

# UFO

# NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

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BULLETIN, Latrobe, PA - Feb. 12, 1999 CR: S. Gordon

## UFOs, Phenomena Reported In '98

Mysterious lights in the sky, unexplained booms, strange field formations and a shiny "something" in a tree were some of the unusual occurrences that researcher Stan Gordon looked into during 1998 from around Pennsylvania.

When Gordon of Greensburg began researching reports of alleged UFO sightings and other strange events in 1959, little did he know that nearly 40 years later, he would still be investigating such matters, trying to find answers to these persistent mysteries.

Over the years, Gordon has been involved with the investigation of thousands of strange incidents that were reported from across the state. His research indicated that these incidents generally are reported by responsible observers from all walks of life, including professionals such as pilots and police officers. While many of the accounts appear strange and unusual, quite often a man-made or natural explanation can be found to explain the event.

There are many well-documented events however, which have occurred in the Keystone state during the last 40 years, that still defy easy explanation. Gordon began to take calls from the public in 1969 about their experiences, and since then he has directed three volunteer UFO investigating groups in the state. Today Gordon continues to document reports and conduct investigations as an independent researcher. He also keeps in contact with various agencies, UFO associations and other researchers to keep up to date with the latest events.

Gordon maintains an extensive electronics communications center, where information on UFOs and the unexplained is gathered from sources around the world. Reports of strange incidents were received from 18 counties in Pennsylvania during 1998. Some UFO sightings were explained as observations of bright meteors, synchronized advertising searchlight displays, atmospheric conditions that made planets and stars look unusual, and even lights reflecting from flying bats and moths. Gordon who has investigated many alleged Bigfoot encounters, as well as other unusual animal sightings such as mountain lion and black panther reports in the state, says that he only received secondhand informa-

tion on alleged observations in 1998, which could not be confirmed. Some incidents remain under study.

Some of the 1998 cases include:

**May 7 — Butler County** — A farmer on a tractor, doing some early morning planting, saw an object moving about five feet above his field. The object was about 30 to 40 feet long, dome-shaped in the front, and thinned out towards the back where it became rounded off. There were numerous colored, square-shaped lights on the object, and it appeared surrounded in a vapor. Some unusual effects were reported with the farmer's machinery when the object was in the area. As the object rose above the tree line, it suddenly vanished from sight (via. BORU.)

**July 6 — Pittsburgh suburb, Allegheny County** — A couple admiring a beautiful sunset, noticed a black object motionless above some clouds. The object looked like a fuselage of an aircraft but with no wings or rotor blades. Using binoculars, what looked like a number of "giant lollipops" were seen emanating out from the top, sides and underneath of the object. These projections looked long and solid with a round object at the end. The object while under observation began turning side to side, and the shape seemed to vary from that of a cigar to a triangular configuration. After several minutes it appeared to pick up speed and moved north where it was lost from sight.

**Sept. 27 — Fayette County** — At about 8:30 p.m., an unexplained loud boom was reported by residents in Brownsville. The explosive sound was heard nearly 15 miles away into Washington County. I received reports of a person being jolted out of bed, and another family who watched as their curio cabinet rocked with their collectables being tossed about. Researcher Jim Brown who also investigated the matter, said some witnesses described the sound as a concussion. I also received information that a similar occurrence was reported during the afternoon of Sept. 25 near Saltsburg in Indiana County. One person described the sound as starting out like a huge explosion, but with a very low pitch, which was followed by a long rumble of a higher pitch. The rumble lasted about 15-30 seconds until it could no longer be heard. The sound was reportedly heard by others in Westmoreland County as well.

There were a number of fireball reports from around the area. These reports were likely observations of bright meteors. During the evening of March 31 residents in Westmoreland County reported a fast moving blazing object moving west to east. On Nov. 11 at about 9:30 p.m. a white fireball was seen moving east to west between Greensburg and Jeanette emitting debris and white sparks as it passed through the sky. People also reported an orange fireball with a tail moving towards Ligonier from the Youngstown area on Nov. 15.

A more unusual meteor-like sighting occurred on the morning of Dec. 14 near Girard in Erie County. A person unloading some packages from a car around 6:40 a.m. reported a bright object with a tail moving very fast. The object moved directly overhead, and appeared very low. The startled observer watched as the object moved about 30 feet, and stopped directly above the roof of the house. The object remained motionless, looked like a solid round light, which began to blink on and off in a

timed sequence.

Triangular-shaped objects were reported from Blair and Erie counties. There were numerous reports of odd spheres of light reported from various locations. On Oct. 30 near Ford City in Armstrong County, a man watched a bright orange ball of light move in a straight line across the sky. It then shot straight up, then the light stopped, then went straight down. He called his wife to come outside to confirm his observation. She reported seeing the light move across the sky then stop, then it accelerated and took off faster than anything she had ever seen, leaving a streak of light in the sky.

If you have seen anything strange or unusual recently or in the past, Gordon would like to hear from you. UFO sightings (or other strange events) can be reported 24 hours a day by calling the UFO Hotline at (724) 838-7768. Gordon also can be contacted by email at paufo@westol.com. You can write to him at PO Box 936, Greensburg, PA 15601. And visit Gordon's website at www.westol.com/~paufo. A SASE is appreciated if you are requesting information or a response.

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK

Jan. 6, 1999 CR: J. & L. Nicholson

### Meteor streaks over Bowl

A meteor or some other visiting piece of space junk streaked through the sky over the Anchorage Bowl on Tuesday evening, according to sightings reported to the Federal Aviation Administration. One of the reports came from Jamie Bouchard, an Anchorage resident. Bouchard was walking his dog alongside the University Center mall in Midtown about 5 p.m. when for several seconds he saw an object streak low in the sky against the backdrop of the Chugach Mountains. "It was about the same height as a small plane would have traveled," Bouchard said. "It was a bright blue light, and you could almost hear the flames, and the flames went out and it left black smoke as it went farther down." Two pilots told the FAA they spotted an object, possibly a meteor, over Cook Inlet traveling faster than an aircraft could, an FAA duty officer said. Bouchard and the pilots said the object alternated between white and a blue or green color. Bouchard has seen meteors before, but this was different, he said. "Just this one item appeared out of nowhere. It was beautiful to watch, but I didn't know what it was, so I called the FAA."

## '98 good year for UFOs

As a point of information, 1998 was a good year for UFOs worldwide, in the amount of UFO materials and statements released.

Apollo 14 astronaut Edgar Mitchell stated in a Connecticut talk that UFOs are now becoming mainstream in America and called for open hearings in Congress and urged immunity from prosecutions for those who were threatened or signed previous oaths of secrecy concerning their experiences.

Dr. Richard Haines at Ames Research in California released information on 3,000 pilot reports over the past 80 years: 52 percent military, 40 percent commercial, seven percent private and one percent test pilots. Some of these reports, along with gun camera photographs and radar tracking are still classified.

Fourteen scientists testified to the reality of many aspects of UFO evidence and the need for more scientific investigations and funding of these efforts in New York. The chairman, Peter A. Sturrock, a physicist of Stanford University headed the six-day review of the evidence published in the Journal of Scientific Exploration.

Freedom of Information Act documents, 26,000 in all, now released through pressure and lawsuits against government agencies show that UFOs are the most highly classified subject in American History, even higher than the H-bomb Manhattan Project (many of these I've read personally).

Over 83 UFO incidents, previously classified as Top Secret recently have been declassified by the Spanish government through Madrid's General Air Force Library. An estimated 20 percent of the cases lack any logical explanation, compared to the recently revised U.S. Air Force Blue Book UFO project that could not explain 40 percent of their cases investigated over 20 years.

Recent new discoveries demonstrate that the USAF is still investigating UFOs through the 696th Air Intelligence Group at Fort Belvoir, Va., contrary to the general public's awareness.

President Bill Clinton's executive order #12958 will require automatic declassification by the year 2000 of all national security documents more than 25 years old. Are more surprises concerning UFOs to be revealed?

We can collectively hold our breath until then.

GEORGE D. FAWCETT  
Lincolnton

CR: G. Fawcett  
LINCOLN TIMES-NEWS, Lincolnton, NC - Jan. 13, 1999

# Stop the Flying Saucer, I Want to Get Off

By Lawrence M. Krauss

**T**here was a great deal of concern expressed during the Monica Lewinsky scandal that the distinction between mainstream journalism and the tabloids had all but vanished. But the public, bombarded day and night with salacious and irrelevant revelations, managed to separate the wheat from the chaff.

Is it too much to hope that this ingrate good sense will apply to the tabloid fare that television is peddling now, during the ratings sweeps? No longer able to rely on Washington to provide a steady supply of sensationalism, at least one network has started looking to outer space. I am talking, of course, about alien abductions.

Last Wednesday night, while channel-surfing toward the PBS end of the spectrum, I was stopped by the title shots of a program called "Confirmation: The Hard Evidence of Aliens Among Us?" Grainy images of flying saucers, aliens' faces and an eerie-looking operating table filled the screen. It must be a Fox TV program for "The X-Files," I thought.

Then I noticed the NBC peacock in the corner. The two-hour special, produced by the network's entertainment division, purported to analyze reports of alien visitation, from mind-altering implants to abductions.

Chief among the purveyors of "hard evidence" was the author Whitley Strieber, whose big-eyed alien abductors snatched him from his home one night, injected chemicals into his brain and helped him get onto the best-seller lists. NBC presented Mr. Strieber as both an "expert" source and a journalistic interviewer. I learned later that he was also an executive producer of the show. Is it unfair to suspect that his personal stake in the alien abduction phenomenon biased the presentation?

I watched what was touted as "the first on-camera removal of an alleged alien implant" from the hand of a purported abductee. The operating physician noted that there was nothing necessarily extraterrestrial about a small fragment of metal lodged under someone's skin. But once the blackened spur was extracted, an abductee "expert" on the stage told us excitedly that this was the most remarkable piece of metal he had ever seen removed from a person. (It looked to me like a small watermelon seed, but alas I am not an expert on alien implants.)

Lawrence M. Krauss, chairman of the physics department at Case Western Reserve University, is the author of "The Physics of Star Trek" and the forthcoming "Genesis: The Lives of an Atom."



Andy Rash

The fragment was then sent, for reasons unexplained, to be analyzed by a geologist. It was magnified by a scanning electron microscope, and we learned — to our amazement! — that it appeared to be a bit of iron. We were

**For an alien conspiracy, look no farther than NBC.**

then informed that — even more mysteriously! — although it did indeed contain iron, the geologist "couldn't classify it."

What we were not told was why a geologist should be able to "classify" an object removed from someone's

finger, or what particular aspect was unclassifiable. Moreover, we were not told why — if this supposed evidence was so important — NBC did not have the resources to have it analyzed by another laboratory. But, of course, if the fragment had turned out to be part of the edge of a car door, or a shard from a metal fence post, it might have been somewhat harder to justify its alien origin.

So we were left to conclude that, yes, extraterrestrials must have planted a mysterious device in some guy's hand. Technically, I suppose, the iron chip is hard evidence. But it depends on what the meaning of "is" is. This minor bit of yellow journalism and the press coverage of President Clinton's problems are related, and in a way I find unnerving.

After years of watching displays of righteous indignation from politicians, the public has become largely immune to them. In fact, it has been comforting to see how the moderating effect of popular opinion can silence zealots on both the right and the left.

When it comes to scientific zealots, however, it's a different story.

**W**hen a big network strips away the pretense of journalistic integrity to promote alien abduction claims by interested parties, where is the moderating influence? The excuse that NBC's special came from its entertainment division rather than its news division is a feeble one, because the distinction is lost on most viewers.

Mountains of statistics suggest that the public is far more susceptible to scientific nonsense than political nonsense. More than half of Americans are unaware that the earth orbits the sun and takes a year to do it. Many people simply do not have the tools to distinguish charlatans from honest researchers.

Still, people crave more information about the scientific breakthroughs that are changing our world,

and television is an important source of that knowledge. But if "science" on network television consists mostly of either programs hyping alien visitation or news segments detailing diet breakthroughs, is it any wonder that the border between sense and nonsense becomes blurred?

The late Carl Sagan called science a "candle in the dark," a method of inquiry that illuminates the true nature of myths and superstitions. He also proved that science — even televised science — could be both accurate and entertaining.

If NBC's executives had devoted those two hours to any of the actual mysteries being faced in medicine, biology, chemistry, astronomy or physics, they might have discovered something that everyone who has honestly explored the physical universe knows: yes, truth often is stranger than fiction.

As for me, after getting my fill of NBC's alien "investigation," I tuned in to the more compelling science fiction of "Star Trek." □

## GOVERNMENT EXPOSED

# Speaker reveals evidence for UFOs

By MELISSA SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Oklahoma State University received a crash course Tuesday night on possible governmental cover-ups of UFO existence.

Robert Hastings, a UFO researcher, presented "UFOs: The Hidden History," a slide-show lecture intended to educate the public about the information now available through the Freedom of Information Act. His presentation was based on previously classified documents that have been released recently.

"So-called 'flying saucers' do exist," Hastings said. "Behind the scenes, highest levels of government have judged UFOs to be a national security matter."

Hastings said he is not out to change skeptics into believers, but he thinks the public should be aware of the information.

"I think that what is coming out has the greatest implications for all of us," Hastings said. "The government doesn't deserve a blank check, so to speak, to keep it secret forever."

Hastings' interest in UFO research began when he was a 16-year-old "air force brat" present at an air traffic control tower on Malmstrom Air Force Base

in Montana during a suspicious incident.

"Five UFOs were tracked on radar for several minutes, and jets were launched to attempt to intercept them," Hastings said. "I later learned from air force sources that as the jets closed in, the UFOs performed a vertical ascent and left the area at an enormous speed — a speed far beyond the capability of any conventional aircraft."

Hastings started to research UFOs in the early 1970s and began speaking publicly about them in 1981. He has spoken to more than 500 colleges and universities in an effort to reveal the U.S. government's alleged cover-up of UFO evidence.

"I am not condemning any government agency," Hastings said. "American citizens just have the right to know."

Hastings presented documents from government agencies such as the CIA, FBI and U.S. Air Force. One document shows a "dogfight" between an American aircraft and what Hastings believes is a UFO.

Another document, a 1950 FBI memorandum, was addressed to former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. The document said that "flying saucers" had crashed in New Mexico, and that "bodies of human shape but only three feet tall" were

found.

Dallas Holland, geology junior, found Hastings' presentation to be convincing.

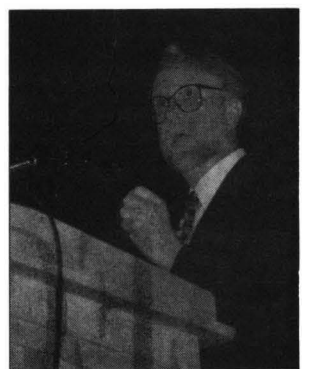
"A lot of people ought to listen to this guy," Holland said. "A lot of people are fogies and think, 'This doesn't and won't happen to me.' They need to wake up and open their eyes."

Sally Hague, psychology sophomore, said, "I was surprised how much documentation was out there that wasn't public."

that wasn't public."

Despite what Hastings considers to be strong evidence in support of the existence of UFOs, he said his program does not solve the mystery of UFOs.

"No one knows the truth regarding UFOs," Hastings said. "(But) what I have shown is closer to the truth than you'll ever get from your government."



Reed Shelton/O'Collegian

Robert Hastings of Placitas, N.M., delivers a presentation on UFO's and the paranormal. Hastings, brought to OSU by the Student Union Activities Board, has been investigating UFO activity for 26 years.

DAILY O'COLLEGIAN,  
Stillwater, OK - Feb. 3, 1999





## New Worlds: All That Is, UFO's & You, Too!

by **SUNNY S. WOLF**

**T**HIS COLUMN IS ABOUT LIFE — who we are, where we are, where we are going — and — where we came from. It will discuss a combination of studies that are all relative to life — science, philosophy, theology, anthropology.

There will be background information given and different points of view and perspectives — all on life. You, the reader, can draw your own conclusions.

The answer to the UFO mystery is not as simple as that of an alien invasion as many researchers believe.

The El Paso (NM) MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) chapter began to grow and to bring in speakers that attracted audiences of over 400 at the local community college.

MUFON is a world-wide network of investigators monitoring and investigating UFO sightings. They have over 500 scientific consultants from every field of science and the organization played a key role in famous UFO investigations including Roswell, the Gulf Breeze, Florida case where hundreds of citizens had seen, photographed and taped unidentified flying crafts for several years and the Travis Walton case, in which a forest worker was abducted by a UFO for five days in Arizona.

The organization attracted people from all walks of life as well as abductees. They came with their stories of missing time, sleepless nights of terror and sketches of the alien beings. What was heard was the typical pattern all too familiar to abduction researchers throughout the country.

A team formed offering free counseling for anyone who believed he was having alien encounters. A support group also began for abductees, meeting monthly to share their fears and concerns and to gain comfort in the knowledge that they were not alone. Many of these people were paranoid about anyone ever finding out their deep dark secret who were outstanding community leaders totally afraid of their alien abductions and paranormal events leaking out to the community. Some were so traumatized that they were too fearful to even speak of their experiences. They became their own therapists by reading such books as "Communion" and "Missing Time."

Hypnosis in abduction cases is used to break through the amnesia surrounding the missing time events. These events quite often included several people who experience shared amnesia for a specific period of time ranging from about half an hour to several hours. Often the conscious memories include having seen the alien beings and their spacecraft.

The brain works on two levels — the conscious and the subconscious. The conscious mind is the part of the mind that is aware of being in contact with physical reality through the use of the five senses. It gathers and sorts information, tests probabilities and then makes decisions. The conscious mind also presents information to the subconscious mind for storage in the memory banks and has the ability to call forth memories from the subconscious when necessary. It is believed that much of the work of the conscious mind is done in the left hemisphere of the brain.

On the other hand, the subconscious mind functions much like a robot, carrying out the instructions of the conscious mind without question, and controlling such automatic functions as respiration, eye blinking and the rhythm of the heart, even while we are asleep or unconscious.

There is a common view that the subconscious mind records all aspects of events experienced by a person. When those memories are triggered, they emerge into consciousness with the full force of all the original

emotional and sensory perception of the original event. Hypnosis, then is simply a state of mind in which the conscious mind relaxes enough for the subconscious mind to take over. It can be said that in the hypnotic state, the person's higher consciousness is in charge, giving the individual access to that timeless and spaceless dimension that connects him to the rest of the universe.

The subconscious is also in charge of storing all our memories, even those we don't want to remember; all the way back to birth, and some say even beyond. The ability of the conscious mind to access those memories is sometimes blocked by the subconscious which protects the conscious mind by not allowing it to remember those things that are too traumatic.

