are not made from the universe's favored material. The atoms that make up all we know may just be an exotic afterthought" the article states. Apparently a battle of cosmic proportions is being waged in our galaxy that could have implications regarding the fate of the universe. The article continues, "Somewhere relatively nearby, a tiny galaxy has been orbiting the much larger Milky Way". This tiny galaxy is remarkably holding its own against the immense gravitational pull of the Milky Way which should be tearing it to shreds and sucking it in. The reason for it being able to hold its own against the Milky Way's pull is 'dark matter'. The tiny galaxy, known as SagDEG, for Sagittarius Dwarf Elliptical Galaxy is only about one tenth the size of the Milky Way. Recent observations show that it is holding together even though it appears to be on an orbit that has carried it through the Milky Way's gravitational field at least ten times now. "It's got a lot of dark matter, so it's able to hold onto its stars," Rosemary Wyse, an astrophysicist with Johns Hopkins University states. The existence and quantification of dark matter would explain where the majority of the matter in the universe is. Scientists have calculated how much matter should exist in the universe based on the movement and gravitational pull of the galaxies and so far can only account for approximately ten percent of the matter. Dark matter could hold the answer to where the remaining ninety percent is hiding. Martha Haynes, an astronomer at Cornell University states, "This dark matter is not some novelty item. We need this stuff. Right now it's on the top ten list of the things we'd like to find." The existence of , and the desire to quantify dark matter just reinforces how little we know about the universe and just what is in the vast spaces that surround us. One can only speculate what questions such quantification may go a long way to answering.

If you wish to contact me I be reached by e-mail at Bakerswd@bellsouth.net or by regular mail at P O Box 17152, Pensacola FL 32522-7152. Keep Looking Up!

TIMES, El Paso, TX - May 24, 1998 CR: M. Russell

Former U.S. pilot haunted by UFOs

By Kim Baca
El Paso Times

For retired Air Force Lt. Col. Wayne Mattson, discovering the truth about UFOs is more than a quest; it's also a way of coming to terms with his own experiences.

Mattson, 68, who spent 32 years in the military, says he has seen UFOs.

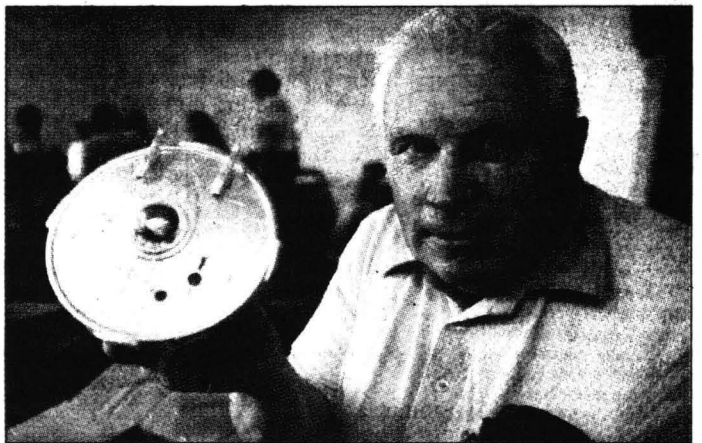
In 1969, while he was flying over Thailand, a radar operator told him and the pilot that they were being followed by other aircraft. They did a right turn and saw two moonlike objects; one of them suddenly accelerated out of sight.

"I turned to the pilot and said, 'You didn't see anything, did you? ... that is the way you had to be so you didn't have to fill out paperwork,'" Mattson said. "If

you filled out paperwork, you could kiss your flying career goodbye."

Mattson's presentation Saturday was sponsored by the El Paso Chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, or MUFON. The organization is the largest UFO research and investigation network in the world. The 30-member El Paso chapter meets the last Saturday of each month at the El Paso Community College's Rio Grande Campus.

Mattson, who lives in Alamogordo, joined the group about four years ago after a friend took him to a MUFON meeting. His interest grew after he began research for a book about missile testing during the Cold War at White Sand Missile Range. He came across several newspaper articles about UFO sightings in New Mexico, ones



J.R. Hernandez / El Paso Times

Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Wayne Mattson of Alamogordo talks about his experiences with UFOs.

much earlier than the famous Roswell UFO crash of 1947.

Mattson said he kept quiet about the UFO sightings while in the military so that he wouldn't jeopardize his career. "We know there was something out there," he said of the 1969 Thailand sighting and of other unidentified objects he saw during his flying career.

"What they are, where they come from, I don't know."

The idea of not knowing has MUFON member Oscar Perez curious. While he remains open, he is also a bit skeptical at times.

"The universe is so vast ... there has to be some life forms out there... I sincerely believe there has to be an answer. But there is so much denial," he said.



EVENING POST, Yorkshire, England - Feb. 20, 1998

Night of the UFOs

More YEP
readers
say they
saw lights

BY RICHARD ALLAN

NEW video evidence and a wealth of eye-witness accounts have raised fresh questions about UFOs spotted over West Yorkshire.

The *Yorkshire Evening Post* has been inundated with calls since it published the story of security guard George Dickinson who filmed two unexplained bright lights in the Leeds sky.

UFO-watcher Mark Birdsall believes the mysterious lights which appeared on Monday, February 2 are the strongest evidence of UFOs in the city for 15 years.

Mark believes this month's sightings rival July 23, 1983, when dozens of eye-witnesses reported seeing a huge white sphere hanging over Leeds.

His views are based on 22 seconds of film shot this month by Leeds resident Ken Field.

Video stills from the tape clearly show two very bright lights hovering in the sky.

Ken, of Walkers Green, Lower Wortley, said: "My wife Pauline was outside and called me to look at the lights. I got my camcorder and focused on the object."

"All I can tell you is that definitely wasn't an aircraft, I have never seen an aircraft with lights brighter than a star."

Mark said: "We have played the tape 20 to 30 times and there are two giant white strobe lights flashing in unison."

"Whatever this thing is it's very very low in the sky, maybe 1,500 to 2,000ft."

Mark, who runs an Otley-based UFO magazine, has written to the Ministry of Defence asking whether military planes were active over Leeds that night.



● IS THERE SOMETHING OUT THERE?
From left, Edna Lolly, Margaret Rolls, Alan Adamson and Margaret Adamson who all saw an object in the night sky over Leeds

JAMES HARDSITY

He said: "It's doubtful that something military would fly over the city that low using a normal Leeds flight path."

"The video footage will enable us to determine what we're dealing with but it's the biggest event in Leeds in the 1990s."

UFO expert and author Timothy Good, due to give a lecture at Leeds University on the evening of February 23, has been called in by Mark to look at the Leeds UFO evidence.

Martin Best, who works for British Telecom, saw the strange lights as he walked home that evening.

"I was walking home when I saw these lights in the sky. They were in my view and heading towards me from the south-west."

"As they passed overhead I could see there was no shape to the object."

"When it came towards me it took the colouring of the sky and I could see through it, as if it was opaque."

"There was no noise except a very dull whine," said Martin, who lives in Red Hall View, Whinmoor.

"I have never seen anything like it before, it was very, very strange and it made me a bit uneasy and apprehensive."

Pensioner and RAF veteran Denis Vevers says he was amazed by what he saw from the doorstep of his home in

Manston Grove, east Leeds

"What I saw mesmerised me, I just couldn't understand it."

The former air-gunner, a self-confessed sceptic, says the lights he saw that night remained stationary at first before moving away slowly.

"I'm a sceptic and I'm still sceptical but the lights were there and it wasn't an aeroplane."

In Meanwood, Margaret Rolls and her friends watched the same bright lights in the sky above them.

Margaret, who viewed the mysterious object through binoculars, has never seen anything like it before and is convinced the lights did not belong to a military aircraft.

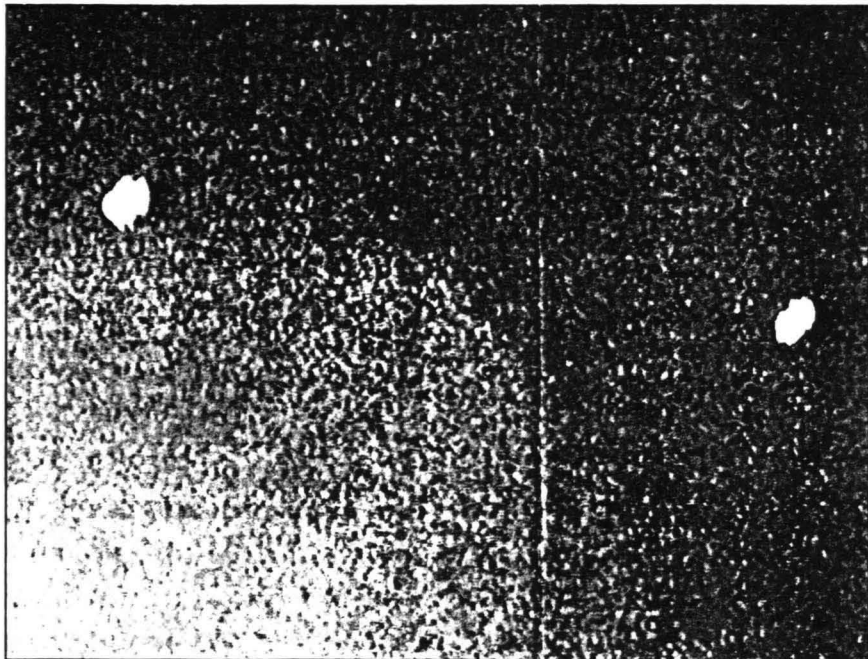
Carolyn Clark, who works at the Parcelforce National Enquiry Centre at Bridge House in Leeds, saw the lights as she left work.

Orange

"These lights were like rectangles with rounded corners and were orange. They made no sound as far as I could detect and were perfectly still. I didn't stay long enough to see them move away, but I had the feeling they weren't your usual mode of air transport."

● Anyone who wishes to see Timothy Good at Leeds University on Monday night should telephone 0800 068 7281 for details.

'WE HAVE PLAYED THE TAPE 20 TO 30 TIMES. THERE ARE TWO GIANT WHITE STROBE LIGHTS FLASHING IN UNISON'



● SKY AT NIGHT: The video shot by Ken Field of Leeds shows two mysterious bright lights



● UNEASY: Martin Best, in a ginnel near his home in Whinmoor, Leeds, where he saw a UFO

DAN OXTOBY



'If God has children on different planets he would visit them, the way a father would visit his children in different parts of the country'

The truth is out there: extraterrestrials are perfectly possible but they needn't accord with the Hollywood version...

Bishops put their faith in aliens

by Maurice Chittenden

C of E phone home. An overwhelming majority of Britain's Anglican bishops believe there could be alien life forms out there.

The bishops' spacemen theory departs from the traditional Christian teaching that God created the world and made man as a unique species in his own image.

In a survey of 42 bishops carried out by The Sunday Times, 40 (95%) said that life could exist on other planets. Thirty-one (74%) said that alien life could be intelligent.

Clerical encounters of the third kind are not unprecedented: Francis Godwin, the 17th-century Bishop of Hereford, is credited by many with writing the first science fiction book, *The Man in the Moone*. It

tells of an adventurer who flies to the moon in a chariot drawn by geese.

However, most churchgoers will be surprised at how many latter-day bishops believe that extraterrestrials like ET are perfectly possible. Some even envisage God as a spiritual spaceman going from planet to planet creating new life forms.

