

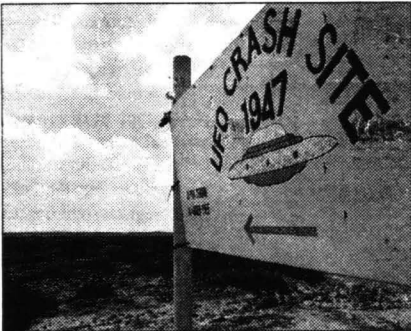
UFO

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Near Roswell, N.M., where a 1947 incident led to much speculation about flying saucers, a sign guides visitors.

Panel Urges Study Of UFO Reports

Unexplained Phenomena Need Scrutiny, Science Group Says

By KATHY SAWYER
Washington Post Staff Writer

Some supposed UFO sightings have been accompanied by unexplained physical evidence that deserves serious scientific study, an international panel of scientists has concluded.

In the first independent scientific review of the controversial topic in almost 30 years, directed by physicist Peter Sturrock of Stanford University, the panel emphasized that it had found no convincing evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence or any violation of natural laws.

But the panel cited cases that included intriguing and inexplicable details, such as burns to witnesses, radar detections of mysterious objects, strange lights appearing repeatedly in the skies over certain locales, aberrations in the workings of automobiles, and radiation and other damage found in vegetation.

The 50-page review, being released today, asserts that the scientific community might learn something worthwhile if it can overcome the fear of ridicule associated with the topic and get some funding for

targeted research to try to explain these occurrences.

"It may be valuable to carefully evaluate UFO reports to extract information about unusual phenomena currently unknown to science," the report stated, adding that such research could also improve understanding of, and in some cases debunk, supposed UFO events.

For example, Earth science researchers have eventually accepted several phenomena "originally dismissed as folk tales," including meteorites and certain types of lightning, the panel noted.

The findings are from a four-day workshop held in Tarrytown, N.Y., followed by a second three-day meeting in San Francisco, both last fall. The results are published in the current issue of the Society for Scientific Exploration, which was established by Sturrock.

The inquiry involved scientists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cornell and Princeton universities, the universities of Arizona and Virginia, and institutions in France and Germany, among others. A panel of nine physical scientists analyzed presentations by eight UFO investigators, who were encouraged to present their strongest evidence. The project was funded by Laurence S. Rockefeller through his LSR Fund because of a belief, the report said, that "the problem is in a very unsatisfactory state of ignorance and confusion."

The panel suggests the scientific community has suffered a failure of curiosity regarding UFOs. Despite an abundance of reports over the last 50 years, "and despite great public interest, the scientific community has shown remarkably little interest in this topic."

Asked about the conclusions, a sampling of scientists and officials outside the panel expressed surprise that a topic with such a high "giggle factor" might be reincarnated for serious study, possibly further blurring the lines between legitimate research and the "lunatic fringe." Some said they would never comment on the touchy topic, and some said they would reserve judgment until they had read the report.

In a telephone interview, Sturrock said that he hopes at least some scientists "will read the report and become curious.... The challenge is to do good science on this issue. It's difficult."

Some reported UFO incidents could have been caused by rare natural phenomena, such as electrical activity high above thunderstorms, or other known physical effects, the panel found. But there were some phenomena they could not easily explain.

The existing evidence from past cases is unlikely to produce either a solid debunking or other satisfactory explanation of the reports, the panel found. But "new data, scientifically acquired and analyzed (especially of well-documented, recurrent events) could yield useful information," it said.

To be credible to the scientific community, future UFO "evaluations must take place with a spirit of objectivity and a willingness to evaluate rival hypotheses" that so far has been lacking, the report said.

Among the potentially fruitful areas of investigation the panel cites are:

- Physical effects on witnesses. Burns, or sensations of heat, and eye problems are the most frequently reported forms. The available evidence, though sparse, suggests microwave, infrared, visible and ultraviolet radiation, although "a few cases seem to point toward high doses of ionizing radiation, such as X-rays or gamma rays."

- Radar detections of UFOs. Scientific study would require the cooperation of military authorities. An example occurred in January 1994, in the skies above Paris, when an airborne crew saw "a gigantic disk" more than 3,000 feet in diameter. The disk was detected on military radar for 50 seconds, slowed abruptly from 110 knots to zero, then disappeared.

- Semi-regular sightings of strange lights (such as those in Hessdalen, Norway, and Marfa, Tex.), in some cases associated with measured magnetic disturbances.

- Apparent gravitational and/or inertial effects, as in a case that occurred in Ohio in 1973. A number of witnesses, both on the ground and in an Army Reserve helicopter, saw lights, including a powerful green glow, and a "cigar-shaped gray metallic object," during which time the helicopter ascended although its controls were set for descent. Scientists apparently failed to investigate the one item of physical evidence—a magnetic compass that had begun to spin during the event and was subsequently removed because it was unserviceable.

- Injuries to vegetation and other ground traces. In a 1981 case in Trans-en-Provence, France, a witness reported an ovoid object emitting a low whistle as it flew in for a landing. Police and special UFO researchers found two concentric circles and other traces that, when subjected to laboratory analysis, showed the soil had been heavily compacted, though without major heating, and there were symptoms of aging in the plants there. A toxicologist concluded that some, though not all, of the effects could have been caused by powerful microwave radiation.

The Sturrock group said that because of advances in knowledge and technical capability, chances of significant learning are greater now than 30 years ago when the Air Force and the CIA supported a two-year investigation by the Colorado Project, directed by Edward U. Condon. That 1968 report concluded that "further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced."

The Air Force last year made public its latest report on the infamous 1947 incident near the town of Roswell, N.M., which gave rise to a whole flying-saucer culture of paranoia, up to and including the fictional television program "The X-Files." Titled "The Roswell Report: Case Closed," that report, like the Sturrock panel, reiterated earlier conclusions that there is no evidence of aliens or their spaceships.

CALISTOGA, Calistoga, CA - April 9, 1998

Calistoga has history of UFO flybys

■ Locals fess up to their real life sightings in '70s

By Toby Mitchell

Unexpected corroboration for THE WEEKLY CALISTOGA's story entitled "Is Logvy a sacred alien landing site?" came in the form of personal testimonies by Norm Manzer and Rotary President Joanne Coil last week at the Calistoga Rotary meeting.

Both individuals saw a large puffy glowing ball with no definitive edges hover over the Fairgrounds and then rocket off at Mach-something through a pass next to Mt. St. Helena.

Norm Manzer, whose sighting took place in the summer of 1970, was unsure what the "oddity" was, but he said it hovered "at least several hundred feet off the ground" as he stood by himself at the south end of the racetrack looking towards Tubbs Lane. It proceeded to race out of sight over a pass beside Mt. St. Helena. The only explanation for the object is that it was a



Joanne Coil, Norm Manzer and Mark Thomas have witnessed UFOs hovering over the Napa County Fairgrounds.

UFO, Manzer said. It went from Tubbs Lane to Mt. St. Helena in one or two seconds. After the object disappeared, Mark Thomas approached Manzer and asked him if he'd seen the UFO.

Joanne Coil's sighting took place in 1972, also at the fairgrounds. She was in the clubhouse with Barbara Wolleson when Mark Thomas came "sputtering" in. He'd been working on the sprinkler station when he saw the UFO. Howard Fisher invited the ladies onto a golf cart and they drove to a vantage point where they could see the object.

"It was like a puffball, but it was light and it hovered and hung around a little and then shot off towards Middletown," Coil said.

"People have told me it had to have been a gas ball. It only took an instant for it to go from hover-mode to full speed," she said.

Mark Thomas, who was present at both Coil and Manzer's sightings could not be reached for comment before the news deadline on Wednesday.

Crop Circles?

National radio show puts spotlight on Coupeville

By Maria Elena Panagi
and Keven R. Graves

Fields of flattened barley — declared to be "crop circles" by some UFO believers — thrust a Ebey's Prairie farm into the national spotlight this week.

Crowds of curious people from throughout the region started arriving in Coupeville Wednesday to see the so-called "crop circles," which were the subject of a lengthy discussion the previous night on nationally-broadcast "Coast to Coast with Art Bell."

Bell also talked about the barley fields again during Wednesday night's program.

Bell's show, aired locally by KOMO-AM 1000, frequently features extended discussions about purported UFO and paranormal phenomena.

Whidbey Island residents Capt. Kelly Sweeney and his wife Frances had phoned Bell in Arizona earlier Wednesday to report the flattened barley, which they said appeared to be in some sort of "labyrinth."

The Sweeneys were on Bell's program discussing the crop circles with Peter Davenport of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle.

Sweeney said he learned about the odd-looking designs in the barley fields while at the Greenbank Store. He and his wife immediately set out for Coupeville.

They said they were surprised by what they saw.

"It looked as if (someone) took a cookie cutter and stuck it into the field and pulled it out," Kelly Sweeney told Bell. The designs, he added, appeared to be "very precise."

Sweeney told Bell and Davenport that they did not believe the designs in the barley fields were man-made.

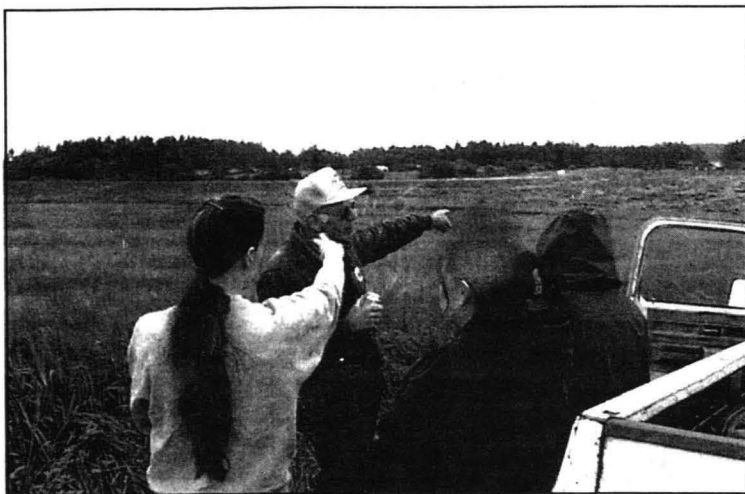
"We're sending a contingent of investigators up there tomorrow," Davenport told Bell.

The fields, located on the south side of State Highway 20 just north of Coupeville, are owned by Sherman Farms.

Members of the family that owns Sherman Farms agree that the designs probably aren't man-made. Nor, they maintain, are they made by extraterrestrials.

Wilbur Bishop, of Sherman Farms, said the same damage occurs every year, but is worse this time because of the excessive rain and wind earlier in the week.

Bishop said the barley lodges because the increased rain speeds the growth of the plant,



Photos by Keven R. Graves

Roger Sherman, of Sherman Farms, talks to some of the people who made their way to Coupeville to see the alleged "crop circles" reported Tuesday night on the nationally broadcast radio program "Coast to Coast with Art Bell." The photo at right shows the flattened barley that was the subject of speculation by crop circle aficionados.



"We could set up a booth and charge admission."

Roger Sherman

and in turn weighs it down causing it to break.

"The stems aren't strong enough," he said, "the barley is susceptible to the wind, the stems break."

Roger Sherman agreed similar damage happens annually and wondered aloud if switching back to a taller barley plant this

year may have contributed to the extensive damage.

Some visitors to the field said they don't believe the barley in the fields was flattened by the weather.

Trent and Ilene Blackburn of Seattle learned about Sherman Farms' damaged crop while visiting friends in Freeland and came to Coupeville to check it out.

The Blackburns said they had been to England to visit similar "crop circles" and enjoy witnessing such phenomena.

Poulsbo resident Jane Lane Zucker brought dowsing rods to hold over the flat-

tened barley.

Zucker said she is a member of the *Mutual UFO Network*, a national magazine which follows occurrences such as these alleged crop circles, and heard about the fields on Bell's program.

After holding her dowsing rods over the ground in the center of one of the circles, Zucker said she received some energy.

Zucker said she became sick with a migraine once after picking up large amounts of energy in a similar crop circle in England called "Snail" because of its distinctive shape.

Still, Zucker said she couldn't be certain the patterns were made by an extraterrestrial.

"I would need to see an aerial photograph to determine if there is any real pattern," she said.

A woman from Bellingham took her compass into the field to see if it might register some unusual readings.

What is a curiosity to some, however, is of serious concern for the Sherman family.

"Harvest costs rise pretty significantly when something like this happens," Don Sherman said. He estimated that about 50 percent of the barley crop was damaged.

The barley, which is used for seed and for feeding dairy cows, was severely damaged in some areas.

Roger Sherman spent the day talking with visitors to the field and took the strange events of the day in stride.

In light of all the shootings and other tragedies making national headlines lately, he said, maybe everyone deserves to have a few "crop circles."

As far as covering the loss?

"We could set up a booth and charge admission," he said with a laugh.

THE NATION

UFO groups say scientists are seeing the light

By Paul Hoversten
USA TODAY

Buoyed by suggestions from an international panel of scientists, UFO groups in the USA plan to step up efforts to push for congressional hearings into unidentified flying objects.

"This could be the thing that puts it over the top," said Steven Greer, a Charlottesville, Va., physician who heads the nonprofit Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence.

Greer was referring to Monday's report from scientists who said past and future mysterious sightings deserve serious scientific review.

The nine-member panel, which included physicists and astronomers from such institutions as the German Aerospace Center, the University of New Mexico and France's University of Bordeaux, spent nine months on the first independent review of UFOs since 1968.

The study was sponsored by the Society of Scientific Exploration of Stanford, Calif. It's an interdisciplinary organization of scholars formed to support



Sighting: Computer enhancement of a photo taken in 1981 by a family visiting a park on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

unbiased investigation of claimed anomalous phenomena.

Though it did not find convincing evidence to support the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence, the panel noted that UFO reports dating back 50 years contain enough unexplained observations to merit another look.

"It may be valuable to carefully evaluate UFO reports to extract information about unusual phenomenon currently

unknown to science," the panel concluded. "Such evaluations must take place with a spirit of objectivity and a willingness to evaluate rival hypotheses."

The panel looked into several incidents, including:

► A photo taken on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, by a family visiting a park in October 1981. It shows a daytime view of a mountain with a silvery oval-shaped object set against the blue sky. But the panel said it is impossible to rule out a hoax.

► A 1994 report from an airline crew that spotted a gigantic, fuzzy-edged disk near Paris. The crew lost sight of the object when the edges appeared to lose focus. Swiss military radar tracked it for 50 seconds.

► A 1992 report from Haines City, Fla., patrolman Luis Delgado, who said he saw a green-lighted object in the rear-view mirror of his patrol cruiser. He said the object was 15 feet long and hovered 10 feet off the ground. It circled his car several times before he pulled off the road. Then the engine, lights and radio went dead.

The panel's conclusions are far different from those reached by Edward Condon, who headed an Air Force-sponsored study in 1968 known as the Colorado Project. That report said further study of UFOs "cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced."

But Greer said he has 150 former government employees, many from classified projects, willing to testify under oath of their experiences with UFOs and how such technology can help the world.

"These people are not the flakes you see at some bizarre UFO conference with the T-shirts and bug-eye things you wear on your head," Greer said. "These are courageous men, and in a few cases women, who do not want to take to their grave one of the most important issues of the century." He has pressed Congress and the White House to convene hearings and take the witnesses' testimony — so far to no avail.

The last congressional inquiry into UFOs was in 1966, chaired by the then-representative Gerald Ford.

Local UFO probe

Researcher seeks answers to report of crash in 1941

By Peggy O'Farrell
Southeast Missourian

A Virginia man is investigating the possibility that a UFO crashed near Cape Girardeau in 1941.

"That would be six years before Roswell," said James Westwood of Centreville, Va., referring to the 1947 incident in which the government allegedly recovered and then covered up a UFO crash in New Mexico. "That would put Cape Girardeau County on the UFO map," he said.

Southeast Missouri already is known for UFO activity. Dr. Harley Rutledge, a former chairman of the physics department at Southeast Missouri State University who is now retired, has investigated reports of strange lights seen flying through the skies near Piedmont and other UFO reports.

"Project Identification: The First Scientific Field Study of UFO Phenomena" outlines Rutledge's research.

Westwood said Rutledge told him he has not heard of the 1941 incident.

Westwood, a retired Navy man and engineer, is looking for people who may remember an incident from 1941 when some type of aircraft reportedly crashed approximately 13 to 15 miles outside Cape Girardeau.

Westwood bases his investigation on an account by Charlotte Mann, a Texas woman whose grandfather, the Rev. William Huffman, was the pastor of Red Star Baptist Church from 1941 to 1944.

Leonard H. Stringfield, a renowned UFO investigator, recounted Mann's story in the July 1991 issue of his "Status Report," a monthly publication on UFO activities and investigations.

Mann told Stringfield her grandfather got a call one spring night from police asking him to accompany them to the site of an airplane crash outside town in case the victims needed a clergyman.

"A car was sent to get him, but grandmother said it wasn't a police car," Mann said in Stringfield's recounting of the story.

When Huffman got to the crash scene, Mann said, he noticed one piece of the wreckage that

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION

Anyone with information about a 1941 crash may contact James Westwood at 5608-34 Willoughby Newton Drive, Centreville, Va., 20120, or call him at (703) 222-0978.



James Westwood

"appeared to have a rounded shape with no edges or seams," and a "very shiny metallic finish."

Police officers, "plainclothes men" and military officers were already at the scene sifting through the wreckage, Mann said.

Laid to one side of the scene were "three bodies, not human," she recounted.

"It was hard for him to tell if they had on suits or if it was their skin, but they were covered head to foot in what looked like wrinkled aluminum foil," Mann said. "He could see no hair on their bodies and they had no ears. They were small-framed like a child, about 4 feet tall, but had larger heads and longer arms."

Their faces had "large, oval-shaped eyes, no noses, just holes and no lips, just small slits for mouths," Mann said.

Huffman was told by one of the military officers at the scene not to tell anyone what he had witnessed for security reasons, Mann told Stringfield. Huffman told his wife, Floy, and their two sons what he had seen when he returned home from the crash site but never spoke of it again, said Mann.

Huffman died in 1959. His wife, who died in 1984, told Mann the story.

A few weeks after the crash, Huffman was apparently given a photo of two men holding one of the corpses found at the scene. Mann's father loaned the photo to a friend but never saw it again.

Now Westwood, who read Mann's account in Stringfield's publication, is looking for others who may remember hearing about the crash.

"What you need here is another source, at least one other person who says, I sort of remember this," Westwood said. "Even if it's a second-hand account, you've at least got another source."

Mann's account says the crash happened in the spring. Westwood speculates it may actually have happened in the fall because of the mention of a field fire caused by the crash.

In the spring, he reasons, vegetation would have been too wet to burn easily. "But in the fall, it's very dry," he said.

He also speculates the military officers on the scene may have been called in from an Army Air Corps base in Sikeston at the time.

If the crash happened, the military and police wouldn't have known what they were looking at, Westwood said, because Roswell and the other early UFO sightings hadn't happened.

And the incident may have been covered up for military security reasons since the U.S. was gearing up for World War II, he said.

"It wouldn't be implausible" for the incident to have been reported as an airplane crash, Westwood said.

Westwood began researching Mann's story at the beginning of the year. He has been in Cape Girardeau for the last week reviewing local records and looking for potential sources.

He hasn't had much luck. So far, no one he has talked to has admitted to knowing anything.

"There isn't anything that I would consider even close," Westwood said.

He found a report of a student pilot's airplane crash near Morley in Scott County in May 1941, and a local pilot told him about another crash near Oak Ridge that happened in spring 1941.

The other problem is the Huffmans left the area not long after the alleged crash. The Cape Girardeau city directory lists the Huffmans from 1942 to 1944, but they aren't listed in the 1945 directory. Records from the Southeast Missourian say Huffman became the pastor of the church in September 1941.

And Stringfield, who investigated hundreds of reports of UFO crashes and retrievals, died in 1994. His family has refused to release his files to other researchers.

Westwood says he has never seen a UFO or been in contact with extraterrestrials.

"There's no doubt in my mind that UFOs are real flying objects from outer space," he said.

He points to similarities in thousands of sightings and reports from people who have reported having contact with extraterrestrials as evidence that something is out there.

But what he calls the "cultism" surrounding the study of UFOs and false reports by attention-seeking hysterics detracts from evidence given by witnesses or people who claim contact, Westwood says, "aren't any crazier than anybody else."

Tracing UFO reports is "an interesting kind of detective story," Westwood said. "It's a Sherlock Holmes-kind of thing in which you have to sort through a lot of BS looking for those nuggets. In the end, some of the things fit, and some things don't."