This important gate keeping function is the most important aspect of the use of hypnosis in dealing with trauma. In abduction research it has been found that not even the most clever hypnotherapist is able to open the gate to an abduction memory until the person has consciously made the decision that he is ready to deal with the information.

There is another more disturbing aspect to abduction cases that researchers have discovered. The gate to the hidden memories can also be controlled by outside agents — the beings themselves. In case after case,

researchers have been stymied in their efforts to gain access to certain hidden memories by memory blocks apparently put in place by these higher beings. An abductee will say under hypnosis that he's not allowed to know that right now, etc. At times, efforts to break through the barrier result in excruciating pain for the abductee or he will come out of the trance. And they feel that something terrible would happen if they told what they knew.

The aliens also have a way of taking control of a hypnosis session. The knowledge that the beings could control the hypnosis and communicate directly with the subject and also with the therapists left all of them in a state of awe and quite shaken. For example, when the patient was told to imagine a beautiful place, often a beach, where he or she could feel completely safe, so that the person becomes relaxed to answer questions, etc., the beings showed up on the beach. They demonstrated to the subject that there was no place she could truly be safe from them. They explained to her that if she chose not to carry out their mission in life of speaking out publicly, she would not be permitted to remember any more about her abduction experiences.

Numerous similarities can be found in the thousands of alien abduction cases which have been documented and researched around the world:

1. Evaluation by a competent psychiatrist concluding there is no sign of mental illness.
2. Physical evidence in the form of a scar (scoop mark) on the leg for which there is no conscious memory of an injury.
3. A missing-time experience that can be verified by numerous witnesses.
4. A close encounter with a UFO by

numerous witnesses.

5. Mysterious paralysis and tingling feeling prior to being abducted.
6. Being levitated into the craft.
7. Being placed on a table.
8. Enduring painful examinations.
9. Seeing a variety of beings, specifically small, gray beings with large, almond-shaped, black eyes; praying mantis types and some with reptilian features.

There are those beings who walk among us as humans whom you will notice, if you are aware, have these reptilian features. Be careful if they should befriend you. Some only want to take away your energy, your power.

10. Being taught many things by the beings and being shown glass tubes or tanks where non-human fetuses were being grown like plants.
11. Memories of having known the beings for a very long time.
12. Displaying strong emotions and trauma as the memories are recovered.
13. Exhibiting great relief from stress and stress-related symptoms, such as sleep disorder after uncovering the memories during hypnosis.

All of these "symptoms" are quite normal and ordinary when it is viewed in light of existing research on the subject of alien abduction.

If you have an experience you'd like to tell us about and would like us to print, please write to me c/o Country Road Chronicles, RR2 Box 132, Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328; or email me at [cherokee@skylands.net](mailto:cherokee@skylands.net). We will keep your identity confidential if you so desire.



JOURNAL, Albuquerque, NM - Feb. 9, 1999 CR: R. Dyke

### Arizona Man Selling 'UFO Debris' for \$69,000

*The Associated Press*

TUCSON -- One might not notice a potato-sized gray and green rock if it weren't for its \$69,000 price tag.

But Ron Ruiz, owner of the Oro Valley-based Stone People Products, says there is good reason for the price. He claims the item is the remains of a liquid-hulled alien spaceship that crashed in St. Joseph, Mo., in 1947.

"It seems like an awfully high amount, but there is very little of it," Ruiz told the Arizona Daily Star.

But Tucson astronomer and self-proclaimed skeptic James McGaha said the alleged UFO debris looks a lot like slag — the fused remains separated from metal during the smelting process.

"The sad thing is that there are nutty UFO people out there that might buy it for \$69,000," said McGaha, chairman of Tucson Skeptics and a consultant for the Committee for Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

Several people have already paid Ruiz \$100 a gram for smaller pieces of the alien debris.

Ruiz said the rock is the remains of an alien mother ship that sent out an escape pod that crashed in Roswell in July 1947.

McGaha said the fact that Ruiz is selling alleged UFO remains casts doubt on his story.

"If you thought you had a piece of a real UFO, it would be priceless. You wouldn't cut it up into little pieces and sell it," McGaha said.

TRI-CITY HERALD, Kennewick, WA - Dec. 6, 1998

## Tri-Citians report bright flash in morning sky

### Flash at least 4th in past year to spark reports in Mid-Columbia

By Jason Hagey  
Herald staff writer

**S**everal witnesses saw a brilliant flash light up the early morning sky Saturday in the Tri-Cities, triggering phone calls to the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle and astonishing folks who happened to be awake at 5:40 a.m.

Some witnesses reported a sonic boom moments later that was strong enough to rattle windows in south Kennewick and Burbank. "I was standing in the living room when I saw it out of the corner of my eye," said Charlie Wilkerson. "It just silhouetted everything I can see from my window."

Wilkerson, who lives in Burbank, went outside to investigate about the time a loud boom sounded.

"It rattled the windows," he said.

Felix Quinn, a Battelle meteorologist, was driving to work at the Hanford weather station when he witnessed the flash.

"It lit up the whole sky," Quinn said. "It wasn't any half-flash. It was bright."

It was brief, too.

The whole thing lasted about two seconds, Quinn said.

Not one to believe in conspiracy theories, Quinn figures the mysterious burst was a meteorite. "But it was the best one I've seen," he said.

It wasn't clear what caused the flash.

Peter Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center, said people witnessed it in the Tri-Cities, Hermiston and Wapato. "This thing over Washington must have been major," said Davenport, whose organization has been tracking a flurry of UFO sightings in Washington over the last few months. "It must have been spectacular."

The flash is at least the fourth meteor or celestial sighting to spark reports in the Tri-

Cities in the last year.

Last January, a meteorlike object dazzled residents throughout the Mid-Columbia when it flashed across the Tri-Cities, apparently splashing down in the Columbia, according to one witness.

No evidence was found on the ground, however, and it couldn't be proved that anything reached the river.

In March, another burst of light in the night sky appeared in the Tri-Cities, astonishing those who saw it.

"I was in awe, said one woman. "It gave me goose bumps."

And on Thursday a pilot flying about 20 miles northeast of the Tri-Cities told air traffic controllers in Pasco that he saw a meteor flash across the cockpit of his plane.

"He saw it pretty clear from his window," said Mike Taylor, an air traffic controller.

Reporter Jason Hagey can be reached at 582-1556 or via e-mail at [jhagey@tri-cityherald.com](mailto:jhagey@tri-cityherald.com)



FORMER UTAHN JOE FIRMAGE NOW PUTS HIS MONEY WHERE HIS MIND IS — IN THE COSMOS.

JACOB ESCOBEDO

# Firmage Takes a Cosmic Leap

*An Agnostic Biz Kid Grows Up a Gee-Whiz Believer*

BY PAUL SWENSON

Joe Firmage is a dreamer. Like all dreamers, he's been dissed and dismissed for having his head in the clouds. But at 28, Mr. Firmage is not your average Joe — not with \$10 million in assets and a reputation as a corporate genius. At 18, he founded his first Internet company (Serius Corp.), briefly became Novell Corp.'s vice president of strategic planning, and in 1995, founded USWeb, which he built into a \$1 billion enterprise.

As long as Mr. Firmage was in left-brain country, making money for himself and others while nailing down his own corner of the traditional American Dream, he had more than his share of good press and a wide berth of noblesse oblige from his colleagues. He could be forgiven for what some thought was an eccentric but harmless preoccupation with

mind games and quantum mechanics. But after leaking some intriguing hints of his new path on the Internet last fall, he left USWeb shortly after Christmas (Mr. Firmage says he walked away on his own volition; others say he was pushed) and took a leap into the cosmos.

The existence of aliens, and extraterrestrial contacts with human beings aren't the sort of subjects that corporate luminaries usually address, but suddenly the World Wide Web was flooded with his thoughts on these themes.

"A year and a half ago, we stood together on a beach in California and looked into the night sky," said Joe's father, Ed Firmage, a University of Utah law professor. "I reminded him that space travel had been his passion since he was a little kid."

Ed Firmage recalls a 10-year-old Joe

entranced with the Carl Sagan "Cosmos" television series.

Now, he's been newly-minted by the press as the Seer of Silicon Valley. He's proven himself eminently quotable about UFOs, flying saucers and, more importantly, the nine-minute visit which he says a "being of light" made to his Los Gatos, Calif. bedroom one morning 16 months ago. Mr. Firmage said he confessed his desire for space exploration to the being.

And on the Internet, where he was once regarded as a genuine prodigy, he's launched a magnum opus modestly titled *The Truth*, a book intended to synthesize science and spirituality.

"The truth is not a conclusion, it's a process," Mr. Firmage told the *Observer* last week. "The learning process goes on forever."

The book was titled to "intentionally provoke people to consider there may be a 'true saga.' I've committed to publish a 'living' book — however that may continue to unfold."

Mr. Firmage said he is protecting the anonymity of nearly a dozen of his co-authors — reputable scientists who shouldn't have to take the heat while their ideas and his own evolve within the marketplace of information.

There are a lot of ways the Firmage story could be told: Sharp businessman discovers Internet, makes a ton of money and throws it over for an ethereal adventure. Teen science prodigy gives up his dream at 18 ("Being a physicist was not eco-

nomically rewarding unless you wanted to make nuclear bombs, which I didn't"), then rediscovers it 10 years later. Left-brained logician discovers his dormant other half. Deeply agnostic (if not atheistic) over-achiever allows himself a passionate, new spiritual perspective.

Here's the way Joe Firmage wants the story told: "It's about how science discovers God — about how a scientist discovers his spiritual side. On balance, as stories go, it's a beautiful one," he said. "Core truths turn out to be beautiful." Here, he appears to be describing how he believes the universe itself works, as well as recalling the twists in his own life's epic.

So at the ripe old age of 28, Joe Firmage is at the controversial center of a media firestorm. A quick Web search turns up 89 stories about him over the past few weeks, giving a new spin to his reputation as "the Webmeister" (as the *New York Times* referred to him). Last week he was in *Time* magazine ("From IPOs to UFOs") and a long piece is coming in *Rolling Stone*. In some early stories he is routinely referred to as "wacko" or "crackpot." He calls those first pieces "sensationalized, trivial and shallow."

If they were looking for conflict, journalists chose "the wrong controversial material from my book," he

(continued on page 5)



contends. "If they wanted controversy, they should have focused on the reunification of science and spirituality." He recently founded something called the International Space Sciences Organization to continue that work.

Instead, reporters wrote about Roswell.

Roswell, New Mexico, that is, where something crashed to earth 52 years ago, setting scientists, UFOlogists and conspiracy theorists in a decades-long orbit. Yes, Mr. Firmage confirmed for the *Observer*, he does believe the crash at Roswell in 1947, and many that followed, involved spaceships. Documents authenticated by respected physicist Dr. Robert M. Wood, who worked for McDonnell Douglas for 43 years, corroborate the fact that the U.S. military recovered the ship and that the federal government established a security apparatus to keep that crash and several others under wraps, he said.

The raw technological material recovered from those crashes was studied and eventually "reverse-engineered" into private industry, Mr. Firmage contends, yielding advances in microcircuitry, fiber optics and other applications.

Mr. Firmage is certainly not the first person of prominence to suggest that the universe is vast enough to accommodate other sentient beings with highly-developed intelligence. But by specifically declaring

that "there is overwhelming evidence that the UFO phenomenon is real" and that this planet has been under observation in a continuing series of extra-terrestrial fly-bys for the last 50 years (maybe for centuries), he hangs himself out there for far-ranging, sometimes snide criticism.

Call the visitors "aliens," "angels," or as Joe Firmage does, "teachers" — they all amount to the same thing, he said. Influenced by his father, a religious rebel and thinker on the outskirts of the Mormon tradition, and familiar with the legend of his great-grandfather, the intellectually vigorous and outspoken LDS Apostle Hugh B. Brown, it wasn't uncommon during Joe's formative years to be drawn into dinner table conversation about angels and astronomers.

"As a young man of 16, he asked his LDS priest quorum advisor questions for which he had no answers," Joe's father said. "He walked out of church and didn't go back."

More than one observer has noted a similarity in Mr. Firmage's description of the visit he received in his bedroom one morning in November, 1997 and that of another bedroom appearance — the visit of the Angel Moroni to LDS founder Joseph Smith in his Palmyra, N.Y. home in 1822.

"That's a can of worms I don't want to open," Mr. Firmage said. But his father insists that both stories fit into a broad genre of "startlingly similar" tales told in many cultures,

including Catholic, Islamic and Buddhist.

The senior Mr. Firmage has warned his son to keep most personal experiences to himself, since they would be inevitably misunderstood in mainstream media. "Sure Dad," Joe told his father, "preach me a sermon about keeping a low profile. You're the one who marched with Martin Luther King, who publicly took on the Mormon Church over ordination of blacks and women, and who confronted the Air Force over plans to place the MX missile in Utah. You want me to be careful?"

Before Joe Firmage will talk about that early morning epiphany, he wants you to know what led up to it.

"When I last studied quantum mechanics 10 years ago, the concepts sounded weird and spooky — particles appearing in two places at once, information traveling faster than the speed of light. Other anomalies related to the UFO phenomenon included reports of spacecraft whose properties appeared to defy aerodynamic principles. I was a serious skeptic, even with knowledge of physics that most don't have. I simply rejected the evidence as fantasy or as misreported natural phenomena.

"About 18 months ago I had some time to use the Internet to see what had transpired over the last decade. I was stunned at what I found. There were recent physics papers proposing that, contrary to 100 years of scientific thought, gravity itself might be engineerable. Those UFO reports began to seem not quite so fantastic after all."

Mr. Firmage had been reading one of those seminal physics papers a few hours before he slapped the snooze button on his alarm at 6:10 a.m. on that life-changing morning in October 1997.

The next nine minutes (while Mr. Firmage still lay in bed) would blossom with brilliant clarity.

"The image of a being stood at the foot of my bed. He may not have been tangible or physical, but he looked human. He had brown hair and a brown mustache. He either had white clothes or was clothed in a white light. He appeared annoyed that I had 'called' him. 'Why have you bothered me?' he said. I told him I wanted to travel in space. 'Why?' he asked. 'Because I am willing to die for it,' I said. His demeanor changed and he chuckled. But he seemed to take me seriously. At that moment, a blue, glowing ball of light came from the image and entered my body. I had an incredible feeling of ecstasy and joy. The physical effect on my body was very real. I was shaking."

Some people have told Mr. Firmage that he must have been in a "hypnagogic dream state." That theory doesn't diminish the reality of the experience for him.

"It was a wake-up call that reinforced with utter clarity for me that there is a bigger universe out there. That was my takeaway message."

In the intervening 16 months, "I have had to make choices about my life's direction, about priorities and what I want to do. I have a new commitment to my old domain of study that leads me to conclusions about why these events (visits from space) have been happening. They are most certainly related to the most spiritual

events in the history of mankind."

That's the kind of sweeping statement that has given Mr. Firmage critics cause to link him with the lunatic fringe.

"There has, of course, been a great debunking of UFO believers," observes his father, "and 99 percent of what many of them say may be bullshit. That leaves the 1 percent who are serious people seeking a more significant government response, including Sen. Pat Moynihan and Sen. Jay Rockefeller."

In *The Truth*, Mr. Firmage calls "upon the president and Congress of the United States to waive oaths of secrecy for all civilian and military personnel concerning the historical events presented within documentary finds published for the first time in this book. . . For the first time in 50 years, society is now ready to hear the rest of the story. The organizing motive for the world has never been greater."

Ed Firmage is the only one of *The Truth's* co-authors to waive his anonymity, penning a long chapter on the Christian story whose New Testament eschatology emerges as an intense, long and constant interaction between heaven, angels, dreamers and prophets.

Such descriptions were antithetical to the corporate culture where Mr. Firmage burrowed for so many years. It was the mind-numbing meaningfulness of the lifestyle that may have pushed him in a new direction, he said. "Corporate experience is by no means what it's cracked up to be," he said.

"Only when you become a CEO in a Wall Street-backed firm do you realize how powerful is the profit motive and how ultimately unstable it must become by virtue of the damage it causes. When the focus of your life becomes limited to the three-month experience of the fiscal quarter, that close horizon can destroy your long-term future."

Among the things that concern Joe Firmage are those people who would like to make him the guru of a new religion. "The last thing I want to do is cast myself in that light," he said. But when he speaks, his words carry both a prophetic warning and an unusual optimism.

"Economically we find ourselves in a present state of dramatic irony. While this country's economy is stable, huge portions of the world are plunged into near depression. People who think the imbalance can go on indefinitely are very naïve."

In the propulsion systems of those who visit earth, however, may be both a cure for capitalism and for the coming energy crisis, Mr. Firmage believes.

"The scientific papers which I cite point to the day when we will be able to extract energy from the vacuum of space at essentially no cost. The cost of energy would drop to zero. We would not have to burn oil or gasoline. Energy would be unlimited and free."

"With gravity-based propulsion systems, highways will become obsolescent, deserts can be transformed to verdant gardens, entire continents transformed. The implications of these changes sweep across civilizations. But getting from here to there is no trivial task. The process will have to be constructed ever so delicately."

## LOOKING BACK

DAILY NUGGET, [City & Province Unknown], Canada - Nov. 7, 1957

# Everything but Sputnik Seen In Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Either there's been a profusion of illusions or something mighty queer has been going on over the City of Angels and its satellite communities.

No — nobody has spotted 'an angel yet, but that's one of the few flying objects that hasn't been mentioned.

Some that have:  
Six "saucer-shaped" thingniks.  
A "ball of fire."  
An "orange jack-o'-lantern."  
A "powerful, mysterious light."  
A "great, green light."

And a lot of less colorfully described, ordinary, unidentified flying objects.

The report about the six saucers came from three air force weather observers. They said they spotted the phenomena moving at the base of a cloud bank about 7,000 feet over Long Beach municipal airport Tuesday. Maj. Louis F. Baker, head of the unit, gave this description:

"They were circular and shiny

like spun aluminum, changing course instantaneously without loss of speed like planes in a dog-fight."

The "ball of fire" report came from people in the Hollywood hills, and the "orange jack-o'-lantern" turned up in a report from Mrs. Charles Weitzel of Corona Del Mar. She said she spotted it hovering over the ocean while she was looking out a window of her seaside home. The object vanished in a few seconds, she said.

The "great, green light" was reported seen by residents of the San Fernando Valley.

# LEGENDS AND MYSTERIES

# WE ARE NOT ALONE?

Spooky sagas of UFOs, even 'bigfoot,' lurk in local area

By Steven Singer

Staff writer

It's late.

You're walking home from work through the streets of North Irwin with only one thought on your mind - sleep.