Henry Richmond, Bishop of Repton, said: "Yes, alien life forms could exist. I'd like to think that ETs were human-like but we might have to adjust our ideas and recognise that even little green men are another form of intelligent life that we oughtn't to feel threatened by."

Michael Turnbull, Bishop of

Durham, said the discovery of other life could be a positive force. "God created all life. If it were possible to engage with life on other planets it would open our lives to the greater wonders of God's creation."

Most of the bishops accepted that finding alien life forms would require a reappraisal of traditional Christian doctrine. Mark Green, Assistant Bishop of Chichester, said there was no evidence — yet — that God had visited other planets. "But I would not be shocked if he had. If he has children on different planets he would visit them, the way a father would visit his children in different parts of the country."

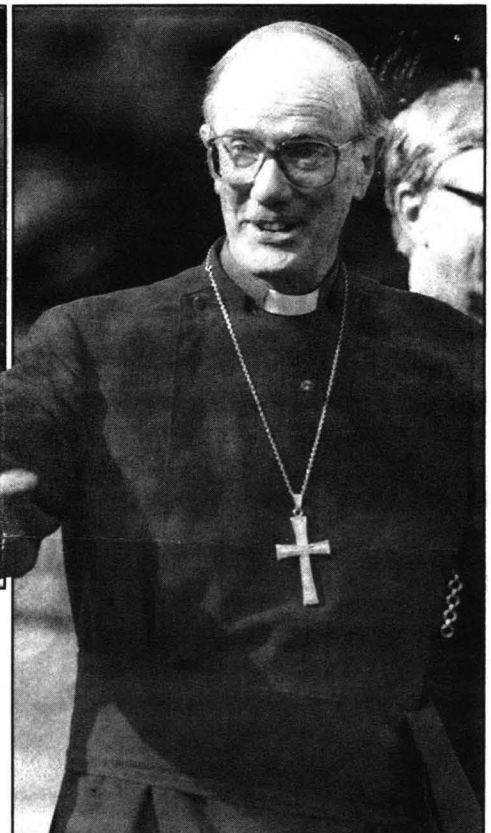
Such attempts to come to terms with the possibility of life beyond Earth are not just a 20th-century phenomenon, said Lindsay Urwin, Bishop of Horsham. He quoted a hymn written by Frank Faber in the 19th century:

There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this

There is room for fresh creations in this upper home of bliss

"Religion has never just simply looked at the Earth to learn about him," said Urwin. "The Bible says the heavens declare the glory of God and I would say that whatever is up there declares the glory of God."

Other bishops acknowledged that their understanding of



... they're part of God's creation, says the Bishop of Durham

extraterrestrial life had been heavily influenced by early science fiction. Michael Bourke, Bishop of Wolverhampton, said: "I was brought up on the theory that Mars was covered in canals made by intelligent life. The canals were a semi-respectable belief. Lots of people hoped that we would discover life on Mars... But it's all been rather disappointing, really."

Frank Weston, Bishop of Knaresborough, was more hopeful: "I am happy with an expanding universe and I am happy with universes beyond this one. God is an almighty creator and you can't limit his creativity. There must be life in other ways. I am rather excited about it."

The attitude of the Anglican

bishops was welcomed by leading British UFO experts. Lionel Beer, vice-president of the British UFO Research Association, said: "The monsignors of the Catholic church might take a different view, but we have had quite a few vicars among our members. Many writers have interpreted events in the Bible, such as the star of Bethlehem, as extraterrestrial happenings."

Lionel Fanthorpe, a Welsh church minister who presents the Fortean TV programme about unsolved mysteries, said: "For me there is no 11th commandment saying thou shalt not think. I think statistically it is almost certain there is life on other planets."

Additional reporting: Samantha Lafferty, Lucy Rollin, Georgina Wintersgill

EXAMINER, Huddersfield, England - Feb. 17, 1998

Triangles that fly in the night!

FLYING saucers are not what they used to be. These days, they seem to be flying triangles.

At least, those are the shapes reported as buzzing around the skies above Lymm in Cheshire and Sutton-in-Craven near Keighley.

All is revealed in the latest issue of *UFO Magazine* (£2.25) which is a fascinating publication that illuminates the unexplained but which is never afraid to debunk the unlikely.

It investigates and casts doubt about film from Mexico, an embryonic alien from Puerto Rico and an ET landing in Israel.

Unlike aliens, this magazine takes no prisoners.

I am talking alien abduction, here, which some respected scientists dismiss as the result of neurotic people being influenced by unscrupulous hypnotherapists.

Of course, there are other respected scientists who keep an open mind.

Former Yorkshire police officer Tony Dodd is now an alien investigator (I mean he investigates aliens, not that he is one).



The Diary

Denis Kilcommons

And he makes the point that science is forever altering public perceptions.

"Four hundred years ago, the world was flat. Three hundred years ago, innocent people were burned at the stake because their beliefs didn't quite fit the socially accepted pattern. In 1969, man first set foot on the Moon..."

Tony suggests aliens may have been genetically manipulating the human race for centuries by abducting humans for medical examination. When they return the abductees are often naked and in strange places.

I remember being naked in strange places but it was the sixties and it was Blackpool and I am sure the local police would not have accepted a date with an alien as a valid excuse.

However, with the continued altering of public perceptions, I shall bear it in mind for the future.

"Could it be these creatures are responsible for our being on this planet?" asks Tony. "Might they have the means to see into the future and are taking all necessary measures to preserve the human race, possibly through the creation of some form of hybrid race?"

I know what he means. There are a couple of hybrid aliens who go down to the pub on a Friday night.

Tony adds this warning to those who might mock: "Science fiction of the past has become science fact of the present."

Sad to say, I remain a sceptic about most of the UFO industry. Anything interesting always seems to happen miles away.

And then I found two magazine accounts from this part of the world about low flying triangles on the M6 near Lymm in Cheshire and near Sutton-in-Craven near Keighley.

Low flying triangles?

Could they be discarded

cheese sandwiches that had been frisbeed from a passing car?

Probably not.

Particularly as the ones in Yorkshire came at night and with varying coloured lights and caused sonic booms that had police and fire engines racing to the scene.

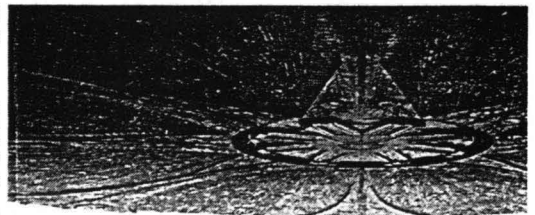
Nothing was found and Graham Sellars, a journalist who investigated, suggests a cause for the sonic booms.

"Might the UFOs described that night have simply slipped into another dimension?"

Well, wouldn't you, if, after travelling several million light years across the galaxy, you found yourself hovering over Keighley?

There will be those who take umbrage at the flippancy with which I approach UFOs but I am the first to admit that the possibility of visitors from other worlds makes a fascinating subject.

Someone who knows all about it is author and UFO expert Timothy Good, who is on a lecture tour to publicise his latest book, *Alien Base: Earth's Encounters With Extraterrestrials*.



Do flying saucers exist? They did in the blockbuster film *Independence Day*. And what a size!

He will be at the Conference Auditorium of Leeds University on Monday, February 23, and at Manchester Town Hall the following night, to talk on the sort of hot topics that keep Mulder and Scully in full employment.

Such as the retrieval of alien craft and bodies before

Roswell and encounters with aliens.

I am not so sure of the validity of space time distortion as you get that with Tetleys and I am assured that visits to alien bases does not mean those that are located south of Watford Gap.

For lecture tickets and information call Freephone 0800 068 7281.

Meet the top UFO expert who claims astonishingly..



ITALIAN JOB: A bizarre creature snapped by Filiberto Caponi



DISCWORLD: A UFO spotted in New Mexico



SPECIMEN: This fetus-like creature was killed and preserved in Puerto Rico in 1979

Earth's already an alien nation

IT'S no use scanning the skies - they're already here - and living among us!

From bug-eyed little grey and green men to human hybrids, aliens have landed and set up secret underground bases on Earth.

It may sound like a whole series of TV's X-Files rolled into one, but for real-life UFO expert Timothy Good the truth is definitely out there - and all around us.

The astonishing claims are contained in his latest book, *Alien Base*, which documents dozens of world-wide encounters - from eye-witness testimonies to con-

By DAVID MCINTOSH Chief Features Writer

troversial photographs - with aliens. "My basic premise is that Earth is the base of operations for several alien species," says the 55-year-old, who will be speaking in Edinburgh next week.

"I think some of them are just passing through while others have a vested interest in Earth either as an operation base or as part of a hybridisation project.

"Some of them have human-like forms and have come because they can no longer go home to their own planet. They may even have colonised our planet," he says.

Timothy, who has written and edited eight other best-selling UFO books, interviewed dozens of people for his latest book.

"I've gone back to the early parts of this century when there were reports of cigar-shaped objects and peculiar lights in California," he writes.

Witnesses described having personal encounters with tall, refined creatures who had long hair.

And they claim they were told that Earth was one of several alien bases in our solar system.

Genuine

But sifting through the testimonies and pictures stretched his own credulity at times - and he admits it did make him consider if the human race was going mad.

"But in the majority of cases I believe the people I spoke to were completely genuine and trustworthy.

"I believe there are over a dozen widely different species which have come from within and without the Earth.

"But it's not all about the fellows who fly the saucers. There are also some types of alien creatures who might be indigenous to planet Earth and are completely unknown to us."

His extensive research



AUTHOR: Timothy Good

has left him convinced that aliens are living in about ten secret bases scattered across the globe - from jungle lairs to underwater dens.

"I think they are living under Earth's oceans - particularly the Pacific and Atlantic - and in South America, the former Soviet Union, the Gulf of Mexico and Australia."

The author recounts sightings from a number of these areas of the world.

There is the case of the youth Chino Zayas who was exploring mountain caves in Puerto Rico in 1980 when he spotted a group of tiny human-like animals.

When one grabbed his leg, he reportedly picked up a stick and hit it until it died.

But it was a telepathic

close encounter with a 5ft 10in tall blond stranger in a New York hotel room in 1967 which really changed his mind.

He says: "I was in New York and speaking to people who said they had encounters with 'space people'. I decided to put it to the test.

"I sat down in the hotel lobby and concentrated on transmitting: 'If there are any of you guys from another planet here, please come and sit beside me and prove it.'

"After half an hour this Scandinavian-looking businessman walked in, sat beside me and pulled a copy of a newspaper out of his briefcase.

"I asked him telepathically if he really was from another planet would he identify himself by putting his right finger on the right side of his nose."

To his surprise, Timothy says the man did it immediately and held it there for five minutes before suddenly walking off.

Many might have put this down to an itchy-nosed businessman - but Timothy is convinced it was a genuine alien encounter.

"Of course it's possible that he was human and simply telepathic but to me it was personal proof



PORTRAIT: An artist's likeness of a Puerto Rican 'alien'

'Some have human-like forms and can no longer go home to their own planet'

which had a profound effect upon me."

He claims the visiting and inhabiting aliens are here for various reasons - from concern over mankind's future to more sinister sounding hybrid breeding projects.

