

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - July 2, 1999 CR: G. Fawcett

## UFO research library opens

FELIPE MENDOZA  
RECORD STAFF WRITER

The Smithsonian's loss is the International UFO Museum and Research Center's gain thanks to the work of two UFO enthusiasts.

George Fawcett of Lincolnton, N.C., and E.R. Sabo of St. Petersburg, Fla., donated their UFO research collection worth more than \$250,000 to the UFO Museum's research library which held its grand opening Thursday.

"The word would have to be sincerely overwhelmed," Fawcett said of the library's opening. "It's a dream come true."

Fawcett, 69, has collected UFO-related material since the age of 15.

His interest in UFOs started in 1944 when he read a clipping from a New Orleans newspaper with the headline, "Shiny silver balls in the sky latest Nazi device."

According to Fawcett, the story told of World War II pilots who encountered flying objects over Europe.

"It triggered my interest," Fawcett said. "That's when I became the Ralph Nader of UFOs."

Fawcett, along with Sabo, turned over 45,600 items to the library, Fawcett said.

Sabo, who contributed one-third of the collection, could not attend the opening because he was ill. It was Fawcett's first time in the new library.

In 1964, Fawcett's collection was accepted by the Smithsonian for display at the National Air Research Museum.

The Smithsonian later reversed its decision to accept the collection "because of the fact that I blew my own horn" through publicity about the decision.

Fawcett also said the Smithsonian wanted to "whitewash" the collection by displaying Air Force explana-



Daily Record • Felipe Mendoza

Glenn Dennis, left, watches as George Fawcett and Mayor Bill Owen cut a ribbon for the new research library inside the International UFO Museum and Research Center.

tions for the phenomena alongside his materials.

"Roswell benefited from the fiasco" because he had 35 more years of material to give the UFO Museum, Fawcett said.

"More people will see my collection in the (museum) ... than have seen it in the last 40 years," he added.

Fawcett chose to give his collection to the UFO museum because his plans for a UFO museum in North Carolina were never realized.

The library contains 56,000 documents and 220,068 books and magazines, UFO Museum Board of Directors President Glenn Dennis said.

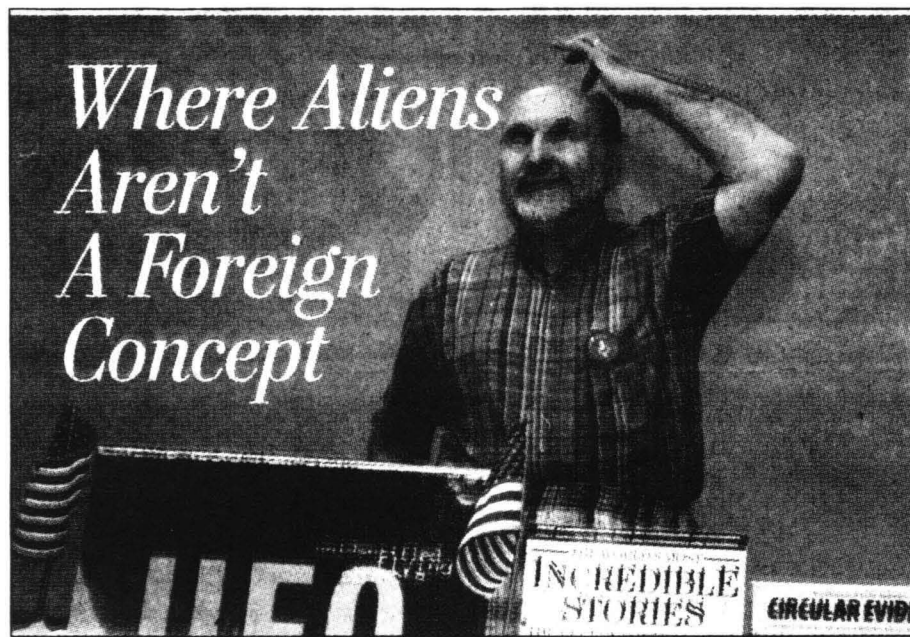
"We want this to be the largest UFO research center in the world," Dennis said. "We already have the largest library in the world."

Included in the collection are unclassified government documents, 1940s and '50s newspaper clippings, manuscripts, videos and pamphlets.

There is also a lending library with books and videos for local residents.

A gallery displaying photos, paranormal art and newspaper clippings is also located inside the library.

The library is open during the museum's regular hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day.



Flying saucers are sorely misunderstood, says Tom Benson, at the UFO convention in Crystal City.

## UFO Believers Have A Close Encounter Group

By RICHARD LEIBY  
Washington Post Staff Writer

The blinking red button on Tom Benson's madras shirt wishes you a Happy Fourth of July as he talks about the third time he encountered aliens. Many people misunderstand flying saucers, he says from behind his vendor's booth at the 30th annual Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) symposium being held this weekend in the Crystal City Hyatt Regency.

"The vehicle's not physical. It's an energy

construct," explains Benson. "It's your consciousness or soul that gets taken on board."

Benson, 61, works for the state of New Jersey as a personnel management analyst but has a sideline selling vintage UFO books. A patriotic fellow, he's set up several American flags amid his wares, and this weekend is offering a special on a plastic "Dashboard Uncle Sam With Flag" for \$3.

It would be tidy to conclude that Tom Benson represents something "typical" about this convention, which is open to the public and expected to attract about 500 people through tomorrow. But there is nothing typical about MUFON. Here we have humans

Joe Firmage, left, and Bruce Maccabee at a news conference yesterday at the UFO convention.



BY DAYNA SMITH—THE WASHINGTON POST

who claim to be infused with alien consciousness and receive messages from other galaxies. Here are researchers who believe they have bettered Einstein and uncovered the secrets of "extraluminal" (beyond light speed) physics.

What could be more all-American than the participants' passion, the intense debate and yearning to be heard? At a news conference yesterday—attended by exactly one mainstream newspaper reporter and about 50 conventioners—panelists from around the world defended their research papers, addressed a schism in the movement and criticized the media.

"They tend to view us as an interesting sociological phenomenon—and we end up on the Style pages," lamented Richard H. Hall, whose saucer investigations date to the mid-1950s. "I'm very empirically oriented. We need to get back to basics."

For some, UFOlogy has become a New Age religion. One constant controversy pits those who embrace UFO "evidence"—the sightings, radar returns, declassified documents and eye-witness testimonials—against ethereal approaches that seem to construe space visitors as angels.

"We don't get involved with New Agers. We avoid them like the plague," says Walter H. Andrus Jr., MUFON's 78-year-old international director. "We're dedicated to the scientific study of the UFO phenomenon." He quickly adds, "The evidence is overwhelming that the abductions take place."

Yet Andrus admits he has never seen one tangible piece of actual evidence—say, an exhaust pipe from an extraterrestrial craft—emerge in decades of UFO studies.

No matter. UFOlogy is among our most durable, high-tech industries, taking off in 1947, concurrent with the so-called Roswell incident and the development of the early computer, ENIAC. Saucer sightings fueled an entire Hollywood film genre, featuring space beings whose essential personalities shape-shift depending on our cultural mood—from the benevolent Klaatu in "The Day the Earth Stood Still" to the malevolent squid monsters in "Independence Day" to the current nonsymbolic, merely annoying Jar Jar Binks.

This weekend, all the movement's most quoted mouthpieces are in town—among them Stanton T. Friedman, who calls himself the "original civilian investigator of the Roswell incident," a reference to the purported crash of an otherworldly vehicle in New Mexico. But the star of the conference is a newcomer with a neatly trimmed beard and a nice blazer: Joe Firmage, 28, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur.

Firmage is an important figure not just because he espouses a new, unified, alien-oriented theory—which he modestly calls The Truth—but because he is loaded. Worth, some whisper, about \$200 million. That bestows a certain instant credibility. Firmage founded USWeb Corp., but his new intellectual pursuits prompted a hasty exit as CEO.

"I have reached the conclusion that UFOs are real," Firmage said. He admitted he's never seen a UFO—or, as frequently reported, actually spoken with a space creature. "What I said was that I had a conversation with a being of light. I didn't say 'alien.' I didn't say an organic body." (For more on Firmage, his talk is at 8:45 tonight.)

Susan Swiatek of Fairfax, the symposium coordinator, also says she's never had a close encounter, but she's dedicated all her spare time to setting up this convention for the believers—and anyone who might marvel at the endless possibilities of a clear night sky. "At MUFON we'll have fun, glow-in-the-dark aliens!" she promises. "It's an alternative if your beach plans fall through."

UFOlogists, like most Americans, are questers, she says; they yearn to be part of something more.

"I, personally, do not claim to have seen a UFO," Swiatek, 41, said. "I saw something so far away, it could have been a kite or something."

And you never know. Go out and look in the sky this weekend. You might notice something glowing. You might see things that sparkle, swoop, arc and fly. You might see something that reflects what it means to be an American.

HOMES & LIFESTYLES, Seattle, WA - June 1999

## The Paper Chase

A UFO "GURU," Dale Goudie makes it perfectly clear, he is not.

Slapped with the guru tag in a 1987 newspaper article, the founder and information director of UFO Reporting and Information Service adds that the article also referred to users of his service as "members." "It sounded like this was my flock or something," he quips.

The gurulike image doesn't fit the semiretired freelance television producer, and not just because of his lack of robes, beads and beard. "I'm trying to show facts," the UFO researcher emphasizes. "I'm not trying to change people's minds."

"Unidentified flying objects," Goudie explains, is a general term used by the government. "Unauthorized aerial objects in restricted air space," he specifies, says more about his interest. Goudie doesn't chase aliens, he chases paper.

Using the Freedom of Information Act, Goudie and his associates, Jim Klotz and Chris Lambright, obtain verified government documents relating to UFOs. They disseminate the information, along with associated material, on their Web site, CUFON (Computer UFO Network). Says Goudie, "We're very well-known around the world for the accuracy of our verification."

Goudie is also well-known locally for taking reports of mysterious nocturnal lights in the sky. Always ferreting out facts, he follows up a reported sighting by contacting the Federal Aviation Administration to see if planes were in the area or if anything was picked up by radar.

Despite Goudie's wealth of information, he doesn't make a dime from the nonprofit service. Still, in almost 20 years, there have been some invaluable compensations: meeting prominent UFO researchers Dr. Jacques Vallee and the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek, appearing three times on the Larry King show and being the first to speak at the Museum of Flight on the subject of UFOs.

"That," he states proudly, "was quite an honor."

~ Nita Leising

For more information, contact UFO Reporting and Information Service at (206) 721-5035. Or visit their Web site at <http://www.cufon.org>.



# UFO-logists share a heavenly addiction

Appleton forum gives the believers a chance to share experiences at a two-day session

By Alex Hummel  
For The Post-Crescent

Imagine you are standing on a U.S. 41 frontage road in Neenah looking skyward.

Now glance northward up U.S. 41 toward Appleton.

Calmly turn your head southward and look down U.S. 41 toward Oshkosh.

Now — here's the clincher — try to imagine, from horizon to horizon, you see nothing else above you but the underbelly of an immense hovering spacecraft, the "Peaceship," as Sandy Hanson calls it.

It's an alien vessel that is Hanson's — and others' — otherworldly home-away-from-home, the evolutionary and educational "floating city" where they commune with benevolent alien beings and the spiritual, philosophical and theological epicenter in their lives.

"I always knew my life was connected to the stars, planets and other alien cultures," Hanson said.

With that bold and confident declaration at the end of her "Peaceship" description, Hanson welcomed about 30 "experiencers," "non-experiencers," "abductees" and skeptics to the Lightside's Spring UFO Open Forum Saturday afternoon at the Appleton Ramada Inn.

The two-day forum is the second such event the Lightside members have opened to the public in Appleton since they began meeting 11 years ago. The goal is to draw in timid or fearful UFO research gumshoes, alien encounterers and part-time prognosticators to share their stories.

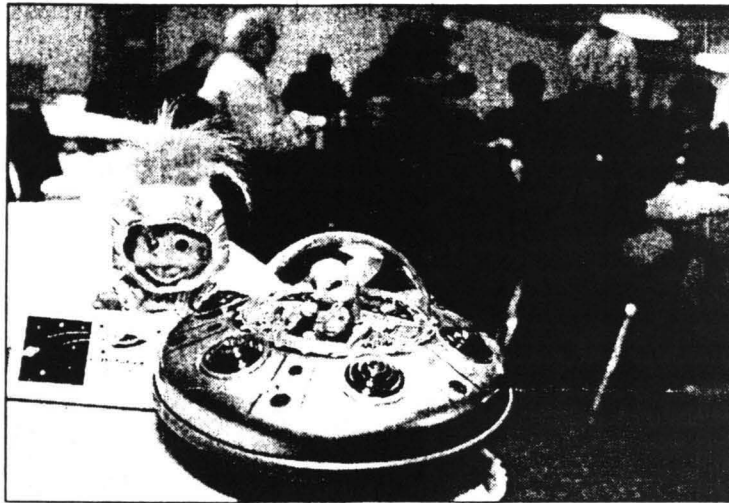
"I'm sure you will all agree that everybody's entitled to their own opinions and beliefs," Hanson said. "These topics are food for thought and topics for your discussion."

The panel guided discussion on everything from government cover-ups to black helicopters to the myths and mysteries forming the Y2K dilemma. But the forum wasn't any trendy, X-Files-esque "what-if" convention. It's an immersion into a world of thought and possibility designed to open any curious human being's eyes, Lightsiders say.

That's why Carol Gall, a 62-year-old church secretary, drove up from southern Wisconsin with her husband Jim to sit in with the believers and the folks with questions. She read about the forum in a newspaper ad.

"I feel there is a possibility," Gall said, reflecting on a discussion shifting between UFO-logy and reincarnation. "I think I'm a doubting Thomas. I need proof many times. But I wouldn't discredit it."

Gall listened to Arlene Caldwell, 66, tell her sighting story during the discussion mixing non-experiencers with experiencers. A black, three-ring binder with saucer-configuration sketches and drawings of the interior of the "Peaceship" served as a visual aid.



Post-Crescent photo by Tim Greenway

**PARTICIPANTS** in the Spring UFO Open Forum discuss accounts of their sightings, encounters, abductions and contacts with aliens Saturday in Appleton.

"I saw a ship the size of a house shaped like a bell with lights pulsating from it," said Caldwell, a retired insurance representative and mother of eight from Cobbtown.

Caldwell's first sighting was in 1958. Since then, UFO study and the mysticism that surrounds every facet of the topic have been a fact of life for Caldwell and her children. Every Saturday she holds her own discussion session in her house.

"I think there's more and more people believing this than 40 years ago," said Bob Guarino, 59, a salesman from West Bend. "But we need some hard-core proof. Otherwise you're just spinning your wheels."

The proof for Lightside members such as Diana Shurburn and Kathy Baier is their faith. It's a spiritual investment that they said makes even everyday life tougher to explain.

"The campaign is first to ridicule

and then discredit," said Shurburn, a 38-year-old apartment maintenance worker who along with Baier and Bonnie Meyer claims to have befriended a kind E.T. named "Monn."

"It is a battle every day," she said. "We call it an addiction."

"We call it 'earthed,'" Baier chimed in.

The ultimate extraterrestrial enlightenment, their beliefs dictate, would involve "being heavenly," Baier said, or returning to their true spiritual home, aboard the Peaceship.

"We're not out to preach or change others," said Russell Brodtke, 53. "We're just out to live what our truths are."

That includes a life of "positivity," he said.

"Unfortunately there is a lot of fear," he said. "People fear the unknown."

■ Alex Hummel writes for Thomson Wisconsin Newspapers/The Oshkosh Northwestern.

SPOKESMAN REVIEW, Spokane, WA - June 6, 1999

## He's keeping eye on close encounters

By Grayden Jones  
Staff writer

He's seen the radiation burns and hair fall out. He's documented the paralysis and fried corneas.

In more than 400 cases, John Schuessler has recorded evidence of physical injury by people who claimed they have had close encounters with unidentified flying objects.

"It can happen to anyone at any time," said Schuessler, deputy director of the San Antonio, Texas-based Mutual UFO Network Inc. (MUFON). "Most people are apathetic about UFOs, but when it happens to them, it changes their life."

Schuessler, who lives in Littleton, Colo., is in Spokane this weekend to hold private meetings with members of MUFON, an organization that tracks and researches UFO incidents. The local chapter has 18 members.