The Roswell crash and recovery isn't the only UFO crash in the annals of the study of UFOs, Westwood said. "It's just the best known," he said.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - June 30, 1998 CR: G. Conway

Failure of curiosity brings UFOs crashing to earth

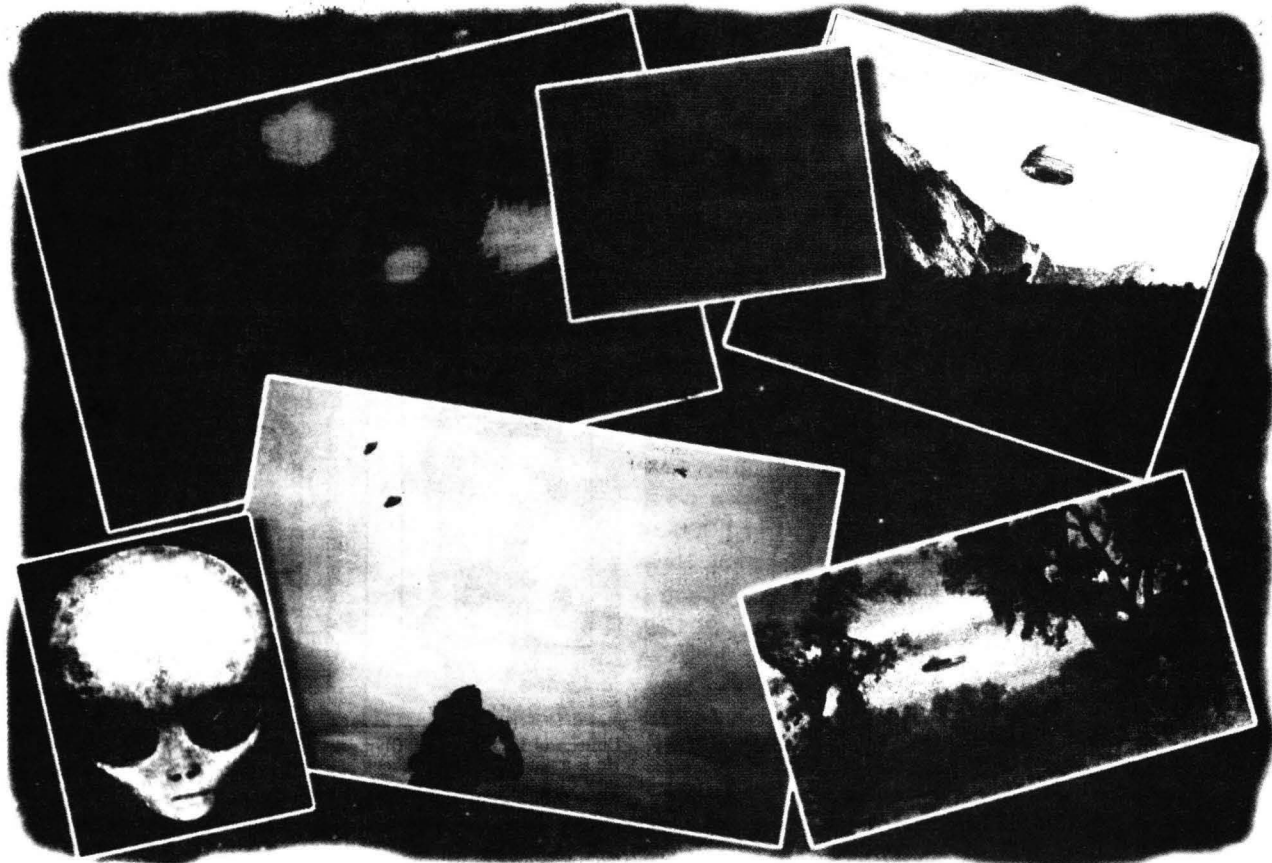
In describing the necessary attributes for a career in science the author Ray Bradbury said the best are open to experience and begin with the idea that anything is possible. Strange, then, that the first independent inquiry into sightings of unidentified flying objects since 1968 found the scientific community to be suffering from, as *The Washington Post* put it, "a failure of curiosity."

Led by physicist Peter Sturrock of Stanford University, nine scientists from American and European universities studied evidence presented by UFO researchers. Their 50-page report found no extraterrestrials, small, green or otherwise, but also concluded (despite what colleagues called "the giggle factor") the subject deserves serious consideration.

Questions abound, from radiation-burned grass and shrubs to a 1994 Parisian sighting that recorded a "gigantic disk" more than 1,000 me-

tres in diameter, witnessed by a flight crew and recorded on radar before disappearing. An Ohio sighting from an army reserve helicopter was accompanied by bizarre equipment malfunctions.

It may be that the mundane — errant weather balloons or strong drink — will explain such things: "The great tragedy of science, the slaying of a beautiful hypothesis by an ugly fact," as T.H. Huxley said. Then again, he was a scientist Mr. Bradbury would have liked. He also said, "I'm too much a skeptic to deny the possibility of anything."



Fred Matamoros / The Olympian

Sky witnesses

By Lewis Taylor
The Olympian

OLYMPIA — Court Mickelson is used to seeing aircraft in the night sky around the Hawks Prairie development where he lives, but on a summer evening five years ago, he spotted something that baffled him and his house guests.

"I was just talking with a couple of friends of mine on the porch and looked up and all of a sudden saw this thing hovering over the tree line," Mickelson recalled. "We thought we were going nuts. We didn't say a whole lot."

Mickelson's friend Rick L. Johansen offered his own recollection of the strange craft hovering in the early evening sky.

"It was in a triangular shape, and we thought it might be the end lights from a triangular craft," Johansen said. "It flew really slowly ... it made no sound."

Mickelson and Johansen thought little of the incident until the following day, when they saw a story in a Tacoma newspaper that reported a UFO sighting south of Tacoma. Johansen called the Olympia airport, but nobody there could offer an explanation.

To this day, neither Johansen nor Mickelson knows exactly what he saw in the south sky five years ago. Both say they feel lucky to have a crowd of people to back up their story,

As UFO culture takes off, South Sound residents share their sightings

and both say the experience changed their opinions of UFOs.

"I'm kind of a born skeptic until I see something," said Johansen, who didn't discount the possibility of aliens. "I think there's a lot more that's known that's just not being said. ... A lot of it's science fiction, but 50 years ago, it was science fiction to be landing on the moon."

UFO-friendly state

Whether you believe the prospect of alien visitors to be science fiction or just science, the subject of UFOs is difficult to ignore in Washington. The state boasts more UFO sightings than any other, according to the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle — a fact that director Peter Davenport is quick to qualify, however.

Davenport said the statistic makes no mention of how many Washington reports are later discounted, and suggests the high incidence could simply be due to the fact that the reporting center is well known locally.

"Sightings occur everywhere, but as far as

I know, a UFO sighting is as likely to occur over any one point as any other," Davenport said. "There do seem to be flaps of localized sightings ... nobody knows why that occurs, but one is as likely to see a UFO over a city as over an empty desert."

Still, even assuming that there is no such thing as a UFO hot spot, the variety of local organizations and events and growing number of amateur UFO buffs suggest that Washington does seem to have acquired a taste for UFOs.

It all started in 1947, when pilot Kenneth Arnold spotted nine objects flying over the Cascades. He termed them "flying saucers," and that incident is widely credited as the start of modern ufology — the study of "unidentified flying objects."

Washington has shown its affinity for UFOs in other ways, as when it constructed the Space Needle in Seattle and topped it with a flying disc. Seattle is now home to at least two international UFO hot lines.

The phenomenon has not escaped the South Sound, which boasts a number of significant sightings, including a 1988 incident in Shelton and a 1979 Elk River incident, involving an alleged crash and cover-up.

This past March, a lecture and slide presentation by local ufologist James E. Clarkson drew more than 80 spectators to the Centralia College and, even without considering the current outbreak of "X-Files" fever, there seems to be a high number of local UFO aficionados, witnesses and even authorities.

"There's a lot of interest," Clarkson said. "I think every time the Hubble telescope peers out into space and people catch those incredible views ... people are becoming a lot more comfortable with the idea of intelligent life-forms."

Growing phenomenon

Clarkson, a UFO investigator from Grays Harbor County with a 30-year interest in ufology, attributed the growing interest to increased commercialism of UFO icons. He pointed to the numerous incarnations of spade-headed, black-eyed aliens, and to the popularity of television shows such as "The X-Files."

Clarkson and other ufologists say the Internet has also been a tremendous boon to the field. In addition to offering a means of communication for UFO interest groups, it also

"A LOT OF (UFO CULTURE) IS SCIENCE FICTION, BUT 50 YEARS AGO, IT WAS SCIENCE FICTION TO BE LANDING ON THE MOON."

"RICK JOHANSEN, UFO EYEWITNESS"

Further reading

- **"Abduction."** John Mack, Charles Scribners and Sons, New York, 1994.
- **"Alien Agenda."** Jim Marrs, Harper Collins, New York, 1997.
- **"The Interrupted Journey."** John G. Fuller, Dial Press, New York, 1966.
- **"Alien Harvest."** Linda Moulton Howe, Pioneer Printing, Cheyenne, 1989.
- **"Night Siege."** Allen Hynek and Philip J. Imbrogno, Ballantine, New York, 1987.

UFO organizations

- **Mutual UFO Network (MUFON)**, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, TX 78155-4099.
- **Citizens Against UFO Secrecy**, P.O. Box 176, Stoneham, MA 02180.
- **National UFO Reporting Center**, National Hotline: (206) 722-3000.
- **Computer UFO Network (CUFON)**,

International Hotline: (206) 721-5035.
■ **Intruders Foundation**, P.O. Box 30233, New York, NY 10001.

On the Web

- **Mutual UFO Network:** www.mufon.com
- **National UFO Reporting Center:** www.ufocenter.com
- **Computer UFO Network:** www.cufon.org
- **Mutual UFO Network WA:** www.pdsnorth.com/~mufonwa/
- **Master Index of UFO Links:** www.ufomind.com

Coming up

- **Local ufologist** James E. Clarkson presents a free slide show and lecture on UFOs at 6:30 p.m. July 16 at Centralia College Library, 600 W. Locust St., Centralia. Call (360) 532-3752.

(continued on page 5)

SKYWATCH DIARY

By CAROL BAKER

provides a way for people to educate themselves on the subject.

"I tell people, 'Don't believe me. Go out and do the research yourself,'" Clarkson said. "I know that if people study this and they have an open mind, they're going to come away convinced that there's something going on. ... There's a lot more than meets the eye."

Clarkson, who works as a law enforcement patrol sergeant in Grays Harbor County, is also a longtime member of the Mutual UFO Network, or MUFON, the nation's largest UFO organization.

As a UFO investigator, Clarkson has looked into dozens of local sightings over the years, including the Elk River case. Although that case remains unsolved, most of the UFO sightings he investigates can easily be attributed to man-made objects or natural phenomena, Clarkson said.

"For any object that is a fixed light source or that moves at a constant velocity, there is probably a natural or man-made explanation," he said. "Man-made objects are operated upon by the laws of momentum and tend to travel in a continuous direction."

Although he has witnessed two sightings and investigated dozens of claims, Clarkson said he is still waiting for a big case or a close encounter, which includes any sighting within 500 feet.

Believers and skeptics

Lacey resident and amateur ufologist Dan M. Hall, who has never experienced a sighting himself, says he first became interested in the phenomenon in 1969 after reading the ufological classic, "The Interrupted Journey." He has read extensively on the subject ever since.

"I've come to believe that there is truly something going on," Hall said. "Having been exposed to reading and research from people who've talked to witnesses, my value system says that it's kind of hard to disregard all these people as crazy."

Hall, who is also a card-carrying MUFON member, traveled to Roswell, N.M., last summer for the 50th anniversary of the alleged UFO crash and military cover-up there. The event, which still has not been entirely explained, has come to be known as a pivotal event in the field of ufology.

While the trip gave Hall the chance to meet well-known UFO authors like Budd Hopkins and Whitley Streiber, he also saw a number of UFO aficionados who seemed to be doing more harm than good to ufology.

"I think there are a lot of people out there who are kind of wacko about it," Hall said. "They join UFO cults and I think they give the legitimate study of UFOs a bad name."

Another reason believers aren't often taken seriously, Hall said, is the misconception that the word "UFO" somehow implies that "little green men" are involved.

"When you talk about UFOs there's a societal response to that," Hall said. "People are going to be viewed as believing in ghosts or something that's unrealistic."

Memories of encounter

Lacey resident Russell L. Black knows just how skeptical most people become at the mention of words such as "alien" or "UFO." Not only does Black claim to have seen at least one UFO, but he also says he has had an encounter with an alien.

"Most people look down on people who say they've seen (an alien), but I've seen one," Black said. "It's a story to tell over the campfire."

Agreeing to tell his story over the telephone instead, Black described the events leading up to an encounter in Lake Clark, Alaska, nearly two decades ago.

Black, who was 6 at the time, was home alone with his brother and sister in a cabin 250 miles southwest of Anchorage. That night, they awoke to the sounds of footsteps in the living room. As he and his siblings clutched their blankets, Black said, he watched through squinted eyes as the door to the bedroom opened slowly.

"A very large head with small beady black eyes appeared in the open bedroom door," Black recalled. "It appeared to be no more than 3 feet high and seemed curious because it never took its eyes off of us."

Black's older sister, Sandra, who also lives in Lacey, said she also remembers the encounter.

"It had a huge head," she recalled. "It was this big beady-eyed-looking thing with a big bulgy head and no hair ... I just screamed as loud as I could like I was having a nightmare and it just started running."

The siblings never did learn what it was they saw in Alaska, and neither claims to know for certain, but, like Mickelson and Johansen, the event forever colored their opinions of the paranormal.

"I'm not there to try and convince anyone of my story. I just tell it," says Russell Black. "I'm just as clueless as the next guy. It's pretty narrow-minded to think that we're the only ones around in the universe. It's just such a vast amount of space."

Well, the excitement continues this week with sighting reports coming in on a regular basis and local media expressing an interest. Everyone's interest is piqued, apparently, and we have not had this much activity in this area in quite a while.

I received a cellular phone call on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 4 from Vicki Lyons. She was driving west on I-10 toward Mobile. It was 3:55 p.m. on an absolutely clear, cloudless winter afternoon. Winds were out of the northwest at about fifteen miles per hour. Driving through an area of Pine Forest, with virtually no landmarks, she was passing the vicinity of mile marker 61, when she saw a perfectly round silver ball-shaped object in the southwestern sky. It was clearly visible and contrasted against the clear, brilliant blue sky. "It looked like a sterling silver marble hanging in the sky," Vicki told me. She estimated that the object was approximately one mile away from her at an approximate fifteen degree angle from the horizon (she actually describes the elevation as being approximately twice that of the height of the nearby treeline). She describes the size as being comparable to an aspirin at arm's length. As she observed this object, suddenly and with no precursor it took off toward the north at tremendous speed, crossing I-10 and disappearing almost instantly. "It took off at a tremendously fast speed ... the speed of the object was indescribable!!! My eyes could hardly follow it—just too fast for human eyes. It looked like a blur and then was gone," Vicki told me. Shortly afterward, she saw a commercial airplane flying in the same area of sky and because of the clearness of the day, states that she could "easily and clearly identify it as a plane, wings, and tail clearly outlined against the sky."

Interestingly, just a few days later, Pat Crumbley, also a co-director of Project Awareness, as is Vicki Lyons, had a similar daylight sighting. Pat was driving east on I-10 on the afternoon of February 11, 1998 on her way to Niceville, FL from her home in Spanish Fort, Alabama. Her husband Buddy was driving and they had just passed the Milton, Florida exit. Pat states, "I was talking to Buddy, facing him when something caught my eye and I looked up. About fifteen degrees above the horizon Pat observed a silver ball-shaped object about one half inch in diameter at arm's length. She states, 'I was

stunned, it took a couple of seconds to say 'Buddy look! Buddy look!' By the time she had said that, and Buddy had turned to look, the object had disappeared. Pat also states that soon after the disappearance of the silver ball-shaped object, an airplane flew through the same area of sky and she could clearly discern that this was an airplane, since she was able to see the wings on it."

In the midst of all these reports coming in, on Monday night, February 10, 1998, our local FOX Television affiliate station out of Mobile, Alabama, WALA-Channel 10 aired a video of a UFO that had been taken by a Robertsdale, Alabama couple, Christie and Scott Edwards. The video shown was shot by the Robertsdale couple on February 7, 1998 at 7:06 a.m. The witnesses reported also seeing the same UFO as is shown on the video on February 10, the day the story aired. Christie Edwards is quoted as saying "Looks like just a bright light, but it is real big and it is nothing I've ever seen before." The National Weather Service in Mobile states that the object could be a weather balloon or a planet. The Robertsdale Police Department has urged anyone who is concerned about this sighting to give them a call. The video shows a very bright, silver metallic spherical object with a dark bottom. It was difficult to tell from the video if the object was moving in the sky, or if the apparent movement was due to camera movement, and this issue was not addressed in the television report. The object shown on this video closely resembles the object that was captured on video by Tony James, an English researcher, during his visit to Gulf Breeze in 1995 as well as that on Dennis Ubaldi's December 1997 video which was discussed in a recent Skywatch Diary. Other comparisons have been made to the objects shown on videos coming out of Mexico in recent years.

As a result of this video and all of the recent local activity, Whitley Streiber and Vicki Lyons were featured on the Art Bell show on February 10, 1998 discussing the video and recent sightings in the area and the Art Bell website has a still photograph from the video as well as real time audio of the show on which Whitley and Vicki were featured. You can access the Art Bell website at: <http://www.artbell.com>.

As a footnote to all this local activity, there have been reports of skyquakes in the area again. As many of you who keep up with Gulf Coast UFO sightings will remember, we

have often had skyquakes in association with sightings in the past. The Mobile Press Register ran an article in their Friday, February 6 issue. The headline "Explosion likely was sonic boom" was followed up by, "But none of officials asked can be certain." Just after noon on Thursday, February 8, a "rattle and boom" that shook downtown Mobile and the Theodore, Alabama area caused 911 phone lines to become busy. This was a "double boom" event, with the first timed at approximately 12:05 p.m. and the second at about 12:20 p.m., emergency phone lines in Mobile received a dozen or so calls as did the Sheriff's Departments in an area from Grand Bay in southern Mobile County to Citronelle in the north. There were many reports of walls shaking and merchandise crashing from shelves in local businesses. Meteorologists with the National Weather Service in Mobile stated that the booms were not caused by thunder or any other weather-related phenomena. A spokesperson for the U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colorado stated that the booms were not related to an earthquake. The U.S. Geological Survey have installed several seismological instruments in the area following the earthquake activity last year. Some people speculated that there were "sonic" booms generated by aircraft flying in the area. Bates Field in Mobile reported no aircraft with such capabilities flying from there, and the Naval Air Station Pensacola Operations Office stated that while they have been flying a lot of training missions, they had only been at subsonic speeds. The same is true for the Air Force out of Keesler AFB, in Biloxi, Mississippi. A public affairs officer for Eglin AFB in Florida also stated that there were no missions in the area at that time, and that there had been no supersonic flights in the area for sometime. The only way they could have been sonic booms, was if they were generated by aircraft flying at high altitude between bases in Florida and Texas. The weather conditions were apparently generated by aircraft flying at high altitude between bases in Florida and Texas. The weather conditions were apparently conducive to the amplification of a sonic boom. However, none of these explanations are conclusive.

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

greater l.a.

Spacemen Land at Vegas Airport

Conspiracy theorists, secret agents and space abductees, take note: Soon you won't need to drive far out into the desert to reach the mysterious Area 51.

The super-secret Air Force base cum cultural lightning rod for all things alien has inspired a themed shopping experience in Las Vegas' new \$300-million airport terminal, which opens June 15. Shoppers will be able to browse under hovering spacecraft among "Star Trek" videos and glowing jewelry as lifelike space creatures peer over their shoulders.

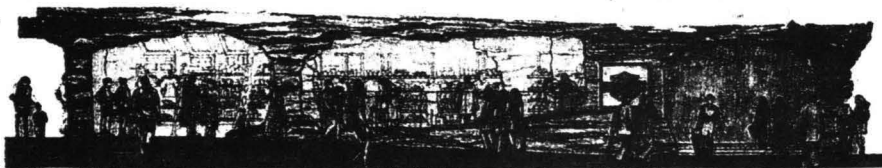
The real Area 51, 100 miles north of Las Vegas, attracts UFO buffs worldwide. Aficionados of unexplained phenomena take state Route 375—Nevada's official "Extraterrestrial Highway"—to reach the parched outpost of Rachel. They gather there at the Little A'Le'Inn tavern and motel to watch lights moving in the night sky. Key scenes of "Independence Day" were set there.