"In the beginning it was because of concern over our developments in science and atomic testing - which may have posed a threat to their bases."

One of the more bizarre cases he uncovered was Air Marshall Sir Peter Horsley's story of talking to an alien called Janus for two-hours in 1954.

Sightings

The former equerry to the Queen and deputy commander-in-chief of Strike Command was astonished when Janus asked to meet the Duke of Edinburgh. But despite Prince Philip's own interest in the subject he had to rule it out for security reasons.

As we approach the Millennium, he believes alien sightings will increase.

"If you sift through the accounts you'll find a large number of hard cases which simply can't be dismissed.

"But aliens are here, some are based here... and they don't appear to be going anywhere."

●TIMOTHY GOOD will be speaking at Waterstone's Bookshop, 13 Princes Street on Tuesday February 17. *Alien Base* is published by Century, £16.99.

Close encounter

AN UNIDENTIFIED Flying Object has been spotted in the Brockweir area by three local people.

Nigel Price (26), who works at Dominion Records in Chepstow, and student Jason Pickering (23), also from Chepstow, were visiting their friend Emma Watson (23) near Brockweir Common on New Year's Day when the UFO was seen.

Nigel Price told *The Press*: "We saw it through the trees at first.

"It hovered above the trees and then came across towards us."

Jason Pickering added: "It was like an orange ball of light.

"It hovered above our heads and then as it moved up it swivelled and shot up into

by Tim Champion

the sky.

"It was faster than any kind of plane I have seen.

"I have never seen anything like it before."

Silent

Despite travelling at high speed the three say the UFO was completely silent as it moved off.

Emma Watson said: "We all felt as if it was watching us.

"And I have since heard that there were a lot of UFO sightings on that morning."

If anyone else saw the UFO in the Chepstow and Caldicot area on New Year's

Day contact *The Press* on 01291 621882.

The story that just won't go away

My last two columns have been about crop circles.

Two columns should be enough, but as I said two weeks ago, this is the story that just won't go away.

I brought up the Rocanville crop circles again because I have been getting so many enquiries about them. I just mentioned in my column how many people seem to be interested in crop circles themselves. That week I had been contacted by Saskatchewan Education, which wants to use my original article on the Rocanville circles in its Grade 10 correspondence English course, by someone in Vermont who had an odd aerial photo of strange circles that turned out to be a duck nesting habitat project, and from a lab in Massachusetts that has studied the Rocanville formations.

By mentioning the circles again, I unwittingly ensured that I will not be allowed to forget about them for a long time to come. More people have now heard about them, and I'm getting more calls, e-mails, and letters about them.

Someone in British Columbia read my column of two weeks ago on the internet and is now sending me UFO information by courier; Someone at CBC read my column and I ended up being interviewed on the radio about the crop circles; and

Someone who heard the CBC interview told a friend who happens to be a student at the journalism school in Regina who is work-



Kevin Weedmark

ing on a "reporting unexplained phenomena" project, and he naturally wanted to hear the whole story, which I gladly told him, exaggerating a bit so his story will be more interesting.

But I have spent so much time talking about crop circles in the last few weeks that I've done even less real work than usual.

So this is it for a while. I am declaring a moratorium on crop circles for a while. After this week, don't expect to see the words crop and circle within four inches of one another in this newspaper for the next six months.

But before I leave the subject completely, let me give the final word to the people who are actually doing some honest, scientific research on the crop circles.

Such thorough research, as a matter of fact, that the analysis of crop and soil samples from the September, 1996 Rocanville crop circles was completed in December, 1997.

According to the researchers, there wasn't

anything unusual about the plants, as there usually isn't in mature crops, but "the soil samples gave a very clear indication of there having been an external energy system present, one with both the property of heat of the microwave radiation type and unusual electromagnetic fields."

"The magnetic particle concentrations in the soil samples were considerably above normal in all soil samples taken within the formations; further, when examining the north-south radii samples in both circles we found spectacular linear relationships between the amount of magnetic material and the distance of the soil sample from the centres of the circles. This sort of finding cannot be happenstance. Direct human intervention also cannot account for these increased concentrations."

In other words, magnetic particles normally found in very low concentrations in the soil were found in very high concentrations within the circles, and the highest concentra-

tions were at the centres, with the lowest concentrations at the edges.

The higher levels of magnetic particles continue outside the circles, with 10.8 parts per thousand within 10 feet, 10.2 ppt within 50 feet and 6.6 ppt within 200 feet. The normal concentration is 0.4 ppt. In some cases researchers have had to take samples half a mile away from a formation to find soil in the normal range.

Whatever caused the circles appears to draw magnetic material from the atmosphere and deposit it in the soil, without compacting the soil.

The researchers theorize that a force known as a plasma vortex is causing the formations, and the findings from each formation they study seem to back up the theory so far.

Is there likely to be a scientific explanation for crop formations some day? I'm willing to bet on it, since there have eventually been scientific explanations for every other unexplained phenomena people have ever ascribed to a form of intelligence.

Science determined that the sun isn't really Apollo streaking across the sky in his flaming chariot, the moon isn't really the sun peeking at us through a hole in the sky, and lightning and thunder aren't really the gods showing their anger at us.

Likewise, I'm sure it will one day prove that crop circles are formed by another force of nature we simply do not yet understand.

THE MYSTERIOUS Men in Black have been the subject of a successful movie ... but they appear in fact as well as fiction.

At one time this strange group reportedly turned up after every major UFO sighting.

They were smartly dressed in black suits and hats, arrived in dark cars and seemed to know everything about the incident even when it had not been reported publicly.

They claimed to be from the FBI, the secret services or another official organisation. However, whenever a witness checked up the organisations denied they knew these people.

The other odd thing about the MIBs (as they came to be known) was that they sometimes behaved strangely, almost as if they did not come from this planet.

They looked distinctive, too, with slanting eyes and highly tanned complexions. Were they, in fact aliens ... entities from other worlds who were trying to judge our response to UFO encounters?

It would all seem far fetched if it wasn't for the fact that we have accounts from reliable individuals that these incidents DID happen.

Sometimes the Men in Black can appear in bizarre situations. On the day of his UFO sighting, Sid Freeman in Blairgowrie saw 12 men in black walking down his street and into a neighbour's house where they disappeared into thin air.

The clothes they wore, however, made them look more like clergymen than the smartly dressed strangers associated with the MIBs in the U.S. So are we talking about a world-

FROM THE SHADOWS OF UFOs COME MIBs



With Ron Halliday, Chairman of the Scottish Earth Mysteries Research

campaign to try to break us gently into the fact that contact with aliens is fact.

But why do MIBs dress in black? Black, of course, is the colour associated with death and evil. The devil was often described by those who encountered him in the past as a 'black man' meaning a person with a dark threatening complexion but also dressed in dark clothes. He was often unrecognisable from an ordinary person. Like our modern MIBs he would ask strange questions about the person's situation. After he had gained a person's confidence he would reveal his true identity.

SOME witnesses have the feeling that their UFO encounters are almost a religious experience. On a number of occasions an incident has involved a glowing figure.

Are MIBs sent as a counterweight? When Sid Freeman had his UFO sighting and MIB encounter in Blairgowrie one other strange incident occurred. A couple turned up at the door talking about the importance of the Bible and saying that what he had seen was the 'Devil's Work'.

It wasn't the UFO that was this couple's concern, but the MIB encounter.

They had been trying to warn the family that there was something unpleasant about the group of 12 that they had seen. The Bible-thumping couple never returned.

wide phenomenon? If so, the whole thing seems wholly without purpose except as some kind of social experiment. Is the government trying to wind us up?

Reports of the 'men in black' were at one time seen as a figment of the collective imagination of 'ufo-logists.' In the 1980s, however, it became clear that governments had for the previous 40 years been very interested in UFO reports and had been accumulating their own information.

If so, then the MIBs do exist and it puts the UFO phenomenon on to a new plane. Jim (I can't reveal his second name) from Glasgow told me that he had been warned not to discuss his own beliefs, following a UFO encounter, that aliens were mixing with us.

Robert Deans, a former NATO employee, claims that he saw documents which prove that there were regular contacts between western governments and aliens. Are MIBs really a part of some international conspiracy.

But why would the authorities act in this way? It's almost as if they are trying to attract attention to the phenomenon. Is that what they are trying to do? Some say it is an education

SHROPSHIRE JOURNAL, Wellington, England - Feb. 6, 1998

Aliens mystery deepens as the search for Hubert goes on

Mystery still surrounds the identity of a south Shropshire newsagent whose stories of being visited by aliens from Venus are featured in a new book on alien encounters.

UFO expert Timothy Good's latest book, *Alien Base*, features the tale of newsagent Hubert Lewis who claimed he was visited twice by aliens in 1950s - the first time while he was on his way to Church Stretton.

Despite extensive inquiries into the identity of Mr Lewis, no-one seems to remember a south Shropshire newsagent of that name from the 1950s.

Mr Lewis recalls in the book that his first alien encounter came when he was on his way to collect newspapers from Church Stretton. A tall stranger appeared in front of him and after a long conversation the stranger vanished in a rotating circular object hovering in the sky.

Mr Lewis' next encounter was in the summer of 1958 when, he claimed, a stranger from the planet Venus appeared in a field and asked Mr Lewis to follow him to London.

Mr Lewis said he spent a week in London with two alien visitors - strolling in Hyde Park and enjoying tea and sandwiches.

The *Alien Base* book includes eye-witness accounts which claim that visitors from other planets are living among us and it's almost impossible to tell exactly who they are.

Mr Lewis said the aliens he met took on a human form and were well-dressed and continental looking.

He recalls in the book: "There is much that I have learned. Many spacecraft land on earth. Many aliens are living among us - one can't tell the difference."

DAILY RECORD, Glasgow, Scotland
Feb. 5, 1998

UFO alert over lights in sky

By TONY ELLIN

A UFO probe is being launched into reports of strange lights over a Scots town.

Dutch experts will arrive in East Kilbride, Lanarkshire, next week to investigate the claims of unidentified flying objects and several reports of loud bangs, resembling sonic booms.

Scots author and lecturer Malcolm Robinson is also to probe the claims.

Father-of-two Kenny McDonald, 37, of Greenhills, East Kilbride, said: "I saw two red lights in the sky, practically over my house."

"They moved in a way

that no helicopter or plane could move, and there was no sound. Both of them then swooped right down to ground level and I realised they were only about the size of tennis balls.

"They then went into nearby woods and vanished."

He added: "My wife Julie also saw them. She was as baffled as I was."

"It is the only time I have ever seen what could be described as a UFO incident."

"But other people in the town have told me of experiences they have had."



CUTE ... Alien trouble in Men in Black

The truth is out there. Meet the people who are looking for it...

Space Oddities

HERALD & POST, Milton Keynes, England - Jan. 16, 1998

Sky-watchers spot UFO

Mystery of 'flying saucer'

A UFO has been spotted in the skies above Great Munden.

The saucer-shaped craft — which was said to have white, red, orange and blue flashing lights — was seen landing behind trees in the village by two sky-watchers.

They have reported their close encounter in this month's issue of *Down To Earth*, a magazine for the Essex and London UFO Network (ELUFON).

"We had been there for a little while when we both saw a bright light some distance away," the couple recalled. "It was very bright and resembled a searchlight on a helicopter."