The retired Boeing engineer is considered the nation's expert in the dramatic case of Betty Cash and



Schuessler

Vickie and Colby Landrum, two Texas women and a grandson who in 1980 claimed they were nearly killed by radiation from an object that hovered over their Oldsmobile Cutlass.

Schuessler rejects any suggestion that bug-eyed, bulb-headed aliens are communing with humans. He's convinced that the long list of physical injuries are proof that something other than hallucinations are behind many UFO sightings reported each year.

Nine out of 10 UFO reports are bogus and can be explained by science, Schuessler said.

Schuessler said he spent 16 years researching his book, "The Cash-Landrum UFO Incident." He concluded that a diamond-shaped object with power and mobility not known on Earth scorched the Texas women. Federal officials have attempted to cover up the incident, Schuessler said, denying any knowledge of military helicopters that witnesses said were tracking the object.

Jerry Rolwes, director of MUFON in Spokane, said that since 1994 there have been 10 documented cases of UFOs across the Inland Northwest. One of the most spectacular occurred in early 1996 when a Sagle, Idaho, woman, her teenage daughter and two Sandpoint police officers witnessed an unexplained, bright object over a lake.

"I've never witnessed a UFO," Schuessler said, "but it intrigues the heck out of me."

# A theme park for aliens

BY NANCY LYON

I'd driven 60 miles from Montreal to see the UFO. Now I was inside it, hearing an astonishing "message from Outer Space."

"You see, Nancy, there is no God. Human beings and all forms of life on Earth were cloned by scientists 25,000 years more advanced than us who came here from outer space. These were the 'Elohim' of the Bible, translated from the Hebrew as, 'those who came from the sky.' They had the secret of eternal life — DNA and genetic combination, and we are their scientific experiment. Jesus was not resurrected; he was cloned by these extraterrestrial geneticists! And now that we earthlings have matured enough to understand our true origins, our true parents are getting ready to return."

Sitting beside me was not an alien but a Raelian — Michel Beluat, director of UFOland. "And when the Elohim return," Beluat continued, "they'll bring back Jesus, Buddha, Moses, Mohammed, Joseph Smith and all the other prophets they've sent to us over time. They are all still alive, because when they die, their minds and personalities are transferred to their fresh clones."

"What about their souls?" I practically stammered.

"There is no soul, or rather, the soul is the DNA," Beluat said. "It's the DNA that animates life."

A good moment now for a photo break, I thought

"No, no photos allowed inside the UFO," Beluat said as I reached for my camera.

"What? You don't want me photographing you on this throne from outer space?" I chortled, referring to the clear plastic inflatable armchairs we were sitting in, the only objects inside this UFO. The no-photos policy was smart, actually. If anyone saw what *wasn't* inside this grounded saucer — no simulated controls, signs, cryptograms, windows, nothing but blank white walls — they wouldn't be lured by the UFOland brochure headline which teased, "Montez a Bord d'un OVNI! — Climb Aboard a UFO!" and to pay \$10 for a 90-minute guided visit through a building made of hay.

This flying saucer, hyped as "the most fascinating part of UFOland," was a full-sized replica of the one that supposedly abducted the French sports reporter and race car driver Claude Vorilhon (now the sci-fi messiah Rael) to the planet of the Elohim on Dec. 13, 1973. But this saucer looked more like the ones in the old Ed

Wood cult movie *Plan 9 From Outer Space*, which were paper plates dangling from strings. Still, I had no regrets about being lured to Raelian Headquarters and "The World's First Theme Park Devoted to UFOs." What a grand idea, a theme park for aliens. And what a preposterous location: Valcourt, Quebec.

In Quebec's mountainous rural Eastern Townships bordering Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, Valcourt wasn't exactly on the tourist path, unless one arrived by snowmobile or flying saucer. Its dilapidated farms and Appalachian villages were a far cry from chic microbrewery towns like North Hatley and picturesque Wine Route villages like Dunham. But Valcourt was

that after UFOland Quebec, there would be a UFOland in Orlando and another in Japan — all devoted to UFOs, space exploration, genetic engineering and the future.

UFOland was run by Raelians, not aliens, members of the godless Raelian Religion-to-Demystify-All-Religions who believed that we, and all life forms on the good ol' Planet Earth, are products of cloners from outer space, who, sometime before the year 2025 will land at the Raelian Alien Embassy, whose design was inspired by a crop circle Rael saw in a vision.

The story goes that on Christmas Day, 1945, Rael's mother was abducted and inseminated by the Elohim and gave birth to Rael. Now, between



the home of the Ski-Doo inventor Joseph-Armand Bombardier and the museum devoted to the history of the snowmobile.

I'd been lured the UFOland by the Web site I'd seen advertised on a car. After hiking down Mont Bromont, I could hardly believe my eyes. There in the parking lot of the Quebec provincial park, fixed atop a white Ford sedan — right where you'd expect to see a plastic St. Hubert's fried chicken or a plastic pizza — was a hokey plastic flying saucer announcing [www.ufoland.com](http://www.ufoland.com). Quebec could be adorably corny and weird, with swear words inspired by saints' names and a giddy-up rodeo in a town called St. Tite. I decided to pay a virtual visit to the dot-com to see what the hype was about.

The Web site said that UFOland was built from 5,825 bales of hay, featured the world's tallest replica of DNA and promised to allow the public to "visit the interior of a UFO." It compared UFOland to Disneyland and announced

race car driving, press conferences to spread the Raelian movement (see [www.rael.org](http://www.rael.org)) and soliciting funds for a cloning revolution. Rael handles his company Clonaid ([www.clonaid.com](http://www.clonaid.com)) offering customers the opportunity to be cloned for a piddling \$200,000 (Canadian). And now there's Clonapet, "cloning the pets of rich individuals who wish to bring back to life their lost pet — especially champion race horses." And for \$50,000, Insuraclone provides the safe sampling and storage of cells from a living child to create its clone if the child should die.

I can't afford to be cloned, nor would I wish to be, after the recent report in the journal *Nature* that Dolly, cloned from a 6-year-old sheep, has telomeres (those cufflike bands at the end of chromosomes) which are six years older than her cloned body, which could mean that a clone made from a 35-year-old cell would be "born" pre-aged.

This creepy cloning business aside, I wanted

to see this alien embassy made of hay. And most of all, I wanted to find out why the Elohim had chosen Quebec. It seemed that ever since the Catholic Church had lost its power in this renege province, there wasn't much left to believe in except Quebec independence — and cults, like the Solar Temple, Scientology and Raelians.

A hand-painted sign off Route 243 led me down a dirt road to a big barn and a rambling white building, where I was greeted by a beautiful French woman in tight leather pants and quickly delivered of my delusions. Firstly, the embassy I'd seen on the Web site was only a miniature model. The real one wasn't built yet, since cash needed to be raised to buy land in Israel, the Chosen Place. (No matter that Middle East air space wasn't exactly the friendliest air space on earth.) It was simply too cold for the Elohim to land in Quebec, regardless of how much fun they might have driving snowmobiles.

And the 5,825 bales of hay? They were embedded in poured concrete in the 400-foot-long, four-story-high, adobe-type building which housed the UFO paraphernalia gift shop, photos of the Miss UFOland competition and the seven thematic halls with exhibits on Cloning, Genetics, Crop Circles, Nanotechnology, UFO sightings around the world and other fascinating stuff.

Much as I snicker at the name Clonaid and the name of Rael's business partner/scientist who wants to be first to clone a human — Dr. Richard Seed — it appears that \$15 million has been raised to buy land on Hokkaido in northern Japan, where human cloning operations for infertile couples will soon begin.

Of all the statements I heard on my tour of UFOland, the most shocking was Beluat explaining that when cloning really got going, only those who were worthy would be cloned.

"And who will decide who's worthy to be

cloned?" I asked.

"Oh, our most brilliant scientists and artists — they will be cloned."

"But who will decide?" I repeated.

"Those who have made valuable contributions to the world, but not just the rich — a poor person could be worthy..."

"But who will decide?"

Now when I meet St. Peter at the gate, how will he know if I've lived a clone-worthy life?

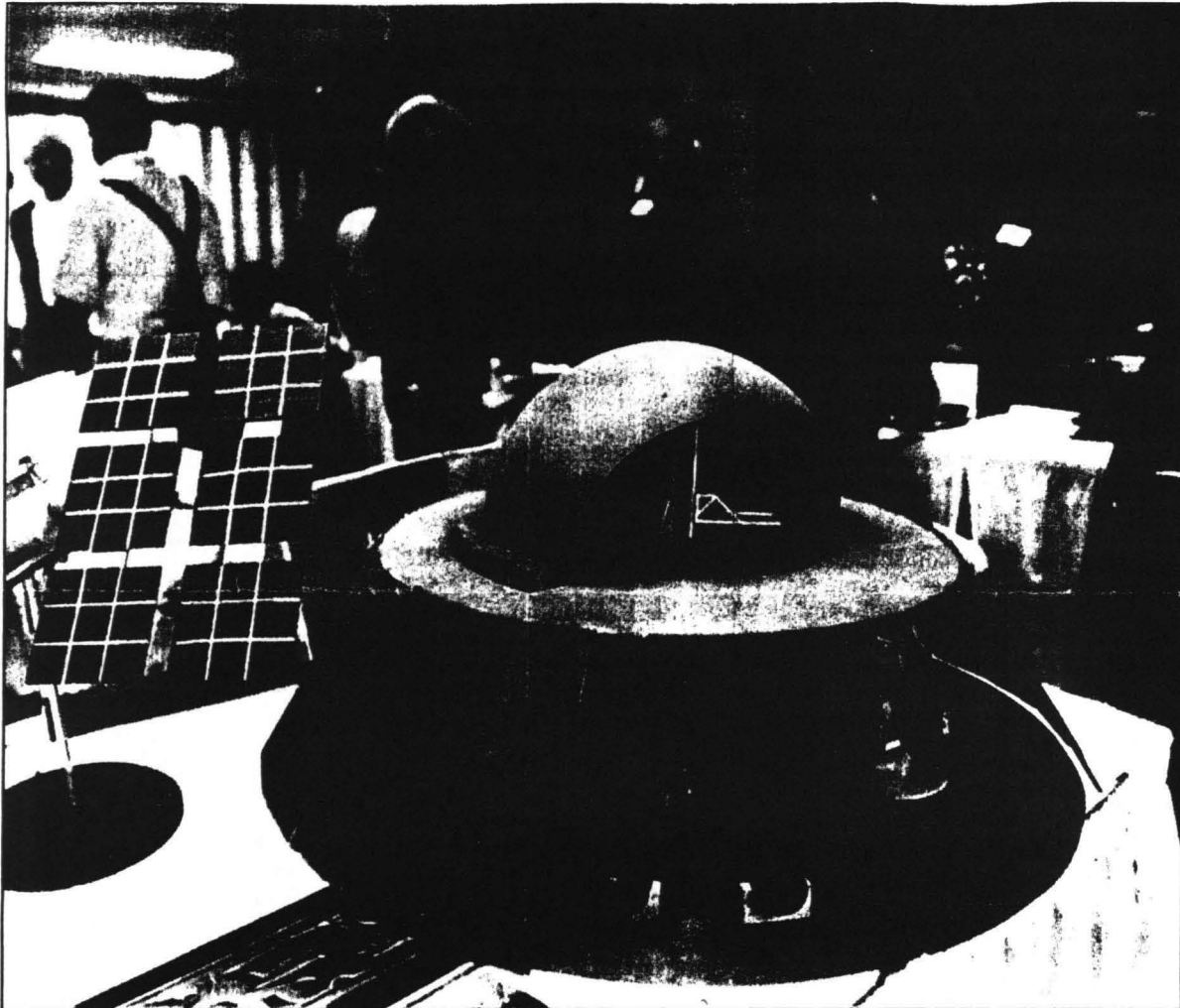
EW

## QUICK HITS!

• Visit UFOland at [www.ufoland.com](http://www.ufoland.com), or just go there! For information, E-mail [ufoland@qc.aira.com](mailto:ufoland@qc.aira.com) or call 450-532-6864.

• At the Joseph-Armand Bombardier Museum in Valcourt, you can see the history of the Ski-Doo from a motorized sleigh to Formula One racing snowmobiles. Call 514-532-5300 or visit [www.ucctech.com/museejab](http://www.ucctech.com/museejab).





KENOSHA NEWS PHOTO BY BRIAN PASSINO

A model of a UFO sits on a vendor's table at the Heartland Encounters conference Sunday at the Brat Stop in Bristol.

## Encounters Conference draws the curious and the convinced

BY CHRISTINE A. VERSTRAETE  
KENOSHA NEWS CORRESPONDENT

BRISTOL — Sunday was the perfect day for a group of people to gather for what almost seemed like a religious conference, except that the beliefs here were more of the "Close Encounters" kind.

At the first Heartland Encounters Conference, which took place at the Brat Stop on Highway 50, visitors heard speakers talk about everything from the mysteries of the pyramids to unidentified flying objects.

And they even saw for themselves an unusual skull that is being touted as possibly being of alien, and not human, origin.

The event was organized by Antioch, Ill., resident Bonnie Hughes, who claims to have

**'I STARTED SEEING  
them (UFOs) back in  
'39. Six times I've seen  
them.'**

**Car Meiers**  
conference attendee

had alien encounters since childhood, and members of the Chicago Art Bell Chat Club and other organizations.

Hughes thought it would be something Kenosha County residents would enjoy. "I've been

to conferences all over the Midwest," she said. "There's never been anything like this in our area."

And what did Kenosha County residents think? If an informal survey was any indication, only a handful of local residents could be found among the estimated 150 people attending the morning and early afternoon lectures. Most of the other spectators were from Chicago and the northern Illinois suburbs, along with some from northern Wisconsin and the Midwest.

Those local residents willing to talk said that they attended mostly due to curiosity.

"It's something to do," said Larry Nance, 35, of Pleasant Prairie. "Some of this stuff is interesting. I'm interested in the serious stuff."

Kenoshan Gary Turner, 67, said he came to the event because he occasionally listens to the Art Bell radio show. "I think there's a lot of ideas out there, but I don't know how true it is," he said. "Everybody's looking for the truth."

The "truth," as presented here, included everything from national author and hypnotherapist Delores Cannon discussing her book based on "contact" with

Nostradamus through hypnosis, to "channeler" Diandra leading a meditation and presenting messages purportedly given by alien "entities."

While more tangible "proof" was the focus of author and photoanalyst Jeff Sainio's video of what could be a UFO crash, author Lloyd Pye of Louisiana offered the most unusual object.

Pye wants to begin raising funds to do DNA and other scientific testing on the odd-shaped skull that was found about 70 years ago in Mexico. Photos can be seen on the Internet at:

<http://www.starchildproject.com/> or link through <http://www.lloydpye.com/links.htm>.

"We know it's bone," said Pye, who's had the skull in his possession two months. "I've shown it to 30 experts, specialists and anthropologists, who all say, of course, it has to be some kind of pathology. It's estimated to be (of a child) about 5 years old that is very unlikely to survive unless it's a different kind of being."

A few visitors and exhibitors from Neenah also had "eyewitness" proof of UFO sightings or alien encounters.

"I started seeing them back in '39," said Car Meiers, 75. "Six times I've seen them and I've sketched the UFOs I've seen."