McCarran International Airport's Area 51 is in the east wing of the spacious new terminal with the unglamorous name D Gates—no, not after the former L.A. police chief, but because the A, B and C gates were there first. This Area 51 will

be within the Nevada Desert shopping zone, sprawling between a bank of slot machines and the duty-free shops.

Kathy Hussey, an executive of airport concessionaire W.H. Smith Inc., said she had been pondering possible shopping themes for the new

terminal toward the future store. She plans to sell educational space videos, alien-infested lava lamps and copies of the definitive reference work, "Area 51 Viewer's Guide" by Glenn Campbell, a researcher who has done a lot to make the shadowy place a cultural icon in



The new shopping area caters to tourist interest in Area 51, believed to be an extraterrestrial hot spot.

terminal when she happened upon an air show at Nellis AFB. There she saw the light. Actually, she spotted merchants from Rachel selling Area 51 merchandise. She hurried back to the office to contact vendors.

"There is so much alien stuff out there," she said as construction workers hauled an ungainly model flying saucer through the unfinished

recent years.

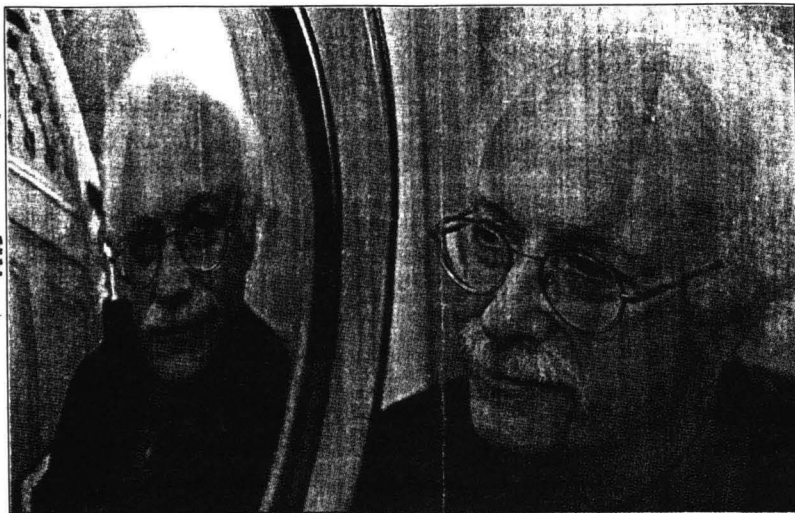
Meanwhile, longtime Las Vegas writer-editor Jim Barrows said he has heard word of another, even more mysterious base out in the desert: Area 58.

"Just mention Area 58 now and people go ballistic," he said.

—MICHAEL P. LUCAS

Temple professor warns: Truth is out there

In his latest book, respected, tenured David M. Jacobs, the "foremost expert" on aliens, says they do not come with benign intent.



For The Inquirer / JILL ANNA GREENBERG

David M. Jacobs, associate professor of history, specializing in 20th-century America, has studied UFOs since 1965 and appears regularly on talk shows.

izing in 20th-century America, is also, according to his publisher, "the world's foremost expert on the UFO and abduction phenomenon."

A man of medium height, with a halo of white hair and a white moustache, he speaks with the confidence of a man who knows his subject. He's been studying UFOs since 1965. He's written two previous books on the subject. He appears regularly on the TV talk show circuit — *Larry King Live*, Howard Stern, *Geraldo*, A&E, the Learning Channel, the Discovery Channel. He recently returned from the sixth annual international UFO conference sponsored by the Republic of San Marino.

Jacobs started studying UFOs as a student at the University of California at Los Angeles, where he majored in history. In 1973, he obtained a master's degree in history at the University of Wisconsin and, later, his doctorate, with a dissertation on the UFO controversy.

In *The Threat*, Jacobs recounts the abduction experiences that people he's interviewed have described. He writes that he has used hypnosis in more than 700 abduction investigations. He learned it on his own: "Doing hypnosis is the easiest thing in the world."

There is something, for example, that he calls "mindscam," in which the abductors stare into the abductees' eyes at a distance of a few inches or less, sometimes provoking intense sexual arousal in both men and women.

A woman Jacobs calls "Laura" said that one night she was lying in bed with her

husband when five of these creatures entered the bedroom, and one of them got on top of her. There was nothing she could do to stop him.

"Donna," when she was 20, met a hybrid on a beach in Maine. He was wearing a T-shirt and jeans, and his hair was down past his ears. He began kissing her, she recalled, and "you feel your brain exploding and your toes tingling and everything in between absolutely — firecrackers!"

Unfortunately, all we have to go on is Laura's and Donna's word. All we have to go on in all the cases that Jacobs describes is what the people involved told him.

"Anecdotal evidence is not evidence at all," says James Randi, a professional magician, also known as the Amazing Randi, who has gone around the world debunking claims of the paranormal, supernatural and occult.

Randi, who received a MacArthur Foundation award for his work in investigating such claims, says he has offered a million dollars "for the performance of any paranormal, supernatural or occult phenomenon under proper observing conditions, and that includes contact with alien beings from nonterrestrial sources." The money, he says, is in negotiable bonds at Goldman Sachs in New York. So far, no claimants.

What about it, professor? There's a million dollars waiting for you.

Randi, Jacobs says, is like a lot of other critics who "have done absolutely no research whatsoever."

Even if we had an ashtray stamped "made in Mars," Jacobs

contends, the skeptics would claim it had been made on earth. "Ultimately, what you need is an alien. You need one of these little guys wiggling on the end of a pole, and then you would have something. That would be convincing."

What about photographs? Didn't it occur to any of these people who claim multiple abductions to have a camera handy the next time?

The problem, he explains, is that there's a consciousness alteration at the beginning of every abduction that renders the abductee passive.

Sure, people hijacked aboard those spacecraft have picked up things. But see, they're naked, so there's no place to hide them.

How is it, a Wall Street Journal reviewer of *The Threat* wondered, that the aliens always seem to abduct people no one's ever heard of? Why don't they abduct somebody important, like Alan Greenspan or Kathie Lee Gifford?

"The answer," says Jacobs, "is that they do." Like who? "Can't tell you. If the people want to come forward, they will. . . . I cannot give you names right now."

Jacobs, like many UFO researchers, contends that the government, along with the media and the scientific community, determined long ago that the phenomenon had no objective reality. So "because the normal avenues of academic discourse have been closed to UFO researchers," he said, "they have been forced to take to the popular culture airways to bring their message."

By Leonard W. Boasberg
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

So you're walking down Walnut Street and you see this guy coming toward you, and he looks like an attorney or maybe an accountant.

Well, maybe he is, or maybe he's one of those hybrid alien/humans that Temple University professor David M. Jacobs writes about in *The Threat*, just published by Simon & Schuster.

There are thousands of these beings, he contends. They could be anyone. "Some hybrids look really quite human," Jacobs said in a recent interview in his Victorian-style home near Chestnut Hill.

But many look like the kind of extraterrestrials you've seen in movies and trash tabloids. That's the way people have described them to Jacobs: large heads; big black eyes; no hair, ears or nose; slits for mouths; thin arms and legs; grayish bodies.

What about that young woman taking her baby out for a stroll in Rittenhouse Square? Could she be one? "I do not think they are walking among us," Jacobs says, "or that they have a job at the 7-Eleven, or something like that."

What the young woman might be,

though, is one of the thousands of people who, according to Jacobs, have been abducted by extraterrestrial beings and taken onto spacecrafts, stripped, and used for experimental procedures, including the removal of ova or sperm.

And the baby? Don't ask. Embarrassing. Frightening. Jacobs himself is frightened.

The aliens from outer space, he contends, do not come to earth with benign motives. On the contrary. They have an agenda. As he describes in *The Threat*, with the subtitle *The Secret Agenda: What the Aliens Really Want . . . and How They Plan to Get It*, the motive is nothing less than "the systematic and clandestine physiological exploitation, and perhaps alteration, of human beings for the purposes of passing on their genetic capabilities to progeny who will integrate into the human society and, without doubt, control it."

Whew!

And it may be too late to stop them. "My own complacency is long gone, replaced," he writes, "by a sense of profound apprehension and even dread."

Jacobs, 55, a tenured associate professor of history at Temple, special-

"There are no alien spaceships. There never have been," said Robert Baker, emeritus professor of psychology at the University of Kentucky. "There's absolutely no respectable scientific evidence of any alien invasion or that aliens have abducted any human being."

How then does he explain how people who come from all walks of life have told Jacobs such similar stories? of being abducted by aliens from outer space?

It's a phenomenon, well-known to psychiatrists and psychologists, called "sleep paralysis" — people wake up in the middle of the night, find themselves paralyzed, and have psychological experiences in which they think their dreams are real, Baker said.

"It's a universal human experience that has been reported from the beginning of time," he said.

At Temple, Jacobs, in addition to his main job of teaching 20th-century American history, also conducts a course called "UFOs in American Society," in the American studies program. He believes it's the only course on UFOs taught at any American university, and he's pretty sure there's nothing of the kind anywhere else in the real world.

He teaches both sides of the issue, he says, including required reading of a debunking book by Philip Klass, *UFO Abductions: A Dangerous Game*, "that contends I'm a total jerk."

Jacobs' colleagues in the Temple history department speak highly of his teaching. There is, said Morris Vogel, former department chair, "a fundamental disconnect between

the David Jacobs of *The Threat* and who is on Howard Stern and the David Jacobs we see every day as a colleague and a teacher. In the classroom, he's a gifted instructor who covers the same 19th and 20th century United States in the way most of his colleagues do . . . and differs from us only in doing that teaching with more success."

Jacobs admits he's never seen one of these extraterrestrials himself, but he knows they exist. How can he be sure they haven't installed thoughts in his mind? Laughing, Jacobs dismisses the question. He knows that many people, including some of his colleagues, think he's a nutcase.

"I've learned to accept that," he says. It's a sacrifice he makes to "have the opportunity to make a contribution in a field of potentially surpassing importance."

"You have to remember," he says seriously, "that I've come to these conclusions after an adult lifetime of studying this subject, and I've come to them with full realization of how fringy they are, of how off-to-the-side they are. I've come to them with the full realization of the damage it does to my career and to my credibility. And yet, as an academic and as a person who is intellectually honest, I feel I must go where the evidence leads me."

POST-DISPATCH, St. Louis, MO - June 14, 1998 CR: B. Soetebier

Piedmont, Mo., residents mark UFO anniversary

'I know that I saw something there,' science teacher says

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PIEDMONT, Mo. — It was in 1973 that strange lights and objects first appeared in the sky above Piedmont in a phenomenon that would last for seven years.

A quarter of a century later, no one knows exactly what residents saw, although many in this small, southeastern Missouri town still believe they were seeing UFOs.

"I know that I saw something

there," said Joe King, a middle school science teacher. "What it was and what it wasn't, I have no idea."

In his book "Project Identification," Harley Rutledge reported 157 sightings of 178 unidentified flying objects, mainly in the Piedmont area, from 1973 to 1980.

Rutledge, then chairman of the Physics Department at Southeast Missouri State University, decided in March 1973 to lead an investigation of the strange happenings at Piedmont. Initially he took a few colleagues to the town to investigate reports of people seeing strange lights.

Using sophisticated telescopes, sound detectors, camera equipment and electromagnetic frequency analyzers, Rutledge helped set up 158 viewing stations. More

than 600 observers watched the sky at various times.

King, then a college student, recalled seeing lights moving in the sky.

"They weren't airplane lights," he said. "Sometimes there was more than one. We would sit out on the front porch and watch them at night."

"A couple of times the light would go off as an airplane approached. After the airplane had gone by, the light would come back on."

Although most of the Piedmont sightings involved lights, a few people reported seeing objects.

Reggie Bone, now deceased, was the basketball coach at Piedmont High School in 1973. In February 1973 Bone and five players were driving home from a tournament in

Dexter when they saw lights rotating along a tree line.

Bone told Rutledge he saw an object 50 feet off the ground, a hovering craft with a row of lights that looked like portholes.

Rutledge's book, published in 1981, summed up the project this way:

"Without doubt, our research has established that there is a UFO phenomenon, and we have conjectured about the nature of the intelligence behind the capricious UFOs. I suspect their game is to gradually create general acceptance by repeated appearances . . .

"When we understand them on a technical-scientific basis, when most of the world's inhabitants accept the reality of UFOs, then we will meet them face to face. And then we will know their mission."

SKYWATCH DIARY

By CAROL BAKER

Happy St. Patrick's Day!! Erin go Bragh!! Well, I am sure we will be hearing some reports of activity by the "little people!" One cannot help but wonder if the stories such as those of the little people in Ireland or faeries in England and Europe have any historical basis in the UFO/Abduction phenomenon. We have seen the development of descriptive frames of reference in UFO sighting reports over the years, from the earliest reports dating back into the eighteenth century with their descriptions of "coaches of fire" in the sky, to more recent reports where people are using modern day comparative descriptions to clarify their sightings. Perhaps the same is true of the descriptions employed by abductees/experiencers?

A very interesting sighting was reported to me at the beginning of February by a witness in Minotola, New Jersey. After an initial telephone call, the witness forwarded to me a full written account of his sighting together with the picture which appears adjacent to this text. His let-

ter dated February 12th, 1998 details his sighting of February 9th, 1998: "I was walking back home from my neighbor's home about 3:10 p.m. when I noticed a bright object coming out of the north sky which looked somewhat different than a normal plane or jet. I watched it for a couple of minutes and the closer it got to me the more confusing it was. I went into my house and got a pair of 7x35 binoculars and viewed it through them. My first impression was that it might be a large white bird, possibly an Egret. It was white with a faint tint of black on the edges. I watched it for a few seconds and was going to dismiss it as that, but then the object seemed to turn and reflect the sun with a very bright glare. I immediately went back into the house and put a 200mm lens on my camera and went back out and at this time it was almost directly overhead. I had time to take two pictures, and seeing that I was still unable to make out what it was I went back inside and brought out my son's telescope. I noticed at that time there was a passenger jet which seemed to be passing above

the object in a southwest direction. I then viewed the object through the eyepiece. My first impression was that it seemed to be a group of black and white balloons, but it was high in the air. I looked back into the eyepiece and focused in on them and then I saw that it was not balloons. There was one large pearl black object attached to a frame that extended back and had two larger round flat objects on each side of the frame, the sides of which were charcoal colored. In front of the first black object, which may be part of the frame, was an extended section resembling half of an arrowhead. It was only visible for about two to three minutes. It was travelling at a steady even pace from north to southeast. The entire episode took only about eight minutes and then it was out of view."

This witness contacted Maguire Air Force Base in New Jersey and discussed what he had seen with an Air Force representative there. The Air Force was apparently extremely interested in the photographs this witness may have taken of this object

and asked him to bring the film to them. He did not bring his film to the Air Force and has been working on getting the pictures developed and enlarged to enable the best possible view of this object.

The story does not end here. The witness telephoned me again on Wednesday, February 25th, 1998. To his astonishment, he had been watching the television show "Sightings" on February 24th, the previous evening, and had seen a video clip from Mexico of the exact same object that he had witnessed fly over his home on February 9th! I personally contacted the National Weather Service in Mobile, Alabama after the witness' initial telephone call to inquire as to the possibility of this being a weather balloon. I described the object from the witness' drawing and was told by the representative of the National Weather Service with whom I spoke that it was "unlike any weather balloon I have ever seen." Authorities also rule out the object being the Space Shuttle or a satellite. The witness himself contacted Nellis Air Force Base, which was men-

tioned in the report on the Sightings show. He states that the Air Force representative he spoke with there said that they were very interested in this object and particularly to hear that this witness could describe some of the superstructure of the object which, he was told, had not been visible before.

The witness and myself are extremely interested in why the Air Force are so anxious for information about this object. If there are any other witnesses to this object reading this report, or anyone who could provide any more information about it, please contact me at the address shown below. This is a very unusual object and a very interesting sighting which definitely warrants deeper and further investigation. I am hoping to show this witness' drawing and discuss the video from Mexico with Jaime Maussan, the researcher from Mexico who will be attending the upcoming Project Awareness Conference in March on Pensacola Beach. He may be able to provide more information regarding the video which the Sightings show apparently stated was "smuggled" out of Mexico. I have also contacted the "Sightings" show via e-mail regarding this situation and am awaiting a response.

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

HERALD, Everett, WA - May 28, 1998

Say it, they will come

Report of crop circles brings throng to Whidbey Island

By GEORGIE SMITH

Special to The Herald

COUPEVILLE — Curious onlookers, television media, UFO enthusiasts and crop circle experts showed up in droves Wednesday after a nationally syndicated radio talk show reported the discovery of unusual formations in barley fields just south of Coupeville.

"Basically I saw a lot of bent grass," said Port Townsend resident Mike Kenna who took an early morning ferry to Whidbey Island after hearing about the crop circles Tuesday on a late-night radio talk show.

Kenna and many others who turned out Wednesday had their curiosity aroused by Coupeville resident Kelly Sweeney, who

related his experience investigating a field of fallen barley alongside Highway 20 on "Coast to Coast AM." The program, hosted by Art Bell, focuses on UFOs and other tales of strange phenomena.

Sweeney said he was contacted by the radio program after he called the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle and reported he found "some kind of a pictograph" in the field.

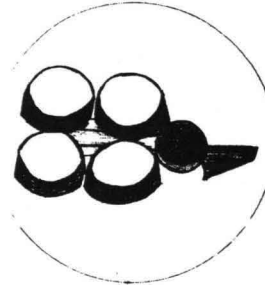
"It's almost like somebody had drawn a line," Sweeney said of the formation. "Everything inside this line is going to lie down, everything outside is going to stand up. It blew me away."

From Kenna's skepticism to Sweeney's

fascination with the field, there were a variety of opinions about what — or who — could have caused the formations.

"There are certainly intriguing similarities (with other crop circles)," said crop-circle investigator Ilyes, who goes by only one name and who rushed to Whidbey Island from Portland after receiving reports about the strange formations.

Ilyes is the national coordinator for the Center for Crop Circle Studies/U.S. Network and has traveled to England for the past



seven years investigating crop circles. She said that although she found some evidence of crop circles within the Coupeville formations, they showed definite signs of randomness not associated with the precise patterns discovered in crop circles elsewhere.

Perhaps, Ilyes theorized, there was a crop circle pattern in the fields that had been damaged by recent foul weather. But, she added, "I wouldn't bet my car on it."

Ilyes and members of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network (MUFON) used metal rods like the wires used for water witching to test the barley fields for unusual energy fields.

Meanwhile, Coupeville farmers Don and Roger Sherman, who own the field the formation was found in, explained the bent barley to a steady stream of curious onlookers and MUFON members as a combination of overfertilizing, heavy rain and high winds, not as the work of alien beings.

When grass crops receive too much nitrogen and grow too quickly the stalk often becomes too weak to support a single blade and "lodges," or falls over, Don Sherman said. Typically farmers experience lodging every year, although this year some of their fields definitely had more lodging than normal.

"If there's extraterrestrials out there and they can figure out a way to bring my crop back to life, well then, I'm a believer," Don Sherman said.

TIMES, Washington, DC - June 30, 1998 CR: L. Bryant

Truth is out there — maybe

UFO reports merit more scrutiny, team of scientists says

REUTERS NEWS AGENCY

Some reports of UFOs might be worth a closer look, although there is no real evidence of little green men out there, a panel of scientists concluded yesterday.

The report, coming from what the panel describes as the first independent review of unidentified flying objects since 1970, says science has sorely neglected the area despite numerous reports and considerable public interest.

"It may be valuable to carefully evaluate UFO reports to extract information about unusual phenomena currently unknown to science," the experts, headed by Stanford University physicist Peter Sturrock, wrote in a report released yesterday.

"The UFO problem is not a simple one, and it is unlikely there is any simple, universal answer."

Nine scientists from institutions such as the High Altitude Observatory in Boulder, Colo., the University of New Mexico and France's University of Bordeaux looked at evidence ranging from photographs of what appear to be flying saucers to a policeman's report that his car was stopped and scanned by a hovering object shining a bright light.

"It was clear that at least a few reported incidents might have involved rare but significant phenomena such as electrical activity high above thunderstorms or rare cases of radar ducting," the reviewers wrote in their report. Ra-

dar ducting occurs when the radar signal twists around and seems to be reflected from elsewhere.