The two looked away briefly, thinking the craft was a helicopter, but, looking back, they saw it had

five lights in a row, flashing from left to right.

"As we watched, it dropped suddenly a few hundred feet, still travelling to the left. Then it rose slightly and dropped again so that it was now only just above a line of trees on the horizon."

Both said they had an "eerie feeling" in the pit of their stomachs before the sighting, which happened at midnight on September 16.

The magazine, which is compiled in Cheshunt, does not reveal the identity of the UFO spotters. It aims to "unravel the UFO phenomena and associated mysteries, and to procure contact with extra-terrestrial races".

A Herts police spokeswoman said no strange sightings had been reported in the Great Munden area.



• UFO: Diagram of the craft sighted above Great Munden

UFOs spotted in Hillfoots

IS ANYBODY UP THERE ?

OBSERVER, Stirling, England - Jan. 23, 1998

CBLACKMANNAN is becoming the new UFO capital of Scotland after yet more sightings of unidentified flying objects.

On Friday police received an anonymous report between 8 and 8.30pm of a large bright object with flashing red and blue lights in the sky above the Ochil Hills near Blairlogie.

Contacted

The object was described as very large and "not like an aeroplane". Air Traffic Control were contacted and said that nothing unusual had been reported to them however they did say that there were two flights at that time that possibly could have gone through the region. Both were travelling at 7000 feet.

Just three days later there was another sighting. This time above Ben Cleuch in the Ochil Hills.

Helen O'Hare, of Cleuch View, Fishcross, was so astounded when she saw the large object with white lights that she captured the event on video.

Video

Husband Jim, a forklift driver, said: "My wife spotted it around 7.30pm on Monday and when I came home she showed me the video and I couldn't believe it."

"We have lived here for two years and I have never seen anything like this. I'm very sceptical about these things and am inclined to believe that they are aero

By Nicola Callaghan

planes or helicopters but I have seen many since I have been here and what was on the video was like nothing that I have ever seen."

Local man Malcolm Robinson, founder of the Strange Phenomena Investigations (SPI), said that sightings above the Ochil Hills were becoming more and more frequent.

Sightings

"We have had a few sightings above the Ochil range particularly Ben Cleuch and some of the sightings are featured in my new book about UFO sightings in Scotland."

He added: "Our society always tries to find a rational explanation to account for any of these sightings but the ones above the Ochils really do defy explanation and there has never been a satisfactory explanation for them yet."

Activity

"There is definitely intensive activity above the skies in Central Region but we don't know why this is."

Most people associate Denny and Bonnybridge as the UFO window of Scotland but, in the last few years, there have been more and more sightings throughout the Hillfoots.

• The next meeting of the SPI will take place in the Cowane Centre, Cowane Street, Stirling, on Thursday, February 12 at 7.30pm. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

By Georgina Hersey

IS this the proof that UFOs exist? It is one of a series of pictures in the possession of members of a local UFO group, who are determined to prove that we are being visited by beings from another world.

They themselves have seen a UFO here in the Lee Valley, while a few years back, in a celebrated sighting, a UFO was seen above the King George reservoir, with a syphon taking up water.

These normal people, who all work and have families, spend their spare time on the look-out for extra-terrestrial life. They have set up a group, Elufon, which stands for Essex and London UFO Network.

Mother-of-two Sue Lawrence, of Bakerscroft, Cheshunt, and warehouse assistant David Whitmore, of Longfield Lane, Cheshunt, spent an evening back in September in total awe having spotted something 'weird' in the sky.

Sue explained: "It was the day after Princess Diana died and we were sitting in Dave's backyard at about 8.30pm when we saw it."

"It was as big as two semi-detached houses and was about three or four times the height of a house above us."

"We heard a rumbling sound and saw a load of pulsating white lights at the front. There were two big, white lights at either end, a red light in the middle. The whole thing was in sight for about 10 seconds before banking off to the right and then disappearing."

They called Stansted Airport immediately but were told there were no aircraft in the area that night.

"Nothing prepared me for the size of the thing and the feeling that went with it," Sue said.

"It was how you feel on Christmas Eve when you are a child. You are on an unnatural high."

Elufon was set up just a year ago by four enthusiasts who felt there was a need for such a group in the London and Essex areas.

Roy Hale, a van courier, became interested after seeing an unexplainable triangle in the sky hovering 80ft above his head.

He is now a UFO investigator and spends his time seeking explanations.

"You do get hoaxers and attention seekers but there have been so many unexplainable sightings, not just in England, but all over the world," he said.

He says that thousands of people have told stories of an extra-terrestrial triangle — it was seen by more than 20,000 people at the same time when it hovered over a town centre in Belgium, Roy told the Gazette.

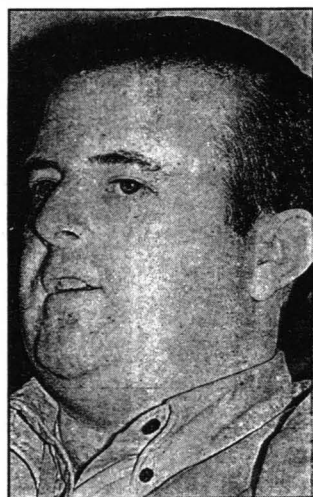
"The little green men theory is gone — we are just normal people, doing everyday, mundane jobs. We are nothing special but we have been seeing objects on a regular basis. We put in our efforts and determination to try and find our own answers."

One theory about UFOs is that alien visitors are trying to warn us about the damage we are causing to our environment.

Mexico is currently reporting regular sightings of UFOs, according to Roy.

The country suffers from smog and pollution so badly that some days people are warned to stay indoors. It was on one of these days that a disc was seen hovering near a block of flats.

"It is believed that the aliens are seeing if we are going to do anything about the pollution and perhaps are doing something about it themselves," Roy



Roy Hale: UFO investigator



Sue Lawrence: Saw lights

told the Gazette.

Some aliens, it is claimed, do more than just visit our atmosphere. They actually abduct humans.

Roy says he knows of four or five people in the London and Essex areas who say they have seen aliens three to four feet tall, with huge black, almond-shaped eyes and reptilian-type skin.

Thoughts and words are telepathically transported into the abductee's head.

Some women are even said to be impregnated by the aliens and the baby will just disappear with no medical explanation.

These aliens are called 'The Greys' but there is another kind which some believe have infiltrated the human race. About 7ft tall, they are invariably blonde, with high cheek bones and well-built. These aliens are said to be spiritual and very loving and are interested in finding out about human emotions.

Roy admits that many bizarre things seen in the sky can be put down to an aeroplane seen at an unusual angle, meteorites or even satellites, which can be viewed on a clear day.

But he says: "What baffles me is when objects zig-zag across the sky, shooting left and right, very often making a droning noise."

"Ninety-nine per cent could be mis-identifications but one per cent are absolutely unexplainable and must be vehicles from another world."

"I don't want people to feel scared but there is something in our skies that is unknown and that is what we are trying to get to the bottom of."

• Elufon organises skywatches most Saturday nights. It also organises trips to UFO conferences and social events. If you would like to find out more, call Roy on 0181 262 7681 or Dave on 0961 944084.

ENFIELD GAZETTE & OBSERVER,
Middlesex, England - Jan. 29, 1998



■ There's something out there - Joel Collins, who saw a UFO.

Photo: Richard Besent

Bussage: 'Object tracked by military planes'

UFO riddle of orange light in sky

by Sala Lloyd

STRANGE goings-on in the skies over Stroud last weekend have been reported to UFO group Circular Forum.

A 29-year old man claims he spotted a mystery shape in the sky while walking his dog on Saturday in the village of Bussage, near Chalford.

Joel Collins says he watched in amazement as it was tracked by two military planes.

Orange

"It was about 8.12 pm on Saturday, January 3," said Mr Collins.

"I'd just reached the corner of The Old Common and Tangleford Lane when I saw this orange blob in the sky.

"It was rather the same colour and shape as a baked bean.

"The front of it pulsed with a fuzzy light, like it was lit up from the inside.

"It was going straight in a north westerly direction."

Mr Collins said it appeared to be keeping pace with a military aeroplane.

"That's when I knew it wasn't part of a plane - I could see the outline of the plane really clearly, but this was travelling separately behind and below the plane, four plane-widths away.

"It was really weird - it suddenly just winked out," said Mr Collins.

"The plane immediately veered to the left and did a big circle. Then another plane appeared. They weren't going on any set route, but going around in alternate circles like they were looking for something."

Mr Collins said: "I'm a very sceptical believer that there just may be something out there. But I'm telling you what I saw.

"They were definitely MOD

aircraft and I think they were either testing something out or it was a UFO."

Friends advised him to contact Cheltenham-based UFO group Circular Forum who are carrying out investigations.

Leading Ufologist Robin Coles, chairman of Circular Forum, is asking anyone with more information who can back up Mr Collins' claim to get in touch.

Video

"There was certainly something up there on Saturday night," said Mr Coles. "Although, let me reiterate, that UFOs are simply unidentified flying objects, not necessarily extra-terrestrial.

"What we want is good-quality observations, ideally with video-footage, although any sighting will help us build up a picture."

Anyone with an unexplained sighting is asked to contact Robin on the 24-hour sightings hotline: 0973 778906.

EVENING NEWS, Edinburgh, Scotland - Feb. 24, 1998

'Tell us the truth about UFOs'

TWO UFO buffs are to lobby Prime Minister Tony Blair at Downing Street demanding a Government inquiry into hundreds of sightings over a small Scots town.

UFO investigator Malcolm Robinson and Councillor Billy Buchanan will travel to London early next month calling for an inquiry into the strange objects seen in the skies above Bonnybridge, Stirlingshire.

And assisted by a band, the controversial Bonnybridge councillor will also play a special rendition of his single about UFOs

Edinburgh, Scotland - Feb. 24, 1998

entitled 'The Lights Of Bonnybridge, live at the gates of the Prime Minister's residence.

The moves come after hundreds of alleged sightings and abductions were reported in the area, which has been dubbed Scotland's UFO capital.

Cover-up

They claim there has been an elaborate Government cover up over sightings in the central belt.

And they are now demanding the Government admit the area is under siege from alien activity and launch an inquiry.

Today from his home in Alloa, Mr Robinson said he hoped the protest would provoke a response from the Government.

Mr Robinson, chairman of paranormal group Strange Phenomena Investigations, said: "It's about time the official people admitted there is a UFO problem in Stirlingshire." Sightings began in early 1992 and by December the same

year there had been over 200 reports of UFOs.

Mr Robinson insists governments have been involved in cover-up operations and he demanded the truth be told.

He said: "It is hard to say whether or not the Prime Minister is in on the secret but there are people who know all the answers."

EVENING NEWS, Cambridge, England - Jan. 16, 1998

The answer is now out there

Train 'clue' to 18-year mystery

FOR 18 years, the remarkable events of the night of November 29, 1979, have baffled attempts to explain them.

But now UFO investigators believe they may have solved the mystery.

Members of the Cambridge UFO Group (CUFOG) are looking at the possibility that what so many people saw in the skies above Harston was the product of freak atmospheric conditions - and a passing train.

There is little doubt that something very unusual happened that night - dozens of villagers watched the vivid display for several hours and descriptions of what they saw match up.