But then you see something out of the corner of your eye.

You turn around and there before you is a bright oblong-shaped object, hovering over a field.

You rub your eyes in disbelief, but when you look again it's still there!

Now you notice red and white lights all over it and two beams of white light coming from the bottom.

You stand there watching it for several minutes but it doesn't go away. It even begins to appear as if a fine vapor surrounds it.

And what's eeriest of all, the whole time you stand there gazing at the 40-to-50-foot-long object, you hear no sound.

None.

Such was the report of a North Irwin resident in February of 1988.

Stan Gordon, a Greensburg UFO researcher, collects reports like these from all across western Pennsylvania, and, as strange as it may seem, the Norwin area is common ground for weird things in the air.

"There have been dozens of reports from North Huntingdon, Irwin and Jeannette," says Gordon.

"And, in this area, there have been very detailed UFO sightings."

For example, one of Gordon's first cases took place on the Adamsburg hill cloverleaf of Route 30 in 1966.

Two women traveling on Route 30 noticed strange objects hovering over the high tension wires on the side of the road. When the women got close to the power lines, the objects dropped down over their car and sped away.

The women even reported ducking



**THERE HAVE** even been local tales of a bigfoot-like creature, says UFO researcher Stan Gordon, who offers this cast of a strange footprint as an example of such legends. The print measures 13 inches long and 8 inches wide. It has been darkened so as to be easier to see.

because they were afraid the objects would hit them. As the objects passed overhead, the women got a pretty good look at them, says Gordon.

They described the objects as dark and oblong with "a flat front and a back rounded out like a tail pipe" and about the same as a sports car.

"This is an interesting case," says Gordon, "because commonly these

sightings occur around energy sources — high tension power lines, power stations, radio/TV transmission towers, etc."

Another local sighting took place in Jeannette in July of 1983. At approximately 7:45 a.m., a woman was getting ready for her day after her husband had left for work, when she

heard a loud "swirling" sound which shook her whole house.

She went to the window and saw a large metallic object about 150 yards away in the sky, "wobbling up and down like a yo-yo."

The object was a couple of hundred feet in diameter and covered with blue and green lights. "It looked like a double decker layer cake," she said.

In the five minutes that she watched it, she was able to get a pretty good look at it, says Gordon.

She said the object had a dome-like structure on the top of it with a row of four square windows. Below that was an outline of what looked like some sort of door.

All of a sudden, it whooshed up into the sky and was gone in seconds.

**Sounds crazy**, doesn't it?

But one of the most unusual factors about this sighting is that it was preceded by a similar sighting in Latrobe, Pa., two hours earlier.

"Both eyewitnesses described the square windows as important," says Gordon.

"That's a very unusual feature."

It may be hard to believe, but, "Normal everyday people see and experience unusual things," says Gordon.

In his experience, people like those who see something strange usually don't want to be identified by name. That's why he refuses to give out any names on any of his reports.

However, the climate is changing.

"People today aren't as afraid of ridicule as they were before," says Gordon.

"They're beginning to talk more about it."

The UFO researcher has lived his whole life in Greensburg, and he got his interest in the paranormal on his 10th birthday.

**His parents** had bought him a radio, and when he went upstairs to listen to it, everyone was talking about strange and unusual things.

This shouldn't be too strange, itself, since Gordon was born on Halloween. Really.

"The radio shows caused me enough interest to go to the library and look into it," he says.

"When I got a little older, I talked to some local people about the Kecksburg incident and that set me on my lifetime search to find answers to some of these mysteries."

Kecksburg has special meaning. Gordon refers to the famous incident that took place in December of 1965 near Mount Pleasant, one in which more than 20 people reported the crash landing of an alien space craft.

Gordon has been so interested in this particular incident that he's produced a video on the subject, "Kecksburg: The Untold Story."

He has served as the head of numerous UFO research organizations and appeared on a plethora of television shows dealing with UFO phenomena such as "Unsolved Mysteries," "Inside Edition," "A Current Affair" and "Sightings."

However, Gordon isn't so fanatical on the subject as to jump to a conclusion of extraterrestrial origin every time someone sees something strange in the sky.

**"Most UFO reports** — about 90 to 95 percent — are explainable as manmade or natural in origin," he says.

Some commonly reported natural or manmade UFOs are bright planets that can appear to flash or move, given the right atmospheric conditions. UFOs can also be bright



**"IS ANYBODY out there?"** wonders Stan Gordon, UFO researcher, as he tunes in to radio signals from far and wide at his home in Greensburg.

(continued on page 7)



meteors, lights on aircraft and even space junk that falls back into the atmosphere.

Gordon notes a recent sighting in Larimer this past December in which residents saw a bright object in a tree.

"It turned out to be a can of pop stuck to a parachute," says Gordon.

Another such incident involved a lot of people in Larimer and Irwin in 1968 who reported seeing a bright yellowish fireball in the sky in the early morning.

It was probably a bright meteor. "After you eliminate all normal explanations, then you look at these more interesting cases," Gordon says.

Another of these interesting cases took place in Irwin in July of 1973. There was a rash of UFO sightings in this area in the early '70s, he says.

Two green lights were seen at a distance behind a resident's home. They dipped down and then came right into the resident's back yard, illuminating everything.

The resident turned away from the mysterious lights for a moment and when he turned back, they were gone.

The interesting thing, says Gordon, is that a dog tied up near by was reported to be shivering and cringing up against the home. The whole time it never barked.

"This is a common feature of UFO and bigfoot sightings," says Gordon. "Animals are capable of seeing and hearing beyond our senses."

In October of the same year, a resident of North Huntingdon was driving on Robbins Station Road in the early morning. When he came to a traffic light, a huge light "as bright as a sun" came over the traffic signal lighting up his whole vehicle, temporarily blinding him.

It all took place in about 30 seconds, but the resident said it looked as if the object was searching for something.

Another more recent report comes from the same area, according to Gordon.

In December of 1990, a resident of the township was returning home from Norwin Towne Square and as he reached the intersection of Robbins Station Road and Route 30,

he observed a very bright light moving slowly in the sky.

At first, he thought it was an airplane, but then it began to do something that airplanes can't — it began to hover over the crest of a hill in the direction of North Irwin.

When the resident went to a higher observation point, he could see three objects — one bright yellow and the others somewhat dimmer.

The brightest one changed from its yellow color to a pulsing silver-white light. After 25 minutes, they all sped away.

"I don't believe there's one easy explanation for these phenomena," says Gordon.

"Most reports are manmade or natural in origin, but my feeling is that after the thousands of people

I've interviewed, I'm convinced a small percentage of these reports are extraterrestrial in origin — intelligently controlled vehicles from outside our world."

As to claims about a military cover-up at Kecksburg, Gordon says the U.S. government disregards UFO sightings publicly, but it seems that privately they take the matter very seriously.

"The government has to be aware that something is going on," he says.

Smells like "X-Files," it seems. It's up to civilians to investigate these phenomena, says Gordon.

He has a hotline set up for anyone who sees something strange, whether it be a UFO, bigfoot or even something more earthly, like

animals not ordinarily encountered, like mountain lions.

Add to that reports of giant birds, strange animal mutilations, falls from the sky, strange geologic or archeological finds, unexplained artifacts, religious miracles, crop circles, undetermined explosive sounds or anything unusual.

The hotline number is (724) 838-7768.

Gordon also invites anyone to mail him at P.O. Box 936; Greensburg, Pa. 15160; or e-mail him at paufo@westol.com.

Gordon will discuss his latest research with the North Huntingdon chapter of AARP on Thursday, March 4.

The truth is out there! Isn't it?

## 'Bigfoot' legend exists here, too

By Steven Singer

Staff writer

Though Stan Gordon is more known for his UFO research, he is also a leading expert on bigfoot.

Don't laugh. Bigfoot is a serious subject in western Pennsylvania.

There are a lot of reports of sightings of strange creatures in this area that have the same or similar characteristics as the famed sasquatch of the West, according to Gordon.

Take for example a report he relates from August of 1983...

In the early morning, two hunters were out looking for deer in a wooded area near Shaner, which is not that far from Irwin.

As they were lying in wait for the ultimate buck, they kept hearing unusual sounds around them that they described as "heavy hollow thumping sounds."

When they tried to find its source in the thick predawn darkness, the beam of their flashlight came upon a huge red eye, at least a third larger than a human's.

They jumped back in fright, but the flashlight had already begun to illuminate the creature further.

They saw a large hairy animal with shaggy dark brown hair, kneeling in a patch of weeds and berries.

As soon as the light hit it, it went to a standing

position that revealed it to be about 7 feet tall.

The hunters stood there, gaping at the creature for about two minutes before it ran off. The whole time, the creature never blinked.

A lot of people don't realize that even though UFOs have almost become a mainstay of our popular culture, people are still reluctant to report sightings of a bigfoot-like creature, says Gordon.

The first reported bigfoot sighting in this area was in Fayette County in 1931.

Since then, the largest number of reports in western Pennsylvania were reported between 1972 and the early '80s, says Gordon, a time that strangely coincided with a similar rash of UFO sightings.

"There are a lot of very detailed daylight sightings," says Gordon, "sometimes involving more than one creature."

One of the reasons for the decline in sightings, speculates Gordon, might be that the area is much more built up now than it was before.

Yet there have been a great number of alleged footprints and hair samples, says Gordon.

"What these things are we don't know, but there is solid evidence of something unusual," he says.

However, he is at a loss to explain why after all these sightings, no one has ever recovered a carcass.

"We don't have all the answers," says Gordon. "All we do is gather information."

## LOOKING BACK

[Paper & City Unknown], Ontario, Canada - Feb. 1, 1957

# 'Flying Saucers' Like Family At Gillies, Pay Second Visit

COBALT (Staff) — 'Flying saucers' are becoming a family affair for the Don Camerons of Gillies, three miles south of here.

Tom Cameron, 24, and a neighbor, Bob Cole, 28, are just back from cutting ice on Anima-Nipissing Lake, five miles west of Latchford with the latest story in the annals of flying saucers. On Saturday they watched a mysterious object for two hours with binoculars and the naked eye as it played pranks in the night skies.

It wasn't the family's first brush with flying saucers.

At about 7.45 p.m. Saturday, the men were sitting in a shack by the lake when they saw a big circular flare of light in the eastern sky. Above the treetops it shone green, red and blue.

Through the binoculars the object, which they saw was solid, appeared about three feet in diameter. It shot up and down noise-

lessly and across the skies at terrific speeds "far in excess of those of a jet plane." The saucer never went overhead, but went as high as 80 degrees above the horizon.

Contacted yesterday by RCAF Filter Centre officials in North Bay, they have received no other reports from anywhere in the area on Saturday evening. They refrained from advancing any theories as to what it might have been.

Don Cameron, his wife and their children had their first brush with flying saucers on April 25, 1946. On the same lake, cutting a channel for their boat, they saw between 12 to 14 small disk-shaped objects come down at a 45-degree angle a mere 75 feet in front of them.

Appearing to be about twice the size of a dish, the objects jumped on and off ground of height of two

feet, spinning in the ice. The family all watched. As Don Cameron walked toward them they rose at the same angle and shot off through trees on a nearby ridge without touching the branches.

The objects left black marks on the snow and ice. Queried about this, filter officials stated the date and circumstances corresponded to those of similar reports from various parts of the country. Cameron said the objects descended in a chain — "making a rattling sound."

They had reported it to no one at the time.

Asked about Saturday's phenomena, Don Cameron stated: "I couldn't see any windows on the flying saucer. It was circular but changed to disk shape according to the angle it was seen from."

"We looked at it for two hours and are certain it was no figment of the imagination," he concluded.



This flying object was spotted on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, on Oct. 8, 1981.

# FRIEND OR UFO?

## DOCTOR SCRUBS HIS LAB COAT FOR 'MEN-IN-BLACK' SUIT

By DAVID A. MAURER  
Daily Progress staff writer

While thumbing through a handful of UFO photographs, Dr. Steven M. Greer stopped at one and pulled it out. Appearing on the picture was a basketball-sized orb several feet off the ground. The founder and director of the Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence said it was a probe that was photographed by a member of his CSETI team in Wichita Falls, Texas, in April 1992.

"When the team members stopped to check it out, it was there for a little while and then vanished," said Greer, as he studied the photograph in the living room of his Albemarle County home. "Absolutely disappeared."

"We had been attempting to vector [UFOs] in, so they often show up like that. We've seen hundreds of these."

Greer made the comment with neither awe nor surprise in his voice. He said that he has seen too much proof of the existence of extraterrestrial spacecraft to doubt they are here.

In fact, the physician is so convinced

that spacecraft — and extraterrestrial biological entities who pilot them — are real that he put his medical career on hold in an effort to convince others of the existence of UFOs.

Greer moved to Albemarle County last summer from North Carolina so he could be closer to Washington. He said he often travels to the capital to brief military and political figures on the latest CSETI findings.

At 7:30 Thursday evening, Greer will lecture on UFOs in Lane Auditorium at the Albemarle County Office Building. Admission is \$5.

In 1990, after a lifelong interest in the subject, Greer founded CSETI as a nonprofit group to seriously look into the phenomenon with scientists, lay people and government officials.

To date, Greer said, his group has compiled about 2,000 pages of government documents relevant to the UFO topic, hours of video tapes of UFOs and lists of more than 4,000 landing trace cases, in which extraterrestrial craft have landed and left behind physical evidence.

Greer claims CSETI's rapid mobilization investigative teams have successfully established contact with extraterrestrial spacecraft in this country, England, Mexico and Belgium. He said the contacts involved the coordinated signaling and vectoring of positively

identified extraterrestrial space craft and the returned acknowledgment through similar signaling and near-landing events by these crafts.

Greer believes that, behind the thickest wall of security, there exist actual extraterrestrial spacecraft. He feels the secrecy surrounding this is so extreme that even the president of the United States could be kept out of the loop.

"I have many witnesses, who are military, intelligence and aerospace people who have worked on these devices or have seen them, including people who have handled the deceased extraterrestrial bodies," Greer said.

"And I'm not talking about one. I'm talking about several men who have worked on retrieval operations where they have actually handled these things. I have no question at all that these people are telling the truth."

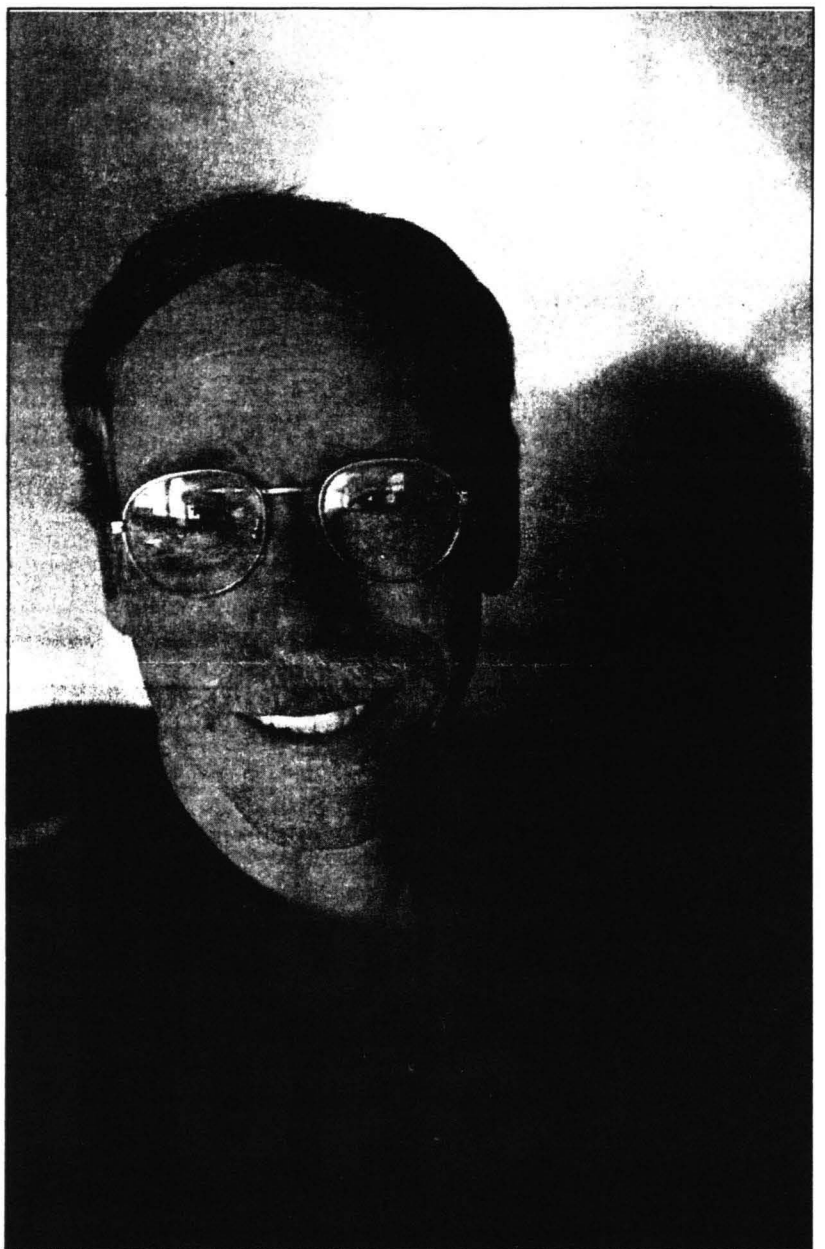
"These are not people who are publicity seekers, and they check out. I would say the best evidence, unfortunately, is beyond access to the media or the non-covert scientific community."

### Extraterrestrial study

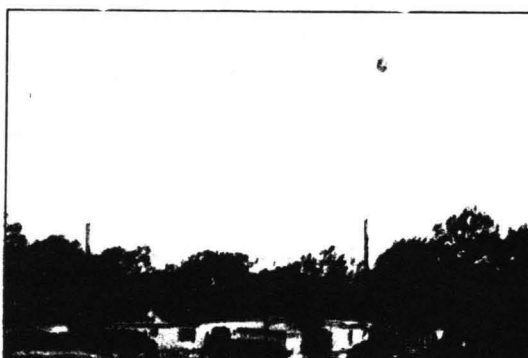
Greer believes the government first got its hands on an extraterrestrial spacecraft in 1947. He says scientists then went to work studying the craft to find out how it functioned.

"In the 1950s, somewhere between '54 and '57 to the best I can discern, we had figured out the basic operat-

(continued on page 9)



Dr. Steven M. Greer will speak about UFOs at the Albemarle County Office Building on Thursday. The Daily Progress/Leslie Close



Steven Greer said this "probe" was photographed in Wichita Falls, Texas, in April 1992.