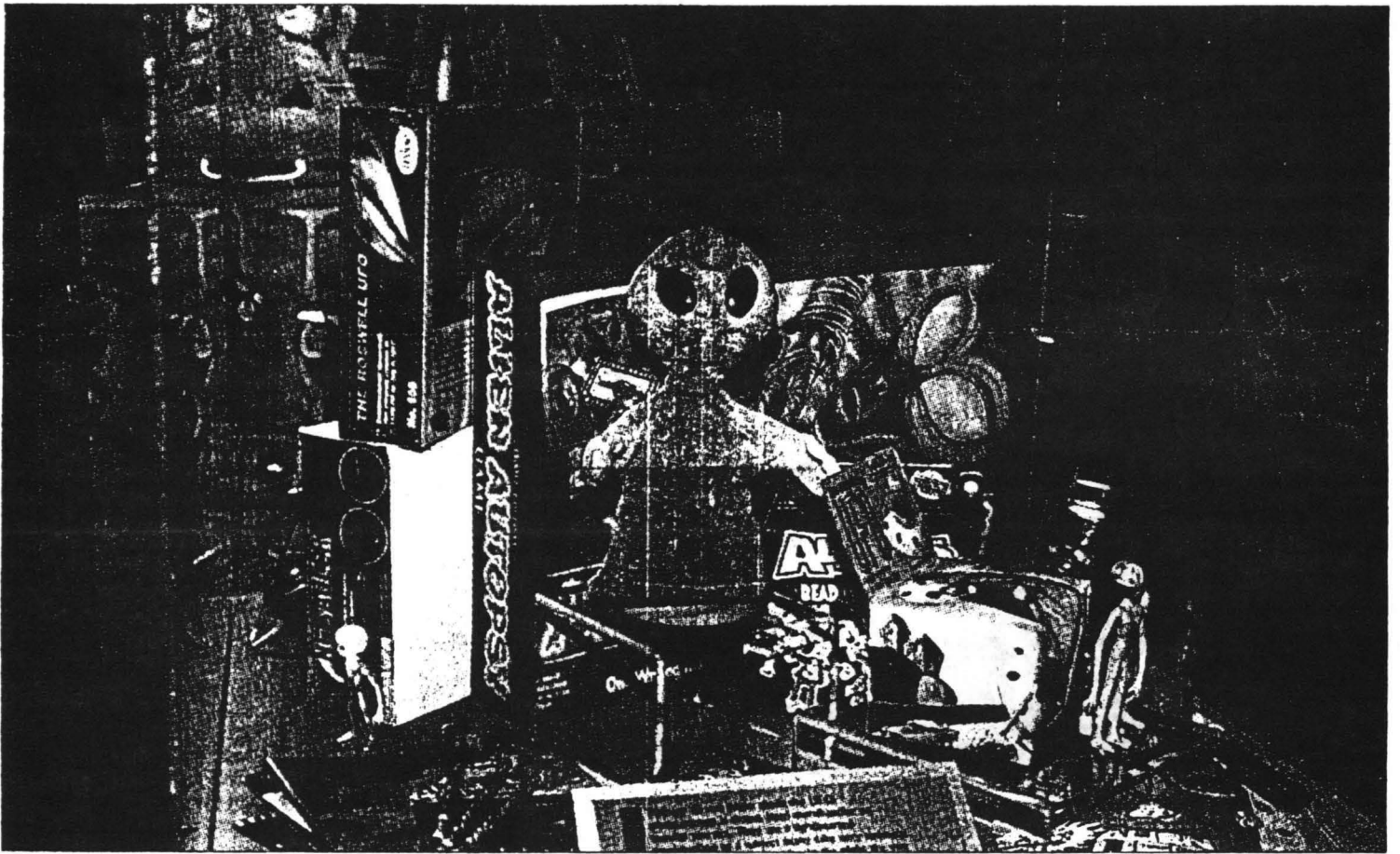
Judie Woolcott, 62, also of Neenah, said the aliens communicate through languages she transcribes. She's written a book on her experiences and thoughts.

Some residents, like two Silver Lake women who didn't want their names used, found the whole atmosphere kind of strange.

"I'm very disappointed," said the daughter. "There's been nothing accurate for the program."

"I'm interested in outer space," said the mother. "Like I said, it reminds you of a cult. A lot of baloney, in plain English."

# Arts & Events



Contributed photo

This case displaying items influenced by UFOs in pop culture is part of The Neville Public Museum's newest exhibit, "UFO: An Exhibit about Little Green (gray) Men."

## A 'quirky' UFO encounter

Museum explores state's reputation as a hot bed of sightings in 'all over the place' exhibit

By Joy Marquardt

Special to the Daily Herald

GREEN BAY — The Neville Public Museum of Brown County is calling all E.T.s to phone home.

Searching the galaxies above Wisconsin, "UFO: An Exhibit about Little Green (gray) Men," the Neville Museum's latest exhibit, offers something for everyone heading into the next millennium.

On display through Jan. 9, 2000, the exhibit explores UFOs, or Unidentified Flying Objects, by sharing studies, ideas, sightings and both amateur and professional artwork relating to the subject.

"It's a fascinating topic," said Marilyn Stasiak, development and public relations officer with the museum. "Everybody has an opinion on the subject one way or another."

A portion of the museum's display comes from citizens of the state who sent in drawings of their own UFO sightings. According to Stasiak, the first sighting in Wisconsin was recorded in Oconto County as early as 1898.

### If you go

■ The Neville Public Museum of Brown County is located at 210 Museum Place, directly across the Fox River from the Port Plaza Mall in downtown Green Bay.

■ Museum hours are noon to 4 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday; and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday.

■ For more information, contact Marilyn Stasiak, development and public relations director, at 1-920-448-4460.

"We sent out fliers asking for people's visual interpretations if they had seen a sighting," Stasiak said. "We had quite a few ordinary people like you and me seeing something of things unexplained."

The museum received drawings from people all around the state and also obtained work from professional artists who interpreted their own sightings. One photograph came from a New York City artist who had heard about the exhibit on the Internet.

Other sections in the exhibit include recently declassified government reports, a history of UFOs, modern ufology, or the study of UFOs, and a case displaying items influenced by UFOs in pop culture.

"The exhibit is kind of all over the

place," Stasiak said. "We are neither trying to confirm or deny the existence of UFOs. We are just stating cases. It's up to whoever comes to see it to make their own decisions. It's an interesting exhibit that covers all the bases."

A scientific portion of the display explores the question of who studies UFOs and why, and how they are studied, Stasiak said.

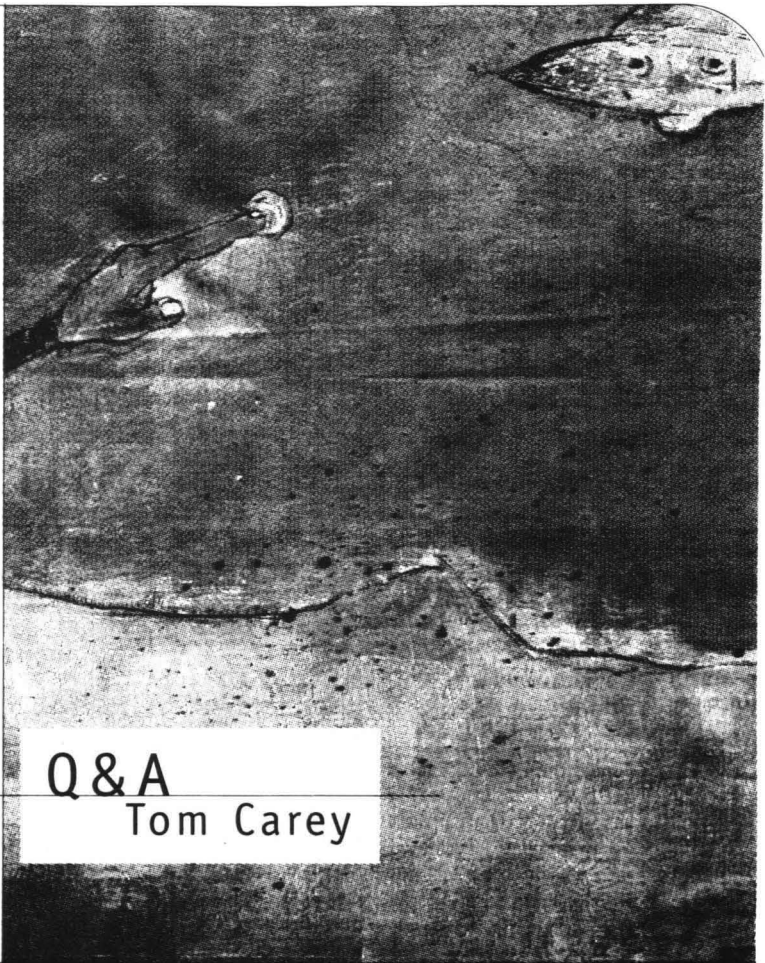
"They actually have classifications such as 'close encounters of the first, second and third kind' depending what is sighted," she said. "We are not making this stuff up."

The exhibit is curated by Jack Moga, curator of art for the Neville Museum, who found several centers for UFOs in Appleton, Milwaukee and Chicago as he conducted research for the exhibit.

"The curator found that Wisconsin is a real hot bed for UFOs since the 1898 sighting in Oconto," Stasiak said. "Even in Door County, Washington Island and up into the UP."

In conjunction with the exhibit, the museum will be sponsoring a science fiction film festival beginning June 13, which will start at 1 p.m. each Sunday and run through the month of September in the museum's Learning Center. Films from the 1950s through the '90s will be featured, including "Independence Day," "E.T." and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."





Q&A  
Tom Carey

People pick their hobbies and make a life around them. There's a golf lifestyle, a travel lifestyle, a gourmet lifestyle and, for some, a UFO lifestyle. Tom Carey, a level-headed insurance salesman from the suburbs of Philadelphia, chases the notion of "life out there." He was recently in town with the Center for UFO Studies to announce new evidence about the famous Roswell Incident.

**WW: How long have you been investigating UFOs?**

**Tom Carey:** I've had an active role since 1986. ~~Like~~ most of ~~us~~, I was interested as a kid. Years later, when I was established in my job; I wanted to do something creative, and I came back to the UFO. But I wanted to do more than read books. I wanted to actually investigate cases.

**What new information do you have about Roswell?**

The memo in General Ramey's hand in a well-known photo from that time—Ramey was the architect of the military coverup of the incident. For years we looked at this photo, but we never really zoomed in on it. Now, with modern computer technology, we can blow this memo up and actually read about 75 percent of it. Several words are key: "explosion," "victims," "wreck," "disk." And what that says to us is that the Roswell crash was not the crash of a weather balloon, which the military claimed it was.

**Why do you think the government would want to cover up a UFO landing?**

We get that question all the time, and no one really knows, but back in 1947 we think there were good reasons to cover it up. The initial concern at the time was that it was the Russians who sent this craft over. Also, this was not long after the *War of the Worlds* episode in 1938, when people were told they were listening to a dramatization of aliens landing, but they still went out and went crazy. Another reason is the unknown factor of what this revelation would do to our economic and religious institutions. And also, once you get a coverup going, it tends to get a life of its own.

**Do you think people are becoming more open-minded about UFOs?**

Oh, yeah, it's amazing. I mean, look at the commercials alone. Even in a trade journal for the insurance industry, I've seen a full-page ad of people pointing up into the sky at a UFO, and this is to sell Prudential life insurance. You can't find a more conservative industry than insurance.

**Does your wife believe in UFOs?**

She's more spiritual than I am. She's not really into this, but she knows it brings pleasure to me, so that's good enough for her. I would say she looks at this with bemused enjoyment.

BY AMY FAUST

228-1037

**What percentage of your time is spent on UFOs?**

Zero time at work, but of my own time, 75 percent. The other 25 percent is spent on house repairs. The Roswell case has pretty much taken over my life until it gets solved. I've set up an office at home. I've got a UFO hot line, a fax machine, the whole thing.

**Have you ever seen a UFO?**

I've seen things in the sky, one in 1965 and one last year, that I can't explain.

**Do you speculate much on alien life?**

No, absolutely not. We never ~~discuss~~ where they might be from, why they might be coming here, because all of that is pure speculation. I can't emphasize enough that we are focused on proving the reality or non-reality of this case. We're like Joe Friday: "Just the facts."

**What about the autopsy film showing the Roswell aliens on the operating table?**

Hoax. Not even close. But the good thing it did was to start a discussion amongst everyday people about what happened at Roswell.

**Do you watch *The X Files*?**

It was my favorite show when it first came on, but they've gotten too far off track. It's just not as good as it was the first year.

**If you solve the case, what will you do with your spare time after that?**

I like investigating and writing mysteries. Or I'd find the next crash—there are other alleged crashes—so I'd probably do that. They think there are 20 billion solar systems in the Milky Way, so you take the law of averages, and there's got to be life out there. ~~www~~

# Shirkey writes book on Roswell incident

FELIPE MENDOZA  
RECORD STAFF WRITER

After years of silence regarding the 1947 Roswell Incident, Roswell resident Robert J. Shirkey has written a book released this week called "Roswell 1947: I was there."

"Three hundred or 400 books, maybe more, have been written on the subject," Shirkey said. "This is the first one written by someone who was there."

According to Shirkey, he was assistant group operations officer for the 509th Bomb Group stationed at Walker Air Force Base when the incident occurred in July, 1947.

Shirkey got involved with the alleged UFO crash four or five days after the incident occurred.

Shirkey reportedly set up the flight plan for a B-29 that transported materials found by a rancher to Fort Worth, Texas.

"When the rancher brought items that he found on his property and took it to the sheriff, then the secrecy was broken," he said. "Now the civilians knew about this."

"The first four days it was just military who knew what was going on."

"I saw pieces of metal from the craft,"

*"The first four days it was just military who knew what was going on."*

Robert J. Shirkey  
Author of "Roswell 1947: I was there."

Shirkey said. "I saw the I-beam with the strange markings on it."

Shirkey added, "The airplane took off at 2 p.m."

That morning Lt. Walter Haut was asked by Col. William Blanchard to write a news story that appeared in the Roswell Daily Record.

"That's when they had the big headline about a foreign craft having been found," he said.

Walter Haut and Shirkey shared an office in Roswell for several years but never spoke about the incident, Shirkey said.

Although Shirkey was never threatened, "some people claimed they were threatened

with death if they talked."

"Walter and I never spoke about it until 1990 when we went to a conference in Washington on the UFO."

"That's when we found out what the other did 45 years ago."

Shirkey said he was motivated to write the book after watching a colonel on a television program who said most people around in 1947 "were old enough to be senile."

"The government said that it never happened," he added. "That it was not a UFO, it was a weather balloon."

"Those of us who were involved immediately knew we'd better keep our mouths shut."

According to Shirkey, he chose to write about the incident because so much information has come out since 1980.

Shirkey also said many explanations regarding the incident have been released by the Air Force since 1990 — "All of them untrue."

"I'm trying to get people to understand there's more behind the scenes and that we'll get the true story out," Shirkey said.

The book is available at the International UFO Museum and various stores in Roswell.

Shirkey will also sign copies of the book at the Roswell Convention and Civic Center beginning this afternoon.

NEWS, Kenosha, WI - April 26, 1999 CR: R. Heiden

## Antioch woman says she was once abducted by aliens

BY CHRISTINE A. VERSTRAETE  
KENOSHA NEWS CORRESPONDENT

BRISTOL — Close encounters of the extra-terrestrial kind are not all that unusual in this area, if you believe one Antioch, Ill., woman and her family.

Fifty-year-old Bonnie Hughes said that stories of unusual visitors have long been a tradition in her family, dating back to her grandparents.

"Our family's had stories of contacts going back several generations," said Hughes, a lifelong Antioch resident. "We never connected them with spaceships. We just called them 'the others.'"

Hughes, who describes her parents as "very fundamental Christian," said that she and her four sisters were encouraged to explore other beliefs. Her first memory, she said, was from age 2 months when she was sick with encephalitis.

"I remember seeing little people standing higher than my crib," she said. "I remember them looking with gray eyes ... I saw a tall being and lights."

Some visitors she called the "Beloved Ones" she described as gray and 7-foot-tall.

"I've seen some pictures that look like they're related to the Bird People in Jewish lore," she said.

**'LIFE IS ETERNAL,  
and there's something  
out there.'**

Bonnie Hughes  
Antioch, Ill., resident

When she got older, Hughes said, there were other visitations, and she recalled strange things happening in the house.

"Lights would turn on and off," she said. "Electrical equipment would malfunction. My mother had to fit it into her Russian background, saying it wasn't something to be feared. It was unaccountable."

Hughes said that when she read a book in 1985 telling about alien abductions, she thought it was her story. She said she visited alien spaceships, endured examinations and "fetal extractions."

She was terrified at first. "I was a spiritual seeker," she said. "When I first realized what was happening to me, I thought it could be hybrid beings manufactured for someone else's purposes. I was mortified."

Hughes later learned that her five children, three daughters and two sons, now ages 19 to 30,

also had similar experiences.

"My kids would come to me, one by one, and say this was happening to me," she recalled. "I'd listen to them, but I didn't say I was having those experiences too."

Later, Hughes said, they shared their experiences. Once she stopped fighting the experiences and realized she had the choice to say no to the visitors, Hughes said she accepted it and made peace with it.

"It's a very spiritual experience once you go through the fear part," she said. "You start all over with the ethics of the universe and spirituality."

"The human soul body is about to mature. All the systems on this planet are about to come to fruition. From the perspective of the others, we're going to literally transform into the next being."

"Life is eternal, and there's something out there."

Her daughters have been attending conferences with her, but her two sons want nothing to do with it now. "They want to live a normal life," she said.

Daughter Liz Hughes, 19, also of Antioch, said she views her experiences differently now as well.