Steve Gamble, chairman of CUFOG and head of research for the British UFO Research Association, said: "There were a number of reports of strange lights around Harston over the years, which the Cambridge Group has been working on, and we think we have got a solution for them now."

CUFOG's proposal is that the lights were the product of a sort of mirage. Mr Gamble said nearby Harston Hill may have combined with unusual weather conditions to form a "temperature inversion", a phenomenon in which a region of cold air sits on top of hot air and acts like a distorting mirror in the sky.

This could bend light from distant street lamps and cars so that they appeared in the sky.

Mr Gamble said the lights of a train on the railway, which is sandwiched between the village and the hill, could explain the ghostly "ship" which caused the most alarm.

He said the vast majority of UFO sightings had a rational explanation and that further research into the Harston apparitions would be carried out.



THE H FILES

STEVE FARRAR picks up the Harston Files to report on the latest attempts to solve an 18-year-old UFO riddle.



Light fantastic... customers dashed out of The Old English Gentleman to watch a bizarre night sky show.

Dr Gareth Rees, a scientist at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, who has had an interest in mirages for 10 years, said: "It would be unusual for the temperature inversion to last that long, but it is not impossible.

"You see things up in the air that are really on the ground and sometimes they can produce really faithful images."

He added that movement in the air which makes up the mirage could also distort large objects and even cause them to appear to move about wildly and rapidly.

Dr Rees said the phenomenon was seldom witnessed, but instances had been recorded, such as one where the lights of a Canadian city were seen in the night sky by people living many miles away.

However, the explanation has not been well received by those who witnessed the events.

Jeremy Hooper said: "I've no idea to this day what I saw that night, but in my

own mind I'm not at all satisfied that what I saw was a natural phenomenon."

David Flood said: "Personally, I don't think it's a very good explanation.

"I very much doubt it was some kind of lensing effect - this thing was pretty clear-cut and well defined in the sky."

News reporter at the time, Paul Markillie, recalled climbing a nearby hill with Mr Hooper to see if the lights would reappear a few nights later.

Mr Hooper talked of Mr Markillie photographing lights that were "literally hovering above us".

Mr Markillie recalled "nothing sensational" except a few lights which might have been aircraft.

The News reported a second wave of UFOs over Harston almost two months later, but there were suggestions that this may have been linked with F-111s and Phantom reconnaissance aircraft flying over the region that night.

Driver flees UFO...

A WOMAN has described how she fled in terror when a UFO appeared above her car.

Carla White, from Walnut Tree, sped away from the huge, brightly lit saucer, which hovered over countryside near the city.

And this week she spoke for the first time about her brush with the unexplained.

The 21-year-old press relations officer came across the object while driving through Soulbury, with her mother, Carol White.

She said: "I saw something out of the corner of my eye. At first it looked like the moon behind a cloud, but it had very bright red and white lights.

"It was huge, as big as a jumbo coming in to land and we could see it had corners as the red lights were lower than the white lights."

She said she paused in disbelief as the strange craft came into view. "We were looking at it for

By HERALD REPORTER

a good 10 seconds. It was absolutely static. There was no movement at all.

"We were petrified. I have never driven home so quickly!

Awesome

"It wasn't a plane or anything I've ever seen before. I've been through everything in my head and there is nothing I can think of! There are so many reports, they can't all be fake."

Mother, Carol, from Leighton Buzzard, said: "It was awesome! We were frightened and my first instinct was to get

out of there.

"There seems to be a spate of these sightings around the area."

Carla said: "I have had my taste of the unknown and I was terrified. I would be happy not to see anything like that again!"

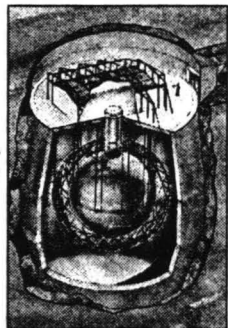
The sightings are being investigated by the British UFO Research Association.

SNO WILL DRAW UFOS

Since we built it, they will come

In the next few months, the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory will become operational. Thanks to this world-class neutrino detector, Sudbury will be a focal point of interest for scientists around the world.

I find it very interesting for two reasons: 1) the Creighton Mine site was chosen to build the observatory, and 2) one of the components vital to the Neutrino observatory's functioning is deuterium oxide (the hydrogen isotopes Deuterium and Tritium are commonly used in the production of hydrogen bombs). Because of these factors, I believe humans won't be the only ones interested in the project.



A diagram of SNO

Flying saucers were spotted over Creighton in broad daylight, back Sept. 15, 1961, according to newspaper reports, and a few more times since then.

It is also a well-known fact that, throughout the last 50 or more years, unidentified flying objects, or their occupants, have been spotted in close proximity to American and Canadian installations (military or otherwise) related to nuclear power.

The following is a brief look at those recorded sightings.

In July 1945, at the Trinity site, where the first atomic bomb was tested, UFOs were spotted by military personnel.

In mid-October 1950, unidentified objects were detected by radar in the air space area over Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where nuclear developments were being made.

In the early 1950s, the aircraft carrier USS F.D.R. (Franklin D. Roosevelt) was paced by UFOs and seen by several crewmen, at different times and in different years. In September 1952, three photographs were taken of a disc-shaped object by personnel on the flight deck of the ship. The F.D.R. was the only aircraft carrier at the time that had thermonuclear capability, the only one that was allowed to carry H-bombs.

In April 1952 and August 1954, UFOs were reported by military personnel at the North Bay base. Unknown to the public, the North Bay base was equipped with American-owned nuclear missiles.



Michel Deschamps

Self-proclaimed UFOlogist urges Sudbury residents to be on the lookout for UFOs, drawn to the region by the SNO.

Feb. 9, 1967, a UFO was reported over a farm, three miles south of Deep River, on the other side of the Des Joachims Hydro-electric Plant.

The Nuclear Power Demonstration Plant, the Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories and the Des Joachims complex (the fourth largest hydro-electric plant in Ontario) are located within a 20-mile radius.

On Sept. 11 and 17, 1967, UFOs were reported over the Douglas Point Nuclear Plant, just a few weeks after its first day of operation.

On New Year's Eve 1974 and Feb. 5, 1975, UFOs were reported over the Pickering nuclear plant by several people.

Between Oct. 28 and Nov. 10, 1975, UFOs were reported by U.S. military personnel near restricted nuclear weapons storage areas and military installations in Maine, Michigan, North Dakota and Montana. Some of the nuclear missile sites in Montana were previously visited by UFOs March 16, 1967.

It wouldn't be surprising to me if people started reporting UFOs at Creighton, site of the Neutrino Observatory. All I'm saying is, keep your eyes to the skies.

Michel M. Deschamps
UFO Researcher/Historian
Pharand Street
Hanmer

UFO buffs gather in Alberta

Conference will feature prominent scientists

ST. PAUL, the town that captured the imagination of UFO scholars and enthusiasts around the world is inviting them to northeastern Alberta for a major conference on Unidentified Flying Objects.

"After years of operating Canada's first toll-free UFO Sightings Hotline, we are ready to share information, research and some great stories with the general public," said conference chairman Paul Pelletier.

"One of the greatest aspects of our conference will be an overview of the kinds of reports we have taken here in St. Paul. We'll bring people up to date on some of the investigations we have concluded," he said.

The conference, slated for July 10 and 11, will also feature

renowned researchers and writers from across North America, speaking on topics as diverse as propulsion systems, observation techniques, cattle mutilations and crop circles.

"Even if you only have a passing interest in the subject of UFOs, you will not want to miss this."

"Among our keynote speakers will be nuclear physicist, author and

lecturer Stanton Friedman," Pelletier said.

Prospective visitors can dial the UFO hotline, 1-888-733-8367 (1-888-SEE-UFOS), for more information on the conference.

Operators at the UFO Information Centre, located just south of St. Paul's world-famous Flying Saucer Landing Pad, will be happy to answer their questions.

"Even if you only have a passing interest in the subject of UFOs, you will not want to miss this," Pelletier said.

"If you're so inclined, bring your RV and camp at one of our many lakes and parks."

TELEGRAPH & ARGUS, Bradford, England - Feb. 27, 1998

Now 30 say: We saw UFO

Calls are still coming in to a Bradford UFO research group after a spate of strange sightings in the region.

More than 30 people have come forward so far after an appeal in the Telegraph & Argus to say that they spotted two bright oval lights in the sky.

Residents in Halifax, Brighouse, Low Moor, West Bowling and Leeds all claim to have witnessed the incident on Monday February 2.

Russ Kellett of the Bradford UFO Research Network said: "It's been absolutely incredible. The phone has literally not stopped ringing since the appeal for witnesses went in the T&A."

"I've been contacted by UFO magazine who want to do an article about it. They said it's one of the biggest sightings in the area since 1983."

"I've sent out about 30 witness report forms out so it will be a couple of weeks before we can collect all the information."

Anyone with information can contact Mr Kellett on (01274) 501463.

George's video mystery

EIGHTEEN years in the British Army had not prepared George Hickinson for what he saw in the skies over Leeds.

But father-of-five Mr Hickinson, now a security guard, had the forethought to train a security camera on the two strange bright lights he saw and record them. Now he fears he has a mystery on his hands worthy of the *X Files*.

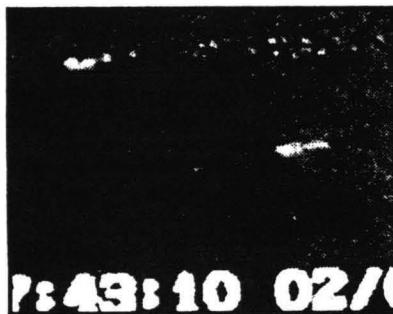
Mr Hickinson, 42, of Kippax, Leeds, is a former tank warrant officer with the Royal Dragoon Guards and describes himself as a man with his feet firmly on the ground. But he said: "There were two objects in the sky which I can't explain and no one else who I have shown the videotape to can explain. "The lights were stationary for a few minutes so I decided to turn a security camera on them."

Mr Hickinson's colleague, Ken Hague, 52, was standing outside watching the bright lights while Mr Hickson was recording events.

Mr Hague said today: "There was not a sound as they started to move off. They climbed into the night sky and just shot away. Up until then, if anybody



● UFO MYSTERY: George Hickinson and, inset, his video image



had talked about UFOs, I would have called them idiots, but I don't know now." The incident happened on Monday February 2. The video

started recording at 5.35pm and the two lights remained static for about five minutes before moving off. West Yorkshire Police said they had no calls to report of strange goings-on in the sky. Yorkshire ufologist Nigel Mortimer said one possible explanation was that if a plane was travelling towards the security camera it would look as if it was stationary for a few minutes. One of the two lights could have been a reflection, he added.

EVENING LEADER, Wrexham, England - March 19, 1998

By STEVE BAGNALL
and
CHRIS HENSHAW

X marks spot of motorists' UFO ordeal

A MOTORIST claimed he and his passenger were badly shaken after a 40ft-long UFO flew over his car.

The incident happened one evening last week, between 6.30-7pm, when Mike Speed and a female colleague were driving home near the Llandegla moors.

Mr Speed said: "It was near dusk when, suddenly, a huge black object came towards us: It was travelling very slowly, and was no more than 25 feet above the ground.

"It was oblong in shape and there were no distinguishing features on it except for a blue glow at the back. It was absolutely terrifying and my colleague was hysterical with fear.