The report was posted on the Internet at www.jse.com and published in the Journal of Scientific Exploration.

"On the other hand, the review panel was not convinced that any of the evidence involved currently unknown physical processes or pointed to the involvement of an extraterrestrial intelligence. A few cases may have their origins in secret military activities."

Von Eshleman, an expert in the atmospheres of other planets who helped chair the panel, conceded the report risked being ridiculed. "We may be opening a Pandora's box of some kind," he said in a telephone interview. "But I'm a professor emeritus. I don't care."

They said some of the evidence presented to them was shaky, but this was in part because no one bothered to make a proper scientific investigation.

A 1968 study concluded that nothing could be gained from studying UFO reports. But the panel said technology has advanced and something might be learned from such study.

"Over the last 50 years, people throughout the world have become familiar with UFO reports. These reports have been attributed to a wide range of causes including hoaxes, hallucinations, planets, stars, meteors, cloud formations, ball lightning, secret aircraft and

extraterrestrial spacecraft," the report said.

"Despite the abundance of such reports, and despite great public interest, the scientific community has shown remarkably little interest in this topic."

This is in part because many scientists think UFO sightings have more to do with psychology than science, Mr. Sturrock's group pointed out.

They said France's space agency funded further research into such sightings and recommended that an international review agency, probably privately funded, be set up to check out the most promising reports.

Among those might be pictures taken by some Canadian tourists in British Columbia in 1984 that appear to show a flying saucer and a 1956 case in which two Royal Canadian Air Force pilots flying F-86 Sabre jets saw a bright, shiny disk and photographed it.

In 1994, near Paris, the crew of a jetliner saw a giant disk, at least 1,000 yards or about a half mile in diameter and 300 feet thick. It went fuzzy around the edges and then disappeared. Military air traffic controllers also saw the object on radar.

Even this could be explained — if someone bothered to get the evidence, Mr. Eshleman said.

"As radar waves propagate through the atmosphere they do some funny things," he said.

On Old River Road

WHAT DID TRIO SEE?

Another Unsolved UFO Mystery

They don't know what it was. Sheriff's police don't know either.

It was around 11:30 p.m. As 20-year-old Rick Montoya and his fiancée, Erin Hammack, were driving her brother Jered home along Old River Rd. they noticed it in the distance.

Erin said she didn't think anything much about the light configuration at first. But as they drove the object moved nearer until it was hovering over a water tower just east of Gleasman Rd.

"We were hoping it was a helicopter," said Erin. "The thing didn't make a sound, and it hovered eerily motionless over the tower," the trio reported to sheriff's Officer Tom Keegan.

Hammack said they couldn't make out the shape of it, but it was at least three to four times bigger than the water tower, and a bright white light was beaming at one end. She said she could see rows of flashing bright green, blue, red, yellow and orange lights moving in a left to right pattern across the middle.

Keegan noted on his report that they saw no visible windows and nothing emitting from the craft such as beams of light, rays or sparks. The car radio was off so it was unknown if there was any radio disturbance.

The startled viewers said after ten or 15 minutes, the object appeared to drift south for a short time, and then dart away at an incredible speed until it vanished from sight.

According to Winnebago County sheriff's deputies, most reports of UFOs have come from north of Rockford in the Loves Park-Machesney Park area.

Officer Tom Keegan indicated no apparent use of alcohol or drugs by Montoya or his fiancée. It was also noted that this is the second report of a sighting by Montoya.

What was it that captured this trio's attention strongly enough to prompt a call to the Sheriff's Department?

Anyone can speculate. No one can say for sure.

Feedback from readers is always appreciated.

Author, Sue Kovach to speak at local Mufon

The Pensacola/Gulf Breeze Chapter of MUFON will present Sue Kovach as the guest speaker at the Sunday, July 12th meeting from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Gulf Breeze Recreation Center, 800 Shoreline Drive. Admission is \$5.00 for members and \$7.00 for nonmembers. Sue Kovach will review her book, "Hidden Files, Law Enforcement's True Case Stories of the Unexplained and Paranormal."

In the line of duty, law enforcement officers sometimes encounter exceptional situations marked by strange or unexplainable circumstances; a brush with the occult; an encounter with psychic phenomena; UFO sightings; or mysterious events that simply can't be explained by any laws of science we know.

Author Sue Kovach has compiled such experiences from police officers across North America in her book. Police officers went on the record — many for the first time — to reveal their encounters with the paranormal, providing a unique perspective on occurrences that often have no physical evidence. As trained investigators, their observations lend higher than average credibility toward proving the existence

of phenomena that stubbornly defy explanation.

At our July meeting, Sue Kovach will discuss some astonishing cases from Hidden Files. She will also explain how she researched the cases, what it took to convince these officers to go public, the consequences suffered by some for doing so, and how these cops' experiences affected them on a personal level. She'll also talk about some cases that did not get into the book because the officers would not speak on the record, and some tantalizing new cases that officers have presented to her since the book's publication.

Sue Kovach is an investigative journalist, author and free lance TV producer. She has worked for publications such as Newsweek, the London Times, the New York Times, Playboy and Ladies Home Journal. She regularly produces segments for Fox TV's America's Most Wanted and the syndicated show Inside Edition, and has also worked for American Journal and Dateline NBC.

For more information, call Art Hufford, 438-5863; the MUFON UFO Hotline, 429-0216; or visit our web site at: <http://GulfBreezeUFOs.com>.

CHRONICLE, Houston, TX - July 5, 1998 CR: W. Theriot

MEN IN WHITE

Let science try to explain unexplained 'UFO' phenomena

Many Americans say they believe space aliens in flying saucers regularly visit this planet, and others suspect such visits. These Americans have adopted opinions unsupported by convincing evidence or personal experience.

However, there are unexplained phenomena connected with reports of unidentified flying objects, and these phenomena are the proper subject of scientific investigation. Scientists on an international panel have recommended that their colleagues overcome the fear of ridicule and study some of the unexplained physical evidence left in the wake of UFO reports.

Such evidence includes injuries to the eyes and skin of observers, burned or flattened vegetation, electronic malfunctions, etc. Marfa, in West Texas, is one site of potentially fertile investigation to explain the off-and-on appearance of strange lights and magnetic disturbances.

The public, however, must bear in mind that there is a vast difference between examination of evidence by field investigators and lab-coated technicians and the fictional escapades of agents Mulder and Scully in *The X-Files*. The existence of natural phenomena that re-

sist scientific explanation is not sufficient proof of flying saucers and creatures from another galaxy. ("We come in peace. Take me to your leader.")

In science and mathematics, the simplest explanation or solution to a problem is invariably the most correct one. Interstellar travel by outer space creatures is not a simple explanation for anything. It requires the assumption that the universe contains other civilizations, that they have developed the ability to travel faster than the speed of light, that they have discovered materials immune to great heat and friction, and that they have vehicles that can appear and disappear instantly.

One must also assume that all these highly advanced and powerful creatures are too shy to appear before large numbers of sober Americans with good eyesight and stable personalities.

It is the role of science to examine the unexplained and explain the mysterious. Investigating the residue of various UFO sightings, real or imagined, could expand the store of human knowledge and might help to wean Americans from their gullible readiness to leap to fanciful conclusions.

Pair of educators report seeing mysterious flying object

By Michael G. Walsh
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Two North Muskegon educators received a lesson in the unknown late Thursday when something they can't explain drifted over a remote area of northern Muskegon County.

North Muskegon sixth-graders staying at Camp Pandalouan in Blue Lake Township were asleep in cabins Thursday night as principal John Weaver and teacher Michael Schanhals sat outside talking.

About 10:30 p.m., as starlight glistened on a backdrop of clear dark skies, something floated into view

above the treetops at the camp, which is in the Manistee National Forest.

"It was huge, it was up there and it didn't make a sound," Weaver said. "It looked like a flying parametecium (a microscopic animal)."

Both Weaver, 43, and Schanhals, 29, said the object was cylindrically shaped. Lights were visible at the front and back, but the middle glowed with a dull opaque light.

"It gave the impression of shimmering, or gossamer," Weaver said. "There was something between the two lights."

Schanhals said he and Weaver watched the object that made no sound

for about 15 seconds as it drifted in a south-to-north path.

"It was moving slowly. The lights seemed to be dimming and receding and then we lost sight of it," Schanhals said. "It didn't seem to be solid. It seemed like you could see through it. It was strange."

Weaver and Schanhals said they couldn't determine how far away the object was nor its size. They held their arms out in front of them to frame the object between their fingers. It appeared to be about 3 inches long as compared to their fingers, they said.

"We saw a lot of other things — jets,

satellites and planets," Weaver said. "But this thing flew right over our heads. Looking right up underneath, it was shiny."

Weaver said he and Schanhals got a strange feeling as the object disappeared but they continued to watch the sky for its return.

"We had the heebie-jeebies by then," Weaver said. "But we spent the rest of night, until about 12:30 (a.m.), waiting for this thing to float by again...It was most weird."

Nate McClure, executive director of

the Muskegon County 911 Dispatch service, said his operators reported no UFO calls that night.

Still, Weaver said, he'd like some answers.

"I hope we hear from someone else," he said. "I could not explain this one."

McClure said there is probably a natural explanation for the sighting.

"For example, (the other night) I

saw a meteorite," McClure said. "It got very bright, then dim, then that was the end of it. Maybe that was (what the educators saw)."

The Chronicle receives numerous UFO-sighting calls each year. Most are by single observers who saw something unusual in the night sky. These tend to be explainable astronomical events.

But in March 1994, dozens of

West Michigan residents from midstate through Holland reported seeing a glowing cylindrical object that pulsed with light as it drifted in a southwesterly direction at treetop level.

At the same time, a National Weather Service radar operator tracked the object, and described what he saw to authorities who recorded the conversation on a 911 tape.

"Oh my God, what is this?" radar operator Jack Bushong Jr. said as the object — solid and moving — zipped from South Haven to 10 miles west of the city, over Lake Michigan, in 10 seconds and disappeared.

"It's not something that is made up," Holland Police Sgt. Jeffrey Velthouse said in a later interview. "It happened."

MACOMB DAILY, Mt. Clemens, MI - June 30, 1998 CR: C. Grusinski

Visitors?

■ International experts say UFO sightings merit more study.

By Mitch Hotts

Macomb Daily Staff Writer

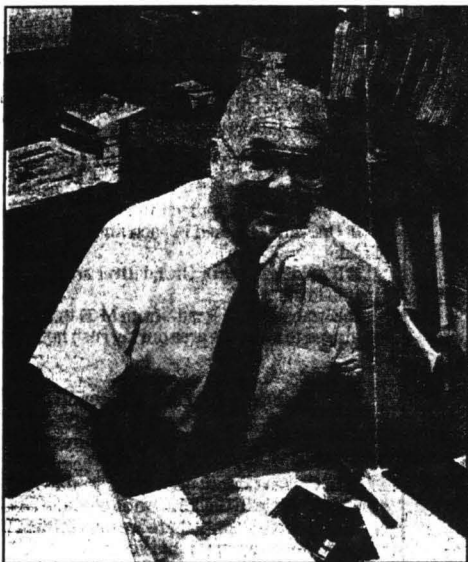
Are we alone in this universe, or is there another form of intelligent life out there, somewhere?

A national study by a team of international scientists found physical evidence in some UFO sightings deserves serious scientific review.

And some Macomb County residents say "it's about time."

"I certainly feel it's about time our government came clean with all of the information they've been holding back," said Jack Thompson, associate dean of design engineering at Macomb Community College.

Thompson, a Warren resident, spent



Macomb Daily staff photo by David Dalton

Jack Thompson, an associate dean at Macomb Community College, said it's likely the government has guarded secrets about UFOs.

years chasing down a flurry of UFO sighting in Macomb County and has visited Roswell, N.M., where a flying saucer reportedly crashed in a cattle ranch.

"I've known there was something to these reports for 30 years now. There's just too much evidence, too many folks with some unique experiences. We need to know," Thompson said.

Others, such as Chester Grusinski of Clinton Township, had real-life encounters with something unusual that caused them to believe that there is an unearthly presence to be found.

"My best guess is there is something unknown to us, people who are not human beings that look like us. I think we will know a lot more in the next year or so," Grusinski said.

The group of scientists, convened in San Francisco to conduct an independent review of UFO phenomena, found no solid proof that extraterrestrial life exists.

But the nine-member panel said a variety of reports — ranging from

Macomb County UFO sightings listed in Project Blue Book

■ March 3, 1950. Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Witness: 1st Lt. Frank Mattison. One intense, dull yellowish light descended vertically, then flew straight and level very fast for four minutes.

■ April 27, 1952. Roseville. Witnesses: H.A. Freytag and three male relatives, including a minister. One silver, oval object descended and stopped. Two silver cigar-shaped objects appeared, one departing to the east and one to the west. A third object flew by a high speed. Sighting lasted 45 minutes.

■ July 3, 1952. SANG. Unidentified witnesses. Two big lights, estimated at 20 feet in diameter, flew

straight and level at tremendous speed.

■ July 27, 1952. SANG. Witnesses: Three B-29 bomber crewmen on ground. Many round, white objects flew straight and level, very fast. Each was seen for about 30 seconds.

■ Aug. 17, 1958. Warren. Witness: A.D. Chisholm. One extremely bright object shaped first like a bell, then like a saucer, hovered for five minutes, flipped over and sped away. Sighting lasted six-10 minutes.

Source: Project Blue Book, a U.S. Air Force program investigating UFOs in 1969.

burns on the skin of supposed UFO witnesses to unusual damage to vegetation — remain unexplained.

The 50-page study, which brought

together astronomers, physicists and experts in other scientific disciplines, will appear in the summer issue of Journal of Scientific Explo-

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - July 1, 1998

A little fantasy never hurt

LOS ANGELES TIMES

It seemed like a promotional stunt for "The X-Files" movie: an international panel of respected scientists calling for "serious scientific study" of UFO-related phenomena. Recipients half-expected to find a "Just kidding!" buried in the 50-page report, issued Monday.

But the panel—composed of members from leading universities like Stanford, Princeton and Cornell—was cosmically serious, concluding that "it may be valuable to carefully evaluate UFO reports to extract information about unusual phenomena currently unknown to science."

For example, the panel wants to know what happened in 1994 when an airplane crew and a military radar operator reported "a gigantic disk" more than 3,000 feet wide hovering over Paris. That doesn't

mean the panelists believe in flying saucers. But they're rightly curious about what makes people think they are seeing something from outer space.

Not that UFO theories will wither in the light of science, for the lure of the unknown seems eternal. Scientific debunking, in fact, has tended to inspire rather than suppress UFO theories—witness all the true-believer books, articles and movies that followed a science panel's 1968 conclusion that no flying saucer had crashed near Roswell, N.M., in 1947. And even the best scientific studies are unlikely to dissuade us from the occasional belief that the colleague in the next chair is an extragalactic alien. Perhaps, as "The X-Files" creator Chris Carter puts it, science will never be able to explain all mysteries. Actually, that's a relief.

ration. It was financed by philanthropist Laurance Rockefeller.

Panel members examined a 1981 photograph taken by a family on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. It showed a silver, oval-shaped object that has a glow and brightness consistent with a reflecting metal object. Scientists were unable to rule out a photographic hoax.

Another sighting, near Paris in 1994, came from an airline captain, co-pilot and flight attendant. All reported seeing an object resembling a gigantic disk with fuzzy edges. Swiss radar detected the object for 50 seconds.

"It is a puzzle," said Stanford University physicist Peter Sturrock, a member of the San Francisco panel.

In addition to reports of strangely damaged vegetation, the scientists reviewed ground traces of soil disturbance and physiological effects on witnesses such as marks, memory loss and double vision.

But skeptics said the study did not include any convincing evidence about UFOs. And the panel members may have a vested interest, according to the Committee for

Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

"Many of these people are editors of journals that have a skewed outlook and are believers of the phenomena," CSICP spokesman Matthew Nisbett said. "And the timing comes a week after the movie, 'X-Files' came out, so there's a lot of popular interest in the subject."

"But I must ask: Where's the news? What are they adding to the discussion? I have yet to see anything," Nisbett said.

Certainly national interest in UFOs seems to be at an all-time high. A recent Time magazine poll found 34 percent of Americans believe intelligent beings from other planets have visited Earth.

Grusinski, a Clinton Township auto shop worker, agrees.

He was an 18-year-old Navy seaman aboard the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1958 says he saw a glowing, cigar-shaped figure, 100 feet long, approach the ship. When it flew off, Grusinski says he felt heat on his skin.

He has sought out witnesses, collected documents from witnesses and examined photographs.

"I get teased at work about this all the time," Grusinski said. "But I've been told there will be some Congressional hearings on the subject soon. Maybe there's more proof yet to come."

Associated Press contributed to this report.

UFO Encounter '98 under way

SANTA FE — Roswell's UFO Encounter '98 opened Wednesday and continues through Monday.

Between the yearly Encounter and the International UFO Museum and Research Center, Roswell has become a household word, not only nationally but



INSIDE THE CAPITOL

JAY MILLER

internationally. State Secretary of Tourism John Garcia said that during his travels he has watched Roswell come to the forefront. "It used to be Santa Fe was all they talked about," Garcia said. "It is truly Roswell, New Mexico — that is what they talk about now."

A lecture series of distinguished speakers will again be offered. The featured speaker was to have been retired Col. Phil Corso, author of a book released shortly before last year's Encounter titled, "The Day After Roswell," in which he describes being in charge of transferring alien technology from the Roswell spacecraft to private industry. But Corso recently suffered a serious heart attack and won't be making any engagements for some time.

Another speaker, Peter Gersten, an Arizona attorney who heads Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, has filed suit against the U.S. Army seeking documents referred to by Corso in his book. Robert Dean, a retired Army officer who was assigned to NATO in the mid-'60s, will speak about secret reports he saw that convinced him at least four extraterrestrial races are among us. He is campaigning full time for open congressional hearings to force

the government to divulge its UFO secrets.

The closest those congressional hearings may have come to reality was not long after Rep. Steve Schiff unsuccessfully sought to uncover Air Force documents on Roswell. Schiff told me that Rep. Dan Burton of Indiana asked him for his file on Roswell because he was interested in conducting hearings of his Government Reform and Oversight Committee into the coverup.

But Burton got sidetracked trying to find a conspiracy in Vince Foster's death and now is conducting an inquiry into White House fund-raising activities. I didn't get the opportunity after the onset of Rep. Schiff's cancer to ask him if he ever turned his Roswell file over to Burton. After the flap over Burton's release of the Webster Hubbell prison tapes, he may want to stay away from anything as high-profile as a UFO investigation.

In addition to congressional

hearings and lawsuits to get the truth about Roswell, the grand jury route also is being pursued. So far organizers, headed by Larry Bryant of Alexandria, Va., have been unsuccessful in convincing U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno to convene a federal grand jury.

They also tried the U.S. Attorney in Virginia, the home of the Pentagon, and John Kelly, the U.S. attorney in New Mexico, but struck out both places.

The current effort is to call for a Chaves County grand jury probe. New Mexico is one of only two states that provide for convening a grand jury by citizen petition — and it takes only 200 signatures.

The petition method is sometimes used in New Mexico when district attorneys are reluctant to act. Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, headed by Gersten, and Operation Right to Know, operating out of the Washington, D.C., area, are supporting the effort.

Roswell's International UFO Museum and Research Center has declined to head the local effort because of its limited mission as a provider of information, so organizers are looking for someone from the Roswell area who is interested in getting the petition process started.

Even though the IUFOM-RC's mission is limited, its dreams aren't. The museum is planning a \$15 million expansion project that will include a high-tech computer research facility, interactive museum and gift shop, office complex, a children's museum and an auditorium. Just a year and a half ago the museum moved into larger quarters in an old theater, which many felt would always be too large.

But last year, the 50th anniversary of whatever didn't happen at Roswell, the museum tripled its attendance to almost 200,000 and this year's attendance is running 60 percent higher.

SKYWATCH DIARY

by Carole Baker



A sighting at Shoreline Park was witnessed by five people on the evening of May 12, 1998. The witnesses were all regular skywatchers, including my husband, Ken Baker, our friends, Tom, Judy Francouer and Pat Gerbig, and Harold Bosch. All except Harold were observing the event through binoculars. The sighting began at 8:55 p.m. and lasted for approximately two minutes. It should be borne in mind that the moon on this night was one day past full, and therefore, the just past full moon was shining brightly in a clear sky at the time of this sighting.