"I remember being deathly afraid of nighttime, and my blankets moving around on me," she said. "I really think I started spiritually developing around 15. It's just a special awakening and time for everyone to get together and just be aware."





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

JOURNAL, Newcastle, England - March 26, 1999

# They're all still out there watching the skies

As the turn of the millennium approaches, the skies are thick with new UFO books. **BILL WILSON** identifies two of them.

**W**ITH the end of the millennium looming, there are as many splits, schisms, and sects appearing in the world of Ufology as there were in the Christian Church in days gone by.

And, as Y2K (the year 2000 to you and me) approaches, publishers are only too keen to get books into print on the subject - which they see as appealing to growing New Age sensibilities.

There are hundreds of theories about the source of UFOs - strange sights in the skies which historians have been chronicling for centuries.

Everything, from naturally occurring physical phenomena to alien breeding programmes, have been put forward as explanations, with a lot of other ideas in between.

In two new books *UFO: Revelation* and *Alien Investigator*, by Tim Matthews and Tony Dodd respectively, the pair add their research and ideas to an ever-growing volume of literature on the subject.

But with Roswell, crop-circles, abductions, Mars and other well-known themes done to death, the new UFO book has to offer a fresh approach.

In Tim Matthews' case it is the theory that the roots of UFOs lie in the experiments of Nazi Germany in the

1930s, and for Tony Dodd it is the belief that there are massive UFO bases under the sea off the coast of Iceland.

Dodd's book starts with accounts of triangular, disc and cigar shapes he has sighted while UFO-watching on the North Yorkshire moors but his book quickly descends into more exotic tales of alien abductions and animal mutilation.

Tim Matthews' book works in reverse. It starts questionably and gradually offers more reasonable explanations for the strange sights over our skies.

His hypothesis that most UFOs are prototypes of futuristic man-made craft is preceded by 50 pages arguing that the technology used in these vehicles originated in the Third Reich.

The latter argument seems based on possibility, suggestion and hypothesis, but he is stronger when suggesting today's triangular

shapes are hybrid lighter-than-air (LTA) vehicles made from tough composite materials.

Two interesting books - two different approaches. But will they still be in print in 2001?

*UFO: Revelation* by Tim Matthews (Blandford £9.99); *Alien Investigator* by Tony Dodd (Headline, £9.99)



YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS, York, England - Jan. 26, 1999

## UFO sightings on rise since lights spotted

by David Wiles

UFO sightings across North Yorkshire are on the increase.

Since strange lights were reported in the sky last Monday, the Evening Press has been inundated with phone calls from local residents claiming to have seen similar unexplained objects.

Some feel the county could be set to regain its reputation as a hotbed of UFO activity, with recent sightings in Riccall, Kelfield, Selby and York within the last two weeks.

University lecturer Hugh Palmer saw what he described as a "phenomenal sight" while driving from York to Wheldrake on Wednesday.

"I was about half a mile from Elvington airfield when this huge ball of orange light maybe 30ft across shot downwards extremely quickly from the sky.

"When it got to about 100ft from the ground it just vanished."

Mr Palmer said he then drove around for 30 minutes looking for clues as to what he had seen, but there was no sign of debris or an impact.

John McIntyre, a retired British gas worker from Tang Hall, York, was on St Nicholas Fields, York, two weeks ago when he saw an oblong object in the sky.

"There were two rows of lights running down the side of it and I was watching it for about ten minutes," he said.

"I know it was there because another man who had been stood watching it came over and said 'Can you see what I can see?'"

Mr McIntyre said the object moved slowly into the clouds and then back down again four times.

"Then a plane appeared next to it and the object just disappeared. It was as if the plane had been scrambled to deal with it," he said.

A caller from Riccall, who did not want to be named, said she had seen lights in the sky at the same time and in the same place as our reporter.

The caller revealed that two years ago she and her husband followed a UFO from York to Harrogate before giving up the chase.

An RAF spokesman said they were not aware of any air traffic that would explain Monday's sightings. "But we do take any such reports seriously," he said.

A spokesman for North Yorkshire Police said he had not seen any reports of sightings for a couple of years, but the force had recently received a report of flashing lights above Harrogate, and above Escrick last week.

● Have you any strange sightings to report? Call David Wiles on 01757 703580.

TARGET, Boston, England - Feb. 24, 1999

## —It was a UFO says video man—

VIDEO footage of what appears to be a UFO, shot by a Boston man, has been snapped up by UFO Magazine.

Shane Brown (30) of Goodson Close, Boston, had been living with his grandmother on Argyle Street at the time of the incident, shortly before 3pm in

June 1997, when he saw the strange object in the sky.

After being initially stunned by the experience, he managed to pick up his video camera just in time to get some shots of the craft.

"It was doing quite strange manoeuvres," said Shane, who had been

drawn to looking out of the window after hearing two F15's flying across.

However, Shane, an enthusiast with an in depth knowledge of aircraft, said it was definitely not an aircraft that he saw.

"At the time I saw the craft (UFO) it was directly over the house. When I looked at the video it looked

like a disc," he said.

"The clouds were grey and you could see the object going in and out of the clouds. It appeared to be black or grey. A light was emitted from the craft."

When he originally spoke to a magazine which dealt with the subject of UFO's at the time of the incident they had asked

him to send a copy to them and said they would be in touch as it was hoped to be used at an autumn conference.

However, no word came from the magazine.

"They never contacted me so I just left it," he said.

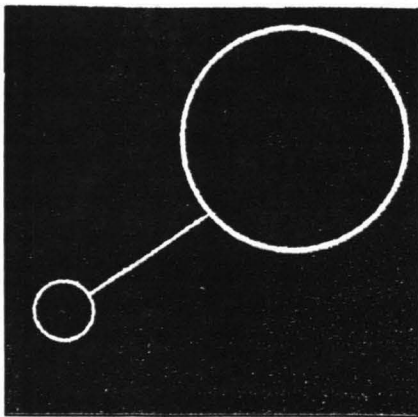
However, he decided to try again,

and spoke to UFO magazine who were very keen to see the footage.

But this is not the first time he has seen a craft.

"The first time was when I was very young as I was coming down Vauxhall Road with my mum," said Shane.

# OUT OF THIS WORLD



LOOKING UP: Brian's image magnified by magazine

**AN amazing film of dozens of silver orb-like objects shooting across the sky in Stirling has excited UFO watchers all over the UK.**

The video caught by a roadworker, who is known only as Brian, has been hailed as "the most significant UFO footage ever recorded in Britain".

Brian, 31, recorded the five-and-a-half-hours of film footage near his home in Stirling at the end of last year.

## UFO excitement as Brian films spectacular in sky

By STEVE SMITH

He then passed the result to experts at UFO Magazine.

A team from the monthly publication travelled to Stirling just before Christmas, and yesterday, investigator Russel Callaghan said: "We're convinced we've got something extremely unusual."

"What we've seen at Stirling is one of the most convincing cases I have ever handled."

"Brian is as genuine as the day is long and wasn't out to make a million. He's certainly

not a fraud or a conman."

Mr Callaghan, who questioned Brian for more than eight hours, said the find was as spectacular as the UFO images captured over Mexico City in the mid-1990s.

He added: "The VHS cassette contained several sequences of what appeared to be UFO activity filmed in broad daylight in Scotland."

"Some of the manoeuvres and detail on the 15-minute tape were quite stunning and closely resembled the kind of activity recorded in the skies over Mexico."

On one section of tape a

Scottish voice gasps "crazy, crazy stuff" as a UFO skims through the clouds at an incredible speed.

The team contacted Brian after his mysterious tape arrived at the magazine headquarters in Ilkley, Yorkshire, in December.

As soon as experts viewed it, they sent a team to interview him. Brian, who has lived in the town for 10 years, told the experts: "It's like they know when I am filming. They just seem to appear."

Brian, who also handed over the master tape to help prove its authenticity, said he

first noticed "a number of curious objects passing overhead" while on his way to work.

He managed to borrow a video camera and caught the objects on film over several more days.

UFO Magazine editor Graham Birdsall said Brian did not have any complex editing or computing equipment and was only able to copy the original film on to standard VHS tape by connecting the camera to a recorder.

He added: "I feel he has neither the resources nor inclination to perpetuate any kind of hoax or try to mislead anyone as to what he has filmed."

For years, the town of Bonnybridge, near Stirling, has been regarded as one of the country's most active areas for UFO sightings.

# What chased us across moor?

Couple break silence to relive 'flying light' terror

by NIGEL LANCASHIRE

A CLOSE Encounter of the Third Kind is leading a couple to back calls to set up a Valley UFO centre.

A strange light in the sky that chased them across moorland was revealed this week - after 45 years of embarrassed silence.

The bright light followed them across Deerplay Moor from a hundred yards distance... and then got bigger and brighter until it was within a yard of their terrified faces.

The couple, known to the Free Press although requesting anonymity to save them from ridicule, were walking across the moor to visit the man's sister in Water.

Mr and Mrs X, now living in Ramsbottom, were courting at the time. Mrs X said: "We have kept silent because we didn't want to appear foolish and rarely speak about it even to each other."

"The recent reports and appeals for sightings have brought it all back. We have only ever spoken about it to friends but we now think everyone should know."

At the time, the couple were in their early twenties. Mrs X said: "My fiancé and I had decided to short cut across Deerplay Moor one night to visit his sister in Water. I had roamed those moors all my life without incident."

"We reached the cenotaph and left the main road. Then we became aware of a bright light

from behind, back on the road towards Burnley. It suddenly started towards us, hovering silently above the ground."

"We had thought it was a bicycle, but it was too bright, and too steady on that rough moor ground."

"The ever-brighter ball of light sped up, blinding us. It began to hurt."

"We got scared and hid behind a rough stone wall. By then the ball was so big and dazzling, it lit the whole moor and shone through the cracks in the wall."

The light moved right up to the wall and moved along it.

To this day, Mrs X has nightmares whenever

she thinks about their experience. "We have tried to find answers, we are both rational people. But we cannot find any sane explanation."

"But I am almost glad to hear others have had similar experiences in the same place. Now, we don't feel quite so alien ourselves."

UFO phenomena prompted Roger Markman, a Bacup resident, is seeking backers to convert Bacup's former baths building into a UFO centre.

"It made us both feel better to know that someone else takes this sort of thing seriously," Mrs X adds. "There may be lots of other sightings but people feel silly speaking out."

## Sub-postmaster with his eyes to the skies, but his feet on the ground

THERE can't be too many village sub-postmasters who have become nationally renowned for their expertise in all things astronomical and UFO-related. Many people may know of the existence of the Natural Sciences Centre in North Staffordshire, probably even visited it.

And they will certainly know there's a Post Office in Eccleshall. But not that many would necessarily connect the two.

But Tony Pace, who runs the centre with his twin brother and is also a nationally respected expert amateur - or amateur expert - on ufology and astronomy, is also Eccleshall's sub-postmaster.

So do the villagers who come into the shop to buy stamps and get their pension know who they have living in their midst?

"A lot of them don't know, but quite a few of the older ones do because they've seen things on television or heard them on the radio. When they see something out in the skies they get in touch with me," he said.

Not just people in Eccleshall or Staffordshire, though.

"I had one call from a man in Melbourne, Australia. He found something interesting and he hadn't a clue who to get in touch with. Eventually he got on to a computer and came up with us."

Mr Pace also has many a visit and 'phone call from people who think they have a lump of rock might have come down with the latest meteor shower.

"People bring in bits and pieces of stone, things they've had for years but don't know what it is, something that's always been a mystery to them."

And when this happens, the sub-postmaster faces a slight dilemma.

"I never know whether to give them a straight report on what it is, because then the mystery's gone."

Mr Pace's first love is astronomy, a passion that began when he had a telescope in his

backyard in The Potteries. But conditions for star gazing were poor, what with all the smoke. So he and his brother Michael rented a piece of land at Newchapel, high above northern Stoke, where they built an observatory from spare parts.

This eventually turned into an educational visitors' centre with a planetarium, exhibition building, alternative energy demonstrations and wildlife haven. The centre also studies the weather.

"We pick up pictures from weather satellites and we can show people on the monitors pictures that are almost in real time. People can look at the weather that's happening around the world."

This can also bring in a useful extra income - the centre has to rely on money from visitors and maybe the odd small grant.

"We had a letter from a solicitor. A lady had been in a car accident and they wanted to know the precise weather conditions for the day

before and the day after."

Next on the agenda for the centre is a telescope that people can use for daytime star gazing.

"We hope to buy a small 'off the shelf' telescope. Not so we can say we've got this new toy to play with, but so we've got a 'public' telescope. Instead of people queuing up to look through an eye-piece on a freezing cold night, they can go into the central room which is warm and comfortable, and see pictures which come up from the telescope on the monitor."

"We key in the co-ordinates of an object they want to look at, press go, and the telescope will swing round and track the object. People can learn hands-on and we can print pictures off the solar telescope."

"It's something we can show people during the day, as long as the sun's over the horizon."

Mr Pace is very keen on 'astronomy for all' and doesn't believe in blinding people with science.

He says it is all about a public understanding of astronomy and science and has done a lot to translate things into simple terms. "We don't

pretend to be professional astronomers," he added.

Mr Pace is also very interested in UFO sightings, and has even served time on the British UFO Research Association, though he has definitely got his feet on the ground and has little time for the wackier end of the UFO market.

"I was keen to try and put things on a sensible basis and get the facts," he said.

He served on the association's committee for 12 years as research director and believes he improved an organisation that had suffered from a bad press.

He was also elemental in setting up the first 'serious' UFO conference as well as a magazine on the subject - the Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena. He was careful to keep the phrase UFO out of the title so it would be taken seriously, which it was.

It's amazing he finds time to run the Post Office, though he stresses that his brother runs the Natural Sciences Centre full-time. And there is another 'top secret' project on the agenda for the star gazing sub-postmaster, so watch this space.



STAR GAZER: The man in charge of Eccleshall Post Office is a nationally respected amateur astronomer and ufologist. 99/344

By Sarah Kirby



# Were aliens recovered and secretly removed?

## KEVIN KELL looks at the Llandrillo explosion of January 1974

Twenty-five years ago - on January 23, 1974 - one of the most celebrated and controversial incidents in the history of British ufology occurred - the Llandrillo explosion.

Llandrillo is a village on the B4401 backroad between Bala and Corwen. It lies at the foot of the Berwyn Mountains and near the River Dee. At around 8.30pm on the night in question the area

around Llandrillo and Corwen was rocked by a large explosion.

This was picked up by the British Geological Survey's seismometer at Edinburgh at 8.39pm, and measured at 3.5 on the Richter scale.

There were also many reports of brilliant objects in the sky from North Wales and other parts of Britain, peaking around 9.30pm to 10pm; and of a bright, pulsating light accompanied by smaller white lights, on the slopes of the Berwyn Mountain at the time of the explosion.

That night Mr Ken Houghton of Betws-y-Coed saw a brilliant sphere with a tail descend at great speed. Immediately afterwards he went back into his house, and News at Ten was just starting.

Coastguards at Holyhead saw a flaming object shaped like a tadpole at around the same time.

But, more mysteriously, a brilliant object was seen from Oswestry in the direction of the Berwyns the following evening.

The Border Counties Advertiser of January 30 reported that 14-year-old David Upton of Gobowen saw a bright object in the westward sky at about 7.15pm.

"He ran into the house for a pair of field-glasses. To his astonishment, these revealed a disc-shaped object divided up into four sections, each section a different colour - red, green, yellow and purple.

"His sister Elizabeth, a 20-year-old bank clerk, took over the field glasses and

then her mother Mrs Mary Upton examined the object. All verified David's description.

"I had been watching it for about ten minutes, and thought perhaps I should tell someone about it," said Elizabeth.

She telephoned the local police and they said they would come and have a look.

"A minute after the call the disc slid behind a cloud. We waited for the cloud to pass, and when it did the disc had gone too," said Elizabeth.

"Elizabeth said: 'When I first came out of the house the object was dazzling like a street lamp. When we looked through the field glass we could define its overall disc-shape and the four sections.'"

The objects seen around 9.30pm-10.00pm on the 23rd do seem to be bright meteors. Most meteors are caused by small particles entering the Earth's atmosphere and burning up, but larger rocks can produce brilliant and spectacular fireballs as happened over central England on the night of June 11-12 last year.

Some explained the Llandrillo explosion as the result of a meteorite (a meteor which does not burn up completely) striking the Berwyns.

The problem is that the meteorite would have to be really quite large to produce an impact to register 3.5 on the Richter scale, and this would leave a large and easily identifiable crater.