"Then, after a few moments, it just disappeared over the moors and was gone - it made no sound at all and

there was no way it could have been any kind of plane."

Mr Speed said that when they arrived back at the house his colleague's watch had gone back an hour, and his own was 15 minutes forward.

Logical

He said: "I know it sounds bizarre, and there's just no way I can explain it. It has left me feeling shocked and shaken, and I don't think I will ever find any logical answers."

A spokesman for Wrexham Police confirmed they had received a report of a sighting of a strange object from a

man who was driving with a passenger.

The report was passed on to the Civil Aviation Authority, which, in turn, passes on all reported UFO sightings to the Ministry of Defence.

But the MoD says it only investigates whether the sighting of a UFO poses a threat to national security.

A spokesman said it was not in its brief to investigate the particular nature of any UFO, and once an object is deemed not to pose a threat to national security, no further investigations are made.

Eric Morris, of the British UFO Studies Centre, said

there had been a number of sightings in the Wrexham area over recent years.

He said: "Recently a Wrexham man also reported an incident to the local newspaper, spotting a triangular shaped unidentified flying object while driving on a minor road around the Northwich area.

"We will investigate any sightings that are reported to us and people will receive full confidentiality."

□ The BUFOSC can be contacted on 01606 330667.

'Triangle UFO' at common

Strange objects have been seen in the skies above Hartlebury Common, the beauty spot near Stourport.

And UFO Research Midlands, the body which investigates reports of unidentified flying objects, is to arrange a skywatch.

Spokesman Trevor Wylde said that a large black triangular shape had been seen hovering over the Common.

He added: "There was a flash of light and it disappeared at incredible speed."

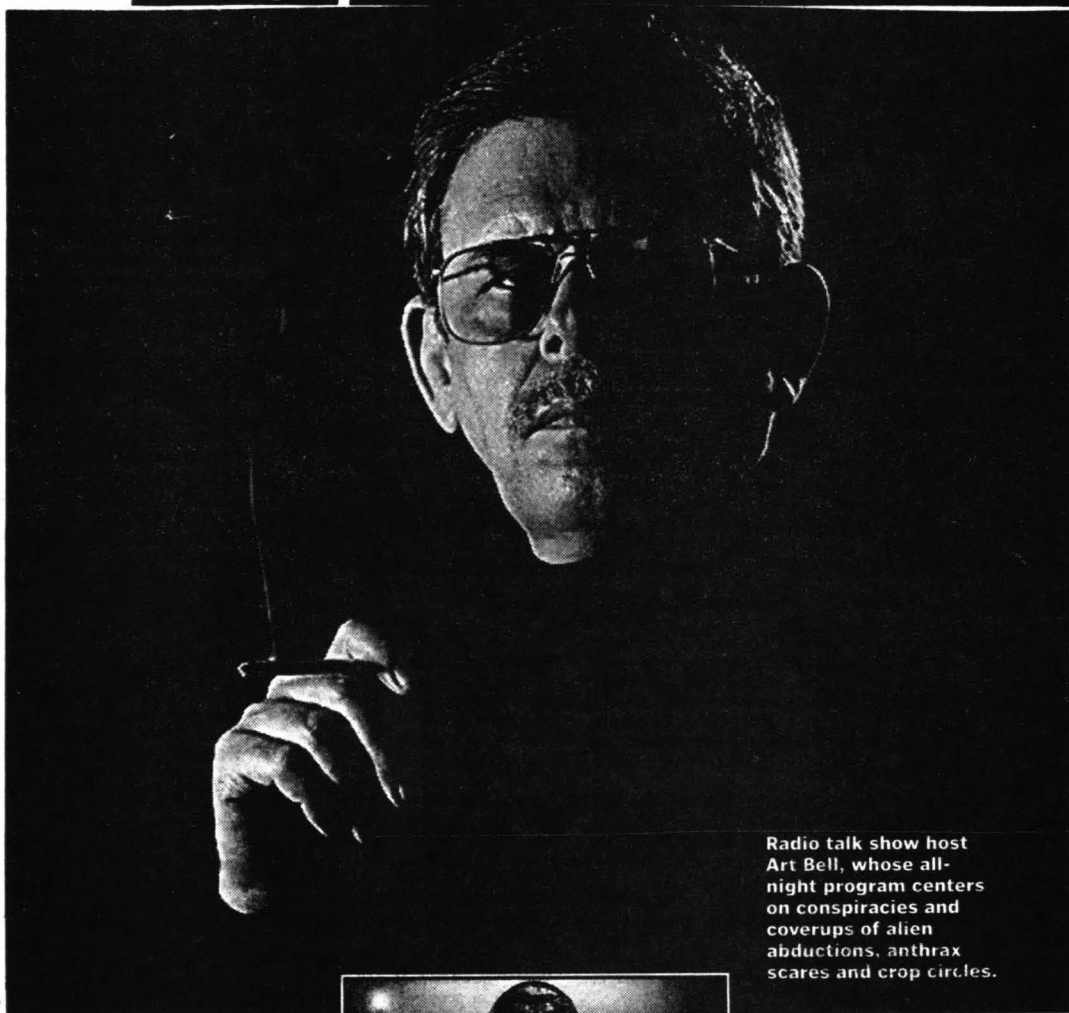
Mr Wylde is seeking more information about the sightings and anyone who can help should contact him on 0121 585 7464.

Sightings are discussed at meetings of the group at the Mitre Inn, Lower High Street, Stourbridge, on the first Monday every month.

EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England - March 14, 1998



FORTEANA NEWS



Radio talk show host Art Bell, whose all-night program centers on conspiracies and coverups of alien abductions, anthrax scares and crop circles.



BY LARRY HANNA: ART BELL'S "SEAL OF WEIRDNESS." LEFT, BY JOHN BOZEMAN

The Outer Limits

A Lone Voice in the Desert Lures 10 Million Listeners

By MARC FISHER
Washington Post Staff Writer

If you maintain a force in the world that comes into people's sleep, you are exercising a meaningful power.

—Don DeLillo in "Underworld"

PAHRUMP, Nev.—There's a call on the Area 51 Caller Line. Art Bell answers on the air, unscreened as always.

A panicked, nearly hysterical man says he was let go from the top-secret government compound deep in the Nevada desert. The man cannot divulge his location. He is in a hurry. "They'll triangulate on this position really soon."

"Give us something, quick," Bell urges.

Through the miracle of satellite technology, the talk show host transmits the disturbing call to more than 400 radio stations across the nation—more than any other radio show but for Paul Harvey, Rush Limbaugh and Laura Schlessinger. Bell broadcasts from a beige easy chair, sitting alone in a tiny bedroom of his double-wide trailer deep in the desert, one mountain range away from the mysteries of the black-budget Air Force base known as Area 51.

"What we're thinking of as aliens, Art, they're extra-dimensional beings that an earlier precursor of the space program made contact with," the caller blurts

out. "They have infiltrated a lot of aspects of the military establishment, particularly Area 51. The disasters that are coming, they—the government—knows about them. . . . They want those major population centers wiped out so the few who are left will be more easily controllable. I say we g—"

The man is weeping now, and suddenly there is only silence. One, two, three, four, five seconds of dead air—a radio eternity. "Coast to Coast AM," Bell's program, has vanished into the ether. And then Bell's theme music swells, and the host's calm, resonant voice returns:

"Weird, weird, weird stuff. In all my life . . . My uplink transmitter was dead as a doornail." For the first time in all his years of broadcasting, Bell had lost his connection to the transmitter. Smack in the

middle of that call.

Later that night, Bell offers listeners his take on the event: "That's beyond coincidence. It was done to you."

The desert, it is said, does strange things to the eye. It is true: That man with a straw hat, quivering in the remote distance, turns out to be a clump of cactus. That cloud, on closer inspection, is a mountain. That fog is faraway ice.

Eighty miles west of the nattering neon assault that is Las Vegas, a narrow road leads to Pahrump, an ancient Indian settlement poised for development as the next gambling paradise. Not far from the town's main drawing cards—legal brothels called Sheri's Ranch and the Chicken Ranch—Bell's trailer commands a plot of sand and rock, surrounded by satellite dishes and a chain-link fence.

By day, it's nothing special, the hideout of just one more American who found his piece of paradise and straightaway nailed up a "No Trespassing" sign. But at night, when the crystal-black sky explodes with stars and the mountains offer a scarf of darkness, this trailer is transformed into a transmitter of freakish fear and the sweetest of hopes. Kept company by a fistful of phone lines, a trio of computers, an atomically syn-



Bell in his Pahrump, Nev., studio, where he told the nation about the UFO hiding behind the Hale-Bopp comet.

chronized clock and a framed, bare-breasted photo of the actress Shannen Doherty, a 52-year-old man who hasn't had a good night's sleep in nine years offers an insomniac nation a host of extravagant, extraordinary, even extraterrestrial possibilities.

While the other big names of radio traffic in standard-issue news, politics and family concerns, Bell's all-night talkfest concentrates on conspiracies and coverups of the gravest order: alien abductions and crop circles, cloning and bird flu, El Niño and pfiesteria, cattle mutilations and anthrax scares. In Bell's world, visitors from other dimensions win equal time with Clinton and Lewinsky. Callers who use remote viewing to look ahead in time are taken as seriously as Washington pundits who claim to peer into the presidential future.

Bell, heard in Washington on WRC (570 AM), asks that we embrace all possibilities. He is a preacher of sorts, a purveyor of gloom and doom on Earth, and of hope and possibility in the great beyond. He is a loner who lives modestly even now that Jacor Communications, which owns the Limbaugh and Schlessinger shows, has bought his weekday and weekend programs for \$9 million. He is a grown-up geek who conducts his own search for meaning before a rapidly growing audience of more than 10 million listeners. He is an intelligent man who wears his gullibility proudly.

Last year, when a scientist told Bell that a UFO was hiding behind the Hale-Bopp comet, he and many of his listeners took the claim at face value. So did a purple-clad cult called Heaven's Gate, whose members shortly before their mass suicide provided a link to Bell's World Wide Web site on their own site.

Shaken by news accounts linking him to the suicide, Bell would eventually spurn the notion of the secret spacecraft. Actually, he insists, he "disproved" the claim on the air well before the Heaven's Gate members took their lives. But his initial reaction was typical Bell: If you say so, sure.

Travelers

In bed late at night, a seven-transistor radio tucked under his pillow, the adolescent Bell listened to the talkers who first gave voice to the great American obsessions—the eternal debate over the John F. Kennedy assassination, the rumblings about CIA mind-control experiments, the well-worn tales of ordinary people who said they'd been abducted by creatures from outer space.

It would be many years before some of those issues would become acceptable in daylight, but the great web of conspiracy was already being spun in the privacy of the night, and Bell felt himself a part of that invisible community. While his parents fought and meandered around the nation—Bell, a Marine brat, says he attended 35 high schools—radio was a constant. Days, he raised hell, making bombs and rockets. Nights, he pretended to be on the air, a rock deejay with a gaggle of groupies.