At 8:55 p.m. to the left of the Holiday Inn on Santa Rosa Island, a single, bright reddish orange light appeared and glowed up brightly, fading down and away after a few seconds. The light was a single light, several times larger than a star in size. It appeared at about ten degrees above the horizon, below the bright moon. There were no aircraft visible in the vicinity of the light at all. The light reappeared again a few seconds later and pulsed on and off again. Approximately 15-20 seconds later it reappeared further towards the northeast and at slightly higher elevation. It reappeared again after several seconds, showing the same pattern of glowing up and fading out, appearing to pulsate. This was repeated again, with this final time appearing to be over the south end of the Bob Sikes Bridge and higher in the sky at approximately thirteen to fifteen degrees elevation. There was no sound associated with this sighting and no aircraft in the area during it. This appeared to the witnesses to be the same light (object)

travelling on a north/north-easterly course, and blinking on and off intermittently along its path. It was a solid light when lit, with no apparent flickering or drifting. Approximately fifteen minutes later, however, a helicopter did appear in the area which was clearly visible and audible.

I received two interesting reports this week of what we have come to term "tinkerbell" type sightings, i.e. small objects at close range. One is from Australia and one from here in the United States.

The Australian sighting took place in the Brisbane, Australia suburb of Sunnybank Hills in 1996. The witness, Geoffrey Ebert was outside in his yard, hanging laundry out to dry. It was about 6:30 p.m. in the evening when Geoffrey noticed a ball about one hundred and fifty feet away that appeared to be "not material but pure energy." It drifted behind some tree branches and was totally silent and about the size of a beachball. The ball of energy then just disappeared "as if someone turned off a light, leaving no outline of any physical object." Geoffrey says, "I wasn't the only one having reported it. I was so amazed by it, I let out with a "what the — is that," then got embarrassed that my neighbors heard me!"

The second report came to me from Mike Robertson, friend and itinerant astronomer who is currently camping somewhere in the State of Oregon. (For his own purposes, Mike does not wish his location made public at this time.) The event occurred on Monday, May 5, 1998 and Mike's account is so eloquent, I am going to quote it directly.

"At my campsite as I stepped to the stone ring of the cold campfire, I noticed something coming out of my peripheral vision to my right into the clearing that is the horseshoe-shape

of this site. Before I realize, it is past me. The black streak I saw changed elevations and directions, and although it was right in front of my face at one time, five or so feet off the ground, this object left the campsite over the tops of the trees at the closed end of the horseshoe. What I saw was a black ball about the size of a tennis ball, changing directions, altitude and moving at about 150 m.p.h. I felt a shock wave...but what I didn't say was that as the object got to a position almost in front of me my lungs began to inflate (only a small amount of air), then as the object passed by, they began to deflate (and again, only a small amount.) The whole event occurred in less than two seconds." Mike continues with this story, "No sound. The functions of my lungs were totally spontaneous. The effects on the skin were of a nature of shock wave. This thing acted conscious by avoiding me. I was right in its path...it did a little arc around me. At that time the object was about 4/5 feet in altitude, and after finishing its arc it returned to its original path and dropped to about three feet off the ground, then continued for about fifteen feet and shot up at a 75 degree angle until it cleared the 35 foot trees and then corrected its degree of flight to about 30 degrees and disappeared." Mike is totally amazed at this experience, and of course, wonders if anyone else has had anything similar occur to them. I have heard of several similar encounters, which are all extremely interesting, because whatever these type of objects are, it seems they are intent on closer contact that the usual distant ufos/lights/objects that people often report experiencing.

I can be contacted by e-mail at bakerswd@bellsouth.com or my regular mail at P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, FL. 32522-7152.

Keep Looking Up!

TRIBUNE, Albuquerque, NM
July 7, 1998 CR: K. Pflock

UFO gala draws 10,000 to Roswell

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROSWELL — Some 10,000 visitors filled Roswell motel rooms through the weekend for the '98 edition of the city's UFO Encounter, commemorating the purported crash of a flying saucer.

"I consider it a success," said Johnny Johnson, director of the Roswell Convention and Civic Center. "We had 90 percent of the motel rooms filled up in the last four days."

Back in July 1947, so the story goes, the government recovered a UFO and alien bodies from an isolated Roswell-area ranch, then covered up the whole thing.

The 30-plus vendors who exhibited at the UFO Expo and Trade Show were about evenly divided between those who reported financial success and failure, director says.

Last year's 50th anniversary celebration brought in 48,000 people, according to the state Department of Tourism, although Johnson believes that number might be inflated. The anniversary also prompted

more than 1,000 articles from March through December 1997, reaching 46.1 million people.

Johnson said this year's celebration, which ended Sunday, can't be compared to last year's.

"This is not the 50th anniversary," he said. "You can't expect the same amount of people. The media didn't cover the event like they did last year."

The 30-plus vendors who exhibited at the UFO Expo and Trade Show were about evenly divided between those who reported financial success and failure, he said.

But for future events to succeed, there's got to be more than UFO souvenirs because merchandising doesn't bring in visitors, Johnson said. He'd like to see speakers, exhibits and presentations based on mankind's space travel experiences.

"We need to mix science fiction with science. ... We need to offer attractions that are educational and show that reality is just as wild as the imagination is," he said.



FOREIGN NEWS

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

Yukon UFO sightings has researcher interested

By JOHN McHUTCHION
Star Reporter

Martin Jasek is a collector. But his interest isn't in stamps, coins or hockey cards.

Jasek is a collector of information on unidentified flying objects.

For the past two years, he's been compiling data on sightings of unexplained phenomenon in the territory.

Now, the 35-year-old man is appealing to the general public to offer their stories of strange things they've seen in the Yukon.

Jasek and Lorraine Bretlyn are trying to document incidents of UFOs in the territory. The information they gather is forwarded to Winnipeg, where Chris Rutkowski, research coordinator for a group called UFOlogy Research of Manitoba, compiles the data into a report on UFO incidents from across Canada. In 1997, 284 sightings were reported across the country.



MARTIN JASEK

Last year, Jasek and Bretlyn reported eight UFO incidents in the territory alone.

"If you dig into the cases, you find

that an overwhelming number of them are unexplainable ... in a conventional sense," Jasek said in an interview this week.

That doesn't mean Earth is being visited by aliens, but merely that some of the cases have left people baffled.

When Jasek and Bretlyn received a report of a UFO, they conducted interviews with the people who reported it. In one case, Jasek said, a family which saw something on March 30, 1997 has been interviewed three times.

Jasek related that a mother and her three kids were visiting Takhini Hot Springs for a swim. They were headed home to Whitehorse, and almost to the Takhini River Bridge, when they noticed a white light about the size of a satellite dish on the riverbank. The family reported that the object followed them all the way down the Mayo Road and Alaska Highway to Whitehorse. When the mother last saw it, the object was apparently heading off towards Grey Mountain.

"The topic deserves serious exploration."

- Martin Jasek

"They (the mother and children) don't know what it is and they're just totally amazed," said Jasek, adding that he doesn't think the family could have made up the story and recounted it to him in elaborate detail.

Jasek has gone as far as visiting the Takhini River Bridge to take photographs and hopes to revisit the site at some point with the family.

An employee of the federal government, Jasek said he developed his interest in UFOs after seeing some doc-

umentaries on the topic. A five-year resident of the territory, Jasek, however, hasn't seen any unexplained objects himself yet.

He believes that only one in 10 potential UFO sightings are ever reported, and that scientists should make more of an effort to study them.

Scientists tend to shy away from UFO study out of concern for their reputation, said Jasek.

"The topic deserves serious exploration."

One might expect that people would dismiss UFO investigators as people who may have watched one too many episodes of the X-files. But Jasek said that's not what he's encountered. People here seem more receptive to UFO work now than they may have been in the past, he said.

Anybody who wants to report a UFO sighting can call Jasek at 633-2472 or Bretlyn at 667-4680. Names of people who call will remain confidential.

WHAT'S On BOOKS

Inside story

Brian Paine, editor of *Unexplained Kent*, has a down-to-earth meeting with Timothy Good, right, who was educated at King's School, Canterbury and is author of a controversial book, *Alien Base*



Edited by Deborah Penn

Are aliens based here on Earth?

YOU have to hand it to the aliens - they recognise a nice little place for a base when they see one.

Take Puerto Rico, for example. Lazing in the Caribbean, close to the fashionable holiday haven of the Dominican Republic, this island in the sun is, seemingly, a hot-bed of activity for all manner of strange visitors.

Timothy Good, who has been investigating the extraterrestrial enigma for

nigh on 40 years, says aliens are working and living in a huge underground base on the island.

"There is no question that, since the 1950s, Puerto Rico has seen a proliferation of different types of entities and UFO sightings," said this son of an RAF officer. "I have been there four or five times now and I am satisfied that many of the witnesses are telling the truth."

He reckons Puerto Rico is just one of several alien bases in the world, although, thankfully, the UK is not on his list.

Timothy's own base is Beckenham where he lives with his German girlfriend, Dorothee. They share two flats in a quiet corner of town - he filled up the first with books and cuttings about UFOs, so he had to buy the facing one across the landing.

Tall, with well-chiselled features and looking younger than his 56 years, Timothy is deadly serious about his conclusion that Planet Earth has been visited and used, perhaps for many thousands of years, by several species of aliens, both benign and malign. In fact, he thinks as many as a dozen races, some with features similar to ours, have landed: "My feeling is that, at various stages of our evolution, we may have been colonised to a certain degree."

Twice in his life he thinks he has been in the presence of aliens. The first occasion was in 1963 in California while touring with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. He saw someone he described as "exceptional in appearance," a petite woman with extremely pale skin.

He transmitted the thought, "Are you from somewhere else?" and the woman responded by coming over to his cafe table. She looked at him, bowed gracefully, smiled and then walked out.

Four years later, in New York, he again tried the thought test and this time a smartly suited man he described as "straight out of Madison Avenue," with tanned skin, grey-green eyes and aged about 35, came and sat beside him. "In my mind I asked him if he was from another world and, if so, to indicate this by placing his right index finger on the right side of his nose. No sooner had I thought it, than he did just that."

"I regret to this day that I did not engage him in a conversation. I just sat there like a lemon. After a few minutes, he got up, looked at me very seriously and then walked away."

Close encounters, the stories about Puerto Rico and reports by military personnel are all to be found in this thought-provoking book. Some of the most unnerving cases involve abductions.

● *Alien Base* is published by Century (£16.99).

WOKING INFORMER, Brocklands, England - Feb. 20, 1998



WATCH THE SKIES: Mandy Robinson (below) spotted lights hovering over Brooklands

FROM BEYOND THE STORES

SUPERMARKET shoppers witnessed a UFO light up the sky last Wednesday, hovering eerily over Brooklands.

Mandy Robinson, 26, a cartoonist from Cobham, was driving her boyfriend home at 8pm when she was blinded by a bright white light.

She said: "I did a double-take and cried out 'Oh my god' at what looked like a flying saucer."

"I pulled over and got out to get a better look. It kept disappearing and appearing again at a different place."

"I was shaking from head to foot and all I could think was 'I hope I get

UFO spotted at Tesco

abducted by aliens'. "I was looking at my watch to check whether I had lost any time."

A barber - who would identify himself only as Mark - was at home with four friends in Oyster Lane, Byfleet, when he saw strange lights, at the same time as Mandy.

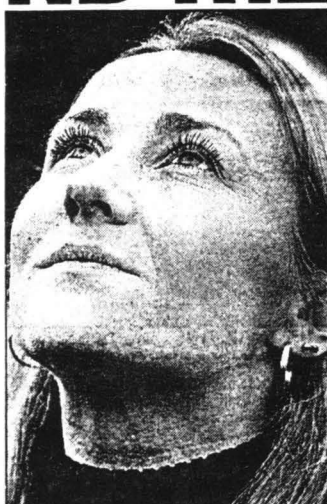
"We all saw a cigar-shaped thing lit with an orange glow," he said.

"At first I thought it was a balloon, but it kept vanishing then reappearing."

"It moved six miles in the blink of an eye then just hovered. It was really strange."

Fairoaks airport, in Chobham, denies all knowledge of the craft.

Spokesman Gareth Aggett said: "It certainly wasn't one of ours. If it had landed here, we'd have charged them."



UFO group investigates report of object over city

CORNWALL'S UFO Research Group has reported a sighting of an unusual cylindrical object in the sky over Truro on Tuesday. The group was contacted by a woman who says she saw the UFO between 4pm and 4.15pm while waiting in her car for her son to come out of Trevelyan School. "It was a grey, cloudy sky, and she saw the black, cylinder shape between two houses. It had no tail fin and no wings," said David Gillham of the UFO research group. He said the woman's son had also seen the object from the school football field. Mr Gillham would be interested to hear from anyone else who saw the UFO and he can be contacted on 01872 276381.

WEST BRITON, Truro, England - March 26, 1998

UFOs OVER CHESHIRE

FLYING saucer spotters are looking to the skies after a spate of UFO sightings in Northwich has sparked fresh interest in the phenomenon.

The British Unidentified Flying Objects Studies Centre (BUFOSC) has been set up in the town by 44-year-old former psychiatric nurse Eric Morris to thoroughly investigate and research all reported UFO sightings.

It is based at his home in Greenall Road after he moved from Winsford where he has been holding regular meetings for several years.

Eric said: 'There has been a rise in the number of reported sightings of UFOs in this area and local interest is increasing.'

There have been two mysterious sightings reported in the past month.

One was on January 11 at the Sandybrow crossroads of the A54 and A49 at Oakmere. A man from North Wales was travelling to Weaverham to visit his girlfriend when he saw a strange dark grey triangular object in the sky at around 1pm.

The most recent sighting happened on January 31 near Oulton Park and was reported by a couple who were driving to Shrewsbury. They also reported seeing a triangular-shaped object.

'Both of these cases are still being investigated but are typical of recent reports of UFO activity in the area,' says Eric.

The sightings are nothing like as bizarre as reports of 'alien abductions' which BUFOSC members are also investigating. They include a case in North Wales in September 1994 where a young man was missing for two hours.

Due to the fear of ridicule, his mystify-

ing tale has only recently been told. He was aged 17 at the time and was cycling home through the hills when he heard the sound of trees crashing down in the distance and the ground began to vibrate.

He was alarmed by the feeling of something swooping over his head and he dismounted from his bike. He claims he saw a large silver ball hovering over the mountainside which then materialised into a futuristic looking space craft. He then describes an encounter with two aliens with whom he was able to telepathically communicate.

After the incident he drew pictures of the two tall creatures.

'I am fascinated by reports of this kind and try to investigate each case fully and, if possible, find rational explanations,' said Eric. 'In this case I was able to discover factual evidence to back up the account.'

The research includes regular contact with organisations such as the Ministry of Defence and Manchester Airport who can both often offer logical explanations for UFO sightings.

'In the end only about 10 per cent of reported sightings remain unsolved,' explains Eric.

The British Unidentified Flying Objects Studies Centre holds regular monthly meetings at the Wings Club in Station Road, Northwich as well as organising sky watches and investigative trips. At the latest meet more than 40 people attended and many said they had also recently seen triangular-shaped UFOs.

There are also plans for a Channel Four documentary on BUFOSC's work for early next year. Eric Morris would like to hear about any sightings. He can be contacted by ringing 330567.

Spotters look to the sky after spate of sightings over town



EYE SPY: Scanning the skies, Northwich UFO expert Eric Morris. 0782C7A

Couple spot UFO flying over town

When Kay Landon looked into the night sky she couldn't quite explain what she saw.

After studying the object for three minutes from the garden of her home in Willowbrook Drive, Cavendish Park, Cheltenham, she could only come up with one explanation - a UFO.

She said: 'I've always been really sceptical but I know what I saw. It was absolutely massive, shaped like a disc with a dome on the top and the bottom and about 50 windows in it.'

Kay, 28, was alerted to the greyish-white flying saucer by her boyfriend Dave Hammond, 29, at 8.45pm on Friday.

Dave tried to video the object, which appeared to be flying over the Golden Valley, but it shot off before it could be filmed.

Kay said: 'When I saw it I was shocked but not frightened. I know it sounds really silly but there's no doubt in my mind what it was.'

Robin Cole, head of investigations for Cheltenham-based UFO group Circular Forum, said: 'It was extremely foggy on Friday night so any lights from a craft could distort its shape.'

'These are just the sort of sightings we're after. We would love to have a chat with Kay.'

Anyone who thinks they saw the object should contact Mr Cole on 0973 778906.



Dave Hammond and Kay Landon with children Madison and Hannah

Picture: Tony Charnock 980374/15

Graham Birdsall's wife was not best pleased when the ink from his stencil set left a backwards imprint of his UFO newsletter on the top of her kitchen units. In those days, Graham and his friends - a group of six like-minded researchers and enthusiasts - worked from the kitchens and living rooms of available homes to produce a pamphlet detailing the various sightings of mysterious objects in the skies above our cities.

But from humble beginnings come great things and now, little more than 20 years later, Graham finds himself in the hot seat as editor of Otley-based UFO Magazine, currently boasting a readership of 100,000 world-wide.

Billed as "the world's biggest selling UFO publication", the bi-monthly magazine is distributed to 32 countries from its base at the Wharfebank Business Centre, Ilkley Road. And business has never been better. "It was a big risk, but in the early Eighties we decided to pool our savings together and pour them into setting up a full-time business," said Graham of his fellow group of volunteer researchers.

"Initially, the magazine was launched as a subscription only publication, but in 1991 it became a news stand magazine, and from then on we've never looked back. The success of the magazine mirrors the dramatic growth in interest in UFOs over the past few years.

"In this area alone, there have been frequent sightings of mysterious objects in the sky - we're currently investigating a case which occurred on February 2 this year when hundreds of witnesses said they'd seen lights passing over Bradford going towards Leeds.

"Witnesses as far away as Manchester said they saw two bright lights passing over the district, which then shot off in different directions. Checks with the RAF and Leeds-Bradford airport show that no aircraft were scheduled to be in the air at that time, so a conventional explanation has yet to be found."

But why the sudden increase in interest in the subject over the past few years? Is it really the case that alien life forms have suddenly created more sophisticated space craft with which to penetrate our solar system or is it more a case of PMT - Pre-Millennium Tension?

Graham said: "Some people have put it down to pre-millennium nerves, and TV programmes such as the X-Files and Hollywood films have helped to maintain an interest and fire people's imaginations. "But there's also been a lot of scientific revelations in recent years which have added to the interest - it's only in the last five years, for example, that we have discovered planets outside our solar system.

"Satellites are now showing that there could be biological life underneath the moon's crust, and there was the recent finding of meteorite fragments on Antarctica, which also contained evidence that biological life forms could exist on other planets outside the earth.

"From all this evidence, I think it would be very

RECENT SIGHTINGS

On the night of February 2 this year, hundreds of people from Bradford, Leeds and Manchester said they had seen two bright lights travelling across the night sky in the direction of Leeds. These two objects suddenly split apart and flew off in opposite directions.

In December 1987, a photograph depicting the image of an alien being getting into a spacecraft on Ilkley Moor was found to have been untampered with.

On the night of July 19, 1995, hundreds of residents in Sutton-in-Craven were stunned by a mystery explosion and flash of light in the sky above their houses. Police and fire crew were called to the scene, but no logical cause of the explosion could be found.

difficult to deny that life in some form does exist out there.

And although there are a hell of a lot of people who claim to have seen UFOs and who in many cases are really only seeing nocturnal lights or satellites, there's still a small residue of sightings which defy explanation."

Dr John Baruch, director of Robotic Observatories and head of Bradford University's Cybernetics and Visual Systems Unit, also insists that life in some form does exist in other parts of the Universe.

"You've got to be a real cynic not to agree to this," he said. "As far as UFOs go, I like to keep an open mind - I used to do a great deal of work with UFO groups based in this area and what I said to them was that to be taken seriously they needed to have two independent witnesses to the same sighting for it to have any credibility in the first place. No-one has yet to come back to me with these independent statements.

"In terms of the wind-up to the Millennium, I

think light pollution from cities, satellites, shooting stars and the like fire people's excitement and lead them to think they're seeing something they're not.

"But we still have a lot to discover about the sky and, as a scientist, I think it's what we don't know that's more exciting, rather than what we do know.

Nevertheless, it seems that there are an awful lot of people out there who are convinced that extraordinary occurrences are not out of the ordinary. Graham Sellars, a 24-year-old journalist from Sutton-in-Craven, recalls the night of July 19, 1995, when he and hundreds of other residents were witness to a dramatic explosion coming from the skies above their heads, an explosion which defied firefighters and police who were called to the scene.

"Hundreds of people stood outside their homes that night after seeing the lights across Sutton Moor, yet the police and fire brigade could give no explanation as to what went on.