The crash of PanAm flight 103 at Lockerbie on December 21, 1988 registered 1.6 on

the Richter scale at the same seismological station at Edinburgh.

The main section of the aircraft gouged out a crater 155 feet wide and 196 feet long, and the impact demolished 21 buildings.

An RAF mountain rescue team searched the area and found no crater or trace of a meteorite.

### Explanations

Another explanation is that the explosion was a genuine earthquake and the lights seen nearby were earthquake lights - mysterious flares and glows sometimes reported at the time of earthquakes and believed to be the result of stresses building deep below the Earth's crust and temporarily relieved by the earthquake itself.

As I have previously said, some ufologists see many of the more difficult to explain flying saucers as caused by processes going on far beneath our feet.

There have, of course, been more exotic explanations: the testing of a secret weapon or the crash of an extraterrestrial craft.

Some have even suggested that aliens (either dead or alive) were recovered and secretly removed to the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment at Porton Down in Wiltshire, Britain's answer to Area 51.

The Air Force did search the mountains, possibly thinking initially that an aircraft had crashed; but rumours of a substantial military presence in the area for several days after the event persist, and like so much else in this field, are difficult to track down.

Venus - the object most often mistaken for a flying saucer - is now visible in the western sky just after sunset, and will reach its greatest prominence around May and June.

Jupiter - next in brightness to Venus - is still visible in the evening.

GUARDIAN, Croydon, England - Feb. 17, 1999

## Residents starry-eyed at possible UFO sighting

An unidentified flying object has been hovering over homes in the Crystal Palace area claim residents who swear it was no trick of the twilight.

Adele Oliphant was having a driving lesson in Hermitage Road in Upper Norwood when a "triangle shaped object" stopped her in her tracks.

"If I feel stupid saying I saw a UFO," said Miss Oliphant. "But I do not think it was an aeroplane or a helicopter."

Her instructor Harry Garrick said: "It was not just us, I saw a couple of people had stopped to look at it," he said.

Coincidentally a Wembley-bound airship was scheduled to glide over the south London area on Wednesday evening.

A spokesman for South Norwood Police said: "These

things usually turn out to be airships and I saw one gliding over Caterham a little before 6pm. The chances are the airship accounts for the sightings."

Gloria Dixon, Director of Investigations with the Direct Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena, said: "Too many things have been dumped in the UFO pit. It is so easy to misidentify objects not because people are stupid but because most people do not understand what is in the sky."

"There have been sightings of black triangular craft all over the country and we suspect prototypes are being tested. These sightings may be something similar but it is impossible to say without further investigation."

GLOUCESTER ECHO, Cheltenham, England - Jan. 27, 1999

## I saw aliens, says nurse, 60

Jackie Cook was terrified when she looked out of her window and saw a UFO.

Mrs Cook, 60, of Mitton Way, Tewkesbury was going to bed at 10.45pm on Monday when she heard a loud sound which shook her house. It was followed by a powerful purple light which shone down from the sky.

Mrs Cook, a Tewkesbury Hospital

nurse, was rooted to the spot with fear.

She said: "It was a terrifying experience. I was wide awake and looking out of the window. It was such a powerful light which shone right over the house. I heard a noise but it was like nothing I've ever heard before."

"It was like something coming down from above. It must have lasted about 30 seconds. It faded away very quick-

ly. I couldn't go to sleep after that."

Sergeant Julian Yeo, of Tewkesbury police, said: "There was a power failure that night which may have caused the flashing and banging but we've received no other calls about this."

An MEB spokeswoman said: "A fault on an overhead line is associated with a blue flash. We've had calls in the past linking it with alien activity."

## UFO sightings excite experts

UFO experts are to investigate sightings of a flying object captured on film over Yorkshire on Valentine's Day.

Two independent sightings were made of the UFO at Clifton, near Otley, last Sunday.

This picture was taken by Liam Breslin, of Pearson Terrace, Hyde Park, Leeds, who said: "The object seems to bear a remarkable resemblance to a UFO."

Mr Breslin took the photograph after the object stayed stationary for several minutes.

He and his girlfriend had pulled off the A65 Otley to Ilkley Road and found a quiet area just outside Clifton. The time was 5.30pm.

"While sitting in the car, my girlfriend pointed out a dark object in the sky," he said.

"It seemed very unusual so we decided to get out of the car for a closer look."

"After watching it for a few minutes, it hadn't moved from its position, so I decided to take a photograph as I hadn't seen anything like it before."

"If there is a simple explanation for what I saw then I would like someone to enlighten me."

### Letter

The object was also seen by another man who signed himself simply "Mr Marshall" in a letter to the *Yorkshire Evening Post*.

He said he was walking his dog at Clifton at 5.30pm when he saw an object he could not explain.

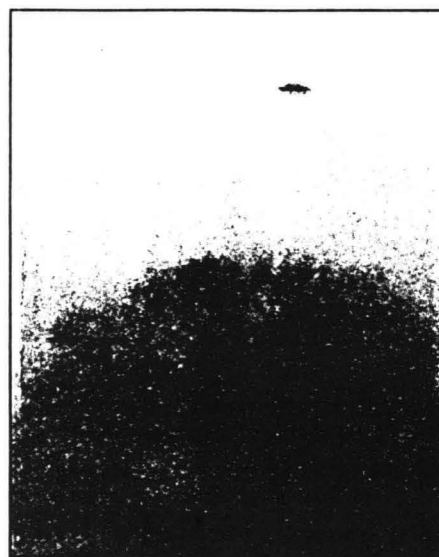
"It was disc-shaped and dark grey in colour," he wrote.

"It remained motionless for what seemed like a number of seconds and then it disappeared across the sky at speed until I lost sight of it."

Graham Birdsall, editor of *UFO Magazine* at Ilkley, said: "This area is recognised as one where unusual objects have been seen over the years predominantly at night but photographic evidence is rare."

"It would be interesting to speak to these witnesses and obviously we would be keen to look at the photograph and negative. We would use computer technology to scan it closely."

"Our task is to be as sceptical about UFO sightings as anyone else. We have to be on our guard because we do not want to be the victim of a St Valentine's Day hoax."



● MYSTERY: The Clifton UFO sighting

# A bit of flying saucery

*UFO documentaries generally sensationalise rather than sift the evidence. But in Riddle Of The Skies, heavyweight scientists, astronauts, camcorder users and eyewitnesses make a tantalising case for the suspension of disbelief. Graham Keal reports*

**A**LIEN life forms have developed a thing about Belgium. Maybe their scouts discovered that the Belgians have only a small air force to intercept them, or maybe they just know where to find good chocolate.

Either way, Belgian sightings and video evidence figure prominently in the first edition of *Riddle Of The Skies*, Channel 4's addictive new series sifting the strongest evidence of UFO sightings around the world.

Eyewitnesses range from Belgian fighter pilots to US astronauts and Mexican farmers. Flippant remarks aside, it's impossible to see and hear some of these serious, sober accounts without questioning your own scepticism, or confirming your beliefs.

The mass UFO sightings over Belgium during the winter of 1989/90 are perhaps the hardest to explain away, and some of Belgian's military top brass aren't even trying.

Colonel Andre Amond, a civil engineer with the Belgian army, repeats the car journey he

and his wife made in December of that year when the flat, almost featureless landscape was illuminated by yellow panels of light. "The yellow panels changed to a white light and this white light was coming down to me," he recalls. That was when his wife suggested they leave, pronto.

They saw the triangle of lights speed away across the sky, but their experience was merely the first in an epidemic of sightings.

Shopkeeper Marcel Alferano reached for his camcorder when he saw a similar light show above Brussels.

"I realised it was not a plane, it was something bizarre, something unrecognisable," he says. "Some people from the Government phoned me and said I should not get carried away. They said I should say it was a plane I had filmed."

But nobody seems to have briefed the pilot of one of the two Belgian Air Force F16 fighters launched when eyewitness reports were backed by readings from two radar stations.

The speed and agility of the UFO meant that, despite locking onto it with their own radar, the F16s kept losing touch.

"It was accelerating from 50 knots to more than 1,000 knots. It was climbing and descending very fast," says the pilot. The target also changed direction so abruptly that neither pilot established visual contact.

Tapes of their radar readings were analysed by The Centre For The Study Of Electronic Warfare.

Professor Emile Schweicher states bluntly that the target's ability to make right turns and change velocity so suddenly are impossible according to our laws of mechanics.

A computer-enhanced picture of the UFO lights reveals a delta-shaped craft. General Wilfred De Brouwer rules out any possibility of it being some experimental aircraft.

"I'm not saying that it was an extraterrestrial, but it is an assumption that should not be excluded," says the general.

Some vivid testimonies from other parts of the world have no such military or scientific corroboration, but they come from people who

impress with their directness.

Mexican farmer and businessman Raul Dominguez had an unpleasant UFO encounter in 1994. He saw a circular craft, about 25 metres in diameter, hovering almost noiselessly 12 metres above his head:

"I heard a sound like bees buzzing. I felt my hair bristle and my clothes moved... Immediately afterwards, these marks appeared on my face and hands. I was ill with stomach pains and bad indigestion for a long time. The whole thing affected me very much, both physically and psychologically."

Astronauts and cosmonauts are best placed to spot UFO activity and several have, though not all of them seem keen to talk about it.

One fascinating piece of film recorded on a Space Shuttle flight to service the Hubble Telescope shows astronauts wondering at flashes in space as they re-enter the Shuttle.

"Who'd be taking pictures? What is this?" asks one of them, concern mounting. "It's just gone past in front of us," says the other.

Steve Smith, interviewed here about his recollections of what he saw and what he meant, throws no light on the subject whatsoever.

Dr Jack Kasher, distinguished Head of Physics at Nebraska University and former NASA researcher, also has footage of flashes in space followed by sudden movements of a UFO avoiding a Space Shuttle. He is convinced that NASA knows about alien spacecraft but is holding back on making the knowledge public.

Astronomer Seth Shostak is part of a continuing project to discover alien radio transmissions. So far they've found nothing, and he's sceptical about UFO encounters — but not about alien life.

There are, he says, half a trillion stars in our galaxy and 50 billion other galaxies: "That's a lot of real estate, and it would be bizarre in the extreme to think that this was the only bit of real estate where anything interesting is happening."

● *Riddle Of The Skies* starts on Monday at 8pm on Channel 4, and runs for three weeks.

OBSERVER, Stirling, England - March 3, 1999

# ET ZOOMS IN ON CASTLE ?

## Mystery surrounds lights over town

**U**NIDENTIFIED flying objects have been spotted in the skies of Stirling.

Local engineer Scott Hunter says he saw a bright, fast-moving light in the sky above Stirling on Friday night as he travelled home past Cumbernauld.

"I can't explain it. It was too fast to be an aircraft and moved in too straight a line to be a meteorite. I know a bit about physics and simply can't think of an explanation for what I saw," he said.

Scott says the light shot up into the sky at around 7.20pm. "I wasn't the only one who noticed it. The cars in front of me all had their brake lights on as though they were slowing down to see what it was."

"I feel a bit silly about it really because I'm

By **Fiona Wilson**

very sceptical about these things. But I just can't explain what I saw," he added.

The sighting comes just a week after another Stirling man handed over video footage of bright lights above Stirling Castle to UFO Magazine.

The resident, who wanted to remain anonymous, told the magazine he had seen strange, moving lights in the area on and off for some time before he decided to capture them on video at Christmas.

UFO Magazine editor Graham Birdshall said he didn't believe the film was fake. "The man doesn't own complex editing equipment and was only able to copy the original film on to standard VHS tapes" he said.

"He has neither the resources nor the inclination to perpetuate any kind of hoax."

But local paranormal investigator Brian Allan has warned locals not to get too excited about meeting extra terrestrials on the castle esplanade.

"I quite believe what this man saw is genuine but I doubt whether it's flying saucers. These lights are definitely an unexplained phenomena but it is much more likely that they are some sort of plasma discharge," he said.

"It could be a phenomenon similar to the one which created a lot of UFO sighting at Bonnybridge recently. These were caused by an interaction of the type of rock underneath the ground and the atmosphere," added Brian, who runs Strange Phenomenon Investigations.

A spokeswoman for Historic Scotland, which owns the castle, said they were aware of the UFO reports but had not had any reports of sightings from staff working there.



# Photo appeal after UFO is spotted over resort

*Did you have camera with you?*

Report by Sam Thomas

## RESIDENTS in Southport had a close encounter when an Unidentified Flying Object was spotted in the town.

The Lancashire UFO Society said the mystery of a large shiny triangular was reported by a number of sources, at around 4pm on January 21.

Chairman of the Lancashire UFO Society and Southport resident Tim Matthews said: "This sighting is interesting because every January and February for the last four years there has been triangle sightings in Southport.

"The general conclusion is the triangle is of military origin but it's difficult to find this out because of confidentiality."

He believes it is a top secret prototype being tested by the air base for the next generation of stealth planes.

But British Aerospace, although admitting they are researching and developing a new craft, deny the triangular object is their responsibility.

Tim, whose new book UFO Revelations is published this month, believed a photograph was taken of the craft and he is appealing for the person to come forward.

He said: "One of the things that's illusive is photographic evidence."

■ Anyone with information about the photograph is asked to call Tim on 01704 501765.

## Strange light sparks UFO probe

By Kathryn Crookes

A STRANGE white light spotted in the sky by a local could have been from an alien craft.

The eerie sight woke up Sarah Rushbrook, of Patterdale Drive, Loughborough, and she found she was transfixed by the bright white light for about 30 seconds.

The light shone through her bedroom window, bounced off the lightbulb and back out of the window.

Although it was a strange sight Sarah was not scared.

She said: "I was fascinated by the light because of the angle it came into my bedroom and the way it went back out of the window.

"There was no way that anything could have reflected like that, it was definitely not a plane or anything.

### Transfixed

"I had never had an experience like it before and I am convinced it could have been an alien visitation.

"Something held me to the light, I was transfixed by it."

Miss Rushbrook did not look out of the window to see what the light was, but she did believe that it was nothing from this world.

She said: "The light was so bright that if it had come from a plane it would have had to be in my bedroom."

Loughborough became a UFO hot spot in January 1996 when a strange green light was seen in the sky by many Echo readers.

BELPER NEWS, Derbyshire, England - March 24, 1999

# 'Black wedge' seen in skies over town

UFO watchers are seeking a rare bit of winged action — a flying machine shaped like a black wedge of cheese.

At least five people saw it flit across the night sky from Brinsley to Crich and then Belper.

The blunt end of the wedge was at the front and it reached speeds of only £30mph. It had two white headlamps.

The Phenomena Research Association said one of their observers spotted it on February 24 from Belper — the

night it was seen by others not connected with the group.

One was former Rolls Royce radiologist Adam Matthews (35) of Brinsley.

He said: "I know that aerodynamically something of that shape should not be flying.

"I'm not saying we are being invaded by aliens — just that I'm reporting something I will probably never see again."

When he went shopping the next day, he overheard a woman describe the same

object — and explaining how its shape changed from diamond to triangle.

Omar Fowler, the association's group leader, said: "One of our observers saw this through her binoculars.

"There was a faint jet noise and the shape appeared to be that of the classical flying triangle, which has been seen many times in the Crich and Belper areas."

The group's observer reported seeing the object from Belper at 10.15pm and was first attracted to a huge

orange light.

She then got out her binoculars to get a better view and heard the faint engine noise. It was heading from the south-east to the north-west.

The group was told that several radio hams also spotted an object in the sky and the air was abuzz as they passed on details to other enthusiasts.

● Have you seen any UFOs in the Belper area? If so, let our reporter, Andy Darlington, know on (01773) 820939.

COURIER & ADVERTISER, Dundee, Scotland - March 13, 1999

# Witnesses in the dark over strange lights in the sky

AN UNIDENTIFIED flying object sighted in the Angus skies near Carnoustie yesterday has left a number of people mystified.

One Carnoustie resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, said he had been fairly sceptical about such things before, but now wanted an explanation for what he saw.

He and members of his family, along with a Forfar couple, saw a strange red disc moving about the sky between 6.30 am and 6.55 am yesterday.

Neither the coastguard or members of staff at RAF Leuchars could shed any light on the strange sighting.

The man said that the object which moved about the sky was like, "nothing I've ever seen be-

fore except on the film Armageddon."

"I was out walking the dog with my wife and child near the Black Slab car park this morning," he said.

"We saw this red oblong shape in the sky and it couldn't have been the moon or the sun because of the way it was moving. It then just disappeared.