(continued from page 8 - DAILY PROGRESS,  
Charlottesville, VA - Jan. 31, 1999)

ing system of these space craft of extraterrestrial origin," Greer said. "And when they realized what they had, this consortium of military intelligence and aerospace people buried it 10 levels deep — black."

Why?

"Because the release of that information would have terminated the entire industrial infrastructure of the Earth," he said, "meaning electric utility companies, gas, oil, coal and internal combustion engines for cars, jets, buses, would have all become obsolete."

"The good news is that they are obsolete and there is another system out there that can be put on line. A system which would greatly enable the Earth to reach its potential and exist long term technologically without destroying the ecosystem. The bad news is that if you own a trillion dollar oil field someplace, what's that oil worth now?"

According to Greer, the scientists figured out that the extraterrestrial craft were powered by a counter-rotating, electromagnetic system that taps into a so-called "zero point field." He believes that same alien power source could be the answer to the world's energy and pollution problems.

Greer feels this technology should be made available to the world and that it has tremendous promise for humanity if it's handled properly. He added that the real issue is geopolitical.

"What happens when you have a device that fits into the size of, say, a heat pump unit that can generate all the energy your house or a village in Africa needs and does not need to be replenished?" Greer asked.

"It's not on an electrical utility line, so you don't have to pay a utility bill. The same device is in your vehicle, so you don't have to go to Exxon to pump up your car."

"When you have a device like this, the economic prosperity that would blossom in India, sub-Sahara Africa, South America and parts of Asia that now live with tremendous starvation, want and poverty would change relatively quickly."

#### Why upset the apple cart?

Greer feels that geopolitical power is the real reason why information about UFOs has been kept from the public. Why, he reasoned, would those sitting in the catbird seat of geopolitical power introduce a device that would completely upset the status quo?

While the energy source Greer describes might appear to be a godsend to some, others might see it as too good to believe.

George Knapp, an investigative reporter for the CBS affiliate KLAS-TV in Las Vegas, has been investigating UFO-related stories for a decade. He first became involved in the subject when he did a story on the ultra-top-secret base in the Nevada desert, commonly referred to as Area 51.

"I'm sort of the guy responsible for the Area 51 flap," Knapp said from his Las Vegas office. "We started looking into reports of flying saucers out there, and it led me into this whole world of 'ufology,' which is pretty crazy."

"In ufology, there are degrees of credibility. The whole field is generally pretty wacky, but there are legitimate research organizations that try to do a good job and really are interested in getting to the truth."

"Doctor Greer is controversial in ufology, which is saying a lot. I mean, if you can be controversial in a field that, by its nature is controversial, it's saying a lot about you."

Knapp said he doesn't know Greer personally, but he knows a lot of CSETI folks because they have local organizations spread all over the country. He said the group members are very passionate about what they're doing, but largely operate outside the mainstream of UFO research organizations.

"My impression of them [CSETI members] — and it's only impressions, not based on any in-depth research — is that they're sort of like the evangelicals of the UFO field," Knapp said.

"They've made a lot of claims, such as self-initiated contact with aliens. They go out in fields and shine lights up in the sky and bring down flying saucers. I think most of the reputable people in the UFO field find that a little hard to believe."

"I think the fact that Greer is a doctor has given him a degree of credibility that he wouldn't have otherwise. He's been to medical school, he's a scientist to some degree, so you tend to pay attention to him."

#### He gave up his day job

Before moving to Albemarle County with his wife, Emily, and their four children, Greer had been the chairman of the department of emergency medicine at Caldwell Memorial Hospital in Lenoir, N.C.

"Doctor Greer is highly respected here," said Virginia Nelson, director of emergency medicine at Caldwell Memorial Hospital. "He's very intelligent and an excellent physician."

Greer is also dedicated to unraveling the mystery surrounding UFOs and the intelligent beings he thinks are flying them. He said his fascination with UFOs started when he saw one when he was a child.

"My uncle, L. Macon Epps, helped design the lunar module that Neil Armstrong landed on the moon in," Greer said. "I was a child in the mid-'60s when he was working on the module, so that got me quite interested in space and things like that."

"I don't remember the exact year, it would have been between '63 and '65, I'm guessing, that I saw one of these objects on a clear day late in the afternoon. It was a disk, silver, metallic, silent and it was spinning."

"I would guess it was 10,000 feet away and it moved slowly, hovered and vanished. I knew what I had seen and, of course, my parents thought, 'Oh yes, sure.' But

as a child, I became very interested in the subject from a serious point of view and started reading serious accounts by scientists who were studying this."

Many people have been attracted to CSETI because of Greer's serious approach in addressing the UFO question. One such person is Ted Loder, a professor of oceanology at the University of New Hampshire.

"Doctor Greer is one of the most brilliant men I've ever met," said Loder, who became a CSETI member after he heard Greer and others speak in Washington on April 9, 1997.

"I was incredibly impressed by what I heard at the briefing and the reality of this and what it means to us as a nation and a planet. Although I don't know of a group that compiles a list of all UFO events, there do seem to be more and more bold in-the-face sightings."

"When I first got into this subject, I was very circumventive, because I don't want to be seen as a wacko. But I've looked at this very carefully, and I now think CSETI is closer to what's going on than other groups."

Greer said he has 200 creditable witnesses, many of them from classified projects, who have first-hand knowledge of the UFO coverup and are willing to testify under oath in front of an open congressional hearing.

#### No television?

What Greer said his organization isn't willing to do is parade their witnesses out piecemeal for television programs "that have little grannies in tennis shoes talking about the last time they were taken aboard a space craft and saw babies floating around."

"CSETI has been very particular and, some would say, difficult on the issue of quality control," Greer said. "I have a moral responsibility to these top-secret witnesses."

"Say I had a captain of a Navy vessel who picked up an object we had shot down in the south Atlantic in August of 1963 with dead ET bodies in it. I have such a witness. He's real."

"I don't want to put this man, who is old and not in good health, on what I

said was going to be a serious program and it ends up being horrific, tabloid junk. I'm called once a month by people who want to do a documentary on this, but when I see the outline, it's filled with the nonsense that is the grist of the mill for these UFO documentaries."

The problem Greer and other UFO investigators run into is lack of hard evidence. Docu-

ments can be forged, photographs and videos staged or altered and well-meaning witnesses mistaken.

"One of the problems you have in dealing with things like this is so much of it falls into the category of eyewitness reporting," said Charles R. Tolbert, professor in the astronomy department at the University of Virginia.

"Eyewitnesses are really not a very good source of evidence for things, because two different people will see the same event differently. What lots of people will say is, 'Look, I've talked to these people, I know they're honest people, I know they're telling me what they think is the truth.'"

"Well, that's fine, and I'm sure that's true in most cases, but that doesn't mean what they're telling you is, in fact, what happened. It's what they thought happened, given the circumstances they were in at the time."

Like Greer, Tolbert is interested in getting some answers to the UFO question. In September 1997, he joined a panel of eight other scientists near Tarrytown, N.Y., to look at the status of UFO reports in a scientific way.

#### Sturrock's findings

Their findings have come to be known as the Sturrock Report, after Peter Sturrock, who headed the group.

"We asked UFO enthusiasts and investigators to bring us their best evidence," Tolbert said. "We listened to that and discussed it."

"I have to tell you that none of that evidence was convincing to the point that we would have said there is now evidence of some physical activity that could be ascribed to UFOs. Most of it either didn't provide enough data to make an explanation one way or another or it lent itself to totally natural explanations."

"Now, that doesn't mean that such evidence couldn't be gotten, and it certainly doesn't disprove UFOs. What we eventually concluded was that these sightings and so forth deserve some attention. Probably not a lot of attention until such time one of them proves to have more reality to it than what we've seen so far, but we shouldn't just throw it all out."

Tolbert said he, like most scientists today, believe there are probably other life forms somewhere else in the universe. He said this belief is based largely on a statistical argument of the number of stars and the likely number of planets and the fact that it would be very remarkable if Earth was the only place in the whole universe where life has developed.

However, that doesn't necessarily mean aliens are

visiting us.

"My personal feeling is that we are not being visited by aliens," Tolbert said. "First of all, I find the likelihood that someone would be able to transport themselves across space at the distances we're talking about in the universe is very, very low."

"The second issue is, I can't imagine why, if there were such intelligent beings out there, they would bother looking at what we're doing here on Earth. Surely, we are not the most interesting thing in the universe."

"One of the problems human beings have is that they have this sort of innate position that we are important. We think of ourselves as important, and the fact that UFOs would come here sort of fits our psyche."

After spending a decade sorting through UFO-related material and interviewing countless people, Knapp also reached a few conclusions. To begin with, he said, he believes 95 percent of it is complete and utter nonsense.

#### But what about the rest?

It's that last 5 percent that continues to pique Knapp and motivates him to keep searching for answers.

"I know from my own work that there's little doubt the government has a lot more information than they've let on," Knapp said. "You write to the CIA, which I did many times over the years, and they say, 'Ah, we've never studied this stuff,' and yet through a freedom of information request you see documents in which the CIA had references to UFO studies and UFO experts within the CIA."

"The FBI said they never studied this stuff and then the FOI was passed and they were forced to release 2,000 pages of information. It sounds crazy and, unless you do some of the legwork yourself, you probably wouldn't believe it. But there really is a core of information that has not been fully explained and has not been dealt with fairly, especially by science."

Knapp said every year since he has been following the UFO topic he has heard predictions and pronouncements that this was the year when the government was going to throw up the hangar doors, show where they've been hiding the flying saucers, and finally come clean.

It never happens.

"There's been some congressional investigators who are quietly interested in this topic who have looked into it over the years, and have pursued some of the same kind of leads I've pursued," Knapp said.

"And they say, 'You know, if some of this stuff is true, there's really a good reason for the coverup. And that is if it ever comes out, some of these guys are going to go to jail for lying to the public, for creating disinformation campaigns and for taking money from legitimate national security programs to keep this coverup going.'"

"If all of this does prove true, it's going to be a huge story, and people say they're ready for it. I'm not sure they're ready for it. We don't exactly know what the truth is."

After 50 years of studying this phenomenon, Knapp said, we're not really any closer to answering the big questions: Who are they? Where are they from? Why are they here? What do they want? And what's their interest in us? The answers could be scary, he said.

Greer doesn't think so.

He said all the evidence his group has compiled points to the extraterrestrial biological entities as non-hostile and not motivated by the acquisition or subjugation of the Earth or its people.

#### Two main goals

The 43-year-old physician said he and dozens of other people in his organization have made huge sacrifices in their careers and finances to try to make friendly contact with these outer space visitors.

"We have two goals in CSETI," Greer said. "Number one is to collect the best scientific evidence on the subject and get it disclosed through a credible vehicle to the public."

"Number two is to continue to develop this program of engagement with these objects for peaceful long-term purposes. Our CSETI research teams have had these objects, 150-foot in diameter spinning disks, appear in the same field they were in, 10 feet above the ground."

"We've had them right overhead signaling to us. What I'm saying is that a lot of what people may have seen in fictionalized movies, like 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind,' we have actually had a lot of that happen."

Greer nodded his head toward a crystal-clear, daytime photograph of a suspected UFO flying near a mountain in British Columbia, Canada, to emphasize his point. He placed his photographs back in a folder and looked out the large picture window of his home toward the dusk-shaded mountains nearby.

"For me, this has been really quite a personal journey of learning about this and also coping with the responsibility of knowing about it," Greer said. "I went through a period where I didn't sleep well, and I'm not being melodramatic."

"I'm a physician and I've been called every name in the book for being involved in this subject. The ridicule factor is merciless and relentless."

"But I've told my children and my wife, if we can get this done, the benefits to the world will be so immense that whatever little sacrifice we make is not that big of a deal. We're talking about a very promising message here."

More information about CSETI can be found at <http://www.cseti.org> on the Internet.

# Truman landed in town as saucers circled New Mexico

On June 24, 1947, Kenneth Arnold was scanning mountainous terrain from the cockpit of his aircraft.

The Boise, Idaho, pilot and businessman had joined an aerial search for a Marine C-46 air transport plane that had disappeared in the rugged Cascade Mountains of Washington.

Arnold never spotted the downed plane, but what he did report gave birth to the modern era of UFO sightings. He said he saw nine "shiny, disc-shaped objects skipping" through the air at a speed he estimated at about 1,350 mph.

When the fire-appliance salesman described the objects to reporters by saying, "They flew like a saucer would if you skipped it across water," he inadvertently coined the term "flying saucers."



**DAVID A. MAURER**

*Yesteryears*

Arnold brought UFOs to the forefront of public attention. But an alleged crash of a UFO several days later in New Mexico created a wellspring for conspiracy theories and continues to fuel a debate over alleged governmental coverups.

The story goes that during a thunderstorm on the evening of July 2, 1947, a UFO crashed on William Brazel's sheep ranch near Corona, N.M. During the storm, the rancher said, he heard an explosion that sounded different than the numerous claps of thun-

der.

When Brazel rode out to investigate the following morning, he said, he discovered strange pieces of wreckage strewn over a wide area. After Brazel reported his find to officials at nearby Roswell Army Air Field, Maj. Jesse Marcel and counterintelligence corpsman Sheridan Cavitt were dispatched to the site.

When Marcel and Cavitt returned to the base, they reported that the material at the crash site was different from anything that might have come from an airplane, balloon or missile. Initially, the U.S. Army said they had recovered the remains of a crashed flying saucer, but within hours, recanted this story and said they were merely pieces of a weather balloon.

The controversy over what actually was spread through the

New Mexico field continues to this day. The military's disclaimer appeared in The Daily Progress on July 9.

"An examination by the Army revealed last night that a mysterious object found on a lonely New Mexico ranch was a harmless high-altitude weather balloon — not a grounded flying disc," the story reported.

However, if the opposite is eventually proved true — that a UFO did crash that evening in New Mexico — July 2, 1947, would become one of the most famous dates in the history of mankind.

Interestingly, Charlottesville could then play a role in the big picture. While army personnel were either picking up pieces of a downed weather balloon or the wreckage of an alien spacecraft, President Harry Truman was here

visiting.

If the conspiracy-theory folks are right, Truman might have been getting updated reports from the New Mexico crash site as he participated in our local Fourth of July celebrations. If that was the case, he was one of the coolest presidents we've ever had.

Truman observed Independence Day with activities that kept him on the move from morning to nearly dusk. He started off by giving an address from the east portico of Monticello to an audience of more than 2,500.

After his speech, he placed a wreath on Thomas Jefferson's grave. He then waved at the crowds that lined both sides of Main Street as he was driven to the University of Virginia for a luncheon at the Colonnade Club.

As Truman walked from the Rotunda to the club, 3-year-old

Hedgman Smith ran up to him yelling, "Hi, Mr. President." A delighted Truman scooped the boy up in his arms and, as photographers took pictures, the two exchanged beaming smiles.

Later that afternoon Truman paid a visit to Ash Lawn, where he placed a wreath at the foot of the statue of James Monroe. Shortly before 6 p.m., he spent a half-hour with newsmen at a cocktail party.

If Truman told them anything about strange goings-on out in New Mexico, they didn't report it. But, then, it was an unfolding story and the man from Missouri wasn't given to making snap disclosures.

Still, Truman, like nearly everyone else in the nation who had a radio or could read, would have been aware of the UFO flap.

If the president opened The Daily Progress on July 5, he would have seen a front page story having to do with the growing flying saucer mystery.

"The 'flying saucer' mystery reached fever pitch today, after I saw them myself statements from a veteran United Air Lines crew, scores of Portland residents and 60 picnickers at Twin Falls Park in Idaho," the story reported.

"The UAL pilot, copilot and stewardess who had scoffed constantly at 'flying saucer' tales said they saw such objects last night while flying a passenger plane from Boise, Idaho, to Portland."

When Truman left Charlottesville on July 7, the UFO story on the front page of The Progress was bigger than ever and included a photograph of one of the alleged craft.

The story said sightings of UFOs had been reported in 38 states, including Virginia, the District of Columbia and Canada. The story went on to say that the Peninsula Airport at Newport News was taking no chances with the saucers.

The following notice was posted on airport's bulletin board:

"Two thousand feet vertical and horizontal clearance required between aircraft operating from this field and 'flying saucers.'"

The following day, The Progress reported that flying saucers had visited Charlottesville.

"Two of the mysterious aerial bodies, reported as having been seen at various places over the nation including Portsmouth in this state, and as yet unexplained, were seen here by J.E. White," the story read.

"White said he first saw a 'saucer,' which he described as looking like a child's 'spinning top' going southward at a tremendous rate of speed about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and saw another one traveling in the same direction at a height of about 5,000 feet around 10 o'clock this morning. No sound accompanied the 'saucers,' White said.

"White said Roy L. Eakes, proprietor of the barber shop where he is employed, also saw the object in the sky this morning."

The day after White's sightings, the New Mexico disclaimer story appeared. The next day, July 10, another UFO story ran, but this one had taken on the tongue-in-cheek tone many UFO stories in the future would follow.

The story told about a saucer-shaped device that resembled a chicken brooder top being found in a geranium bed in North Hollywood, Calif.

"It doesn't look to me like it could fly," fire battalion chief Wallace E. Newcombe was reported as saying when asked about the mechanical contraption. Russell Long, the owner of the home where the device was found, had called the fire department when he said the metal saucer began belching smoke from two exhaust pipes and emitting a blue-white glare.

The object was turned over to the FBI, and they said they would hand it over to the military. Before the federal agents carried the 20-inch in diameter metal saucer off, Newcombe showed it to reporters.

"A radio tube on top was set down into the upper half of the saucer, which was about five inches thick at the middle and tapered to a thin perimeter," was how one reporter described it.

"There were wires leading to a plug embedded in the center of the lower half. There was a rudder-type wing on top."

After reading, the story many people probably said, "Sounds like a chicken brooder to me," and dismissed it. Others might have exclaimed, "Hum, sounds like one of those flying thingamajigs to me."

The debate continues.





YUKON NEWS, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada - Jan. 27, 1999 CR: G. Conway

## LifeStyles

# One UFO can change your life

By Anne Pritchard  
News Reporter

They live in a nice home in a Whitehorse suburb.

Mom and dad are professionals. The daughters take dance classes. The son plays hockey. As a family, they like to go to performances at the Yukon Arts Centre.

In short, they sound like a fairly ordinary, middle class, Whitehorse family, except...

Except they once had such a strange experience. Weird, it was. So bizarre, in fact, that they prefer not to be identified by name.

"We don't understand it," says Mary. "Seeing these things and accepting seeing these things are two different things."

She is talking about a prolonged encounter with a UFO on March 30, 1997.

Mary was driving her children back from the Takhini Hot Springs at 10 p.m.