"It's events like these which generate such interest among the general public. There are so many questions and not enough answers - I'm not saying there were alien crafts above the Moor that night but the lack of explanation leads to a greater curiosity."

And that greater curiosity is what provides the fuel behind Mr Birdsall's ever-expanding business in Otley. "There's a massive interest in the subject and we want to serve that interest," he said.

"It's important for us to get as much information into the public domain as possible because we're as interested in the subject as they are. We may have come a long way from the kitchen table days but there's still a lot more ground to cover yet."

UFO FACTS

- More than 30,000 classified documents referring to UFO sightings have been released by the American Government since a freedom of information act was passed in the USA in the mid 1970s.
- 3,500 reports of UFO sightings have been filed to date by military pilots world-wide.
- More than 400 radar recordings have been made of unidentified flying objects by ground crew world-wide.
- In an ITV poll held on June 28, 1997, asking viewers whether they thought aliens had ever visited the earth, 92 per cent said yes.

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - March 29, 1998 CR: G. Conway

Were they really UFOs? EXN will tell all



By Terry Taylor
Cybertalk Columnist

Canadian flying saucers were behind Alberta farmers' fears that they were being invaded by UFOs in the 70s.

At least, that's what EXN: Exploration Network (<http://www.exn.ca>) suspects happened.

And they plan to reveal all between today and April 1.

EXN, the Discovery Channel Canada's web site, said in a news release yesterday that the saucers were an experimental project carried out by Poisson Aerospace, a Canadian aerospace company.

The company carried out experiments on an abandoned farm near Gilton, Alta. The program, code-named Project Snowflake, is said to have been a \$136-million initiative to develop a Canadian

surveillance craft, EXN says.

"Inside sources reveal that only a handful of senior aerospace experts was privy to this top secret program, which allegedly ran between 1971 and 1975.

"During this time a working prototype of the craft was developed and flight tested at night in and around Gilton, Alta.

"Poisson executives decided to scrap Project Snowflake in 1975 after stories began to circulate about local farmers seeing strange lights in the sky at night and circular markings in the snow," said the release signed by a Lewis Belmont.

Belmont promised EXN "will unveil exclusive details of the program, photos and all of the latest developments to blow the lid off Project Snowflake..."

All of this by April 1.

MYSTERY: January 1974...an explosion...fear...UFO?

A QUARTER of a century ago, on a cold, unsuspecting mid-January night a massive explosion shook the earth of the Berwyn mountains. What followed didn't just awaken fears in Corwen and Bala but has proved country-wide intrigue since 1974. Following countless theories about what happened that night at Cader Bronwen, near the village of Llandderfel, many local people believe events were 'swept under the carpet'.

Berwyn alien cover-up?

FOCUS, London, England - May 1998

Fishing with an alien

"Oh help me, help me!" It was June 1920, and 16-year-old Albert Coe was on a canoeing vacation in Ontario with his companion Rod. Alone at the time, Coe heard the muffled cry while clambering to the top of an out-cropping of rocks in remote terrain on the Mattawa River. Slightly to his right he heard a cry: "Oh help me, I'm down here."

"I had walked about 25 feet in the direction of the voice when I came to a cleft in the base rock," said Coe. "Wedged down this crevice was a young man."

"When I eventually freed him, his legs were so numb he was unable to stand." The first thing he asked for was water.

"He wore an odd silver-grey garment that had a sheen of silk to it. Just under the chest was a small instrument panel. Several knobs and dials were broken."

"I asked where he was from. He said he had a plane parked in a clearing downstream, and had started out the previous morning to do some fishing. He'd almost given up hope of getting out alive. When he cried out, my answering yell was like a miracle."

By now, the circulation was returning to the stranger's numbed limbs. Although occasionally grimacing from pain, the man's composure was astonishing. An offer to help him back to his plane was at first declined. "He didn't want to impose on me and said I should think of starting back."

"From the condition of his leg I doubted that he could even walk."

He took two steps, swayed and grabbed a tree to keep from going down. I threw one arm around his waist. He finally gave in, but made me give my solemn word that I would not divulge to anyone anything that had taken place." Agreeing, Coe half-carried the man downstream to his aircraft.

Fully expecting it to be some type of conventional plane, Coe was astounded by what he saw.

"A round silver disc, about 20 feet in diameter, was standing on three legs, without propeller, engine, wings or fuselage. As we approached, I noticed a number of small slots around the rim, and it sloped up to a rounded central dome. I had to duck to walk with him underneath, between the legs, although it was slightly

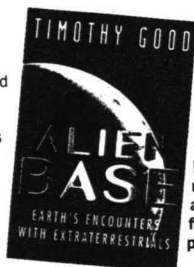
The Norcans' breeding with earth people created a blond, fair race

concave and only about four and a half feet from the ground.

"He pressed a button, and a door swung down with two ladder rungs moulded on its inner surface. I clasped my hands under his good foot and boosted him in. He peered down at me over the rim of the opening, and said, 'I will never forget you for this day. Remember to keep your promise, and stand clear when I take off.'" Coe retraced his steps to the trees at the edge of the clearing and turned to watch.

"Just then, the perimeter edge began to revolve. At first it gave off a low whistling sound, picked up speed mounting to a high-pitched whine, finally going above the audible capabilities of the ear. At that time I experienced a throbbing sensation, which was felt rather than heard. It seemed to compress me within myself. As it lifted a few feet above the ground, it paused with a slight fluttering, the legs folded into the recesses as it swiftly rose with the effortless ease of thistle-down caught in an updraught of air, and was gone."

Coe set off back towards camp in a state of bewilderment. "It all seemed like a pantomime of unrealities," he commented. "It was an episode lasting not much more than an hour that may have carried me a thousand years into the future, and yet left an uneasy feeling of witnessing something that did not actually exist, an impression of



A new book documents the amazing relationship between a man and a refugee from a dying planet

disconnected sequences only found in dreams."

In later meetings, Zret explained that his race had originated on a planet called Norca, slightly smaller than Earth, with four moons, orbiting 85 million miles around Tau Ceti (a star about 11 light years from ours). Fourteen thousand years ago, Norca began dehydrating slowly, inexorably, to the extent that drastic action was necessary to preserve the race. Everything

was tried to counteract the effects of dehydration, but nothing worked. The only solution was to migrate to another solar system. Ours was chosen.

Eventually, after a successful exploratory mission to Earth, during which contact was established briefly with Cro-Magnon humans, the expedition returned to Norca. It was decided that Norcans would colonize Earth. 243,000 Norcans left their planet in 62 huge spacecraft. But only one Norcan Ark made it. Even then, it crashed on Mars, killing 1,300 of the 5,000 or so on board.

"Succeeding generations," Zret explained, "advanced to the scientific potential of launching probes to Venus and Earth, both of which were subsequently colonised. In the primary stages of this expansion, bases of research were established on Venus to study its atmosphere, [but] the main colonisation concentrated on Earth."

If Coe - and Zret - are to be believed, these colonization areas were, in chronological order, the mythological continent of Lemuria (at a point about 1,000 miles east of the Marshall Islands); northern Tibet; and the Lebanon. Norcans reproduced with native inhabitants, Zret explained. The indigenous Earth people at that time had black or brown hair and eyes, and the interbreeding led to a blond-haired, fair-skinned people. Timothy Good's *Alien Base* is published by Century, £16.99

Secrecy over the incident has fuelled debate and many nearby residents believe that this is proved by what was claimed to be a large armed forces presence in the area.

Officially the event was described as no more than a meteorite which had fallen to earth but some eyewitnesses claim to have seen the object then rise up and shoot back across the sky.

These strange accounts attracted widespread interest which were commented upon by an unnamed member of the armed forces in *UFO Magazine*.

He claimed that troops were ordered to north Wales on the January and told to stay at Llangollen, where they were split into four groups.

Secrecy

Shortly after 11.30pm he says that he and four others were ordered to move to the village of Llandderfel and, under strict secrecy orders, were told to take two long narrow boxes to Porton Down - a chemical and biological defence base.

He further claimed that when the boxes were opened at the base two dead creatures had been placed in

"There isn't an explanation to the mystery. I don't know what it was"

contamination suits, which he described as not from this world.

The soldier also claimed that more bodies had been brought to Porton Down following the incident but which version of events do local people believe about the Berwyn's own *Close Encounter*?

Pat Evans is a district nurse from Llandderfel, and remembers the fateful night clearly.



Pat Evans of Llandderfel recalls the mysterious event

"I lived in Derfel Gadarn at the time and I remember the explosion and the trembling as it was yesterday," she said.

"Everywhere was quiet and I was sure it was an aeroplane crash which caused the

Tales tell of a UFO landing which saw an alien being killed on the mountain suggests the Berwyn Mountains has its very own X-file, so, *Lowri Rees* of the *Denbighshire Free Press*' sister paper *Y Cymro* had a closer look.

explosion. As I was a nurse I had to go and see what happened to offer help."

Mrs Evans headed for the mountain with daughters Tina and Diane, who were in their early teens. "The girls were nervous in the car and worried about seeing the blood but as we reached the county border I saw a large orange thing on the mountain."



Jac Jones of Bala's crockery smashed

"Nobody else was there and it was big and round with some kind of halo surrounding it, beating lightly. There were lights similar to fairy lights moving towards it but there was no engine sound and the whole area was quiet," she added.

Mrs Evans said she regrets to this day not staying more than 10 minutes looking at the object and is curious as to what it was.

"There is no explanation to the mystery on the mountain and I don't know what

it was. "If it was a UFO on the mountain that night - great, I've now seen one."

Explosion

Jac Jones of Bala, who lived about a mile from the site at Cefnddwysarn at the time, said that he had heard the explosion while out having dinner in Rhiwlas and when he returned home saw crockery had fallen in the dresser.

Local photographer Evan Dobson said he was travelling in the car with his fiancée, now his wife, and saw a light coming from the Berwyn mountains. He was later told that there had been a large explosion.

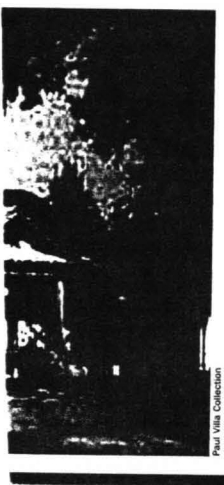
"A lot has been said about the army's involvement and many people claiming they had seen nothing at all. The whole thing has been kept very quiet but I take stories of a crater and spaceship with a pinch of salt," he said.

"More likely is that it was a flare and that the light was very bright and could be seen from a distance. I'm sure that the events were part of an army exercise."

Interest in the events has to this day aroused national interest, with Mr Andy Roberts of West Yorkshire seeking more information for a book he is writing.

"This event has been variously described as an earth tremor, a meteor and a UFO incident - or a mixture of all three," he said. "I intend to write the definitive account of this event and say such would welcome any Denbighshire Free Press readers' recollections or opinions about the event."

Little it seems can be done to quell various theories of the events which are often considered anything but 'down to earth'!



Paul Villa Collection

MORE ON THOSE SAUCERS ...

by Kevin Kell

The prediction that hasn't become reality

Last year was the 50th anniversary of Kenneth Arnold's famous sighting of nine crescent-shaped objects over the Cascade mountains in the United States northwest, a sighting which inaugurated the era of the flying saucer.

Since then there have been many thousands of dif-



icult-to-explain sightings both in the air and on the ground.

At first it was widely believed that these were sightings of secret aircraft of some kind either belonging to the United States (which some certainly were, and this was a time when new shapes and means of propulsion were being experimented with) or the Soviet Union (which was much less likely in the West, though the Soviet Union did have - and continues to have - UFOs of its own).

Flying saucers burst upon the world when the cold war was hotting up; a time when deep anxiety lay hidden beneath the confident surface of the increasing prosperity of the post-war West.

By the early fifties the idea became established that flying saucers were extraterrestrial craft, either sightseeing or on a mission to warn us of the stupidity of our nuclear ways. This was aided by the publication of sensational books like Behind the Flying Saucers by Frank Scully.

Films such as The Day The Earth Stood Still and It Came From Outer Space

used this idea for dramatic effect, and helped to fit it in the popular imagination.

Today the whole subject of flying saucers is linked in the minds of most people with extraterrestrial invaders; the oft asked question, "Do you believe in flying saucers?" really means "Do you believe that flying saucers are spaceships visiting us from other worlds?"

There are, however, a number of arguments against the extraterrestrial hypothesis as ufologists have called it.

First is the sheer number of sightings - even allowing for the fact that many are misinterpretations of perfectly ordinary phenomena such as aircraft, car headlights, Venus etc (or less ordinary phenomena such as ball lightning and large meteors).

We are finding out just how difficult and consuming of resources interplanetary travel is.

When man entered the space age in the late fifties many confidently predicted that space travel - with a permanent base on the moon - would be a reality by the year 2000.

This has not happened; apart from the Apollo programme man has not got beyond a low Earth orbit, and is not likely to do so for many years to come.

Are we really so interesting that a seemingly large number of extraterrestrial civilisations would spend so much time and effort getting here just to frighten children and old ladies and generally to behave in an enigmatic way?

Secondly, the saucers themselves frequently do not appear as solid objects at all, and the great majority of photographs which purport to show solid objects (like the

famous "Thing" photograph taken at Warmminster) have either been exposed as hoaxes or are strongly suspected of being so; or else they are of ordinary objects taken in unusual conditions.

UFOs are often described as seeming without weight; they frequently appear to break up and disintegrate; many seem complex, interacting light patterns; and some which seem metallic are described as flexible as if they were made out of foil.

The shapes are bewildering as well; the flying saucer form common in the early fifties is now rare, and the triangular form, once rare, is now common.

Egg shapes, spheres, various geometric forms and amorphous blobs are also reported. Sometimes there are antennae and other protrusions.

Indeed an early explanation - and one which Kenneth Arnold himself came to favour - was that they are strange, tenuous living things which inhabit the atmosphere, and which only become visible in certain conditions.

Third is the almost total lack of physical evidence. As already stated, many well-known photographs of UFOs are now known to have other explanations.

The well-known film of an orange ball of light moving steadily across the horizon taken at Cuddington on the Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire border in January 1973, and which is still commonly shown on television in programmes about UFOs, was almost certainly a ball of blazing aviation fuel released by a stricken F-111

aircraft which later crashed.

When flying saucers land, they frequently leave no mark at all, or else only shallow indentations and areas of flattened grass.

The Charlton crater reported in a Wiltshire field in July 1963 was one of the most substantial physical traces ever claimed, and that was just eight feet in diameter and four inches deep; and there were no witness reports of it actually being formed.

Flying saucers low above water are frequently reported as disturbing its surface, and they also disturb foliage - like a strong and very localised wind - if they are near trees.

Sometimes pieces of metal and other artifacts are found near witnessed UFO sites, but their composition is never unusual.

In one of the most bizarre cases ever reported, Joe Simonton, a 60-year-old chicken farmer of Eagle River, Wisconsin, USA, reported that a silvery object descended into his yard



at around 11am on April 18, 1961.

A hatch opened and Mr Simonton noticed three dark skinned men of fully human appearance inside.

One of the men produced a silvery jug, and seemed to indicate that he wanted water. The farmer obliged, took the jug and returned with it full of water.

He then noticed that one of the men appeared to be making cookies on some sort of appliance. This man promptly gave four of the

cookies to Mr Simonton, and the machine took off at a 45 degree angle, causing pine trees near its path to bend and sway.

Mr Simonton ate one of the cookies and found that it tasted like cardboard. Two were independently analysed and found to be made of perfectly terrestrial corn and wheat flour, but no salt.

Fourth is the bewildering variety of humanoid seen either in association with landed saucers or in isolation; sometimes (like those reported by Mr Simonton) they are fully human; sometimes they are robot like, or seemingly made up of triangles, or large and hairy, or roughly man-shaped areas of illumination, or jelly-like blobs.

They sometimes speak in an unknown tongue, or they produce mechanical squeaks and twitters (like, I suppose, a fax machine when you dial one by mistake), or they bark like animals, or communicate telepathically, or frequently they communicate fluently in the language of the witness.

But what they say is sometimes even stranger; in 1965 in Venezuela two beings seven to eight feet tall with long yellow hair and protruding eyes were asked, "Are there any human beings like you living amongst us?" and the answer was, "Yes, 2,417,805".

During the 1954 French wave (from August to October when there were many sightings reported all over that country, including many of occupants) a witness met a small being, standing beside a disc shaped object, who

repeated several times in a metallic voice "La veritee est refusee aux constipes" (truth is denied to the constipated), and "Ce que vous appelez can-



cer vient des dents" (what you call cancer comes from the teeth).

What is also disconcerting is that many of the "ufonauts" seem suspiciously like the goblins, fairies and little people of mythology and folklore.

Fifth is the fact that flying saucer type phenomena are seen in certain places year after year, and rarely or never in others. These "window areas" frequently coincide with areas of geological faulting.

As I mentioned before, Radnor and the Shropshire border is an area with few reports, just as it has few geological faults except the Church Stretton fault which runs diagonally across from Bucknell, through Presteigne, and along Hergest.

The only widely publicised report from Radnor that I can find took place in November 1976 when Mr Michael Bufton was driving a lorry from Rhayader to Shotton steelworks.

At 4.15pm he was driving through Marteg, just outside Rhayader, when he noticed a cigar shaped object with what appeared flames coming out of the rear, over his vehicle.

He stopped and saw the object move off rapidly over Elan Valley.

If anyone knows anything about this incident I would be very pleased to hear from them.

EVENING COURIER, Halifax, England - Feb. 24, 1998

Calderdale residents see the light

PEOPLE across Calderdale have reported seeing mysterious bright lights following a report of UFO sightings.

Footage of the two unexplained lights was shown on BBC North, which had been captured by Mr Ken Field, of Leeds, on February 2.

Callers flooded the "Evening Courier" UFO hotline over the weekend saying they too had seen the lights.

Mrs Jane Wolfenden, of

Elland, said she had seen them two weeks ago.

"I thought it was lasers at first, like somebody having a show or a rave party and my friends and I watched them for ages. Then they suddenly moved and disappeared," she said.

Mr Pepe Gomersall, owner of The Caddyshack, Westgate, Elland, said he had seen the lights in the early hours of Sunday, February 15.

"I was walking along Westbury

By CATY BLACKTOP

Street in Elland with another couple and we all saw the lights.

"At first I thought it was a helicopter because they fly over our house all the time but then I realised there was no noise at all.

"The lights were moving very slowly and then they just disappeared. It was very strange," he said.

Other callers saw lights with an orange glow over the M62 at

Ainley Top and Elland.

But the majority of people said they saw two yellow lights between 5.30 pm and 6 pm on Monday, February 2 - the date when they were filmed in Leeds.

All callers said the lights moved very slowly, making no noise.

Mr Graham Wadsworth, 55, of Victoria Crescent, Elland, was visiting his mother at Woodfield Grange Nursing Home, Saddleworth Road, Greetland, on Monday, February 2, when he

saw strange objects in the sky.

"It was weird," he said. "At first I thought they were stars and then I saw the police helicopter out and I thought there were three flying in line together. But two were very bright white and there was no sound and they were travelling in line with the M62.

"I cannot say I am a believer but it did cross my mind they were UFOs. I stood there intrigued for a good five minutes."

ILKLEY GAZETTE MIDWEEK, West Yorkshire, England - Feb. 19, 1998

Response is out of this world

A MENSTON ufologist is excited by the response to his call for paranormal enthusiasts to join together.

Nigel Mortimer, of Stocks Hill, chaired the first meeting of Truthseekers at Ilkley's Craiglands Hotel.

UFO enthusiasts from as far afield as Blackpool travelled to Ilkley for the first West Yorkshire branch meeting of this national organisation.

Ilkley is reputedly a hot-bed of alien activity with numerous sightings of UFOs over Ilkley Moor - including the famous 'little green man' sighting in 1987.

The Swastika Stone has featured in several alien experiences with people claiming to have seen strange lights and undergoing hypnosis.

Mr Mortimer said the 20 or so who attended the meeting had a variety of experiences to talk about from UFOs to encounters with ghosts.

He said: "There are just too many sight-

by Jonathan Ritson
Wharfedale Reporter

ings for all these sightings to be dismissed as hogwash. Discussing the paranormal is now seen as acceptable, that wouldn't have been the case 10 years ago or so. There is so much in the media about unexplained phenomena, indeed it seems rarely out of it."

Mr Mortimer, himself a 'victim' of an alien encounter, is convinced the authorities try hard to cover things up. He told Wharfedale Newspapers last year, there may be some truth to the Men In Black theory.