"A car drew up and the man inside asked us if we'd seen it and we said 'yes'.

"The man in the car said he was from Forfar and had seen the light earlier and we could see he was visibly distressed."

The family continued their walk along the beach and the object reappeared at about 6.55 am.

"I'm neither a believer nor a non-believer in UFOs but this time it had changed from bright red to orange and it was much bigger," he continued.

"Anybody looking at the sky would have seen it—you couldn't miss it it was that big."

A member of the Fife Coastguard said that there had been no reports of flares or other lights to the coastguards.

"There is no meteorite activity as far as I know," added the coastguard spokesman.

A spokesman at RAF Leuchars discounted any official aerial activity by base personnel.

"I know of no operations in the area by any of our flights," he said.

# It all seems very strange, says investigator



TRUE OF FALSE? Caroline Sutton and Graham Wenham hit back this week after being accused of setting up an elaborate UFO hoax



# UFO pair told: It's a hoax

UFO investigators suspect a sighting of strange lights in Knutsford was a hoax.

Eric Morris, founder of paranormal organisation BUFOSC, said he believed Caroline Sutton, featured in last week's *Knutsford Guardian*, was an author researching her latest book.

"We can't prove anything, but it just all seems very, very strange," he said on Monday.

Eric met Caroline Sutton and Graham Wenham after they claimed to see orange and white lights in the sky above Dog Wood.

But he and fellow-investigator Sarah Cardwell, of Manor Crescent, said they were immediately suspicious.

"They said it had been a clear night when

By GILL FARRINGTON

they saw the lights but I was filming outside and it was cloudy," he said.

Eric and another colleague stayed up for three hours to watch for the strange lights the next night, but to no avail.

They then decided to run checks on Caroline and Graham who'd been visiting Knutsford from Southport and Northampton.

"When we rang up Caroline's number in Southport there was a message which said 'Hi, this is Chas. Sorry I'm not in my box. I'm just out doing some jiggery poggery'," said Eric.

Graham's answer machine in Northampton had a similarly cryptic message.

They also found out that the couple rang

Missouri for 48 minutes from their Knutsford hotel bedroom.

"When we phoned up the same number a man answered who claimed to be a trucker," said Eric.

After scouring the Internet for hours Eric and Sarah discovered that a woman - named Caroline Sutton - had written a book called *Scientific Hoaxes* in 1997.

She works for the Chicago Academy of Sciences known as CHAS - the same name recorded on Caroline's machine.

But yesterday (Tuesday) Caroline Sutton said from her Southport home: "Basically he called us hoaxers and liars and I haven't got a clue why."

"He seems to think I'm a scientist from America, but I've never been to America in my life. Two innocent people have been turned into hoax criminals. I wish we'd never seen it."

HERALD, Glasgow, Scotland - March 5, 1999

# Councillor tells of a close encounter

A UFO buff yesterday described his closest encounter with a strange object in the skies.

Mr Billy Buchanan, councillor for Bonnybridge, an area celebrated for weird sightings, said he saw a "craft as big as a battleship".

He said: "I've seen video footage of other people's sightings over the years. But now I've got my own evidence on video and it's phenomenal."

Mr Buchanan, 47, who has campaigned for a Government inquiry into the activity in his area, told how he was alerted to a weird object in the sky on Monday night by a telephone call from a friend.

"I went with him to a vantage point at Torwood Castle just before midnight."

"We saw this huge object. It was an orange/yellow colour and it was the size of a battleship."

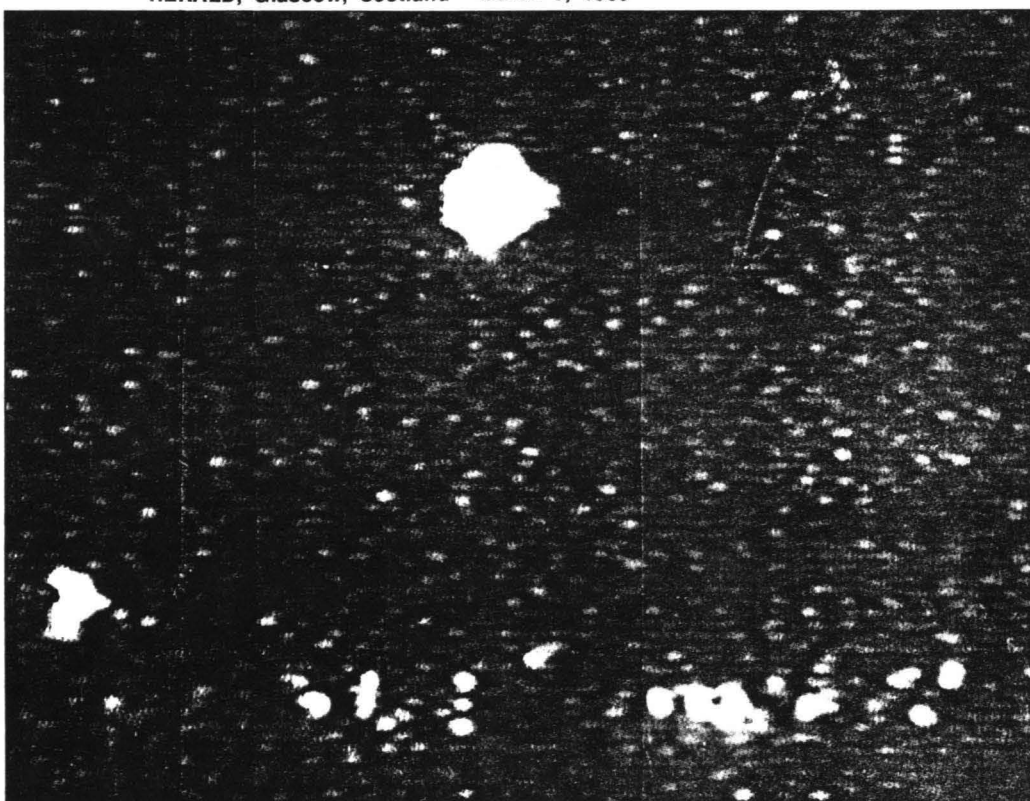
"It was about 12 miles north east of Grangemouth."

"It seemed to be pulsating. I managed to capture a few seconds of it on my video before it sped off in the direction of Fife at a phenomenal speed."

Mr Buchanan said he contacted local police who confirmed there had been no flaring from the BP at Grangemouth.

He added: "Air traffic control said there was no activity in the area at that time."

Fellow witness Jim Malcolm,



Captured on video: the strange object that Mr Buchanan saw on Monday. It was the size of a battleship, he said

57, of Larbert, said: "I saw it in the sky about 7pm. I called Billy and told him about it."

"We later went out together and there it was again. It was spectacular."

Pensioner Steve McIntosh, 72, also witnessed the sighting from his home in Grangemouth.

Mr McIntosh said: "It was very high up in the sky but it looked huge."

"It was spinning. It definitely wasn't the moon or a star."

"It was there for about an hour and then it just vanished."

The area around Bonnybridge and Falkirk has been dubbed the

Golden Triangle after years of weird sightings in the skies.

One local hotel has started UFO-themed weekend breaks to cater for tourists seeking out of this world experiences

# More UFO sightings are reported

A BRIDLINGTON man was not alone in his sighting of an unidentified flying object - reported in the Free Press last week.

After we had gone to press, we were contacted by Sean Tierney, of the Hull UFO Society, who, after seeing something similar himself, had been inundated with reports of sightings at Scarborough, Flamborough, Cleethorpes, Grimsby and Hull.

The report in last week's Free Press was of the sighting of an unusual black object, that looked like a transparent shadow, skimming across Bridlington Bay towards the harbour.

The man said there was nothing that could have made the shadow, and no noise.

Mr Tierney was at his son's school in East Hull at 6.24pm on Wednesday, February 24, when he and his family witnessed two balls of light, slowly moving from their right to their left in the sky.

He said: "I then looked behind me and saw the planets were in the same place, so nobody could say we mistook them for what we were seeing."

"I searched the skies for clues and could see three high flying passenger jets, the navigation lights, the fuselage and the wings were all visible."

"I could make all this detail out on these craft so high up, but I could not hear or see anything between these balls of light, which were much lower down."

Mr Tierney said a Flamborough woman and her husband had seen the same object two weeks earlier. In a report to HUFOS she said: "There were two lights moving towards us, no sound, no object between the lights, nothing."

"Further out over the Humber, we could clearly see a military plane in the distance, we could make out all of the features of this aircraft, but not on the balls of light."

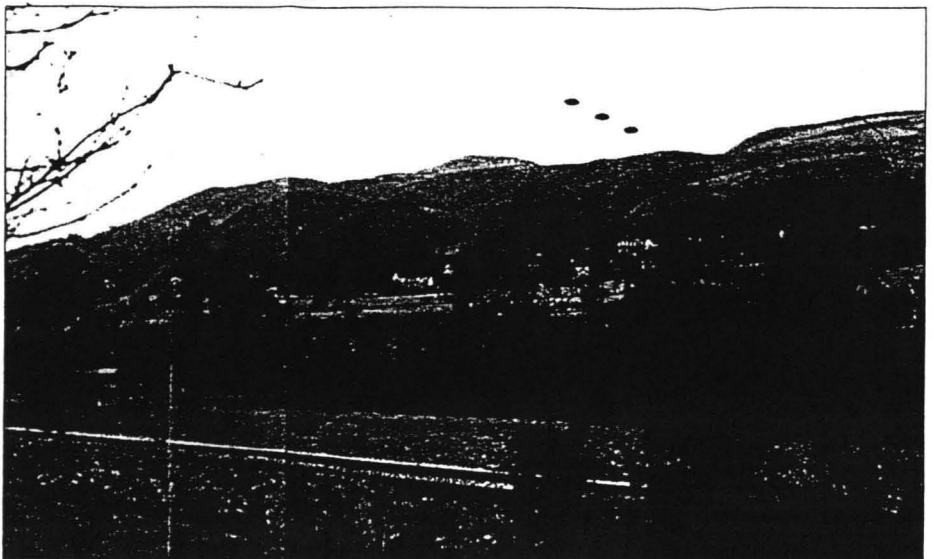
Mr Tierney contacted the Royal Air Force at Waddington, but a spokesman said their air traffic controllers had nothing logged.

Mr Tierney added: "The strange thing about all these sightings is that they all seem to concern two white balls of light. No part of the crafts were seen and yet the witnesses could clearly see and identify other high flying aeroplanes."

Anyone who has witnessed something unusual, or can shed any light on the mystery, should contact him, tel 01482249887.



# Are there aliens alive and well living in Stretton?



Moody, murky and magnificent, the Long Mynd is just the place, according to author Timothy Good, to find your friendly neighbourhood alien. And what are those strange dots in the sky...



A BELIEVER...Philip Hoyle. Only last December, he says, residents in Monkmoor reported seeing a "shiny steel disc" fly over their houses. Another recent multiple sighting had a formation of nine UFOs above the town.

ON a cold and windy Sunday morning in 1957, the late Hubert Lewis set off on his bicycle and made his way to nearby Church Stretton to collect his newspapers.

The road was dark and the rain was lashing down, and as he cycled, cursing his luck to be out on such an unpleasant morning, Lewis saw, hovering ahead of him, a large rotating object, "of a dull lightness".

Standing before it, in the middle of the road, he saw the figure of a tall man. It seemed the figure was waiting for him.

As he approached, the stranger began to speak, and Lewis was amazed to find that this odd figure knew everything there was to know about him.

"He knew of my difficulties and troubles," Lewis was later to recall. "He spoke of my previous employment, and mentioned names of people whom I had once known."

For 30 minutes the stranger talked, and although Lewis was frightened at the beginning of the encounter, he felt peaceful and reassured at its end.

He recalled: "He promised I should be looked after and guided along the right path if I kept faith."

"My (deceased) sons and my wife were still with me in spirit, as were my friends... He wished me well, then suddenly vanished, just like that."

Hubert Lewis had, it seems, just made contact with an alien from the planet Venus.

His story is featured, along with hundreds of others from around the world, for the first time in a new book from the respected UFO researcher Timothy Good.

According to the account in *Alien*

## Cyclist's strange encounter - with a space ship....

Base: the Evidence for Extraterrestrial Colonisation of Earth, Lewis was considered a "level-headed gentleman" by those in Church Stretton who knew him.

Yet he also claimed to have had several more encounters with resident Venusians who walk among us undetected.

He even reported meeting them in London for tea and sandwiches.

To some people stories of alien landings and sightings of flying saucers belong firmly in the realms of science fiction. But to Phil Hoyle, a member of the Shrewsbury-based UFO Investigations and Research Unit, they are a definite reality.

Over the years he claims to have come across many cases in Shropshire like Hubert Lewis's - and many a good deal stranger.

"We have got a family from Stiperstones who have had multiple abduc-

tion contacts over the past 20 years," he says in complete seriousness.

"We have got a family where the grandmother and daughters and children are all having experiences."

According to Mr Hoyle, there are many strange things going on in this area.

But he says because people are worried about appearing foolish, they never talk openly about what they have seen.

Only last December, he says, residents in Monkmoor reported seeing a "shiny steel disc" fly over their houses. Another recent multiple sighting had a formation of nine UFOs above the town.

So the question is, assuming the evidence is true and they really are here, what exactly are they up to? Why are they spending their time abducting families and Americans (most of whom

claim to have been abducted at some point, it seems) and talking to men out to collect newspapers, instead of the leaders, the people in power?

Funnily enough no-one seems to know for sure.

Timothy Good claims they have numerous bases on earth and in the oceans and the aliens are either collecting samples of vegetation or are up to something much more sinister.

Meanwhile, Phil Hoyle, in a possibly unconscious nod to the classic sci-fi thriller *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, thinks they could be here to warn us of the dangers of the arms race.

He says sightings and abductions have been going on for at least the last 100 years, and he is convinced that reports will increase this year.

Phil Hoyle is positive that a long-term plan is being carried out "to bring about a particular sequence of events", and the grand climax is just around the corner... although what exactly this is and what it will mean he won't reveal.

Suffice to say, according to both men, it seems the aliens are already here among us, and Hubert Lewis was only one of the thousands of people across the planet to have made contact.

So next time you're driving alone on one of Shropshire's country roads and someone tries to thumb a lift home, best check first: exactly where home is.

Otherwise you could be in for a very long ride.

□ *Alien Base: the Evidence for Extraterrestrial Colonisation of Earth*, is published today, by Arrow Paperback, priced £5.99.

**S**TORIES of a mid-air UFO crash filled my mind on Saturday morning. A journalist friend named Barry Chamish had emailed me a report of video-analysis which seemed to verify footage of a weird explosion over Rosh Haayin in Israel.

An enthusiastic sky-watcher named Spasso Maximovitch had captured a silvery orb on tape - as he was filming, a white oval-shape streaked in from the west, smashed into the orb and detonated, destroying both objects in a ball of fire.

I lay back in the passenger seat of our Jaguar and turned the idea over. We were driving into London to have lunch with a friend, and I knew he'd be fascinated by this story... if it was worth the telling.

*I didn't want to make a big thing of this, and then have to admit a day or two later it had been a hoax. Could the video be real?*

The American photoanalyst, Jeff Sainio of MUFON, seemed to believe so. If the explosion had been faked by a UFO nut who was fed up of waiting for the real thing, Jeff ought to be able to spot it.

But what if the fake had been made by a state-of-the-art computer agency? Israel has the best programmers in the world - were they good enough to fool Sainio?

On the other hand, Israel is currently the focus of an immense UFO phenomenon. The ratio of sightings is higher than anywhere on the planet. And if this video was real, it would be a major piece of evidence.

There was a third solution - the orb and the missile were man-made. This video could accidentally have captured an experimental weapons test. In fact, that explanation began to seem

the most likely - especially as Maximovitch has apparently disappeared.

Should I forget the story, or spread it around? I decided that I would wait for a sign, an omen, a synchronicity to give me some direction.

*We went to lunch. My friend wanted to eat at the cafe of a gallery on the Strand, the Courtauld at Somerset House.*

He said the food was good and upstairs were some of the most famous paintings in the world - Van Gogh with his bandaged ear, a roomful of Rubens, some incredible pictures. I said fine.

When we'd eaten we climbed a stone oval staircase that looped around four or five times to a glass dome, and on the second floor I had an urge to step off the stairs and go through a door on the left. There was nothing particularly to attract me - a

vast case of silverware filled the middle of the room, and I've seen so much silverware in my career that I have no real need to see any more.