They arrived at Takhini Bridge and there it was — a huge white light over the riverbank.

The glowing object was about the size of a satellite dish, says Mary, who admits she has poor depth and size perception.

"It was just a light and it wasn't a shape. When we saw it, we were not scared. It was just all this light, so bright and so brilliant. I saw a bit of red."

She rolled her window down and drove on, though more slowly, trying to get a better look. The object rose up from the riverbank and followed the car from the other side of the road, just above the trees.

The UFO pursued the family along the Klondike Highway until they approached some houses. At that point, it shot straight up until it became little larger than thumb-size, recalls Mary.

She decided to stop the vehicle where the Alaska and Klondike Highways meet because trying to watch and drive was too difficult.

The UFO then went zig-zagging in all directions.

"It would go, then stop and then go; it would stop way across and then go waaayyyy up in the atmosphere and come down and then come straight towards us."

It didn't make a sound.

She does not remember having been especially scared. In fact, she felt mesmerized and remembers thinking, whatever it was, it was benign and just having fun.

"It was something out of the ordinary and very exciting to watch."

The family resumed its jour-



NEWS photo by Mike Thomas

**CLOSE ENCOUNTERS...**Martin Jasek, along with another researcher, collect UFO stories for their website. In March, 1997, a family claims a UFO chased their vehicle down on the Mayo Road.

ney while continuing to watch the lights in the sky.

"We stopped just before Crestview because I thought 'OK, this is safe to get out and look. We are closer to people."

"I got out of the car and my teenage daughter, on the passenger side, had one foot in the car and one foot out.

"A half-a-dozen cars passed us and didn't stop or seem to notice."

When the UFO started approaching her car, Mary decided to drive on to Porter Creek. As they passed through Rabbit Foot Canyon, the teenage daughter noticed the object "directly above the car.

"She said it was round, and there was no lights like we had seen."

Scared, Mary sped up to 120 kilometres an hour, and the younger children screamed.

At last, at the top of Two Mile Hill, the UFO slipped off toward Grey Mountain.

What bothers Mary most about that frightening experience is the ridicule she received from

people she trusted.

There are others who have had similar experiences in the Yukon, says Whitehorse engineer Martin Jasek.

He and fellow UFO researcher Lorraine Bretlyn want to hear from them.

The two have been collecting UFO stories from all over the territory and have preserved about 40 of them on their website [www.ufobc.org/yukon/](http://www.ufobc.org/yukon/)

In fact, Jasek talked to Mary and her family shortly after the 1997 incident.

They were "extremely excited... all talking at once trying to get their experience across," he says.

In some cases what people see is a light from a human source that "moves in a particular way, or a meteor, or something like that," he says.

He is convinced other incidents are the result of secret military activity, and refers to an incident reported by Dennis Stitts of Lake Laberge.

Stitts, who was living in a cabin just north of Deep Creek,

reported that, on June 18, 1997, he was visiting a neighbor "three cabins north of mine."

Walking home after 11 p.m., Stitts said he heard what sounded like "a flag fluttering."

Looking up he saw a V-shaped object about 2.4-metres long and maybe 1.2-metres wide.

The UFO dropped down over a bluff so radically "I thought it was going to hit the water. It then levelled out at about 100 feet above the surface of the lake.

"Halfway to Richthofen Island, which is less than two miles from my cabin, the object began to shimmy, then made an immediate 30-degree turn toward the southern tip of the island and, later, seemed to tip into the lake.

"Considering the distance to the island from my cabin, and that I only saw the object for two to three seconds, it had to be travelling at least 2,500 mph. I didn't hear a sonic boom."

Stitts went charging back to his friend's place and, even before he had a chance to say anything, the friend said, "Did you see that?"

Later, another neighbor also confirmed seeing something.

The two Laberge residents were so convinced they saw an object drop into the lake, the next day they boated out to the tip of Richthofen Island and had a look around.

Stitts — who said he experienced dizzy spells for two days — talked to military officials. They denied knowledge of any activity or tests. He also reported the incident to his MLA.

Jasek and Stitts agreed the craft was man-made.

"We got the feeling about this one, it might have been military-related," says Jasek.

"Extra terrestrial is a possibility," he says, adding: "If they are military, you would think they wouldn't fly so close to a population."

Jasek is interested in hearing from Yukoners about their UFO encounters. Phone him at (867) 633-2472 or Bretlyn at (867) 667-4680.

Names will be kept secret, if the informants wish.

# Men in black are hiding truth about alien visits

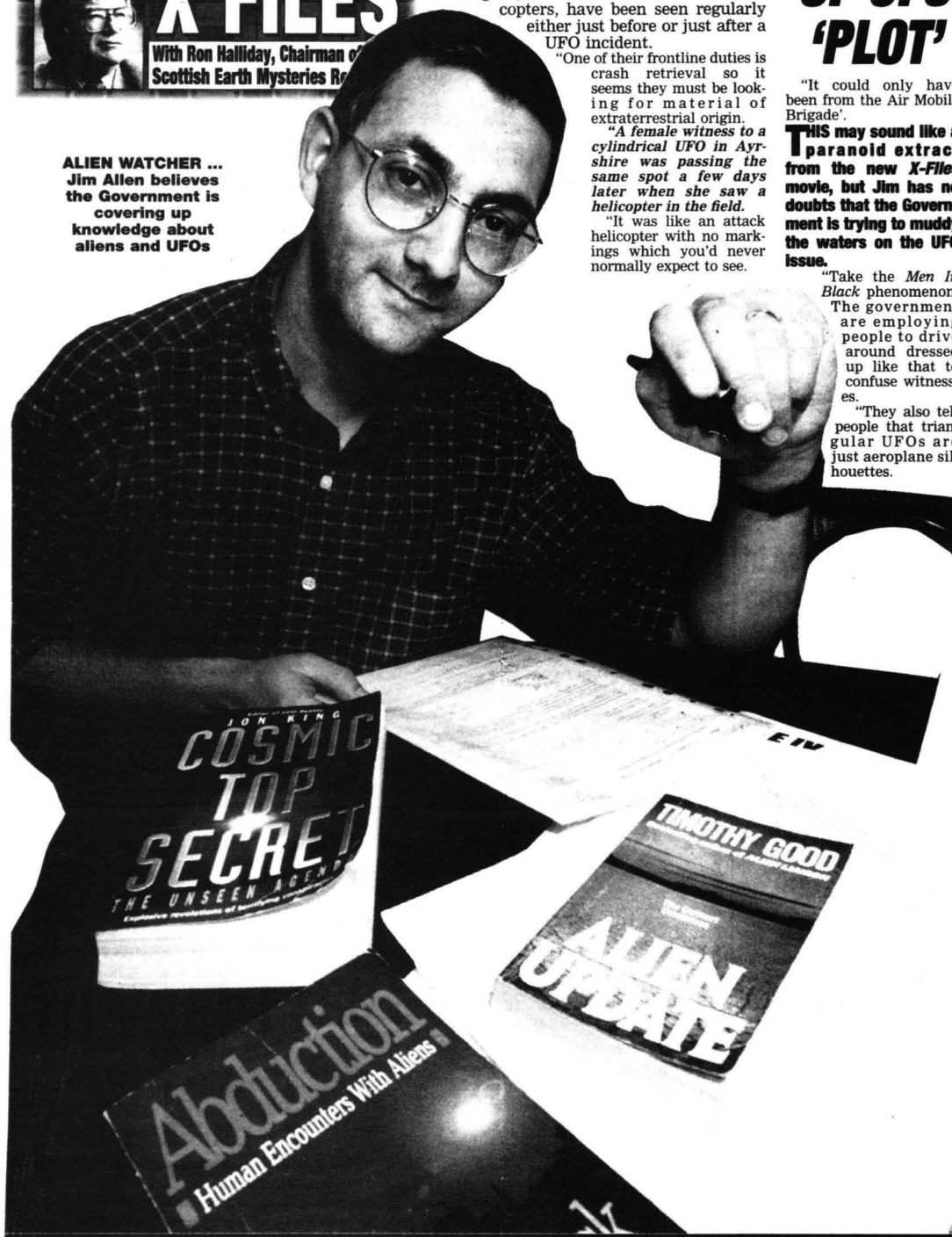
SATURDAY TIMES, Glasgow, Scotland - Aug. 29, 1998

## THE SCOTTISH X FILES



With Ron Halliday, Chairman of Scottish Earth Mysteries Research

**ALIEN WATCHER ...**  
Jim Allen believes the Government is covering up knowledge about aliens and UFOs



**UFO hunter Jim Allen is convinced that governments everywhere are engaged in a world conspiracy to cover up contacts with extraterrestrials.**

He told me: "Our military are up to no good. A secret group, the Air Mobile Brigade, who use black unmarked helicopters, have been seen regularly either just before or just after a UFO incident."

"One of their frontline duties is crash retrieval so it seems they must be looking for material of extraterrestrial origin."

"A female witness to a cylindrical UFO in Ayrshire was passing the same spot a few days later when she saw a helicopter in the field."

"It was like an attack helicopter with no markings which you'd never normally expect to see."

## EXPERT WARNS OF UFO 'PLOT'

"It could only have been from the Air Mobile Brigade".

**THIS** may sound like a paranoid extract from the new *X-Files* movie, but Jim has no doubts that the Government is trying to muddy the waters on the UFO issue.

"Take the *Men In Black* phenomenon. The government are employing people to drive around dressed up like that to confuse witnesses."

"They also tell people that triangular UFOs are just aeroplane silhouettes."

"Some maybe are, but they can't all be. There are just too many sightings."

Jim (32), a jeweller who runs the West of Scotland UFO Group from his Paisley home, became interested in UFOs because of his own encounter.

**HE explained:** "It was in 1978 when I was about 12 and it happened in Kirkmichael in Perthshire."

"We were walking an elderly lady back to her cottage when we saw an object which had the appearance of a cross."

"It was coloured white with blue shading and moved at an incredible speed from a standing position and did this three times before it disappeared."

"It was the brightest object I've ever seen in the sky. The lady, from Bermuda, told me that she and her husband used to watch UFOs at night over the sea."

"I was hooked from that moment, but I had to wait till I was older

before I could get down to serious investigation of the phenomenon."

Since he began research Jim has come to the conclusion that many UFO reports can be explained by misidentification of natural phenomena.

"But an incident in Cardonald on March 31 this year is, Jim argues, convincing evidence of the reality of UFOs."

"There were several witnesses to a pulsing coloured light. It was changing from blue to red and green to white."

"One witness examined it through binoculars and noticed it was tilting, changing colours and that it had a small hole in the middle."

"We have an astronomer in our group so we can find out quickly what's in the sky. But stars, planets and satellites were ruled out in this case."

"There was no plane in the area at the time. I checked with the Civil Aviation Authority. We are extremely satisfied as to the reliability of the

witnesses in this case. So we can definitely say we have an unexplained night light in other words a UFO."

But does an unexplained light in the sky really mean that mean aliens are visiting us from distant planets?

**JIM has definite views on the subject:** "When I'm investigating I'm impartial, but I like to think that UFOs are extraterrestrial or come from other dimensions."

"How can we be alone when you think of the vast area of space?"

"Every government lies. I think they are covering up alien contact. There are too many people coming forward who are ex-Government or ex-military saying that they have seen documents which prove it."

One issue which often puzzles people is why aliens would visit Glasgow or Bonnybridge. What are they up to?

**JIM explains:** "They see humanity as one

group. They have no prejudice if I can put it like that."

"Abductions happen everywhere. There's no barriers as far as aliens are concerned. They'll take anybody. But they're not a threat to us. It's all about awakening our senses."

"By the way, the abduction scenario is not new. If you go back through history it was always there."

"Even the abductees don't know why it's happening. They don't feel any malice from the aliens, but we'll only learn what's going on when they decide to tell us."

"The authorities are maybe even trying to prepare us for a war with the aliens."

"That's why they're trying to show them in a bad light and getting us to back a campaign against them. Our Government is knee-deep in it all. They're just not telling us the truth."



# UFO reports shrouded in mystery

## Defence Department documents cast spotlight on Canada's own X-Files

By JIM BRONSKILL  
FOR THE WINDSOR STAR  
OTTAWA

Several snowmobilers see a round yellowish light assume the shape of a star. It moves slowly westward, like a balloon on a string, then suddenly disappears.

A number of people witness a large triangle-shaped object pass quickly

above a Yukon lake under a full moon. It makes a loud noise, but has no lights and leaves no vapour trail.

A Prairie family finds some of their cattle mutilated. A few years later, they discover a two-metre crop circle in one of their fields.

The mysterious stories are just a few of the reports from people across the country who have encountered things they simply could not explain.

The Defence Department has just released a batch of the documents, known in military circles as CIRVIS reports, short for Communications Intelligence Sightings.

The names of the people who claimed to see the strange phenomena have been deleted, but the memos provide intriguing glimpses of the eerie episodes.

Some, like the "large greenish flare" seen over Northern Ontario in 1997, can be fairly easily explained as meteors. But others are more baffling.

Army Sgt. Clay Rankin remembers the spring day last year in Tuktoyaktuk, N.W.T., when a local woman reported being followed by two cone-shaped unidentified flying objects as she drove home with four companions. "She seemed pretty sincere about it,"

Rankin recalled in an interview. "What it was, I'm not sure."

The official report says bright blue light shone from windows in the twin objects as they moved through the Arctic sky about one kilometre behind the car. "They were followed for approximately 15 minutes when contact was lost."

STAR, Windsor, Ontario, Canada - Dec. 22, 1998 CR: G. Conway

Rankin, 38, duly filed his report with superiors at Canadian Forces Northern Area Headquarters.

Still, he doubts the existence of extraterrestrial spacecraft. "I've never seen one myself," said Rankin. "I'm not one of those X-Files fans or anything like that."

A bizarre incident near Marmora, Ont., last February might have made believers out of three people who saw white and orange lights flying above the ice on Crowe Lake.

A similar sighting took place in Ottawa on a clear July evening. Witnesses told the National Defence Operations Centre of a display by four or five glowing objects that moved about chaotically, "merging and separating at random" for almost an hour before vanishing.

A woman in Coral Harbour, N.W.T., was starting her snowmobile one morning last January when she gazed over the water and saw a large blue ball and two, smaller red balls followed by sparkles.

"As the large ball got closer to me it picked up speed and the colour changed from blue to red," she told the military. "As it passed overhead it changed colours again from red to orange, then to yellow, then headed up into the sky."

The report lists the incident as a possible "UFO/submarine sighting."

Officials were at a loss, however, to explain the June 1997 Yukon sighting of the black, triangle-shaped object over Lake Laberge.

"A number of aircraft were in the area around the reported time, but none remotely resembled the object's description."

BEXHILL ADNEWS, Hastings, East Sussex, England - Feb. 10, 1999

A LOCAL man's eye-witness account of supposed UFO sightings in the Hastings area feature in a new book called Alien Base.

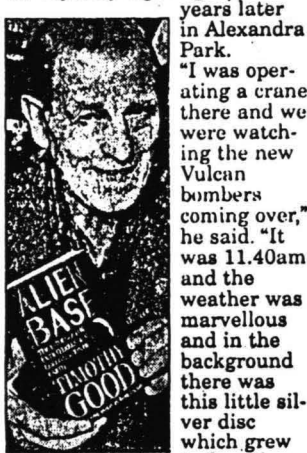
The absorbing book, by Timothy Good, is based on 40 years of reports from scientists and witnesses on the bizarre and bewildering phenomena of UFOs and alien visitations. Retired Bill Steele, 81, of Stonefield Road, Hastings, is amongst them.

His tale dates back to June 1944 when he was working at Fairlight Quarry. The book says that on two occasions as he watched the V-1s fly over he saw what appeared to be flying saucers accompanied by "a curious melodious whistle-like noise".

Bill (pictured), now a great-grandfather, said: "They were little white discs, about two inches across, high up in the sky. "There was also this high-pitched whistle noise. I thought they were some sort of English aircraft but they never appeared again. I never could make out what they were." He went on: "I didn't know about UFOs then. We were completely ignorant. They were not mentioned until

## Mystery of the alien sightings ...

1948." He later read books on the subject and started to consider the possibility he had seen something from another planet. Bill experienced a similar mystery sighting over ten



years later in Alexandra Park. "I was operating a crane there and we were watching the new Vulcan bombers coming over," he said. "It was 11.40am and the weather was marvellous and in the background there was this little silver disc which grew to four times the size of the bomber. It seemed to hesitate and look at it then came up to the park

gates and disappeared in seconds. There were 27 people there in awe of the thing." Commenting on being included in the Alien Base book, he said: "It's nice to know that the ordinary person gets recognised. I made reports to the police station at the time but they never bothered with it. "I have seen these things over a period of time so there's something going on."

Author Timothy Good agrees with him. He says: "Having met many abductees, I have no doubt that some of them have interacted with alien life-forms." Mr Good is an expert in his field. His first book, Top Secret: the Worldwide UFO Cover-Up, went to the top of the best seller lists in 1987. Following UFO books made it to The Sunday Times and the Guardian best-seller lists.

\* Alien Base, which includes photographs of supposed alien craft, was published by Arrow Paperback on Thursday, price £6.99.

THIS WEEK, Prince Rupert, B.C., Canada - July 5, 1998 CR: G. Conway

THAT we have further details on a UFO reported over the Skeena in our June 14 issue. Connie Johnsen of Terrace was driving to Prince Rupert and had reached just this side of Tyee when she saw "a huge bright object in the sky with legs protruding out from underneath it" around midnight on June 4. The object was square on top. A different witness saw four objects

between 9:00 and 9:10 p.m. on June 28 from the 400 block of 7th Avenue East, 10-12 degrees up <sup>West</sup> toward the east-north-east. "They were in a group of two one above the other. The objects were dark, black. The top object was a light like a light bulb hanging the air."

# One glance at the shining metallic object in the sky changed this writer's life for ever

**Words: Georgina Howell.**

**Photographs: Robert Cooper**

On Friday, May 30, 1997, I finished researching a Scottish wildlife story for The Sunday Times Magazine. I had spent four nights in Orkney, and on the Friday morning I was at Kirkwall Airport to catch the 11.50am flight, BA 8773, to Aberdeen, where I was to change onto a flight to Heathrow. The weather was brilliantly sunny and clear. When we were called to board the small propeller plane, I was the last one out of the terminal building and walked slowly across the Tarmac thinking I should probably never return to Orkney. I looked around, to memorise the landscape, and above the windsock to my left, at approximately 45 degrees above the grass and sea, I saw a motionless silver metal angle in the sky, like two sides of a triangle. Depending on how far away it was, each bar could have been the size of a plane, or much larger. The sunshine glanced off the upper bar. I looked at it as I walked, my head turned to the left, trying to understand what it was. I saw that it wasn't a plane, but it might have been two planes, one superimposed by perspective over the other. It did not look in the least like that, so I rejected the theory instantly. (In any case, the previous flight had taken off some 15 minutes earlier.) It might have been a piece of airport apparatus mounted on a tall pole, but there was no pole.