"I have had people in cars watching me outside my house and I've also been followed. On one occasion a big black limousine pulled up.

"The look I received from the man inside was clearly intended as a warning to go

no further with my interest," he told our reporter.

The Truthseekers aims to help people come to terms with what they think they have encountered.

The Menston man accepts not everyone believes in UFOs but hopes the Truthseekers will go some way to proving the 'truth is out there.'

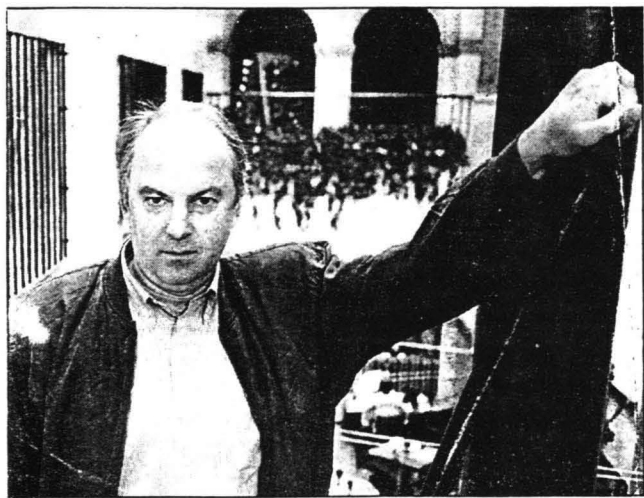
"The majority of people on this planet are not ready to accept that we may not be the ultimate creation. There are things out there equally as capable, if not better, than we are."

Mr Mortimer is keen to hear from anyone interested in joining the group. Further information regarding Truthseekers can be obtained from Nigel on 01943 871737.

● The meeting comes in the week where a study carried out by a national newspaper claimed more people believe in the paranormal than believe in God.



Nigel Mortimer



■ Author Robert Temple
— did he kick-start the
alien question?

Are the security services hounding this man? Scarier than The X-Files

IN their never-ending quest to prove that the truth is out there, Mulder and Scully have come up against a host of cloak-and-dagger types determined to ensure the truth never gets out.

In that sense, author Robert Temple must by now qualify for honorary membership of *The X-Files* team.

Robert set the extra-terrestrial heather on fire back in 1976 with *The Sirius Mystery*, a hugely successful tale which has been credited with sparking much of the present-day alien industry.

Since then, he says, he has been investigated by the British and American security services and several attempts have been made to prevent his work ever seeing the light of day.

Latest instance came before the run-up to the re-issue of *Sirius* this month, complete with new information which apparently strengthens the case for Earth being visited by aliens 5000 years ago.

"Last September someone tried to stop me getting the manuscript to my publisher by attacking my computer," says Robert.

"They put in a virus which completely wiped everything. Fortunately, they were just a few days late — the manuscript was already away."

Security precautions

It wasn't the first attempt. "Someone tried to break into my office, and I had phone calls from people supposedly trying to sell me computers, but really trying to find out what kind of equipment I already had."

"I told everyone I knew that it was happening so that it was all out in the open. My publishers took security precautions with a special copy of the book locked away in a safe."

Robert (52) — a Kentuckian who's lived in England since 1966 — takes it all in his stride.

But he thinks the secret agents and their shenanigans are beyond a joke.

"This kind of thing has been going on for more than 20 years. I can barely remember what my life was like before," he says.

"In 1976 the book didn't get a single bad review, then a year later the character assassination began."

Robert claims some academics got together to discredit him. Colleagues who had wanted to work with him suddenly had to break off because of

pressure from "outside".

Respected scientific figures suddenly found they had changed their minds on his ideas.

So, if security agencies ARE behind it all, what is it they don't want us to know?

The Sirius Mystery sets out the case for civilisation on Earth having been started by creatures from a planet in the Sirius star system. However wacky that sounds, don't sneer just yet.

Robert Temple is not your average UFO-nut. He's written an award-winning book about the history of science in China, plus another eight books translated into 43 languages.

He's a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, a member of the Egypt Exploration Society and the Royal Historical Society.

African tribe

His evidence comes from research, and pretty convincing it is, too.

It starts with an obscure West African tribe, the Dogon, whose traditions reveal an uncanny knowledge of the movements of stars in the Sirius system.

Robert traces this knowledge back to the ancient Egyptians and Sumerians, showing how everything from the construction of the pyramids to the names and descriptions of their gods point to a common source — aquatic aliens from Sirius.

Finding more similarities in Greek and Chinese mythology, he concludes that the Sirians left these clues for us to find, and when we have worked them out, then they'll know we're ready to receive another visit.

And the security agencies?

"They simply want to control the information."

"I wrote a book on hypnosis and discovered more than 50 per cent of all the experiments into hypnosis are top secret, because it's used for mind control."

"And look at lasers. In the 60s they were the big thing in science, then one day it all stopped. That's because it was taken over for security purposes and scientists had to agree to shut up."

Robert isn't the only one who sees himself under pressure. He says the Dogon, who started it all, are being pressurised by the Mali government in West Africa to stop believing in Sirius and convert to Islam.

But they could have the last laugh. Objections to Robert's first book centred on the Dogon claim that there were three stars in the Sirius system, when astronomers had only found two.

But in 1995 a third star was discovered. Spooky or what?

■ *The Sirius Mystery* by Robert Temple is published by Century at £16.99.

NORTH WALES WEEKLY NEWS, Conwy, Wales - Feb. 19, 1998

X FILES

**Are you sure
UFOs don't exist?
Because an awful
lot of very sane
people have seen
strange sights in
North Wales...**

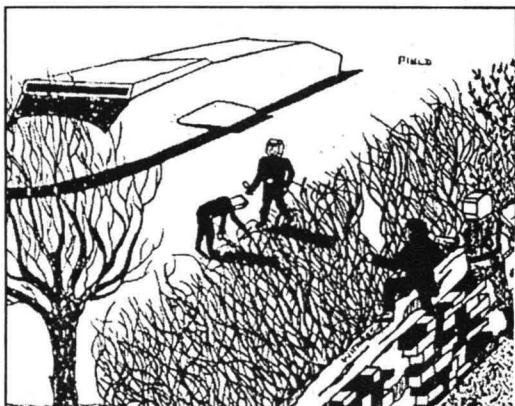
HAVE you ever seen flying saucer?

Or a bright white 'spacecraft' like the one which glided down the Dee one night, terrifying four poachers?

Or a larger cigar-shaped object with a red centre like the one spotted by two men near Dyserth on January 4, 1986? North Wales members of Contact International, which traces and takes statements from people who have seen unidentified flying objects, have a whole filing cabinet crammed with eye-witness accounts of close encounters of the third kind.

The strangest of them all is the Pwllheli Abduction Case.

About 15 years ago a teenager living near Pwllheli went to visit friends in the countryside nearby. As he walked home in the early hours of the morning he saw something in a field by the side of the road, and as he turned up a side road he felt a



Spooky: A reconstruction of the Pwllheli 'abduction'.

presence behind him. When he turned around he saw 'two mechanical sort of beings enfolded in a type of suit which covered them', and they wore visors.

They walked by his side and he felt obliged to accompany them as they 'propelled' him towards an object in the field. This turned out to be a spacecraft which contained other humans, but the teenager was unable to give a clear picture of what happened next; he believed that they toured the universe.

What is startling is that he described the 13 moons of Pluto — some time before an American

probe discovered that there are in fact 13 moons.

He hadn't been drinking, a fact averred by the policeman who found him and took him back to the hamlet where he lived.

He arrived home in such a state of shock that his mother, after hearing his story, went to the local library the next morning and found the address of the Contact International headquarters.

Despite the fact that there was thick snow on the ground she drove her son all the way to Oxfordshire to see a UFO expert. The teenager was still so terrified that he refused to get

[original clipping incomplete]

EVENING COURIER, Halifax, England - Feb. 21, 1998

UFO spotters inundate TV station

TELEVISION chiefs have been inundated with calls after screening footage of UFOs flying over West Yorkshire.

The footage was captured by Mr Ken Field, of Leeds, who filmed two unexplained bright lights in the sky on Monday, February 2. A spokesman for BBC North said: "We've had a lot of interest since we showed the tape last week.

Most of the eye-witnesses came from Leeds but we also had several reports from people in the Halifax area. One woman from Halifax said she saw two mysterious bright lights in the sky above Calderdale."

Skywatcher Mr Mark Birdsall, who runs a UFO magazine, said the sightings were the strongest evidence of UFOs in the area for 15 years.

By MARK WILKINSON

"We have played the tape 20 or 30 times and there are two giant strobe lights flashing in unison. Whatever this thing is it's very low in the sky — maybe 1,500 to 2,000ft."

Mr Birdsall has written to the Ministry of Defence asking whether military planes were active over

West Yorkshire that night.

Witnesses said the lights arrived from the southwest and were like orange rectangles with rounded edges. Some said there was no sound as the shapes passed overhead — although one man said he heard a dull whine.

Mr John Keegan, an environmental scientist and partner at the Plant Earth Centre, Todmorden, said

three people had reported sightings of something in the night sky about two weeks ago.

"We had reports of a very bright streaking object," he said. "But this was confirmed by a lot of reports around the country as being a bolide — an extremely bright fireball or meteor."

Did you see the lights? If so, ring our UFO hotline on 260207.



This man claims he has the key to the greatest archaeological discovery ever - and next month we'll know if he's right. By **Ross Clark**

My quest for the secret of the sands



Nigel Appleby: In search of a lost civilisation

BY THE end of the summer Nigel Appleby will either be one of the prize catches on the international lecture circuit or else be scratching a living as a military artist, his new book demoted to the 50 pence racks in some dingy back street in Hay-on-Wye. For a man who claims he knows exactly where to find proof that we are descended from a civilisation even more advanced than our own, there is no in-between.

In three weeks' time Appleby will fly out to Egypt with his team of 23 geophysicists, archaeologists and support staff, and start prodding an area of farmland on the rapidly expanding fringes of Cairo. They will be looking for an underground chamber, the Hall of Records, which he believes was dug 10,000 years ago as an archive of a hugely talented people. Knowing that they were about to be overwhelmed by a natural disaster, these people are supposed to have bundled a record of their achievements into a time capsule. Clues to the chamber's whereabouts were hidden in a mathematical code, to be deciphered next time the Earth played host to an advanced civilisation.

If Appleby is to be believed, it will make the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb look like finding a bit of old rope washed up on the beach. The Hall of Records is alluded to in the Ancient Egyptian Edfu Texts as the Chambers of Creation. According to the legend, there is a pyramid-shaped entrance hall surrounded by 12 cylindrical chambers, each containing material from a different branch of knowledge. There may be medical equipment, communications equipment, evidence of air travel. If you translate the Edfu Texts literally there is even mention of "power tools". But it isn't easy finding an academic prepared to share Appleby's excitement. Or not in public, anyway. For Appleby lies strictly in the world of alternative Egyptology, the world of Erich von Daniken and his pharaohs from outer space, of Graham Hancock and his pyramid prophecies, of Internet-freaks deciphering hieroglyphics. But what alternative Egyptology lacks in academic respect it more than makes up for in worldwide sales. Appleby's book, the *Hall of the Gods*, is the latest in a genre which has

produced a remarkable string of bestsellers in the past two decades. He is not going to be short of readers convinced that we are about to witness the greatest archaeological discovery in history.

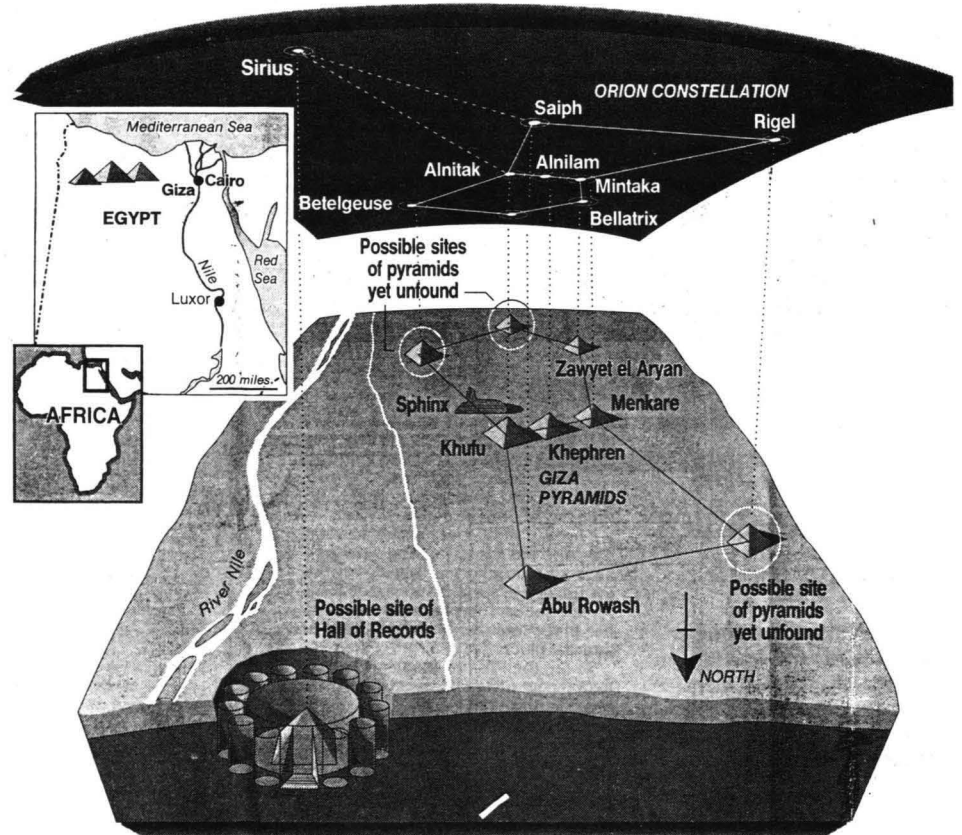
Appleby argues, like Von Daniken *et al*, that the Great Pyramids at Giza weren't really built by the fourth-dynasty Egyptians. Their structure is too advanced and they are too weathered to have been built within the past 5,000 years. The pyramids were only adopted by the Egyptians; in fact they were built 12,000 years ago by a people whose expertise in construction exceeded our own. This civilisation was also responsible for some of the hieroglyphs which appear to depict aeroplanes and helicopters. The Egyptians were barbarians by comparison, who merely inherited knowledge of this glorious past in the form of the myths and legends.

For readers of *Chariots of the Gods*, *Fingerprints of the Gods* and all those other books which seem to have to have "Gods" in their title, this is familiar territory. What Appleby has done that is different is to come up with a theory that is capable of being proved or disproved. The normal explanation for why technologically advanced civilisations have never been discovered before is that they were centred on the city of Atlantis, which conveniently disappeared into the depths of the Atlantic. But for Appleby the hard evidence is concealed beneath a hump in the ground outside Cairo, in a carefully coded location.

The pyramids, he says, were deliberately laid out to be a map of the heavens. The Great Pyramids at Giza are a representation of the three stars in Orion's belt - not only do their positions match but their relative sizes also correspond with the relative brightnesses of the stars. Appleby reasons that the lost civilisation would have wanted to match the position of the Hall of Records with Sirius, the brightest star. So he superimposed a map of the stars over a map of the Nile valley and marked the spot where Sirius lay. Luckily for him, the location turned out to be in a field rather than buried beneath a tower block in the suburbs of Cairo.

Appleby has managed to persuade the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation - the

The Hall of Records: Nigel Appleby's theory



According to Nigel Appleby, the stars in Orion's belt correspond to the three Great Pyramids at Giza, while the other stars in the constellation match up with other archaeological sites, some still uncovered. He believes the Hall of Records is below Sirius, the brightest star.

official body which oversees Egyptian Heritage - of his case. The organisation has given permission for his expedition on two conditions: that he is not allowed to do any digging and that he takes with him PhD-qualified geophysicists. He has secured the services of Geophysical Services of Bradford, which will employ state-of-the-art surveying equipment to build up a map of what lies underground. The £50,000 costs will be borne by Appleby himself and his other team members, two of whom have been driven to divorce. Appleby's own wife has been left looking after four children during his trips abroad and the training weekends he holds with his team once a month. His obsession, she

says, has meant the family having to "live below the poverty line on one or two occasions".

Appleby has now founded an organisation for amateur enthusiasts, Hermes Foundation International, whose members will bear the costs of future expeditions.

At first sight Appleby seems an unlikely bedfellow for Erich von Daniken and the other alternative Egyptologists. Raised in an army family in Cyprus, he became interested in ancient civilisations when laid up in bed with an ear infection aged 12. The infection taking a long time to clear up, he read every book in the military library twice. Von Daniken's *Chariots of the Gods*, which claims we are descended from alien

colonisers, was his favourite.

In spite of taunts from his brother, who calls him a "space cadet", the obsession with Egypt and ancient civilisations grew throughout his teenage years. There was always a map or a star chart spread across his bedroom floor: at one point he rushed downstairs to tell his mother he had found the imprint of a lost civilisation on his native Colchester - the town's churches, he maintains, are, like the Great Pyramids, laid out in the manner of Orion.

But he embarked on a very down-to-earth career: he enrolled on an engineering course at Colchester College and says he became the youngest-ever recruit in the territorial branch of the SAS. He

says he was invited to become a regular, but left the regiment after he broke his shoulder, and since then has earned a living as an engineering draftsman and an artist. He sells prints depicting the SAS in action (one, a montage of the storming of the Iranian Embassy in 1980, is signed by Sir Peter de la Billiere and Andy McNab).

He retains his military bearing, along with an SAS attitude - or what some might call paranoia. When I meet him at his suburban home outside Colchester, it is the afternoon and we are only going to be sitting in the front room, yet he double-bolts the

(continued on page 18)

(continued from page 17 - [Name of Paper Unknown],
England - May ?, 1998)

door after me. Appleby claims in his book that the discovery of the Hall of Records could help mankind to avoid a cataclysmic end. His theory, not the stuff of conventional geology, is that the civilisation which established the archive was destroyed when the Sun suddenly reversed its magnetic poles and the Earth underwent a series of cataclysmic earthquakes. What's more, he says, it could all happen again very soon. There is information in the Hall of Records, he says, which could give us vital clues to how to withstand a repeat of the natural disaster. Surely, then, he can't be surprised that he has attracted a following of Internet-freaks.

"I've tried to distance myself from the fringe element," he says. "Graham Hancock and others have said come the year 2012, that's it, stop paying your mortgage because the world's going to end. But I totally disagree with him."

Nevertheless, I find the words in Appleby's book hard to reconcile with the sensible family man sitting in front of me. "The coming geophysical upheavals won't be pleasant," he writes. "But then, nor is giving birth. Yes there will be unpleasant effects, but we do have some time to start organising ourselves to minimise as much of the potential destruction as possible." He adds, with unintentional irony: "I'm far from being melodramatic about this, but I, for one, will certainly start to make serious plans." What does he mean by this? "Everyone in my team is working together on this," he says. "If the worst comes to the worst we will start stockpiling food."

It is when he is speaking like this that you can see another man emerging from behind the amateur Egyptologist. It is the survival fantasy, the obsession with threat and the need to counter it. He says he

approaches history in the same way he was told to approach life in the SAS: question everything you are taught, don't be afraid to knock down pillars of wisdom and start again. He likes his history dramatic, full of omens and cataclysms.

APPLEBY is very different from the Egyptologists temperamentally as well as in his, some would say, cavalier attitude to scholarship. His work wouldn't exactly pass muster in a university. In his mind, if a hieroglyph looks like a helicopter, it is a helicopter; if a bronze cylinder looks like a primitive electric battery, it is an electric battery. The numbers in *Revelations* are all significant in some way, so they must all be part of a code, planted there by this ancient civilisation.

But compared with the dusty world of Egyptology, there is something refreshing about a man prepared to stick his neck out and come out with an unconventional theory, however outlandish parts of it might be.

"I've had a couple of eminent Egyptologists ring me up and say well done, go for it," says Appleby. "Oh, and by the way, we'll endorse you left, right and centre: if you find it. If I don't, they'll disappear into the woodwork, but then that's human nature, isn't it? I empathise with them because it's their livelihood, it's their income, it's their job. If I'm wrong I don't lose my career."

But he will lose book sales. Pointedly, he is publishing his book before going to look for his Hall of Records rather than afterwards, as might seem more logical. That couldn't possibly be, could it, because he was frightened he wouldn't find anything and so wanted to cash in on the book beforehand?

He insists it was his publisher's decision, not his, to put the book out now. William Heinemann was so keen

to publish, he says, that he was given just three months to complete it. That meant having to work so hard it nearly killed him.