He got his FCC ham license at age 13. For most of his 38 years in radio, Bell, a square-faced man with a thick salt-and-pepper mustache, big ears and rectangular wire-rim glasses, had little opportunity to share his interest in the bizarre. In college—including a brief stop at the University of Maryland—he studied engineering before dropping out to do radio. He was a rockin' boss jock spinning the hits on little stations in New England, California, even in Okinawa, where he spent six years working at a U.S. military station. He set a world record for seesawing while broadcasting—57 hours. But mostly, it was time, temp, a couple of quips, and bam into the music, mastering the deejay's tricks of the period—step right over the intro, but don't ever walk on that vocal!

Bell eventually tired of radio and became a cable guy, a job that brought him to Las Vegas in the mid-'80s. An AM station asked him back to a part-time, overnight job as a

(continued on page 18)

talk show host. For several years, he was a West Coast phenomenon, popular enough, but among radio industry executives, considered a regional oddity.

There was something about the West, with its great expanses of empty land and sky. "Out here, everything is bigger," Bell says. "You see strange things and that changes you."

Dreamland

Welcome to Dreamland, a program dedicated to an examination of areas of the human experience not easily or neatly put in a box, things seen at the edge of vision, awakening a part of the mind as yet not mapped...

—Opening of Bell's Sunday night show

Dreamland is also the name used by military pilots for the expanse of desert north of Bell's house, Area 51, where pilots get to fly experimental craft they previously could only dream about.

It was on the way home to Pahrump from Vegas one summer night that Bell had his own close encounter. Just before midnight, Art and his wife were about a mile from home when Ramona blurted, "What the hell is that?"

Art cut the engine, and the two of them looked behind the car and up. Hovering over the road was an enormous triangular craft, each side about 150 feet long, with two bright lights at each point of the triangle. After a while, the craft floated directly over the Bells. The thing was barely moving. And, Bell says, "It was silent. Dead silent. It did not appear to have an engine."

After a few moments, the craft floated across the valley and out of sight. Bell calls this his "UFO experience," and says flatly: "It really doesn't matter that much to me if anyone believes me. Thousands of people seeing the same thing cannot all be wrong."

Voice of Night

The show ends at 3 a.m. Pacific time, and Bell steps out into the cool desert air. He stares up at the mountains, walks around, then slips inside the gray concrete building he has just erected behind the house. It looks like a truncated barn; inside, it is a racquetball court and steam room. It is where he goes to return to earthly reality.

"There is a difference in what people are willing to consider, daytime versus nighttime," Bell says. "It's dark and you don't know what's out there. And the way things are now, there may be something."

Bell's voice is not a sleepy sound; he is not the soothing FM deejay or the romantic companion of a listener's dreams. No, there is a certain formality to Bell's diction, a classic announcer's voice with an almost Canadian enunciation, as if he were the Official Voice of Night.

He offers a defense against the sapping mystery of night. The listener lies alone in bed, perhaps with only a 40-watt bulb and a clock radio as protection from solitude. Bell's voice arrives as a beacon—still yet warm, distant yet close enough to comfort.

Overnight is the only time radio is not governed by focus groups and audience surveys. It is one of radio's oldest traditions: Free from the tyranny of time and temp, news and ads, an individual intelligence can expose itself to listeners in cars and bars and empty offices and wrinkled sheets.

For more than half a century, the great clear-channel stations have carried 50,000-watt signals from the Northeast to the Midwest, from the Mississippi to the Potomac, filling the night with voices such as Jean Shepherd, who spun fabulously improvised tales of an Indiana childhood on New York's WOR; or Herb Jepko, who presided over a gathering of truckers, little old ladies and night clerks with his gentle Nightcappers club out of Salt Lake City; or Larry King, who first from Miami and then from Washington paved the way for an explosion in talk media.



"Out here, everything is bigger," says Bell. "You see strange things and that changes you."

BY LEE ZACHOW FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

But the king of the night was Long John Nebel, the onetime carnival huckster who transfixed several generations of listeners with all-night tales of UFOs and government conspiracies, multiple personalities and parapsychology. Nebel, who once sold lucky numbers on the streets of downtown Washington, used his New York talk show to sell sand dollars, vitamins and life insurance. He might spend four or five hours on the air probing the passions of a young radical such as Malcolm X, but politics was secondary: Nebel was the first to make the connection between the night and the eerie topics that could keep listeners saying to themselves, "Well, just another 20 minutes."

It was Nebel's show that Bell listened to as a sleepless adolescent; it was Nebel who first opened Bell's ears to the possibilities of a world beyond. But while Nebel was first and foremost a pitchman, a "magnificent charlatan," as his biographer, Donald Bain, put it, Bell actually believes what he's saying. He is wedded to the night not because it is where he finally hit it big, but because it is where he is philosophically comfortable.

Everyone else in radio these days is a clone, Bell says. Limbaugh, Ollie North, Gordon Liddy—"famous criminals, morning shows that compete to find the worst language you can manage to get on the air, the most controversial topics. Guns! Abortion!"

Outside, the sagebrush flops around in the wind. Bell seems out of sorts in the midday sun—one reason he says he will never do TV or daytime radio. "I talk about weird stuff," he says quietly. "What I do only works at night, only on the radio."

Claire Reese, general manager of KDWN in Las Vegas, where Bell worked for six years before his show went national three years ago, put Bell on days for a brief period. The show bombed. "He didn't really tick until he was on at night," she says. "Night people are just different."

"Art is a loner," Reese says. "He's headstrong, wants to do things his way. He's so engrossed in what he does that he doesn't need anything but what he has out there in the desert."

Hearing Is Believing

You will never hear Bell tell off a guest, no matter how harebrained the tale, no matter how preposterous the claims. It's not that he believes every word, but that he believes his job is "to help them get their story out, no matter how wild. Unless someone is dangerously misinforming my audience, that's not the role of this host. Let the audience decide."

A guest predicts an explosion on the sun that will wipe out all plant life in Africa. Bell acts as if he's just

heard that tomorrow will be partly cloudy with a chance of showers.

"That comes from a remote viewer, someone reporting from a discipline that the U.S. military spent \$20 million developing," he says. "Just let them unwind their story."

Is there no limit to what Bell would put on the air? "Well," he says, "I had Tom Metzger, the white supremacist, on the other night, so pretty much no."

At the end of that broadcast, Bell told Metzger, "I am married to a brown-skinned Asian woman. What does that make me?"

A traitor to your race, Metzger said.

"Thanks very much, Tom," Bell replied. "Good night."

"He sunk his own ship," the host says a few days later. "And I was only polite."

'Childish Inanities'

If Art Bell believes half of what is claimed on his program, he is either the world's most gullible man or a raving lunatic. Or he is right, and the people who call themselves rational are wrong.

The Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, an organization of scientists and science buffs devoted to puncturing the claims of believers in alternate realities, has dissected and dismissed Bell's writings and radio rhetoric.

"The plague of pompous pieties, platitudes and propaganda never ceases!" says Robert Baker, psychology professor emeritus at the University of Kentucky, reviewing Bell's book, "The Quickening." "It is very difficult for you to believe Bell... would have the unmitigated gall to ask the public to pay \$24.95 for 336 pages of childish inanities or to have them read such drivel as, 'Ghosts and apparitions exist and houses can be haunted. Of that there is no doubt.'"

Baker and other scientists reject Bell's notions as irresponsible, "in-exhaustible ignorance," but the broadcaster is undaunted. "Belief in the paranormal is like religious faith. It's something you can't lay your hands on," he says. "I have something beyond faith. I've gone beyond faith because I have seen these things."

Last March, Bell asked his listeners to "try to send mental connective thoughts to ask these beings to show themselves." And on March 13, he says, "a craft described as two miles long was seen and photographed over Phoenix. There is something on the outer edge of what I do."

Some devoted listeners hang on Bell's every word: In about 40 cities around the country, and in London and Tokyo, Art Bell Chat Clubs meet regularly to hear talks by UFOlogists and folks who claim to have had near-death and past-life experiences. "The majority of

the members are people who are interested in finding the truth, no matter what it is," says Tim Cannon, a former limo driver in Denver who launched the chat clubs. "We're searching, trying to make a change in the world, like Art."

Bell is grateful for such devotion, but cautious. He admits having fallen for his own listeners' hoaxes, including a 1995 scenario called Project Blackhole that predicted a Los Angeles earthquake. And he readily concedes that some of his listeners have lost contact with the rails.

"The proportion of nuts is probably slightly in excess of what the American people are, and according to the American Psychiatric Association, one in every four Americans has a mental disorder of some type," Bell says. "But I'll say this: What is weird and crackpot crazy tonight is on the front page of The Washington Post three months later. I was talking about El Niño and the weather changes we're going to face a year ago, and I was a crackpot then. I'm a prophet now." He laughs.

Black Ops

Internet chat lines these days are abuzz with claims that Bell is "on a secret government black ops payroll." Michael Hemmingson, a listener who first proposed the notion, wonders whether the U.S. government uses Bell to disseminate disinformation and keep tabs on what Americans believe.

The conspiracy widens with the inevitable list of Bell's guests who have mysteriously disappeared after appearing on his program. Why then, the theorist asks, has no harm come to Bell himself?

Bell has played along, posting the entire exchange about his possible government ties on his Web site (www.artbell.com) and remarking on the air that "I'm not afraid. If they're gonna come after me, they're gonna come after me."

When a Las Vegas newspaper leaves a message asking about the rumor, Bell puts this shouted reply on the reporter's voice mail: "I can't talk to you! You're one of them!"

He manages to hold back his laughter until he's off the phone.

The Quickening

Life is accelerating. Natural disasters and unnatural acts, invasions from afar and disappointments from next door, a weakening social fabric and frightening forces of destruction, emerging viruses and disturbing weather patterns—it all adds up to what Bell calls the Quickening.

"The world is not the same, not a place to feel safe in," he writes in "The Quickening." The book catalogues the daily advance of the forces of decline. Nearly everywhere Bell looks, he sees doom: El

Niño, U.N. peacekeepers, economic globalization, militias, cults, stressed parents, unchecked consumerism.

"Most of us want to pretend we are the masters of our environment," Bell writes. "But we are completely vulnerable..."

America in particular has gone soft, he believes, spoiled by wealth and an exaggerated sense of security. Bell's interest in politics has waned. He once supported Barry Goldwater, voted for Ross Perot last time around, and has come to consider Clinton a good president, even if he is "the monster from our id." Now, Bell considers himself a libertarian. But more than that, he is a typical American—increasingly tuned out from things political, searching for something more.

"My hopes for America are virtually nonexistent," he writes in his autobiography, "The Art of Bell."

Bell is dressed entirely in black. As he talks about his vision of the future, his voice darkens, he scrunches his face so his skin bulges in tight horizontal folds.

In his living room, the Weather Channel monitors the physical world. Suddenly the screen goes dark. Every light in the house flickers. The skies outside are clear.

"See that?" he shouts, then nervously picks up his pack of Carltons. "That's what we deal with out here."

Home on the Range

Ever since he was a kid, packing up over and over to follow his military parents to a new assignment, Bell has craved a place like this. His. With no one to tell him what to do, no one to tell him to pick up and move.

Trust, patriotism, respect—these can all be stripped away. Bell, for one, blames Richard Nixon for creating a nation of cynics, a people who gave up on one reality and went off in search of another. "I've created my stability right here," he says in his trailer, remote control in hand. "This is my little Ozzie and Harriet world in a world that's changing."