About four seconds after first noticing the metallic object, I decided to point it out to the air hostess as I got onto the plane, and ask if she could explain it. At that point I felt myself falling forward, and the right side of my face collided violently with the Tarmac. It had happened so quickly that my hands were still by my sides. Although I had a cut lip, scraped nose, a black eye and bruising above the eye (see photograph right, taken 24 hours later), my hands and arms, and the tape recorder I was carrying in my left hand, were unscathed.

Several people came to my aid and helped me up. After a minute or so I told them, "I was looking at *that*" and pointed to the sky where I had seen the angle, but there was nothing there. Apparently nobody else had seen it.

Later, I tried to find out more. UFO magazine cuttings revealed an upsurge of UFO sightings over central and northern Scotland, but I could find no report of angular, rather than triangular sightings, in any of the material.

Then a friend sent me a report of a giant V-shaped formation of red and white lights that swooped over Arizona on the night of March 13, 1997, seen by thousands and videotaped by many. Reports appeared in the Daily Mail, June 19, and The People, June 22, testifying to the fact that the flying angle blotted out the stars for "more than a mile", and passed over several

towns at a steady 30mph, covering a distance of 60 miles at a height varying from 500 to several thousand feet.

The reports began with a phone call from a retired police officer in Paulden, 60 miles north of Phoenix, and within minutes the switchboard of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle was flooded with calls from Prescott, Wickenburg, Glendale, Phoenix and Scottsdale. Bill Grava, a pilot and air traffic controller for 12 years, was on tower duty at Sky Harbor International Airport. He saw the UFO, but says that it did not appear on radar.

Those people in Arizona must also have gone over and over the event until they could barely believe it themselves. In one respect I envy them: they can reassure each other that it happened. I am alone in what I saw and felt, so I am glad that I had the photograph taken and typed out my account within 48 hours.

I still have no idea what actually happened. I have a selection of "expert" assessments, running the gamut from those who believe that people who see these odd sightings have been preselected by aliens (as in the movie Close Encounters) to those who believe it is a trick of the mind. Here are some of the opinions.

**Magnus Park, duty officer at Kirkwall Airport**, where he has been employed for the last seven years: "Aircraft movements are continually logged, but the recorded tapes are reused after 40 hours. Air Traffic Control know of no report of anything unusual on that date.

"I have read many reports of UFO sightings in the north of Scotland in the papers, but I have never seen anything of that kind myself, and I have never met anyone who has."

**RAF spokesman for the Ministry of Defence**: "The MoD as an organisation has no interest, expertise or role with regard to UFO activities. We monitor the skies to prevent unauthorised incursions into British airspace.

"If we receive written reports of UFO sightings we examine them, but only to see if they relate directly to the field of our interest."

**Timothy Good, author of Beyond Top Secret - The Worldwide UFO Security Threat**, published by Macmillan and with a foreword by Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Hill-Norton, ex-chief of the defence staff: "There are many witnesses worldwide who have seen anomalous objects in the skies which are apparently motionless. Some of these people have been adversely affected from a distance."

**Dr Susan Blackmore, senior lecturer in psychology at the University of the West of England, Bristol**, specialising in parapsychology and presently studying psychic phenomena in borderline states of consciousness: "It was odd that you felt that way. It suggests an epileptic seizure, or transient narcolepsy, a momentary sleep paralysis. Many examples of reported 'alien abduction' are really explained by this.

"Typically, people report a buzzing noise with flashing or floating lights. In several examples I have examined people in this state who say they see shapes — including triangles."

**Albert Budden, senior scientific officer at the Natural History Museum** and member of the Environmental Medicine Foundation, has written Allergies and Aliens, and a new book, Electric UFOs: "What you saw was not a craft, but a hallucination. You were at an airport, with radar, and near to a propeller plane with the engines running. You may have found yourself in an electromagnetic hotspot, and you may have had a focal seizure with the appearance of an exotic reality, resulting in a drop attack — a form of epileptic seizure.

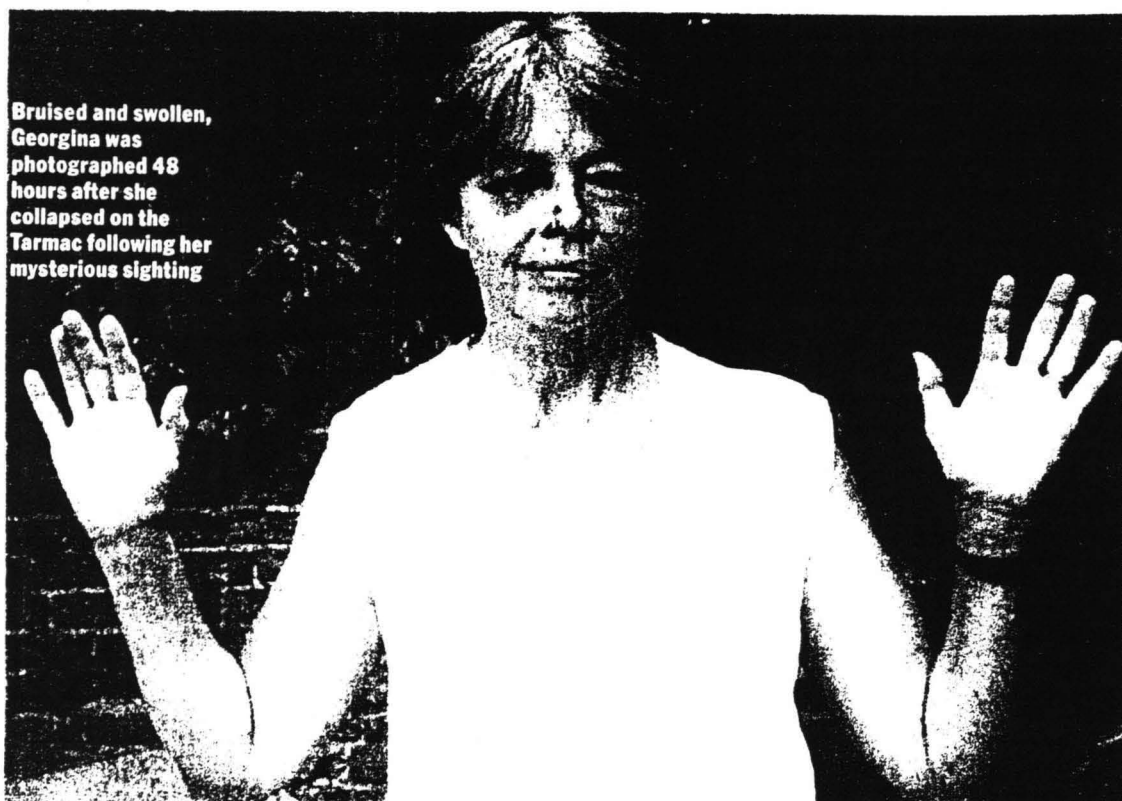
"Just as planes can interfere with television, radio and telephone reception, the electrical component in plane engines emits a powerful electromagnetic energy. You may be slightly more sensitive to this than other people. You had a syncope. Go to a neurologist."

**Graham Birdsall, editor of UFO Magazine** and an active researcher since 1967: "Scotland has had more than its fair share of triangular craft sightings. Many of them are USAF experimental craft. There are all manner of UAVs — unmanned aerial vehicles — including a wing-shaped variety. They do not remain motionless, but hover. From the distance between you and the object, I would deduce that it was hovering, but appeared motionless. However, I do not know of any UAVs that are angle-shaped, and I would be very surprised to hear that one was being flown anywhere near a civil aircraft air corridor."

*(continued on page 15)*

SUNDAY TIMES, London,

England - Aug. 9, 1998



**Bruised and swollen, Georgina was photographed 48 hours after she collapsed on the Tarmac following her mysterious sighting**



**Nick Pope, higher executive officer in the MoD** investigated 750 UFO sightings between 1991 and 1994. His assessment was that some UFOs were extra-terrestrial in origin: "The shape you describe does not correlate with anything I have investigated. It could be an exotic prototype craft that I'm unaware of, but an airport is the last place in the world you would choose to test a craft of that kind. Why did you fall? You were not looking where you were going. You should have immediately tried to find out if the air traffic radar had picked up anything unusual: by now the tape will probably be recorded over."

**Hilary Evans, author** of an influential book, *Altered States of Consciousness*, is neither a believer nor a sceptic. He does not doubt that people see UFOs, but suspects they are military devices or psychological phenomena. He has never investigated a human/alien encounter that he cannot explain as a psychological event. "It comes down to this: you saw something unusual, and you had an unusual fall. If you didn't trip, and the two are connected, it could have been something that was momentarily visible to you and no one else."

"There are two points to consider. The shape you saw was entirely meaningless, therefore perhaps not derived from your subconscious. When people hallucinate, they usually tell a story with far more detail."

**Professor Michael Persinger, psychologist at Laurentian University, Ontario, Canada**, has studied the workings of the temporal lobes of the brain. His work was the subject of a 1994 BBC2 Horizon programme in which he used magnetic pulses to the brain to trigger temporal

lobe activity and illusions that can be misinterpreted by the subject as alien abduction.

He has also found a link between UFO sightings and areas of pre-earthquake stress under the earth's crust: "Historically and geographically, in Orkney you were in a high probability area for unusual events. Added to that, the stress of travelling can induce a state in which certain chemicals are activated in the brain. The result is an increased vigilance in the brain's right hemisphere, which is sensitive to what is happening on the left-hand side."

"Therefore it is not an accident that you saw what you did. It was not necessarily a physical object, and only a sensitised person is likely to have seen it. Such 'objects' have a life cycle of around 10 seconds."

"To sum up, you were in a special state induced by travelling, a state that interfered with the execution of your normal reflexes. The right hemisphere of your brain activated the left side of your visual field."

As is so often the case with any mystery sighting, the answers posed further questions. I do not believe I was "meant" to see the UFO, and was punished because I was going to point it out to other people, but neither do I believe that I just happened to trip at that moment.

If it had been a normal fall, I would have put my hands up to protect my face. I don't claim to have been abducted. There is no family history of epilepsy or narcolepsy.

And if I was in a special state induced by travelling, why have I never experienced these phenomena on the hundreds of other occasions at airports? Now that we are all

international tourists, why don't cases like this happen more often?

Finally, I rang the Breakspear Hospital at Hemel Hempstead, which deals with patients suffering from all kinds of sensitive states, including drop attacks.

I spoke to **Dr Jean Monro**, the director of the hospital, who explained that these can be common in people who are electrically sensitive. "The trigger can even be a weak frequency — each person can be sensitive to a different level of electromagnetic frequency."

"Frequencies can affect the whole of the human network between the cells, passing through them at the speed of sound."

"The results can be dramatic: people go down like ninepins with neuromuscular paralysis, while at the same time being completely aware of what is going on."

This seemed to tie in precisely with what I experienced. It "felt" right. But was it then a complete coincidence that I happened to see an unusual shape in the sky?

"I don't believe that these people who say they have seen UFOs can all be wrong. The thing you saw might have had a magnetic field, but that doesn't necessarily make it an unnatural phenomenon."

I don't believe that anyone can satisfactorily explain it better than Dr Jean Monro. Whatever happened that day has certainly changed my opinion about UFOs.

The subject used to bore me. Now I think about the incident frequently and I want to know what these things are. I will go on asking questions about them for the rest of my life **X**

KENTISH TIMES, England - Feb. 18, 1999

# The case for alien visitors

**VIV MORGAN** casts aside earthly matters and transports herself into the infinitely murkier world of UFOlogy . . .

*'Facial features were generalised, the eyes large and black like bug eyes, ears were small, lips thin slits. The fingers, numbering five, were long, bony; the feet flat, about size six with half-inch bony toes.'*

THE above quote, taken from Timothy Good's book *Alien Base*, purports to be an eye-witness account of an alien visitation in North Georgia during the summer of 1942.

When compared to the numerous other sightings recorded in this homage to all things extra-terrestrial, there is nothing particularly startling about it. Except, perhaps, the date.

For while it is tempting to dismiss the rise and rise of the alien as a modern (and lucrative) phenomenon, *Alien Base* includes claims of other-worldly encounters dating as far back as 1920.

Indeed, one of the strongest features of the book is its sheer scope. The accompanying publicity material proclaims that 40 years of research, 'the highest level of official documentation' and 'the faithful reproduction of eye-witness accounts' combine to present us with 'the most convincing evidence that aliens are indeed here'.

Just in case we're not persuaded, there's an introductory quote from John E. Pike, director of space policy at the Washington-based Federation of American Scientists, who asserts: "The old cover-up stories just don't wash any more. The UFO community is definitely on to something."

Quite what the UFO community is on to, however, is something the book, not surprisingly, fails to deliver. After more than 500 pages we are rewarded with the

rather lame and ambiguous conclusion that: "Contact has been established, though not necessarily on our own terms, nor according to our preconceived notions."

Perhaps an underlying problem with books like *Alien Base* is a desire to be taken seriously, or rather an over-eagerness not to be dismissed. The book's heavily annotated text might be viewed as an attempt to confer academic credibility on a subject which is still regarded by the majority as the preserve of fantasists.

## Bug-eyed

At the start of the book, the author states his desire to 'redress the perspective of stories of abductions by small, bug-eyed beings'. Yet while his intentions are sound, it's debatable whether anyone can bring the cool air of rationality to bear on so extraordinary a subject.

For alien aficionados, however, this book will surely fan the flames of conspiracy theories and cover-ups and provide, as its subtitle promises, 'the evidence for extraterrestrial colonization of earth'. The range of witnesses, particularly the military sources, makes for impressive reading and the Beckenham-based author has certainly researched his subject exhaustively.

Regarded as a leading authority on UFOs, Timothy Good, 57, has lectured on the subject world-wide. His previous books, *Beyond Top Secret: The*



**PROOF?:** 'One of a series of polaroids taken by Filiberto Caponi of a creature he encountered several times outside his home in Ascoli Piceno, Abruzzo, Italy.' INSET: Author of *Alien Base* Timothy Good

AD9931/5C

*World-wide UFO Security Threat and Alien Liaison: The Ultimate Secret*, spent several weeks on the *Sunday Times*' best-seller list and *Alien Base* went to number four of the *Guardian*'s.

As a sceptic, however, I am tempted to believe that much of the material in the book, from the 'contactee' reports to the

accounts of human abduction and animal mutilation, have arisen through the power of suggestion.

As the author himself asks: "Is it any coincidence that in the United Kingdom abduction reports increased with the landing of *The X-Files* series on British shores?"

Ultimately, though, my scepticism is of a similarly vain nature to Arthur C. Clarke's, who remarked: "My main argument against ETs is that none have yet called on me, which seems a deplorable oversight."

*Alien Base* is published by Arrow Books, in paperback, £6.99.

# WHY AREN'T WE BEING TOLD?

The Government claims it doesn't have any policy on UFOs. So why does it have a dedicated alien hotline? **David Milne** on what could be the biggest cover-up yet

Deep in the Ministry of Defence, in a room known only as 8245, an answering machine sits patiently waiting for messages from the privileged few who have seen a UFO.

The machine is the responsibility of the MoD secretariat, who check it diligently every hour. But what they do with information received has remained a mystery – until now.

Nick Redfern, a 33-year-old full-time UFO researcher, claims Britain has its very own Area 51 – the code name for America's top-secret military base where UFO-enthusiasts claim aliens and their craft are kept.

Highly classified investigations into UFO activity, Redfern claims, take place deep under the grounds of Rudloe Manor, a seemingly innocent military base in Wiltshire. It's there the RAF's Provost and Security Services (P&SS), a crack team of counter-intelligence investigators, collate UFO information.

"The Government claim that the room at the MoD is their only interest in UFOs," Redfern says. "But ex-military personnel tell a different story. Deep under Rudloe Manor, in a mass of tunnels and caverns excavated



■ **Nick Redfern: started UFO-hunting after his dad found alien evidence**

during World War Two, is where the real investigations into UFOs take place.

"It's believed that's where recovered alien craft are kept, analysed and catalogued. It's Britain's Area 51."

Rudloe Manor employs more than 1,000 people, but Redfern claims just 40 are employed in the elite UFO unit.

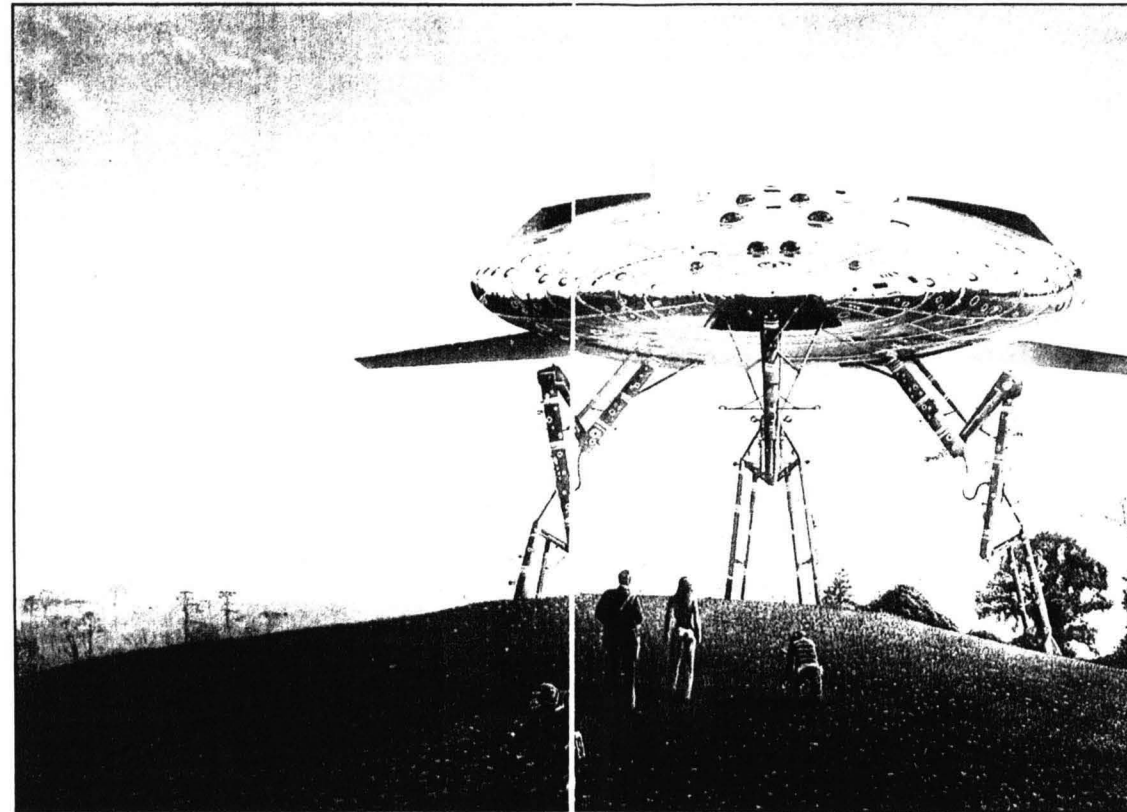
"Most of the time they check radar tapes of unidentified sightings and interview pilots following close encounters," he says. "But it's possible that they also operate as Britain's Men in Black – going round the country knocking on the doors of people who have seen UFOs and ensuring their silence."