"I was working 16 hours a day non-stop, just coming home to get a few hours' sleep. I caught flu but because the deadline was so close I just kept going. For seven days I did nothing except take flu remedies and I progressively got worse. In the end I caught bronchial pneumonia and ended up in Colchester General."

If you believe in omens, that perhaps doesn't bode well for his expedition. What about the curses? Did the Earl of Carnarvon not die of an infected mosquito bite on the left cheek after discovering the tomb of Tutankhamun in 1922 — a tomb which revealed that the king himself had evidence of a fatal mosquito bite in the same place on the same cheek? But Appleby, usually so keen to find meanings in signs and symbols, is unimpressed.

"Tutankhamun's curse is a hyped-up scenario," he says. "The idea that everybody's supposed to have died is not true at all. In fact I found out that one of the men involved in finding the tomb was alive and well up until 1980. My wife worries about that sort of thing more than I do."

Suddenly it is the reasoned historian emerging from behind the survival fantasist once again. You wonder which of the two is going to win if he really does find a Hall of Records plastered with artefacts and omens from a lost world.

• *'Hall of the Gods: The Quest to Discover the Knowledge of the Ancients' (Heinemann) by Nigel Appleby is published on June 6, and will be available for £16.99 post free from Telegraph Books Direct, 24 Seward Street, London EC1V 3GB or call 0541 557222. Please quote ref PA301 when ordering.*

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - June 18, 1998 CR: G. Conway

Hitler sightings, UFOs among files on FBI website

The agency is finding it cheaper to post its most requested files on the Internet than to mail them.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Hitler's alive; unidentified flying objects spotted in New Mexico; Amelia Earhart abducted in the air.

It is the stuff of tabloids — and of the FBI's files. Now anyone with computer access to the Internet can browse through 16,000 pages of files full of rumour, conjecture, innuendo, gossip and the occasional case that was closed in a flurry of gunplay.

The U.S. Freedom of Information Act requires the bureau to make many of its old cases public and 400 employees work full-time at handling requests. To save money on photocopying, the FBI has been posting some of its most requested cases on the Internet. A new batch was posted this month. Names of correspondents and informants were blacked out to protect privacy.

Among the documents:

• A letter from someone claiming he saw Adolf Hitler and a woman in Seat 40, Car 10 of the Illinois Central Railroad. Another putting Hitler in a hotel lobby in rural Quebec. Another said Hitler — minus moustache — had arrived by submarine in Argentina with a group of henchmen and headed for the Andes.

• Reports of UFO sightings, called "unidentified aerial objects." One told

of a UFO that moved due north, was three times the size of the evening star, was stationary for five to 10 seconds, was blue but turned white and then "went out like a light."

• Lots of mail speculating on what happened to Amelia Earhart, the pioneer aviator who vanished over the Pacific in 1937. One correspondent offered a theory: Foreign stowaways on her plane took control and landed at a secret place.

So far, the FBI has made accessible 16,000 pages from 37 investigations. It intends ultimately to post all 1.3 million pages of files already opened to the public.

The FBI's motive for posting these files on the Internet is simple: When people request copies under the Freedom of Information Act, it is cheaper to refer them to the Web than to make photocopies, says spokesman John Collingwood. So far, 1.4 million visits to the FBI site at <http://www.fbi.gov> have been recorded.

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - July 1, 1998 CR: W. Connors

ASK DR. GOTT

BY PETER H. GOTT, M.D.
SYNDICATED FEATURE



Dear Dr. Gott:

A while ago, you published a letter from a reader who couldn't wear a wristwatch because it stopped running after a couple of days. In your response, you said that "such a phenomenon is whimsy at its best."

I have this problem and I know of other people with it too. It's not whimsy. It's real.

Dear Reader:

Judging from the avalanche of mail I received about this topic, I was wrong in dismissing it out of hand. I was unfair and I apologize.

Although the pattern varies, there seems to be one underlying principle: Some people cannot wear wristwatches. After putting them on, the watches either stop, lose time or speed up. When taken to a jeweler or worn by someone else, the watches

work fine and are not defective. The phenomenon most often involves standard wind-up or battery-powered watches; less commonly, digital watches are affected. Pocket watches are not influenced. The strange occurrence may run in families. Sometimes a stainless-steel casing will prevent it, but not always. People who exhibit the tendency are healthy, come from all walks of life, and apparently are permanently affected.

Folks, based on what you have told me, I haven't a clue as to why it occurs. Some readers postulate "spirits"; others believe in strange electrical forces. But I'm not an X-File believer, so if any of you objective scientists out there have an explanation, I'd be grateful to hear from you.

TIMES, London, England - Feb. 25, 1998 CR: T. Good

French baffled by mystery of dolphin deaths

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

A MYSTERIOUS killer is preying on dolphins along the French Mediterranean coast, where corpses of the marine mammals are washing up at the rate of one a day with identical and inexplicable wounds.

Twenty-two striped dolphins have been found since February 4 on the beaches of Languedoc-Roussillon, between Agde and the Spanish border, but environmentalists say they have no idea what or who is responsible for what they describe as a massacre of the protected species.

Most of the dead dolphins were found to have gaping wounds, about six inches in diameter, in the area of the throat or lower jaw. "All the wounds are located in almost exactly the same place. The extreme precision suggests that we can rule out accidental causes," Guy Olivet, president of the Mediterranean Dolphin Study Group, said.

Various theories have been offered to explain the deaths, including disease, aggression by a "killer dolphin" and even a conspiracy involving the American military, but three weeks after the first corpse was found scientists concede



they are baffled by the mounting toll. "All hypotheses are possible. In the absence of any leads, we have to go forward by a process of elimination," a spokesman at the maritime laboratory in Banyuls-sur-Mer, where post-mortem examinations are being carried out on the dolphins, said yesterday.

"No hypothesis can be confirmed until the results of those tests are in," Monica Mueller, an expert in dolphin behaviour based at Banyuls and attached to the University of Paris, said.

Marine experts have ruled out the possibility of a virus similar to the "Moribilis" infection that killed 65 Mediterranean dolphins in 1995. The theory that the animals could have been accidentally killed by fishing trawlers also appears unlikely, since the car-

casses show no signs of having been entangled in nets.

The most bizarre explanation, put forward by Leo Sheridan, the British dolphin expert, is that the animals could have been trained by the United States Navy at one of its Mediterranean bases and then killed when they had outlived their usefulness.

"These dolphins were used by the American army for military operations," Mr Sheridan, who describes himself as an expert in maritime accidents, told *Le Figaro*. "They slipped away from their handlers. The death of these deserters came from the radio-controlled explosion of their signal collars so that no one could find out their missions."

That suggestion has been rejected by the French authorities. "This species of dolphin is very sensitive and nervous and cannot be kept in captivity. They die of stress if an attempt is made to catch them," Mme Mueller said.

Researchers at the study group say the circular wounds found on more than 70 per cent of the dolphins are unlikely to be man-made, since they are "on the underside and not on the top part of its body, which is clearly more accessible to man".

The striped dolphin is usually found in open waters and, according to yet another theory, the dolphins may be indirect victims of global warming, which has heated the Mediterranean and encouraged the dolphins into shallower and more perilous coastal areas.

Lieutenant Jean-Louis Ferres, the fire department official responsible for patrolling this section of the French coast, said the scale of the deaths was unprecedented and stunning. "On this part of the coast we usually only record about a dozen dolphin carcasses a year."



One of the dead dolphins found off the French coast

Two Apply for Human-Animal Patent

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — A biologist and a social activist said Thursday they had teamed in a patent application for creating a being that would be part human and part animal.

But rather than seeking to make such a creature, they said they wanted to stop anyone else from doing it.

"This is going to raise one of the great social and constitutional issues of all time — can a human embryo be claimed as intellectual property?" Jeremy Rifkin, president of the Foundation on Economic Trends, said.

Rifkin, a writer and economist

who has battled granting patents on living things, and Stuart Newman, a cellular biologist at New York Medical College in Valhalla, said they wanted to spark a debate on the issue.

"It's going to force the patent office to deal with some uncomfortable questions," Newman, who helped found the Council for Responsible Genetics, told the Washington Post.

The patent they have applied for describes a technique for mixing human cells with the cells of an animal — perhaps a chimpanzee, which is closely related genetically to humans.

Rifkin said a human-pig mix might be seen as useful for organ transplants, as pigs have already been experimented with for animal-to-human transplants.

They want to patent the process from beginning to end — from the test tube, to creation of any embryo, to its implantation in a surrogate mother and possible birth.

"We are claiming a patent on the process and all the living products, so that means that any human-animal composite, any new human-animal chimera (created by the process de-

scribed in the patent), that would be our intellectual property," Rifkin said in a telephone interview.

"This will be the test case."

A similar method was used decades ago to make a "geep," an animal that was part-sheep and part-goat.

Other such animals, known as chimeras, technically already exist. Mice, rabbits, sheep and cows have been genetically engineered to carry human genes for making products ranging from alpha anti-trypsin, used to treat cystic fibrosis, to lactoferrin,

which can boost the immune system.

Companies also already hold patents on these animals, which usually only carry one or a few human genes, making them at the most only a fraction of a percent human.

"We felt it was necessary to go right to the end of the line," said Rifkin, who wrote the book "The Biotech Century."

He said a true chimera — one that was perhaps 30 percent human — was the ultimate prize of biotechnology companies.

"At what point do the constitutional rights kick in?" he asked. "Can we create new subspecies and can they be claimed as intellectual property?"

Rifkin said Ian Wilmut of Scotland's Roslin Institute and PPL Therapeutics Plc had applied for a similar patent for his method of cloning animals — a method that most famously produced Dolly the cloned sheep.

PPL already holds patents on animals that carry human genes. Rifkin said Wilmut's cloning patent application included the creation of human embryos, although Wilmut has said he can see no reason for ever doing so.

"If Wilmut is granted his patent, they couldn't possibly deny us," Rifkin said.

Wilmut said he was not sure his patent application did cover humans. "What we have written describes animals in general, but I have no idea how that will be viewed," he said in a telephone interview.

He said he did not know why anyone would want to mix embryonic cells to create a human-animal chimera. "It's not something which is clinically useful. I can't see what the potential uses would be and therefore, to be honest, it (Rifkin's patent) seems like a very silly idea."

AGE, Melbourne, Australia - June 9, 1998 CR: G. Earley

On the lookout for Australia's 'hairy men'

By GARRY LINNELL

Some of the truth is no longer out there. Instead, you can find it inside a glass case in a small museum in rural New South Wales, ignored and ridiculed by a world that refuses to accept the evidence that we may not be alone.

The truth in this case is a fossilised humanoid skull discovered a year ago by a local naturalist, Mr Rex Gilroy. The skull has a long, narrow braincase, a low forehead and a thick eyebrow ridge. Proof that primitive forms of humanity play rugby league, too?

Mr Gilroy says the skull, discovered near Mudgee, supports his long-held theory that the yowie — an Australian relative of the American Big Foot and the Himalayan yeti — once existed and is probably still out there surviving in large, inaccessible tracts of bushland.

Mr Gilroy is the guiding light behind the Unknown Animals Research Centre and Museum in Tamworth. "I am fascinated by what we have in this country and what has been overlooked," he says. "There's something out there in the bush. Something is happening."

Yesterday Mr Gilroy had some new information to ponder. Mr Ron Ian-Ellis, a farmer in Jarrahdale, south of Perth, revealed that one of his sheep had been savaged at the weekend by a "very big cat — and I'm not talking feral cats . . . I have seen two cougar-like animals on this property".

Mr Gilroy saw his first thylacine, or Tasmanian tiger, at 10.55pm on 27 February 1972 and has never forgotten it.

"It was standing there beside the road and was obviously coming down through the ridge . . . they live in the more remote, mountainous



Mr Rex Gilroy with his yowie skull. "There's a whole string of reports about man-beasts . . . right around the world."

country, the really tough terrain."

Panther-like creatures and Tasmanian tigers have been reported across Victoria, from the Grampians to the Dandenongs. More than 50 sightings of the thylacine have been reported near the Gippsland town of Loch Sport in the past 10 years.

"There's been many, many sightings of these big cats around the country. I wouldn't say they're cougars. They are more closely related to our marsupial cat species and probably survived the last Ice Age."

While he continues to sift through the evidence for big cats and Tasmanian tigers, Mr Gilroy's most passionate interest remains the yowie. He discovered the skull, he says, in the same region where local Aborigines have passed down a tale from the Dreamtime when "hairy men" terrorised them.

"There's a whole string of reports about man-beasts and women-beasts — let's not be sexist here — and evidence for their existence right around the world. There's been lost tribes found in New Guinea and elsewhere. When you look at the terrain we've got, any creature could live there for generations and go undetected."

Sadly, says Mr Gilroy, the discovery of his skull, which he believes belongs to the *Homo erectus* line, has been met by overwhelming indifference from the scientific world. No scientist has been willing to examine the skull.

Still, that will not stop him. His next project is a book revealing how Australia was contacted by civilisations hundreds and thousands of years ago. "Why study Stonehenge when we can study Australia's lost civilisations?"

NEWS, Taos, NM - May 7, 1998

Moreno Valley rancher reports another unusual animal death

By Phaedra Greenwood
The Taos News

Another unusual animal death occurred sometime Saturday (May 2) in the Moreno Valley, 10 miles southeast of Red River. A 4-year-old cow, belonging to rancher John Mutz, was found dead in a field Monday (May 4), according to Gabe Valdez, the investigating officer for the National Institute of Discovery Science (NIDS).

The animal, the second one

Mutz has lost this way, had been dead about 24 hours, Valdez said. This one followed the "classic" cattle-mutilation pattern of no blood on the ground, no tracks visible and the tongue, an eye and the udder missing. There have been no unusual animal deaths reported in the Taos area since December.

Tissue samples were taken to be analyzed by Dr. George Onet of NIDS, Valdez said. In the past, some grass samples taken at mutilation sites have re-

vealed the same kind of changes in cell structure as the grass inside crop circles, which may have been caused by high heat from an unidentified source.

NIDS, based in Las Vegas, Nev., and founded by Robert Bigelow, a wealthy real estate developer, is, according to its web page, primarily interested in the study of UFOs and the paranormal. The organization began investigating unusual animal deaths in the Taos area a year ago. To date, they

have not had any conclusive results.

Valdez said that a bull belonging to Jesse Gonzales of Arroyo Hondo died of black leg last November and was not mutilated. But he said he had never seen black leg in that form "where it had hemorrhaged like that" within the tissues. He said the cause of death of a cow belonging to Tony Trujillo, which was found dead in Arroyo Hondo last April, was inconclusive because it was so deteriorated. "I say that was one," Valdez said, "but we were unable to get any scientific evidence."

The veterinarian who did

the necropsy on the Gonzales bull was John Thilsted, who does the necropsies for the New Mexico State Livestock Board. "It's not just happening here," Thilsted said, "but all over the country." Has he ever seen anything particularly strange? "Nothing that couldn't be explained as having been done by scavengers or humans," he said, but he admitted he had never seen the "cooked hemoglobin," possibly caused by high heat, or the so-called "cookie cutter" edges of samples examined several years ago by Dr. John Altschuler, a pathologist from Denver.

VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

Bigfoot reports and book due

A former Walla Wallan came calling the other day at the Wes Sumerlin home to sort of get brought up to speed about the Bigfoot situation.

Not strange, as I've mentioned here before, that when people want to learn more about the anomalous creature in these parts or elsewhere they show up at 1333 Dell Avenue. And that's where I met Larry Kaniut, author of a couple of fine books about Alaska bears and soon another book.

That's why Kaniut, who once lived here and attended Garrison Junior High, was stopping off at Sumerlin's to get material he can use in his next book. A chapter will be devoted to Bigfoot, Sasquatch, Yeti, etc., so he wanted to learn what he could and Sumerlin has a lot of what he wants.

Kaniut has made Anchorage, Alaska his home for several years but as a youth lived here before his parents moved to Clarkston. He and his sister and brother-in-law, Laura Lee and Les Smothers of Hillsboro, OR, were en route from Clarkston to Hillsboro and thence (for Kaniut) back to Anchorage.

The call at 1333 Dell also drew other guests who helped fill Kaniut in on the Bigfoot matter locally. These included Bill Laughery, now of West Richland but a Columbia County native; Phil Lane and John Sumerlin, who share Indian lore and local outdoors knowledge and Lew Sprengel, long-time big game hunter and taxidermist of Walla Walla.

Kaniut and John Sumerlin shared more than they knew when the conversation opened. They had each been students at Garrison when it opened in the mid-1950s, Kaniut a couple of grades ahead of Sumerlin. Kaniut recalled getting the nickname of "50-Yard Kaniut" from his football coach there. I've lost my notes but his coach was either Franklin (Pete) Hanson or Dick Neher and Kaniut had turned in a stellar job of rushing the ball in a particular game.

Sprengel, who has retired from long-haul trucking ("some sleeper hauls in there") matched Blue Mountains elk hunting stories with John Sumerlin.

Each has hunted this quarry for many years. Sprengel produced a big rack of antlers as proof of his 30th consecutive trophy. That's one elk per year for 30 years! And, the last one was taken on the final day of the hunting season.

Kaniut left the Sumerlins with plenty of material for more than one chapter about Bigfoot and the local terrain. But, he vowed he'd be coming back soon for more!

LATEST BIGFOOT REPORT

— A friend of mine who shares the interests of computing and seeking the truth about the Bigfoot thing, reports a highly interesting recent encounter by a Mill Creek resident. Here's my friend's story, as I got it via the Internet e-mail recently:

"I met a very interesting person this weekend. It seems that this man was coming home late from work one night. He lives up Mill Creek. Since he is an avid hunter, he decided to make a short detour and run up Scenic Loop and see if there were any cats or bears milling about.

"He was about two miles off the Mill Creek road when he noticed an empty beer bottle in the middle of the road. Being a good citizen, he stopped to pick it up. He chucked the bottle into the bushes and was returning to his pickup truck. As he began climbing into the cab, 'something' hit him three times from behind!

"When I asked him what he thought it was, he replied that he didn't know. He said he knew what it wasn't but that he didn't actually see anything so he didn't know for sure what it was.

"I would be kind of skeptical of this whole story except he showed me the photograph his brother took of his wounds. The bruises indicated that something with five fingers had hit him extremely hard. The finger spread was about twice as big as mine and the diameter of the fingers was again two to three times larger in diameter than mine.

"He says he really doesn't believe in Bigfoot but he doesn't totally disbelieve either. He says that when one is killed and verified, or he actually sees one himself, then he will be a believer."

BIGFOOT DNA REPORT: Remember the hair samples pulled off bushes where Wes Sumerlin and Bill Laughery had seen a Bigfoot back in August, 1995? Well, furthermore, they sent some of that hair to primate researcher Henner Fahrenbach of Beaverton who forwarded it to DNA testing labs at Ohio State University. Much of the Bigfoot world has been waiting for the report to come out on this testing to see whether it was truly from a Bigfoot or not if such a determination in fact could be made, of

course.

Well, seems like a report was being prepared for publication when the authors decided to withhold for now. I picked this information up from the Internet and got the news from the Eric Beckjord site (logger@california.com) and Fahrenbach verified it later. Here are some words from that message via Beckjord:

"(Authors of) the intended article on the Eastern Washington hair found in August, 1995, have decided to withhold submission of the manuscript of the analysis until more DNA from tissue, preferably with attached hair, is obtained. Our studies have not yielded a sequenced mitochondria gene fragment to determine the phylogenetic affiliation of the creature. The ambiguous results of the present time can, on the one hand, generate misplaced enthusiasm and be quoted as 'proof', or, on the other hand, can be used by the opposite camp to criticize and denigrate the results unfairly."

In his response to me, Fahrenbach stressed the need to have sample of skin along with hair for future work.

"We simply need better DNA," he noted, "to be able to stand up against all criticism. And, I maintain the hope that one day we will get hair AND a bit of blood or skin in the same pot."

So, you are walking in the woods and see a Bigfoot stepping over a barbed wire fence and leave some of its hair-with-hide attached, what do you do?

(After you've changed into something more comfortable, that is!).

Fahrenbach says:

"By the way, if anybody you know ever should be that lucky, have them scrape the suspected tissue, without human contact, that is, by using an applicator stick or the like, into 70% alcohol, which you can make by dilution from commercially available pure grain spirits. Time is of the essence, so the sample doesn't have a bunch of bacteria growing in it."

And, so the Bigfoot beat goes on. But, I have a friend who I suspect is a Bigfoot skeptic now THAT should make an interesting interview!