But I was on the alert for synchronicities, so I went with the urge.

When I saw the end wall, my jaw dropped. Twelve paintings in gold frames hung on heavy chains in two rows. The colours blazed out of them as if they had been painted onto spotlights.

The same shades occurred in different places along the rows - a dazzling powder blue, a dark, bubbling red, a gold as lustrous as real gold flake. My first emotion was greed - it's not very spiritual, but it's true. I wanted to own those pictures. Then I wanted to clear everyone out of the room and lock the doors and just stay there for weeks, drinking them in.

At last I had to settle for standing and staring for a very long time, trying to memorise every detail and to work out why my sixth sense had led me in here.

*The painter was Giambattista Tiepolo, and 11 of the pictures were sketches for clients, showing how their altar walls or their palace ceilings would look by the time his commissions were complete.*

The twelfth, a beautiful close-up of two child angels, was a fragment of one of the finished pieces, around 1767, from a Franciscan church in Aranjuez, Spain. I know this because I committed all the notes to memory. I began to search for clues, clues to tell me what had brought me to the room, clues perhaps to clarify the UFO mystery.

The martyrdom of a pope, the butchery of a saint, the

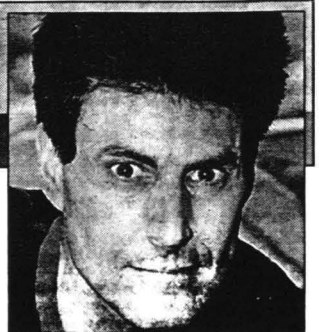
ecstasy of a visionary these were hypnotic images, but not clues. One design for a ceiling at the Palazzo Sandi in Venice, titled *The Force of Eloquence*, showed Amphion, the Greek god who was said to have invented music.

He played his lyre, and stones sprang up to build a city wall. The image intrigued me - British scientists proposed last year that the immense building blocks of the pyramids could have been levitated by ultrasound vibrations.

Was that the root of the Amphion myth? And was that my clue? What did it mean?

I found the real clue in the last painting, a detail in one of Tiepolo's burning blue skies. In the main body of the picture, an angel was inflicting wounds on St

# URI GELLER NOT BENDING THE TRUTH UFO was on old painting



Francis. In the left-hand top corner, a UFO was spinning.

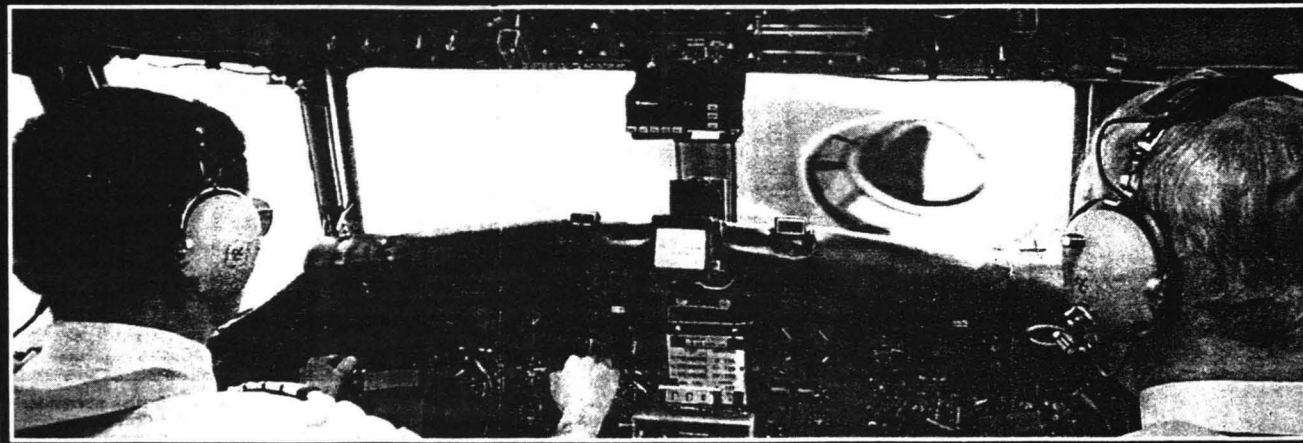
At first glance, this was the sun. But in the centre, unlike any sun I've seen, four black diamonds met in an occult cross.

*This was not a Christian symbol - this was something from alchemy, a mark painted in as a hidden sign. Around the cross was drawn a circle, and then a second, lighter circle. The whole object was unmistakably a hovering disc - a UFO.*

*Though UFOs are recorded in documents throughout history, I have never seen one in a painting almost 250 years old.*

Until I can learn more of Tiepolo, it is impossible to know whether he practised ancient magic, or had knowledge of alchemy's Emerald Tablet, or why he would associate St Francis with mysterious objects in the sky. Perhaps he had simply witnessed a UFO, and wanted to depict it. That mystery is unsolved. But my own question had been answered. I had my omen.

# 'Ten per cent of all pilots have seen UFOs. Few dare speak out'



**EYES IN THE SKY:** Pilots have been trained to recognise the things most people mistake for UFOs, so their witnessing unexplained events, such as in our artist's recreation, cannot be so easily discounted

BY BEN WALTERS

**I**T WAS a clear summer day in 1967 as Captain Graham Sheppard and his crew cruised along the main flight path from Scotland to London. It was a routine commercial flight with good visibility. The radio message from Preston Radar Control — like the astonishing object, it described — came out of the blue.

"You have fast-moving, opposite direction traffic in the airway," it warned. Captain Sheppard and his two co-pilots looked out of the windscreen when a 30ft wide disc-shaped craft raced into view. The object sped within metres of the aeroplane.

The airmen had no doubt about what they had seen. The disc had been in full view for nearly five seconds. Yet by the time they landed at Heathrow, the crew had decided not to report the sighting — for more than a quarter of a century, none did. This was not Graham Sheppard's first encounter. In March of the same year, on a flight from Gibraltar to Heathrow, his crew had witnessed two unidentified objects in a 10-minute aerobatic display over the Bay of Biscay. Although radar control had confirmed unidentified traffic, back at Heathrow the captain convinced his co-pilots that reporting the sighting would be detrimental to their careers.

Then, in 1983, now flying for BA, Sheppard went public on a TV programme. He was hailed before BA's public relations department and his boss. Both made it clear that talk of UFOs would not be tolerated.

Sheppard then received a letter from BA: "There is an overlap between your status as a BA captain and any statements which you make on all matters relating to aviation, including UFO phenomena... I must insist that you do not communicate with any branch of the media." Eighteen months later he took early retirement.

Now 56, Graham Sheppard still works as a freelance pilot but devotes more and more of his time to UFO studies. His experiences have convinced him that there is a wealth of information about UFO activity from commercial and military pilots.

## A veteran flyer has broken the code that bonds his profession

Indeed, there are now around 4,000 such sightings on record.

"I would estimate that about 10 per cent of pilots have had some sort of experience," he says on C4's *Riddle Of The Skies* tonight. "However, afraid of being ridiculed and unwilling to attract the attention of extreme UFO enthusiasts, few speak out."

"I must have spoken to 20 pilots who have had sightings but all are adamant that they do not want any publicity."



**CONVINCED:** Sheppard

This reluctance is frustrating because, when they do talk, pilots are convincing witnesses. The statistic that 90 per cent of sightings can be dismissed as 'environmental, aeronautic or astronomical phenomena cannot be applied to pilots who are trained to spot these. A pilot's report of a UFO is difficult to dismiss, especially when the object has been recorded on radar."

Many pilots do not expect to be believed because their sightings involve manoeuvres which are, according to conventional physics, impossible but, Sheppard maintains, such flight has been proved theoretically possible, although not widely accepted by experts.

"Science is littered with pronouncements of the impossible that have then become facts of life," says Sheppard, who believes that sooner or later the authorities will have no option but to acknowledge the existence of extraterrestrial craft. "It's bound to happen in the next 10 years," he says.

Perhaps if more people like him went public, the idea of extraterrestrial visitors would be more acceptable. But until that happens, Graham Sheppard is fighting an uphill battle.

● *Riddle Of The Skies* is on Channel 4 tonight at 8pm.

## Any more sightings of those UFOs?

WESTERN TELEGRAPH, Haverfordwest, Wales - Feb. 3, 1999

**SIR,** — I have recently read the book 'The Welsh Triangle' by Peter Paget which give astonishing accounts of UFO sightings in the Haverfordwest/Milford Haven area in the 15 year period up to 1977.

Children at Broad Haven Primary School saw a UFO and aliens. UFO sightings were made over Milford Haven, Haverfordwest and the St Brides area.

At Ripperston Farm, Coombe Farm and at Haven Fort Hotel the families gave their experiences of UFO contact in great detail.

UFOs were seen around the NATO base at RAF Brawdy and the American Underwater Research base centred there. The Americans were thought to have built a deep underground facility from Brawdy with some cables extending out to Stack Rocks and beyond.

At Stack Rocks sightings were made of a UFO vanishing into the rock, silver-suited aliens (ufonauts) were also seen.

For interest UFOs are often said to be seen in areas of high electro-magnetic energy. At St Brides Bay much of the area consists of quartz bearing ground which is known to generate electro-magnetic energy. Furthermore the American underwater facility was thought to generate a large electro-magnetic field.

At the period indicated I worked on the construction of the local oil refineries and can honestly say that I cannot recall the subject of UFOs in the locality ever came into conversation — was the subject of UFOs hushed up by the authorities?

My curiosity has been aroused and though I have an open mind the question that keeps nagging me is:

"Have any other sightings been made since 1977 and is there any other reading matter on it?"

R. JAMES

48 Dol-y-Dderwen, Llangain, Carmarthen.

## UFO may have been an Army aircraft

A SCRAMBLED radio signal was the last scare in a late night sighting of an unidentified object in the sky.

Helen Cade was making her way home to Trowbridge from Westbury when she spotted a low flying oval shaped craft flying parallel to her car.

The scrambled radio station on her car radio cassette player was the last unusual moment of the sighting episode.

Miss Cade, 22, of Widbrook, near Trowbridge, was travelling along the Yarnbrook Road from Westbury when a large oval-shaped disc appeared. White and red lights were flashing and for something like 30 seconds the craft flew parallel with her vehicle.

"I didn't want to stop the car, but could make out the shape through the car window. I turned off the radio, kept driving and a few seconds later it had totally disappeared," said Miss Cade.

When she turned the radio back on the station had been scrambled. "That was the most unnerving thing about the incident. The radio had been perfectly tuned in before I switched it off," said Miss Cade, who has never experienced such a sighting before.

Her sighting was similar to the craft spotted by ufologist Roger White only a week earlier. Mr White saw pulsating white lights on a triangular-shaped craft which passed close to his home in Southwick.

On hearing of the latest interesting incident, Mr White said it was one of several sightings over the last few months. "It is unusual to get such a good sighting as Miss Cade did."

Helicopters and other aircraft have been involved in local manoeuvres over the last couple of weeks. An Army spokesman said the lights could have been an aircraft.

SHROPSHIRE STAR, Wellington, England - Feb. 12, 1999

# Mystery lights spark X-Files warning to farms

An X-Files style warning has been sounded in north Shropshire after the spotting of strange lights in the sky near Oswestry.

UFO investigators say they bear a frightening resemblance to those seen in Oxfordshire last year — which was followed by the discovery of animals, allegedly mutilated by aliens.

Now the group, called Quest, is urging Shropshire farmers or people living in the

countryside who come across such animals, whether farm or wild animals, to contact the group.

David Cayton, a Manchester-based UFO investigator for Quest International, was contacted by a couple from Whittington near Oswestry on Wednesday night, after they saw strange lights at around 6.35pm.

The couple, who do not want to be identified, say the red, blue and orange lights hovered then dropped very fast. Shortly

afterwards there was the sound of a helicopter in the sky in the same area, possibly over Welsh Frankton. He said there was a similar incident in Oxfordshire last October.

"Four days later a farmer in the area found two dead sheep, with small entry wounds and their organs removed."

He said last April a farmer from the Welshpool area contacted him after his sheep were mutilated but obviously not by a natural predator.

He added: "It may be that over the next few days farmers or people in the countryside around Oswestry, in particular the Frankton area, could come across animals that have died, with peculiar injuries."

Superintendent Tom Austin from the RSPCA in Shropshire said he had no knowledge of claims of alien mutilation of animals. But the RSPCA would be happy to hear from anyone who found animals dead in strange circumstances.





## VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

# Trodding some old paths

It was to be a slightly nostalgic back-pedaling of old trails so to speak. I thought a little drive over the mountains to a couple other valleys would be in order since we hadn't made the Tollgate run in many moons!

The two other valleys: Indian Valley at Elgin and the Grande Ronde at La Grande were both recognizable from the old days (pre 1970, that is!) when I made the scene in each as part of my newsbeat for 20 years. But, there are major changes along with major oldsters being around yet.

I have to admit to some disappointment to the stop at the top of the mountains and pulling into what used to be the late Harry Hunter's bailiwick. In later years it was named "Tollgate Mall" or something like that. I don't remember if Harry ever had a name for what he had put together behind the gas pumps. Which reminds me of the time my brother came over to spend a few days and we decided to run over and

take in the Main Street flea market in Lostine.

Bud was driving a 30-foot motor home at the time and about the time we had left Weston and were heading well into the mountains, he exclaimed: "Heck, I meant to gas up before we left." I told him not to worry, we could get gas at Hunter's on up the mountain a few miles. Pulling into Hunter's I further offered to "spring" for the gas.

It was my introduction to the capacity of a motor home's gas tank! It seemed like the thing would never fill up! When you need to mortgage the back 40 to buy a tank of gas for those rigs, better think twice about springing!

A reason for my stopping today at the old Hunter place was to check up on the display that was there about Bigfoot. There have been numerous sightings in the vicinity over the years ... both before and since the 1982 report by Forest Service patrol rider,

Paul Freeman. The store had a display of several plaster casts of foot prints and other exhibits or proof that something unusual had been around.

Entering the store, I spotted what looked like the display, then engaged the storekeeper in conversation. The talk went like this: "Pretty good day, hey?" I started in.

"Yeah, any day without snow around here is a pretty good day," was the response.

"Oh, when was the last time it snowed?"

"Yesterday."

Considering this conversation was taking place on May 14 makes the words unique, I suppose. As memory served me at the time, May 5 was as late as I could remember snowfall in this area.

"Yes, and we've had snow every day since winter seems," Mr. Storekeeper added.

Getting the weather as a conversation topic out of the way, I

switched it to Bigfoot.

"How's the Bigfoot matter around here these days?" I asked.

"He's been pretty scarce around these parts ... he stays out of my way and I stay clear of him," was the sort of answer I got.

"You still have the display of Bigfoot tracks and stuff?" I asked.

"Oh, there's some things but most of it has got up and left over time, the former owner told me."

To settle my curiosity in my own way, I cut off the talk and headed over to the wall with three plaster casts of three different feet, all bigger than the average human foot would make. Two were "normal" but the third showed toes splayed way out so they must have measured seven inches or more across. I have a cast in my Bigfoot collection that measures eight inches across the toes but is longer than the Tollgate cast. That the two are from different feet is obvious.

NEWS, Taos, NM - May 27, 1999

## A third cow found mutilated near Questa

By Phaedra Greenwood  
The Taos News

Another cow was found dead and mutilated in open pasture on the Tres Ritos Ranch north of Questa Sunday (May 23) by ranch manager Tom Reed. This is the third unexplained animal death at the ranch in the past month. The first cow was found May 4. According to Reed, a calf was found May 8, with "all the innards gone," including the heart, lungs, stomach and sexual organs.

Reed discovered the third cow at 1:30 p.m. By 6 p.m. Sunday, investigating officer Gabe Valdez had arrived on the scene, and it was pouring down rain. Valdez and Reed "suited up" in white protective suits, donned face masks and rubber gloves and drove across the muddy field to inspect the downed animal.

The cow was lying on its left side, facing east, about 50 yards from where the calf was found two weeks earlier. The cow's right eye was pecked out, but both ears were intact. The neck was disfigured by a deep hole about eight inches in diameter with smoothly

cut edges. The entire udder had been removed in a smooth circular cut about two feet across.

The area did not read any higher for radiation, but when Valdez held his compass over the animal, the magnetic field wavered off true north by 10 degrees, one of the characteristics of crop circles. Valdez also noted flipped cow patties in a large circumference around the animal, which could indicate "turbulence," he said. No tire tracks were visible in the soft ground except those of Reed's truck.