He and Ramona, who helps produce "Dreamland" and assists with the torrent of calls, buy nothing on credit, practice their shooting to fend off any intruders (none so far), and care for their cats. "Everything you see around you isn't lavish," Bell says, "but it's paid for."

"I move in and out of these two worlds every day. I need to have one to balance the other. I can do my five hours of the present, pathetic state of the world, and then I need the other hours to have my own world."

In the middle of the night, in a trailer deep in the desert, with Ramona asleep in the other room, Bell sits alone like the rest of us, vulnerable. The desert remembers everything we want to forget, the bombs and experiments, secrets and lies. The listener lies in bed, also wanting to forget. Art Bell helps him to remember things he never knew.

"Coast to Coast AM" is heard from 1 to 6 a.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays on WRC (570 AM). "Dreamland" airs from 11 p.m. Sunday to 6 a.m. Monday.



Brad Price, pictured on the left along with Jim Sloan and Ray Stroop, stumbled upon the mystery rock in a tree while tracking a turkey in February. PHOTO BY SHERI SLOAN



A rock nestled high in a tree in Yellowwood State Forest has prompted more questions than answers. PHOTO BY SHERI SLOAN



ON THE ROAD
By Jackie Sheckler

Boulder in branches defies easy explanation

Brad Price was on the trail of a turkey gobbler when he tracked down a natural mystery. Walking along an old mining road in Yellowwood State Forest, Price stumbled upon a sight he still can't explain. With daylight breaking that cold February morning, Price looked up and spied a gobbler. The bird wasn't any record breaker but what it was standing on sure was unusual. About 35 feet up in an old oak, a huge triangular rock was nesting in a cradle of tree limbs. The boulder — about the size of a refrigerator — was shaped like a gigantic arrowhead. Wanting to share his startling find, Price called his friend, photographer Sheri Sloan. Trekking out to "Gobbler Rock" in Brown County the next day, the Eminence woman captured the site on film. "I couldn't believe my eyes," Sloan said. "The first thing I did was look for a logical explanation for this mystery." The area was so out of the way and tree-filled that previous use of heavy equipment at the site would have been highly evident, Sloan said. "The area is so remote I don't think they could even get heavy equipment to it," she said. Hoping to shed some light on the puzzle, Sloan contacted Yellowwood property manager Jim Allen.

After working in forestry since 1981, Allen said he has never seen anything like the rock-carrying tree. "I didn't even know it was there," Allen said Tuesday. "I've done some checking around, and no one else seems to know anything about it." It's extremely doubtful that anyone would have put the rock in the tree as a hoax, he added. "It looks like it landed there. It was kind of made to fit there," Allen said. It is also unlikely that blasting at some nearby site would have blown the rock into its perch. "There hasn't been any blasting that close," Allen said. The most logical answer, he added, is that a tornado picked the rock up and dropped it in the branches. "That is really the only explanation I can come up with," he said. "There isn't any other evidence around of tornado damage, but I've seen tornadoes do some really strange things." What she has discovered about the perplexing sight, Sloan said, is that most people "have more questions than they do answers." "Rocks don't grow in trees," she said. "We've heard about UFOs and I know there are some strange things in this world, but it would be nice to know how this happened." It also is hard to tell how long the rock has been there, Allen said. "In the summertime when the leaves are on the trees, it would be hard to see," he said. For now, forestry officials have decided to leave the rock in the tree, Allen said. "It's pretty well lodged in there. There's not much danger of it falling out," he said. And it also would be quite a challenge to figure out how to remove the bulky boulder. Now that word is getting out about the strange forest sight, Allen said he is making a map to the location. "I imagine people are going to want to see it," he concluded. "It's not something you run across very often. It's the first time I've ever seen anything like this in my years."

CURRY COASTAL PILOT, Brookings, OR - April 15, 1998

Bigfoot hunter's collection put in museum

Early Bigfoot investigator found evidence

WILLOW CREEK, Calif. — The Willow Creek-China Flat Museum Board announced that the Bigfoot artifact collection of the late Bob Titmus has been donated to the museum. Titmus, of British Columbia, is known far and wide as one of the early investigators of the legendary Bigfoot. He amassed a large collection of foot, hand, and knee casts, an extensive literature and newspaper clipping library, and other items related to the history of Bigfoot. The collection to be located at the museum is primarily from the Bluff Creek area approximately 30 miles north of Willow Creek on Highway 96. Titmus and fellow investigator John Green frequently visited Northern California in search of the truth about Bigfoot's existence. Al Hodgson, a long-time resident of Willow Creek, often

assisted the two men and was instrumental in acquiring their collection for placement in the museum. "The museum is delighted to have the opportunity to feature the Bigfoot collection," said Alice Whitson, board president. "The belief in Bigfoot was not a requisite for the museum; the community of Willow Creek has long identified with the icon of Bigfoot, such as use in local business names and as the Willow Creek Chamber's theme, 'Gateway to Bigfoot Country'." "The museum has embarked on plans to add a Bigfoot wing to the existing building located in downtown Willow Creek," Whitson said. The board envisions a multi-media Bigfoot exhibit that would eventually include video, audio, and computer components in addition to showcase displays. For information regarding the collection or fundraising activities for the new building addition, contact (530) 629-3726, or visit the museum during your next trip to Willow Creek.

Dead cows tell no tales

An Alberta cattle mutilation expert has lots of carved-up carcasses and no answers

Laura Afdahl was checking her cattle in the pasture last June 30 when she saw the four legs of one of her Charolais cows sticking up out of some tall grass. "She was a month away from calving and I thought she had given birth and something had gone wrong," says Mrs. Afdahl, who farms with her husband Jack near Pincher Creek, Alta., about 110 miles south of Calgary. "When we got closer, we could see one of her eyes was missing. Someone had cut the eyelid off and popped the eye out of the socket."

A very sharp object had been used to surgically remove one entire side of the cow's face, as well as her tongue. An ear, her anus and sex organs had also been sliced out. "Her five teats had been cut off," says Mrs. Afdahl. "She had an extra teat and they took that one too." Cut into the cow's flesh just behind the hinge of her jaw was a symbol, about two inches in diameter, that looked like an M. When Mrs. Afdahl cut open the cow later, she found it had been completely bled; trace amounts of a thin pinkish fluid were all that could be found in the animal.

This is the second time the Afdahls have seen such a slaughter; about 10 years ago they found another cow dead in their pasture with her udder surgically removed and the same M symbol carved into her hide. The killings are reminiscent of the cattle mutilation scare that swept North America in the late 1970s. There were several reports in Alberta, and many more in the United States. Although the issue faded in the 1980s, St. Paul, Alta., farmer and mutilation investigator Fernand Belzil says he has had more than 50 such cases in Alberta and Saskatchewan reported to him in the last three years.

Mr. Belzil works as a volunteer with the chamber of commerce in St. Paul, about 100 miles east of Edmonton. In 1967 the town adopted a creative strategy to promote tourism when it built a UFO landing pad. The chamber also maintains a toll-free number (1-800-SEE-UFOS) that people can call to report

paranormal phenomena. The line has logged hundreds of calls reporting UFO sightings, alien abductions, women impregnated by extraterrestrials and cattle mutilations. St. Paul will host a UFO conference July 10-12 that is open to all paranormal buffs. Since aliens are prime suspects in cattle mutilations, Mr. Belzil hopes some of North America's leading experts on the phenomenon will

it. "But there was no track anywhere on the ground," says Mr. Belzil. "It drives me nuts."

Another common factor in cattle mutilations is a reluctance by scavengers to eat the dead animals. That could be explained by the high levels of radon (a radioactive substance) found in the soil around a mutilated cow Mr. Belzil investigated at that same Saskatchewan farm.

"Normally there'd be nothing left of our cow in a few days," says Mrs. Afdahl. "You'd expect the magpies to be out there picking at her eyes and her rear end. There's lots of coyotes around here and that time of year they had puppies to feed. But that cow laid there and no one touched it for months. The flies would come and their feet would barely touch her and they'd be gone again. It was a week before the flies would even sit on her."

There were no tracks on the tall grass around the cow to indicate who had been there, not even tracks belonging to the cow herself. "A cow would come close to [the mutilated animal] and when she got close the hackles would come out on her neck and she'd start bellowing and the whole herd would start, this deep scary bellow like they were in danger," Mrs. Afdahl recalls. The Pincher

Creek RCMP investigated but came up empty-handed.

Mrs. Afdahl's loss is slight compared to the aforementioned Saskatchewan farm, where 15 cattle are said to have suffered mutilation in the last decade. Five of those animals were killed last summer alone. The owner of the farm refuses to talk to the media, except for money. "Often whoever does this will come back and cut up the same animal two or three times," says Mr. Belzil. "In September 1995 the farmer called me and said there's a dead cow 500 yards from his house. It's not mutilated, but he suspected they may come back." Mr. Belzil enlisted Rudy Medina, a service manager from Custom Sound in St. Paul, to accompany him. They set up a pole next to the dead animal and installed a light and



Mutilated cow, St. Paul, 1996: No tracks left behind, just radiation.

attend. "Mutilations slowed down but they never went away," he says. "The more I find out about them the less I know."

He has personally investigated mutilations in the Alberta towns of Mallaig, Two Hills and in a field a mile from his farm. Mr. Belzil has yet to see another "M" symbol used, but in every case he has worked on, the dead animals had an eye, ear, lips and tongue cut out with surgical precision. And nearly every animal was left with two loonie-sized areas where the hair was rubbed off on their underbellies; Mr. Belzil has no idea how these mutilations were performed or why. Only once have mutilators left a track behind; at a northern Saskatchewan farm last year a single-strand barbed wire fence was snapped and the posts bent when something drove through

The camera worked perfectly over the next few days, except for two nighttime incidents when the screen whited out for about 11 to 12 minutes at a time. On both occasions the cow was mutilated. Once her tongue and half her face were sliced away; the second time her rectum was excised. "Everything would be going along fine and bang! The tape would be totally overexposed," says Mr. Medina. "There were no fluctuations; it was like someone was shining a 1,000-watt light into the camera. I slowed the tape right down and the change [in the light] is still instant, bang! It's unexplainable, very weird."

So who is killing these animals? Conspiracy buffs cite aliens, Satanic cults and the government. New Mexico cattle mutilation buff Gail Staehlin exonerates the cultists. "I met with the head of a Satanic cult and he said yeah, they poach cattle but when they do it they leave a bloody mess," says Ms. Staehlin, a 45-year-old who spends her days

as a fashion consultant for the Victoria's Secret lingerie company. She favours the big government-big business theory, which holds that environmental researchers are surreptitiously taking cattle organs to check pollution levels, while oil companies do the same to look for ethane, ostensibly an indicator of hydrocarbons in the ground.

Mr. Belzil doubts aliens or the government are involved. "The Canadian government has lots of money," he says. "They could buy any cattle they want and test them in their own labs. They don't need to sneak around like this and leave carcasses in the field." So who then? "What I've seen is so mind-boggling, I don't know what's doing it yet," says Mr. Belzil. "It's still a mystery. But I'll let you know as soon as I find out."

—Davis Sheremata



Disfigured cow, Sceptre, Saskatchewan, 1995: An eye, an ear and the tongue are always cut out.

an outdoor video camera; it fed a wireless signal to a VCR in the farmhouse set up with a 10-hour videotape. After watching the monitor for a few hours, Messrs. Belzil and Medina headed home.