Redfern is no nut. A respected author, his books, magazine articles and lecture tours have convinced thousands of sceptics. His suspicions that the Government knows more than it's letting on first surfaced when he was just 14.

"My dad was in the RAF and he specifically remembers a number of occasions during the 1950s where UFOs were tracked on radar. It took him 30 years to break his silence.

"He told me aircraft were scrambled to intercept these things because they were flying over the North Sea at 3000 miles an hour, suddenly stopping and carrying out all sorts of weird manoeuvres.

"When the RAF pilots got there, the UFOs just played cat-and-mouse with them for a while and left. The MoD arrived at the base, confiscated radar tapes, interviewed the pilots and swore all witnesses to absolute secrecy. It was made clear that anybody who talked about what they had seen would be punished.



■ **The truth is out there: would-be Mulders believe aliens were already landed – and that the Government isn't letting on**

"I remember thinking that if the Government were that concerned and meticulous then something must be going on."

So began Redfern's personal odyssey. Convinced that the truth was out there, he spent years combing the MoD's official archives and interviewing retired military personnel. He reached a shocking conclusion.

"The public records office has over 4,000 files on UFO activity. We're not just talking about

reports of lights in the sky, but highly detailed accounts by RAF and commercial pilots who had seen the circular metallic objects at close range.

"I even found directives from the early 1950s warning all military personnel not to talk about their UFO encounters with anyone. Senior military people have told me that these directives are still in place. It is clearly understood that all UFO information, without exception, must be forwarded to the team at Rudloe Manor."

Redfern argues that a combination of military mentality and very overt threats ensures that nobody blows the whistle. "They can come down hard on anybody who doesn't toe the line," he says.

"I've turned up at the homes of retired personnel who had agreed to talk, only to find they've changed their minds. They'd been got at. They would

be shaking and as white as a sheet. I don't know what the threats are, but in some cases the MoD have threatened to remove their pensions and kick them out of their military homes."

Redfern has now uncovered enough evidence to convince himself that at some level of Government there is a conspiracy of silence – a concerted effort to refuse the public answers to the UFO question.

"I've found the tip of the iceberg," he says. "The really spectacular reports are withheld. The public records office has confirmed that most of the MoD's UFO files will probably never see the light of day."

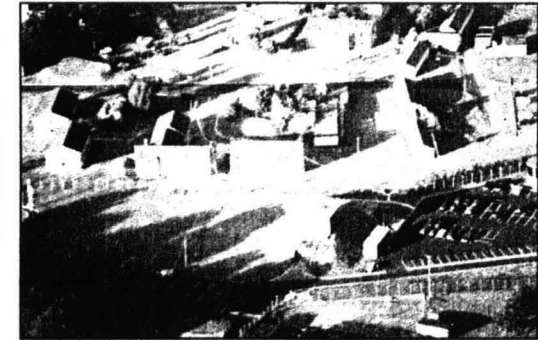
Dorothy Kilgallen, an American investigative journalist,

was informed by "a British official of cabinet rank" that a UFO had crashed in Britain during World War Two.

She was told: "British scientists and airmen examined the wreck of one mysterious flying ship and are now convinced these strange aerial objects are not optical illusions or Soviet inventions but are flying saucers which originate on another planet."

Redfern believes the weight of the responsibility and the pressure of maintaining lies and cover stories sometimes becomes too much for a few of the ex-military top brass.

Just before he died in 1994, retired US Air Force intelligence officer Leonard Stringfield finally unburdened his soul to Redfern. He told him: "Some time in 1964, a specially-rigged naval flagship received a coded radio



■ **The MoD's Rudloe Manor base: Britain's Area 51, where aliens and their craft are believed to be held**

message. It said artefacts had been recovered with three dead personnel."

Stringfield claimed the UFO had split when it crashed. The main section had come down in Penkridge, Staffordshire – the rest in what was then West Germany. The wreckage and the alien bodies were quickly shipped to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in America.

"It is my suspicion that US special retrieval teams have been, and still are, prepared to go into action at any crash location within America's sphere of economic or military influence," Redfern says.

The threat posed to the earth by UFOs partly explains the refusal by authorities to release information about their visits. "The fact is the Government doesn't have a clue why they are coming here or what they want," Redfern says.

"All they know for sure is that these craft can effortlessly penetrate our airspace and there is nothing any Earth-based defence can do about it.

"That is why all governments surround the issue with an almost impenetrable wall of secrecy. They can't say for sure these visitors mean us no harm and they don't want their citizens to know that they are vulnerable to an attack."

Redfern claims the threat is taken so seriously that even at the height of the Cold War, the US, Britain and the then USSR were so concerned about the perceived threat from UFOs that they established a joint task force to examine the security implications of alien craft entering Earth's atmosphere.

"There is no doubt that high-ranking MoD officials are at present working on such a scenario," he says. "They take it very seriously."

That's something the MoD strenuously denies. "There are people who go around making these claims," a ministry spokesman said. "However, the MoD does not consider itself to have any expertise in dealing with phenomenon of this kind. We do not have any policy whatsoever on UFOs and never have had."

But they still maintain an answering machine, ever vigilant, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in the room known only as 8245. Who knows what wonders it has heard? **TBIS**

Nick Redfern's books, *A Covert Agenda* and *The FBI Files*, published by Simon and Schuster, are available in all good bookshops. If you want to report a UFO sighting to the MoD, call room 8245 on 0171 218 2140 and leave a message. Just watch out for the Men in Black!





## TECHNOLOGY



The view of Urquhart Castle on the banks of Loch Ness, from the same point of view as the Nessie-cam.

IAN JOLLY / NORTHPIX INVERNESS

*Loch Ness monster fans have met with a lot of ridicule over the years. Now they hope a live camera beaming images of the loch to the Web will silence the skeptics*

# Nessie-cam may unlock mystery

BY CORBIN ANDREWS

**L**och Ness monster enthusiasts have installed cameras to try to prove once and for all that Nessie exists.

Members of the official Loch Ness Monster Fan Club have trained four state-of-the-art video cameras on the legendary lake in Scotland, and are publishing the captured images on the Internet. The footage can be seen at [www.lochness.co.uk/livecam/](http://www.lochness.co.uk/livecam/) by anyone with access to the World Wide Web.

Club members are hoping that with more eyes peeled, Nessie won't remain elusive. According to Gary Campbell, president of the Inverness-based group, the cameras will provide a panoramic view of the lake, and allow Nessie devotees all over the world to keep tabs on Loch Ness.

"This is a major breakthrough for Nessie fans worldwide," he says. "Most of our members are overseas and this will allow them to look in on Nessie whenever they want to."

He believes the site, which was launched last week and is still ironing out some technical glitches due to bad weather, provides the best opportunity to prove the serpent is real. The cameras are rigged with special infrared lenses for night-time viewing and will operate 24 hours a day.

The video images are relayed to the fan club's Loch Ness Monster Exhibition Centre, then filtered to the Web using Digital2 ISDN technology. The footage is automatically updated every two minutes.

"[The] equipment we are using is the

best available today," says Mikko Takala, who maintains the club's Web site. "It will ensure that the clearest possible pictures of the loch and, of course, Nessie are available."

Nessie advocates claim that the monster was first sighted in 565 AD by St. Columba, an expatriate Irish monk credited with converting large areas of Scotland to Christianity. Countless sightings of the monster have been documented since then, but with a few — dubious — exceptions, very little hard evidence has ever been produced.

The most famous monster photo was allegedly taken by Robert Wilson, a gynaecologist from London, England, in 1934. It is this photo (shown below) depicting the monster surfacing from the water and displaying humps, a long neck, and a tiny head — very simi-

lar to a plesiosaur — that provides the reference of the monster's appearance for most people.

Yet skeptics have attempted to prove the photo a fake since it was first made public. For the most part, they have succeeded.

Debunkers have pointed out that even if there had been a monster living in the lake at one time, it could not have survived — there is simply not enough food in Loch Ness to sustain a creature that large.

An even bigger problem is that it cannot be the same monster inhabiting the water all these years: No creature lives that long. Therefore, there must have been a colony of monsters — at least 20 to sustain the breeding pool experts say — which is clearly incredible.

Nevertheless, Nessie-watchers are al-

ways on the lookout for new evidence. Occasionally, they find what they are looking for.

In 1997, Richard White, a local resident, snapped a famous picture of the monster near "Nessie's Cave," a nine-metre hole at that bottom of the 54-metre deep lake. Most Nessie-watchers believe the cave, discovered in 1990, is the creature's lair.

Mr. Campbell and other fan club members see this as the obvious target for video surveillance. With the cameras now in place, they are sure they can provide the long-awaited evidence of the creature's existence. "We're hoping that the fact that the Nessie-cam is trained on [this area] all the time will give us definitive proof of what Nessie really is," Mr. Campbell says.

National Post



ROBERT WILSON

Web surfers around the world can join the monster-watch and see whether Nessie really does resemble this popular image.

# Screams *in the* Night



MICHAEL MACOR / The Chronicle

On Jawbone Road in Six Rivers National Forest, John Freitas was distracted by a rustling in the brush as he stood poised to tape any incoming Bigfoot calls.

The search for Bigfoot is as old as the hills, but in the forests of northern California, trackers of the elusive — or mythical — creature are up to some new tricks

By Michael Taylor  
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

NEAR GASQUET, Del Norte County

**W**e're parked on a patch of gravel high up in the Six Rivers National Forest, on top of Jawbone Ridge, surrounded by dense, green forest covering hillsides that plunge steeply into canyons.

It is so utterly quiet up here that if you listen carefully you're sure the wailing, mournful cry of Bigfoot will come tearing up the mountainside.

From the cab of his pickup truck, John Freitas takes out a camera, a tape recorder and a pair of binoculars and sets them within easy reach in the pickup's bed. Near the tailgate is a huge outdoor speaker, much like the ones you see suspended from the tiers of baseball stadiums.

Freitas fiddles with the tape deck in the truck's dashboard, and then suddenly the speaker booms forth with an eerie wail.

"Aaarrrrrrggghhhh," the voice screams for several seconds, arcing from low to high then low, a bit like an air raid siren, and then again, in a higher pitch, "Aaaaaaaiiiiiieeeeeeeeeeeeeee." Freitas shuts down the tape and listens carefully, waiting for a response. Silence. More silence. We look around, video camera at the ready. Come out, come out, wherever you are.

"The theory," he says, nodding at the speaker, "is that if there's another 'Squatch in this area, this will attract him."

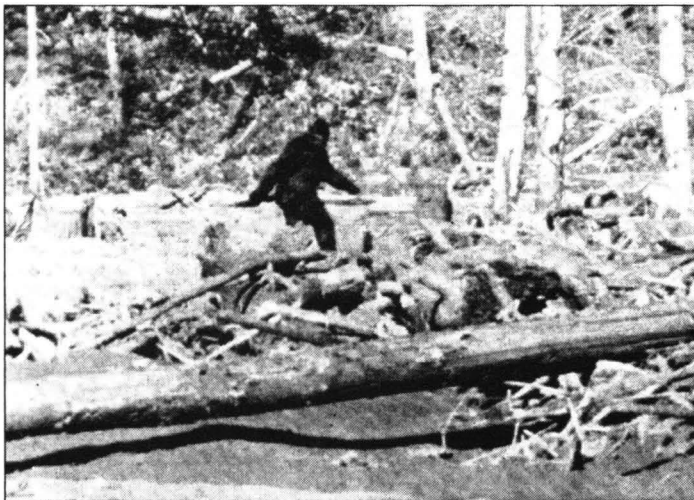
This is the hunt for Bigfoot — the legendary Sasquatch, as he was known in the

old Salish tribal language of British Columbia, where locals say he has been seen frequently. John Freitas may well be typical of the new breed of Bigfoot hunter that seems to be emerging in the never-ending search for the phantom ape of North America. Undaunted by the occasional snicker or rolling of eyes from his friends or co-workers, Freitas, like any good police investigator, is methodical and practical and willing to go looking for something about which precious little evidence even exists.

Over the past few years, the hunt for Bigfoot has exploded in a frenzy of high technology. New high-tech detection equipment abounds, dangling from trees all over the United States — Starlight nightscopes, motion detectors hooked up to infrared still and video cameras, FM wireless transmitters dangling from fir trees and transmitting to tape decks up to two miles away.

■ ■ ■

In his bedroom at a cabin Freitas rents deep in the forest are a video cassette recorder, a three-foot-long telephoto lens, nightvision Starlight binoculars and a re-



Courtesy of Rene Dahinden

Frame 352 from the Patterson-Gimlin footage, shot in 1967, purportedly of Bigfoot.

cycled siren switchbox from a patrol car, used to amplify the screams on his tapes.

And that's just the stuff in the field. At home and in offices across the country, the Internet has spawned a myriad of Web sites that have brought a sense of order and organization to a subject that for years has been disparate, fractured and, given the heated arguments over whether Bigfoot even exists, fractious in the extreme.

And there is still a smattering of oldstyle Bigfoot information: At the Bigfoot muse-

um in Willow Creek, where Al Hodgson is the curator, nearly two dozen plaster casts of footprints seen in the Northern California wilderness are on display in glass cases. The best part of Hodgson's display is the collection of footprint casts donated by the estate of Bob Titmus, one of the most experienced Bigfoot trackers.

On the Six Rivers mountaintop with Freitas, though, all that counts is whether

(continued on page 19)



(continued from page 18 -  
**CHRONICLE, San Francisco,**  
**CA - Jan. 24, 1999)**

the elusive man-ape will answer these calls. The tapes were recorded in 1994 in a mountainous rural area of eastern Ohio by Matthew Moneymaker, a 33-year-old software engineer from Southern California who is also a longtime Bigfoot tracker. Moneymaker said there have been numerous sightings of Bigfoot-like creatures in that Appalachian area of Ohio, near Pennsylvania.

Moneymaker played the tapes for three scientists, including a zoologist who specializes in wildlife, and "they all said it was something really unusual" and could not identify the sounds. In the world of Bigfoot, that means it bore no resemblance to any identifiable mammal, and it was just what Freitas needed in the form of aural bait.

Freitas is a 43-year-old former police officer who now works as a welfare fraud investigator for Del Norte County. He latched onto Bigfoot as a teenager 30 years ago when he first saw the famous film — made in 1967 by Roger Patterson and Robert Gimlin — of a supposed Bigfoot slogging across a sandbar on Bluff Creek, about 40 miles south of where we are waiting for Bigfoot to come out and see us.

"I've heard the screams from here," he says, pointing to a clump of trees, where there is a distinct dark shadow — could it be? — "and from over there" — by another stand of fir. "Once, the screams lasted for five days, and it didn't sound like anger or pain. It was more like, 'I'm here. Where are you?' I just want to prove it exists or doesn't exist."

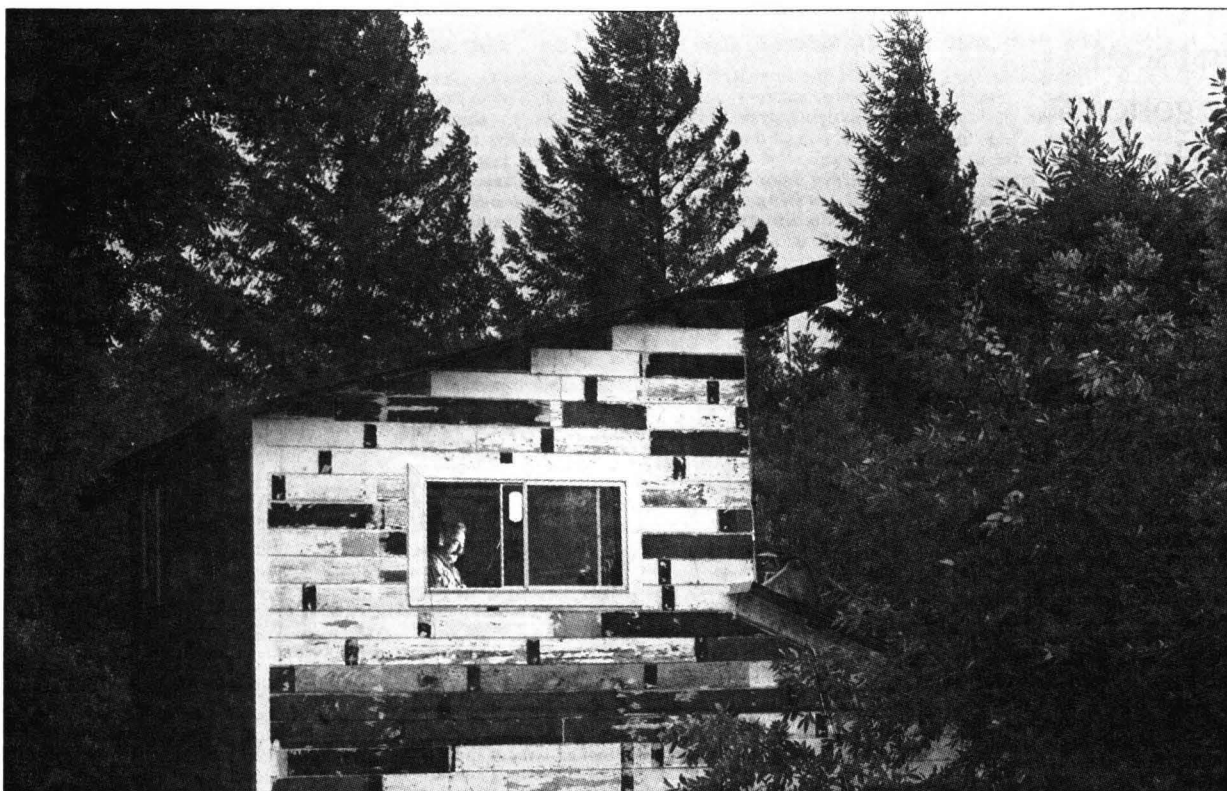
By legend or by fact, what they are seeing in the forest is a North American perennial, a phenomenon that has created a steady and devoted set of aficionados who insist that Bigfoot is real — elusive and rarely seen, but real. The same kind of animal/man has been spotted in Asia, where he is known as the Yeti, but in the United States he is known by the more colloquial name "Bigfoot."

■ ■ ■

For years, the study of Bigfoot has been pretty informal — based on sightings or footprints, stories have crept into newspapers, and family letters have passed Bigfoot down through the generations. Few academic professionals — anthropologists, zoologists, wildlife biologists — have the time or inclination to make Bigfoot their life's work, and so the chore of cataloging the various Bigfoot incidents has fallen to lay people who are doing it out of curiosity and passion, squeezing it into their otherwise normal lives.

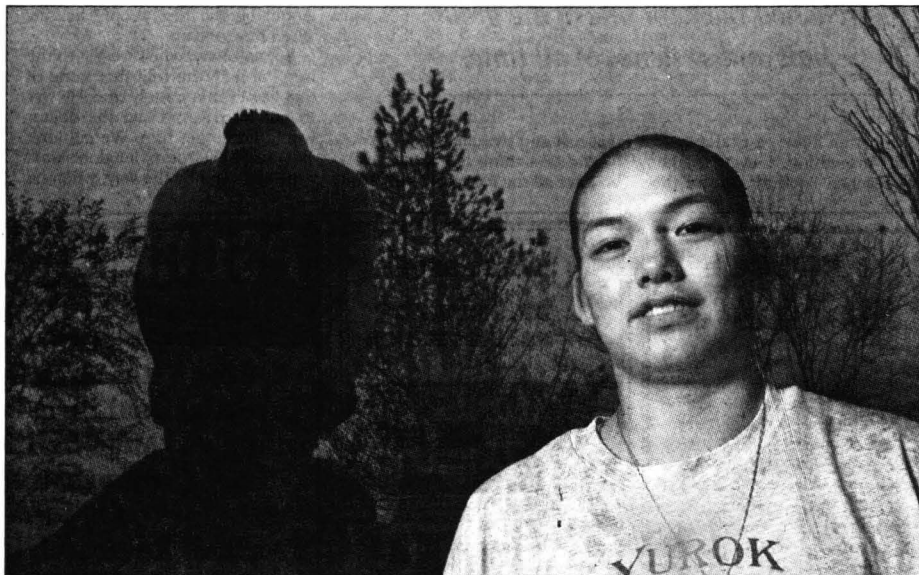
Over the past 40 years, there have been reports of as many as 5,000 sightings. Footprints allegedly made by the big mammal range from 10 or 12 inches long to more than 20 inches long — hence the sobriquet, Bigfoot, said to have been coined by logging road crews and popularized by a writer for the old Humboldt Times in 1958.

This is what Bigfoot appears to be, by the various accounts: a big, hairy ape-like mammal that walks on two feet. Bigfoot creatures (cognoscenti rarely use the plural "Bigfeet") are thought to range from 6 feet to 10 feet tall and weigh anywhere from 500 to 800 pounds. One study estimated Bigfoot weighs nearly one ton, but that, anthropologists say, is wild exaggeration.



Bigfoot researcher John Freitas at his cabin near Jawbone Ridge, where he tapes sounds coming from the forest.

Photos by MICHAEL MACOR / The Chronicle



*"He walked like a big, hefty guy, and we were looking at him, and then, Oh my God! he stopped and looked at us."*

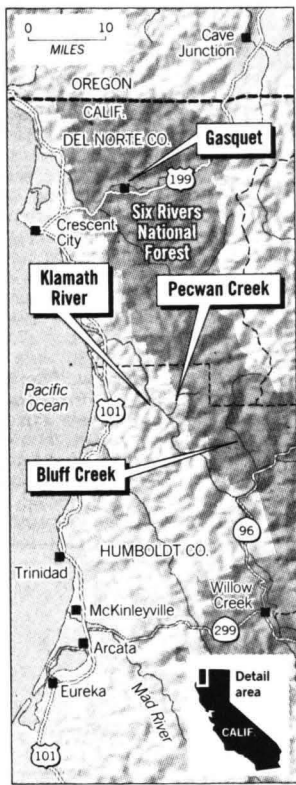
TRINIE INONG,  
 15, of Hoopa, of her 1996  
 sighting of Bigfoot.

Web site an incident last fall, when two men on a hunting trip (hunting animals, not Bigfoot) say they saw Bigfoot near Hayfork in Trinity County. They said he left tracks six inches wide and 20 inches long.

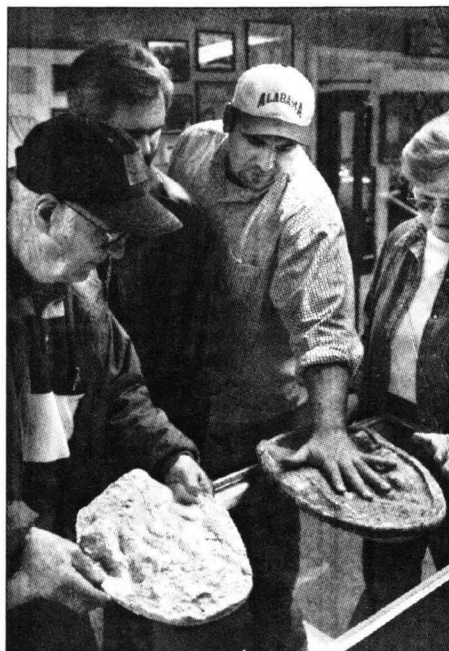
The BFRO database has sightings or other Bigfoot experiences from every state in the country save Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii and Rhode Island. What the sightings have in common is an enormous and powerful rush of emotion from the people reporting sudden encounters.

Consider this one, from an unnamed young woman who says she saw Bigfoot off a road between Oroville and Marysville:

"At the time, Kim and I were riding Appaloosas. My horse was a big horse. ... I'm a big kid. When I turned around in my saddle, I was eye to eye with it. It was about 25 to 30 yards away, in an English walnut orchard. It was covered in black hair. Thick, powerful legs and torso. Strong shoulders. Not really long arms. What I was drawn to, though, was the



JOE SHOULAK / The Chronicle



Above: Trinie Inong, 15, of Humboldt County, posed by a 1967 wooden carving of Bigfoot by Jim McClarren. Inong says she saw Bigfoot across Pecwan Creek in 1996. Left: In the Willow Creek-China Flat Museum, Bob Schraeder of Iowa tried out a plaster cast of a Bigfoot handprint taken in the 1980s south of Bluff Creek, as volunteers Al Hodgson and Margaret Woods and Mike Krein of Cupertino (center) looked on.

Now, however, there is some consistency developing in the search for Bigfoot, particularly on the Internet.

For example, Moneymaker has helped cre-

ate the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization (BFRO) and its inevitable Web site ([www.moneymaker.org/BFRR/](http://www.moneymaker.org/BFRR/)), that purports to have one of the largest geographic databases of sightings in the world.

"We get most of the reports that are coming out," Moneymaker said the other day. The organization has already cataloged and put on its

(continued on page 20)

(continued from page 19 - CHRONICLE, San Francisco, CA - Jan. 24, 1999)

eyes. Like shining caramel brown. The eyes just held me there. The horse was going nuts, turning around and trying to buck. So I was busy keeping

the horse in line. I knew, though, that if this thing wanted to kill me, it could have... Its head had a slight cone shape to it. It was an animal of raw power.

"I will never forget the eyes and what it did. It finally turned around, gave me one more look and started to stride off... it took big strides."

The woman's encounter was similar to the one experienced by Trinie Inong, a 15-year-old sophomore at Hoopa Valley High School, in the town of Hoopa, deep in the Six Rivers National Forest east of Eureka.

In 1996, she said in an interview earlier this month, she and her cousin Elizabeth were near where Pecwan Creek runs into the Klamath River. It was at the time of her Yurok tribe's ceremonial jump dance, and as she and Elizabeth walked along the river, "We spotted Bigfoot, straight across from us, about 80 or a hundred feet away. He was tall, almost 9 feet, maybe, and his shoulders were hunched over."

"He walked like a big, hefty guy, and we were looking at him, and then, Oh my God! he stopped and looked at us. Elizabeth took off running. She was freaked out. I stood there and got another look to make sure we were seeing this correctly. My uncle said he was probably coming by to pay his respects."

Native American tribes have known about Bigfoot for centuries — Sasquatch is simply another and welcome part of their culture.

"Everybody who grew up around here knows about Bigfoot," said Chris Peters, director of the Seventh Generation Fund, an Arcata non-profit group that gives money to Native American activities. "The legend goes way back and has always been there. He is the one that hollers on the ridge and has lived in the back country since time immemorial."

"You talk to the people up in Del Norte and Humboldt and Siskiyou, and you'll find that five out of 10 are convinced it's out there," Peters said. "But the rational Euro-American mind, which is a kind way of saying white person, doesn't understand things that are metaphysical, things with the ability to come into a physical being and then fade back into a metaphysical world."

In the rational world of science, however, there is rarely room for the metaphysical, and so the few scientists who think Bigfoot is worthy of serious study — anthropologist Grover Krantz, anatomist Jeff Meldrum, for example — are kind of a lonely bunch, plodding patiently through decades of sightings and footprints while most of the world scoffs at the phenomenon.

"We're way past the fact that it exists, but the general public is stuck at the level of *whether* it exists," says John Bindernagel, a Canadian wildlife biologist who has studied Bigfoot since 1963 and has just published a book, "North America's Great Ape: Sasquatch."

"We are really conditioned to see this animal as a hoax or a joke or merely mythical. It has not been a safe thing to do to treat it as a serious topic." Privately, some scientists even worry that their outspoken views on Bigfoot can harm their chances for tenure.

"I accept it as a real animal," says Krantz, who is now 67 and has written about Bigfoot for more than 20 years from his post as professor of anthropology at Washington State University in Pullman. "As to where we are now, we get more sightings, more footprints and more arguments between skeptics and true believers. The logjam will be broken by bringing in a specimen."

Asked if Bigfoot exists, Meldrum, who teaches anatomy and evolutionary morphology at Idaho State University, says, "I don't like to respond to a question about that. I'd rather say that on careful consideration, there is a reasonable probability that this creature does, in fact, exist. It's naive of some of my colleagues to dismiss this out of hand."

■ ■ ■

The real conundrum, Bigfoot people say, is that scientists, who are extremely qualified to examine the mystery more thoroughly, tend to ignore it. The slack is taken up by hundreds of people who are less qualified but far more enthusiastic. The end result, some say, is a lot of wheel-spinning by amateurs.

"The scientific community is not aware of the extent of evidence that has been gathered, and they think it's all nonsense," says ecologist J. Richard Greenwell, secretary of the International Society of Cryptozoology, a Tucson clearinghouse for evidence about purported animals whose existence has never been officially verified. "The scientists don't want to invest the time in it, so they don't inform themselves of the evidence as it comes in. So unfortunately a whole slew of amateurs have taken it on themselves to do this. It's very unscholarly and unscientific, and there's a lot of backstabbing."

"We don't claim it exists," Greenwell says of the creature, "but we are claiming there is sufficient good evidence to warrant scientists investing time and effort."

The problem, however, is convincing scientists that they should be doing this. In 1981, the scholarly journal *Current Anthropology* surveyed 300 North American physical anthropologists and found that only 12 percent of them believed that Bigfoot was a "living animal, still unknown to science." The rest thought Bigfoot reports came from either sightings of "ordinary animals (that had been) misidentified" or "imagination, hoaxes, myths."

"I don't see any reason to believe that those figures have changed (over the years)," says Matt Cartmill, a Duke University anthropologist who is president of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. "You really need to have a specimen to believe in the organism. Absence doesn't prove it doesn't exist, but in the absence of living or dead specimens or bones, or something distinctive and not capable of being faked or mistaken, I think most people's attitude in the profession is that there is no need to believe the organism exists."

Nonetheless, there may be some minds opening up in the professional world of science. At Yale, anthropologist David Daegling says: "It's an interesting field, and there are strong personalities on both sides." Daegling has been making a detailed study of the controversial Patterson-Gimlin film taken on Oct. 20, 1967. The film shows a big hairy mammal walking upright across a sandbar. Experts say this few seconds of 16mm film is to the Bigfoot legend what the Abraham Zapruder film of President John F. Kennedy's murder is to assassinations. And some say it is a hoax, although nobody has ever come up with evidence to prove it.

"When you look at the film, the first impression is that something weird is going on," Daegling said of the Patterson-Gimlin film the other day. "It's hard to put your finger on. There's a different kind of flow (of body motion) that struck people as significant. And people were unable to find the kind of seams that would be on a suit. This was not some guy in a dime-store gorilla costume."

On the other hand, Daegling said, "it's not possible to declare that, based on the film, this is a real Bigfoot. What is a real Bigfoot? I don't know. There are two possibilities: an animal unknown to science, something 7 feet tall that we're man-

aging to miss. Or it's a pretty clever hoax pulled off in 1967."

"If there's a population of these things running around, doesn't it make sense that just once, somebody would have run into one with a car or shot one? There are stories of people shooting them, but the body is always missing."

"There's a difference between a rare occurrence and something that never happened," Daegling said. "It's very unlikely to stumble on the carcass of a bear or a bone from a bear, which is different from saying you *never* expect to run into carcasses or bones."

"I was in Montana doing research and just by dumb luck, in 20 days of wandering the landscape, I came across the skull of a black bear, just sitting there, right on the forest floor."

"The argument of the advocates that is most strained, and the thing they need to come to grips with is not that we *rarely* find Sasquatch bones, it's that we *never* find them. Not once have we come across a bone."

■ ■ ■

So, as John Green, the dean of Bigfoot writers, says, "It doesn't go anywhere until someone brings in a body or a piece of a body." Green, a retired 71-year-old newspaperman who lives in Vancouver, is the man every other Bigfoot expert says you should talk to if you want to learn about this subject. In 1978, he published, "Sasquatch, the Apes Among Us." He knows from Bigfoot.

"In the end, you have two facts that can't be challenged," he says. "First, something is making enormous humanlike footprints, and it's been going on for a long time over a big area. Footprints are real. Something real is there to make them. Second, you have thousands of people in North America who describe seeing a giant apelike creature that walks upright. And those people do exist. So either you have an animal or you don't."

"If you have an animal, it explains both phenomena. If you don't have an animal, these footprints must be of human manufacture and there must be a reason why. Either people all over the world have been faking big footprints and telling stories about hairy giants, or you have an unknown animal closely related to humans. Either way, it's significant."

He pauses for a moment, then reminisces about searching for Bigfoot near Bluff Creek decades ago, a time when "I saw well over 1,000 prints. When you're looking at them, you don't have any other theory than that something walked there. This is what hooked me on it."

And what now, after more than 30 years of chasing Bigfoot? Green reflects for a moment.

"I will almost certainly die without it being solved, as has happened to so many of my friends," he says.

"But I don't regret the time I spent on it."

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK - Feb. 7, 1999

# Scientists tap math as code to reach aliens

By DAVID L. CHANDLER

The Boston Globe

"Hello, E.T. This is Earth calling. We'd like to tell you a thing or two."

Only once before have humans attempted to broadcast a signal to the stars, and that effort was just a three-minute transmission a quarter-century ago. But now a group of astronomers has come up with an audacious proposal to beam a 400-kilobyte message, consisting of 22 pages of information (one of which is reproduced above), to four nearby stars. They hope to make the three-hour broadcast later this year. Communicating with someone who speaks a different language is hard enough. But how do you even begin to compose a message for alien beings about whom we know absolutely nothing — including whether they even exist?

Scientists have been mulling that question for at least 100 years and have come up with several ingenious ideas. Basically, they all boil down to one premise: Mathematics is likely to be the universal language.

Perhaps the earliest idea emerged in the 1800s: Dig ditches in the Sahara desert in the shape of a huge 3-4-5 right triangle with squares on its sides — an example of the Pythagorean theorem. The ditches would be filled with kerosene and set ablaze at night, in hopes of convincing Martian astronomers that intelligent life existed on Earth. The plan was never implemented.

A more modest effort was attempted in 1974 by Frank Drake, the pioneer of the Search for ExtraTerrestrial Intelligence (SETI), who in 1957 conducted the first search for alien radio signals. Drake's message to the stars, beamed from the Arecibo radio-telescope in Puerto Rico — the world's largest — contained just 1,679 bits (binary digits, or zeroes and ones) of information.

Drake's message consisted of a rectangular grid that an aliens could reconstruct to provide a crude diagram of the solar system and of a DNA double-helix molecule, along with a smattering of other information. The length of the rectangle's sides consisted of prime numbers of picture elements, or pixels, and the total number of bits sent was divisible only by those two primes. The idea was that alien mathematicians would figure out the two prime factors, allowing them to arrange the data so as to reconstruct the picture.

The current proposal is a more ambitious version of the same concept: a series of

pages that can be reconstructed by arranging the series of zeroes and ones from the broadcast into squares of the right size. To help in the reconstruction, each page is surrounded by a frame one pixel wide.

The idea was developed by physicists Yvan Dutil and M. Stephane Dumas of the Defense Research Establishment Valcartier, near Quebec. Their concept was outlined this month at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society.

In addition to their 22-page message, whose first draft they have sent to be reviewed and refined by several colleagues, the scientists hope to follow it with a series of greetings from people around the world — for a fee. They say they welcome suggestions and critiques, recognizing that to send a message on behalf of the whole planet is an inherently presumptuous act.

Jill Tartar, director of the SETI Institute, calls the plan to send the message "a crazy commercial stunt." But she calls the group's efforts to devise a message that is as easy to decode as possible "a really interesting exercise." The group has already solved its most daunting challenge: finding a suitably large radio telescope to broadcast the message.

They have an agreement to use a 230-foot-wide dish in Ukraine powered by a 150-kilowatt transmitter. With that combination, they calculate, their message should be clear enough to be decoded by any civilization within 100 light-years of Earth. That's nearly 600 trillion miles.

They also figure that while it would not be clear enough to decode, the signal could at least be picked up and identified as the product of an intelligent civilization by any star within 100,000 light-years — provided that civilization has a radio telescope at least 1 square kilometer in size. Earthlings don't have one that size but expect to soon.

The drafted message includes several pages about mathematics and basic physics, a few about biology and geography, a diagram and some basic data about our solar system — and a request that the recipients send back some information about the world they call home.

It also includes a somewhat crude copy of a drawing that was affixed as a plaque to the Pioneer 11 spacecraft at the request of astronomer and author Carl Sagan. The drawing is a simple representation of a nude man and woman, their hands open in greeting.

CR J. & L. Nicholson