When Valdez peeled away sections of the hide along the back, he discovered massive hemorrhaging of the muscle tissue. "It was cooked," he said. The hole in the neck and the hemorrhaging are both typical of recent cases.

Valdez, a former state police officer from Dulce, has been involved in the investigation of strange animal deaths for over 20 years. No one has ever been caught in the act, though large rewards have been offered.

Valdez said Florida, Alabama and Oregon have also been having their share of cattle mutilations in the past year. According

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - June 17, 1999

## Reports say 6-foot, fanged kangaroo on loose

BY KENNETH HEARD  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

JONESBORO — Animal-control officers are hopping into action in response to reports of a dangerous kangaroo on the loose in Jonesboro.

In reality, the officers realize, the beast is a 3-foot pet wallaby that escaped from a pen in the southern part of town a few weeks ago.

Native to Australia, wallabies are smaller than kangaroos but otherwise are similar. They generally grow up to 3 feet tall and eat grass.

Reports, though, have placed the animal's height at up to 6 feet and warn that the critter has fangs.

Jonesboro Animal Control officer Jim Bowman said there's a grain of truth in the talk of danger

— despite the docile appearance of the wallaby, the animal has sharp claws.

"If you see it, leave it alone," he said. "We'll come and get it."

Motorists have reported seeing the marsupial along Arkansas 1 on the southern edge of town. Bowman said the animal escaped in May, and its owners were searching for it.

Ed McCorkle, the owner of Ed's Country Catfish House on Arkansas 1, said his customers have seen the little hopper. "I had a bunch tell me they saw it," he said.

A motorist reported seeing the wallaby Wednesday morning near Union Glass on Southwest Drive in Jonesboro, about two miles from the original sightings, Bowman said.

to news reports, cattle are not the only animals involved. Pigs, cats, dogs, deer and elk have all been found peacefully dead with various parts of their anatomy neatly removed. A piglet was found near the Talpa Reservoir last Thanksgiving neatly laid out, with a massive hole in its side and internal organs miss-

ing.

If you find an animal you think might have been mutilated, don't touch it and stay clear of the area. To aid the investigation, it's important to collect tissue samples within 48 hours. Call Valdez as soon as possible at home in Albuquerque: 505-275-5943 or on his pager: 505-857-1717.

# Ray gun freezes victims without causing injury

## DEFENCE

The Ministry of Defence is looking at a new weapon that could immobilise gunmen. Max Glaskin reports

to \$500,000 to build a full working prototype.

"Our first prototype would be too large to be convenient for law enforcers or the military," says Herr. "It would be about the size of a small suitcase. However, a new laser diode just developed in Poland has the potential to reduce the size of our weapon to that of a flashlight."

Although the electric charge will not injure a person, there is still a question about the safety of the laser needed to create the "wire". It escapes recent legislation aimed at curbing battlefield lasers that blind by injuring the retina but, according to Robert Hill of the National Radiological Protection Board in Didcot, Oxfordshire, it could lead to eye damage, cutting the corneas of whoever is in its path. However, Herr claims it should only cause "irritation and swelling rather than any lasting damage".

According to Dr Nick Lewer of the peace studies department at Bradford University, non-lethal weapons like freeze rays would not be practicable in combat. "A recent report by the US Marines says that up to three soldiers are needed to capture and hold a single oppo-

nent if he is not to be injured or killed," says Lewer. "The device is more likely to be used by peacekeeping units or by the military police where restraint is the aim."

Herr came up with the idea for the freeze ray after seeing the problems police officers face in trying to apprehend criminals. If the MoD decides to fund the weapon's development, it could make life safer for British police.

The freeze-ray technology may also have other uses. Herr says it could be tuned to wavelengths that destroy the microchips of motor cars, immobilising them in an instant. His patent also mentions that a lethal variation could be built by increasing the current to more than 250 milliamps to disturb the rhythms of the heart.

Herr is not the first to pursue the idea of a freeze ray. In 1924 the respected scientist Harry Grindell-Matthews established a laboratory in Harewood Place, London, where he tried to build the first such machine, which he called the "ray of hope". But the technology of the day was not sophisticated enough. Herr reckons that, with modern lasers, he can build a prototype within a year.

SET your phasers to stun. The Ministry of Defence is looking at a "freeze ray" that may be able to stop people in their tracks without harming them.

A prototype of the weapon has yet to be built but laboratory trials of the concept show that it could be ideal for peacekeeping forces or for police facing armed criminals.

The head of the MoD's novel weapons team and a colleague

from the Defence Evaluation Research Agency in Farnborough recently met Eric Herr, the American inventor who has patented the weapon. The MoD refuses to comment on the meeting, held in San Diego, California, but a spokeswoman says: "We keep our eyes open for anything and everything that may be of interest."

The approach from the MoD came out of the blue, says Herr,

vice-president of HSV Technologies. "We were surprised that they were interested."

The freeze ray works by zapping its victim with an electric current. It uses an ultraviolet laser to create a beam of light particles, called photons. These ionise a path through the air so that it can conduct electricity as if it were a wire leading to the target up to 100 metres away. Then a current of 25 milliamps at a frequency of 100Hz is directed down it to the target.

When it hits a person, the current interferes with the tiny electrical charges that control muscles and forces them to contract, stopping the person from moving. Vital, involuntary muscles, like the heart and the diaphragm, are not affected because they are protected by a greater thickness of body tissue.

Tasers, weapons that freeze

muscles, are already on sale in America but they have to be pressed against an assailant's skin to work and can only be used once — then they have to be recharged.

Herr has subjected himself to Taser shocks in the course of his research. His weapon, however, will be effective from a distance and could even work around corners if mirrors are used. Being remote from its target, it could also have a constant power source.

The device relies on technology that is only just within the grasp of scientists so Herr has commissioned Dr Richard Scheps at the University of California San Diego to prove the principle is right. "His research created ionised paths that conducted electricity for a significant part of the theoretical maximum range," says Herr.

Now he is trying to raise up

LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT, Conway, AR - June 16, 1999

## Wallaby on the lamb in southern Jonesboro

JONESBORO (AP) — Authorities say reports of a kangaroo grazing along the roadside in the south part of town are untrue. What people have been seeing is a wallaby. Some motorists have reported seeing an unusual creature hopping along Arkansas 1 in the city's southern sections, and at least one official is warning motorists to be wary of a wallaby on the windshield.

Since Saturday, calls have come into the state Game and Fish Commission's local offices, the city's emergency 911 center and the Craighead County Sheriff's Department reporting that a small kangaroo was spotted between Craighead Forest Park and Ed's Country Catfish House.

Dawn Riggins, a Jonesboro animal control officer, said the animal is apparently a wallaby, a close relative of the kangaroo.

"We're not sure how or where it got loose, but we have had several reports of people seeing it," Ms. Riggins said.

Archie Ryan, a veterinarian at the Animal Health Center in Jonesboro, said wallabies come out in the early morning and late evening hours to feed.

"That's probably when most people are going to see it," Ryan said. "It's feeding habits are like that of a deer. It browses on grasses and small tree limbs."

"People need to be careful if they see it while driving. It could jump up all of a sudden and land on the windshield," Ryan continued. "Bus drivers in Australia have problems with them all the time."

Ed McCorkle, owner of the catfish restaurant, said several customers had come into his business in the last week saying they had heard about the runaway animal.

"Several people have told me about the kangaroo, but I didn't believe it," McCorkle said. "Apparently there must be some truth to it."

The animal is related to the kangaroo, but generally is smaller and often has a colorful coat.

Over the weekend, a caller telephoned the 911 center to report the animal alongside the highway.

"We transferred the call to the sheriff's department," said Chris Connolly, director of the 911 center. Deputies responded to the call, but the wallaby was nowhere to be found.

## Other days

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE.

Little Rock, AR - June 16, 1999

100 years ago  
June 16, 1899

■ The Jonesboro Enterprise is authority for the statement that it rained turtles at that place on Monday last. After a shower of rain, little turtles were seen all over the ground. They were about the size of a quarter and all started for the St. Francis river.



# Big black cat seen near Hugo is subject of much speculation

*Mayor advises keeping children, pets in at night*

By Jim Adams  
Star Tribune Staff Writer

Persistent reported sightings of a big black cat, possibly an escaped pet leopard, roaming the woods and fields of Hugo have folks looking over their shoulders and speculating about strange doings around town.

Four sightings and several other reports of possible nocturnal screeching in the past 11 days have been made to Washington County Sheriff's Office, which patrols the area.

The latest sighting came Thursday morning from a Hugo man who was jogging along On-eka Lake Boulevard. He said that he saw a big black animal twice: wandering into the woods as he ran by about 5:40 a.m., and again 10 minutes later when he was returning home.

"On the way back it was about 25 feet away. I thought it was some goofy animal," said Timm Reifschneider, who didn't know about the earlier reports until his wife told him later Thursday.

"The second time it stared me down. It was a charcoal color. ... I saw its face, and I thought it was a shaved raccoon. Then I thought maybe it was a skunk without much hair," he said. "I stopped and clapped my hands while I was freaking. ... It was just standing there looking at me. Then it turned and meandered back in the woods."

County deputy Jerry Cusick saw a big black cat about 10:30 p.m. on June 11. The animal crossed in front of his headlights near Lutz Cuts, a country butch-

er shop at N. 157th St. and Homestead Av., about a mile from Reifschneider's sighting. Cusick said he saw the cat's head above the 3-foot high hay field as it loped away.

"I am convinced it is somebody's exotic cat," Cusick said. "I'm an avid hunter, and I've never seen anything like this."

State game experts said if such a black cat was seen it could be a black leopard, which is not native to North America.

One possible source, the Center for Endangered Cats, moved from neighboring Forest Lake Township to Pine County last October. It had a black leopard then and still does. "We certainly didn't leave anybody behind," owner Cyndi Gamble said.

Ed and Clodie Harrell of Hugo gave county deputies a tape recording of sounds that they said were screams of a wild cat. The couple said Thursday they have heard blood-curdling nocturnal screams more than five times in the past month at their wooded lot at 137th St. and Homestead Av.

They awoke to the screeching one night in May. "It's a high, hissing scream with a lot of volume. It's catlike, but far stronger than any cat I ever heard," Ed Harrell said. "I've hunted coons and fox and heard coyotes, and I've never heard anything like it."

Mike DonCarlos, a state Department of Natural Resources expert who heard the Harrells' recording said, "It is far more likely a native animal." DonCarlos, who used to work with exotic big cats at the Minnesota Zoo, said it could be a fox or even a rabbit, which can make strange, although rarely heard, sounds.

Ed Harrell speculated that the cat ate most of a stripped carcass, the size of a large dog, that

he saw on Homestead Avenue near his house about two weeks ago. He said the animal's remains, since removed, looked several weeks old.

His neighbor Richard Verdick wondered whether the carcass was that of his black labrador that's been missing for more than a month. And his daughter, Chelsea, 15, said she heard what sounded like screeching in their back yard last Wednesday night, while their dog, a German shepherd, was barking. She was sitting on the patio about 10 p.m., with a house light behind her and heard something about 100 feet away in a wooded area.

"It sounded like a cat, but not like a little cat. It was a screeching noise," Chelsea said. "I thought I saw a reflection. I thought it was eyes, and I heard something moving in the brush."

Hugo Mayor Wally Stoltzman said he has warned residents to keep their children and pets inside at night. He also noted that Hugo has plenty of wild game, deer, fox, turkeys, coyotes, pheasant and woodchucks.

"There is enough area here that the animal could probably survive and not bother anybody," Stoltzman said.

Meanwhile, a day care provider has kept her charges inside, and a preschool group canceled a trip to a Hugo farm, residents said.

And Harrell has bought ammunition for his shotgun: "My 12-gauge will be ready if I see him in my yard."

— Anyone with information, call the Washington County Sheriff's Office at 651-439-9381 or the area Department of Natural Resources officer at 651-464-2528.

# Nessie net: Cyberspace the newest place to hunt Loch Ness Monster

By GERALD SEENAN  
The Guardian

EDINBURGH, Scotland — It was, of course, inevitable. The beloved tool of global conspiracy theorists and believers in the paranormal now is being used to track an ancient Scottish legend: the 'net is being cast for Nessie the Loch Ness Monster — and already there have been two sightings.

In an attempt to end forever the rumors, hoaxes, claims and counter-claims that have sold more tins of tartan-wrapped shortbread to tourists than Edinburgh Castle, a 24-hour watch of Loch Ness is being mounted on the Internet.

Only a week after start-up, the new Web site of real-time video action from the loch in the Scottish High-

lands is proving to be one of the most highly praised and visited on the Net.

Alan Matheson, editor of Scotland On-line, the Internet service provider which helped set up and operate the site, said he already had received two e-mails from a man in Texas who claims to be the latest in the long line of people who have spotted a large whale-like lump with a head and neck in the loch.

The sightings are claimed for June 5 and June 7, although they are, unfortunately, not backed by any evidence.

"We do not yet have the technology on the site to enable people to freeze images and send them to us, but that is in the pipeline," said Matheson.

Nessie's Web page has been placed in Earthcam's top 10 live image sites.

Although it is too early to calculate the exact number of hits on the site, it

is believed to be very high and canny locals already are beginning to work out how to profit from Cyber Nessie.

The site address is [www.lochness.scotland.net](http://www.lochness.scotland.net).

## Cyberpunk

# Ghost in the machine?

BY JOAB JACKSON

I won't deny that something was buried underneath all of that static storming from the computer speakers. But whether it was a voice, I couldn't tell you. What I did hear was this: A woman asking, "How many of you are there? Give me a number." Then, a slight disruption of some sort, a whispery gurgle beneath the wash of white noise.

It's not much, but this recorded snippet was enough to send Stacy Rawlings, co-Webmaster for the Electronic Voice Phenomena Internet Center ([www.hibrichan.com/evp.html](http://www.hibrichan.com/evp.html)), on a mission to capture the deceased on audiotape.

Rawlings, the inquisitive woman in question, is a study in contrasts. She is a lively woman, a mother of six, who spends her late evenings trying to contact the dead. In the workroom of her quite unspooky Cape Cod-style home are the tools of her obsession: a PC with standard recording and editing software and a soundblaster card, an omnidirectional microphone, a tape recorder and an FM receiver. Books about vibrations sit in a basket under the table, along with some titles on Web publishing.

A hypnotherapist by day, Rawlings was intrigued enough by the electronic voice phenomena (EVP) concept eight years ago to try it out. She decided to give it six months. Each night, after the kiddies were tucked away, she sat alone in a quiet

room with a white-noise generator, either a radio set to an unused channel or a short sound loop of white noise from the computer. The dead, she tells me, need to use electronic noise as "a carrier" to speak with. She would put a new tape in the recorder and commence to ask questions to an unseen audience: Is anybody here? Can you hear me? If you're here, where are you? Where exactly in the room are you? Then she'd play back the recording.

For four months she didn't hear anything on the playbacks other than her own voice and the endless static. But then came the night when she heard on the playback a faint voice, a voice she didn't hear when she asked her question about how many people there were in the room. It uttered "27."

Rawlings claims to have taped about 100 voices since then, all fragments, most barely decipherable. A few, she says, were from her father, who contacted her a few times right after his death. But mostly, she has no idea with whom she was speaking; nor does she have any control over when they decide to penetrate into this earthly realm. They seem to wander about in a different dimension, and, to hear Rawlings tell it, electronic frequencies provide the bridge between the two worlds.

Rawlings' Web page is the quasi-official home site for the American Association of Electronic Voice Phenomena, a 300-member group dedicated to catching residents of the great beyond on oxide. It was started by Annapolis, MD, resident Sarah Estep in 1982, six years, she says, after she started picking up voices on her husband's Teac reel-to-reel recorder. Estep tells me by phone that EVP finally provides "objective proof" of an afterlife — hard evidence that our souls continue to survive after our bodies give up the ghost, so to speak.

Others, of course, consider EVP simply more paranormal tomfoolery. Robert Carroll, a professor of philosophy at Sacramento City College in California, writes the Web page The Skeptic's Dictionary: A Guide for the New Millennium (<http://dcn.davis.ca.us/~btcarroll/skeptic>). Carroll scoffs at EVP.

"I can't believe anyone would take this 'theory' seriously," he tells me by E-mail. "It seems like the desire to talk to the dead is so great in some people that they will believe just about anybody or anything.... Think about it — if you hear a voice coming through your VCR, what's more likely: That you are hearing the voice of a ghost, or that

someone using a CB radio, cellular phone or some such ordinary device was on your frequency?"

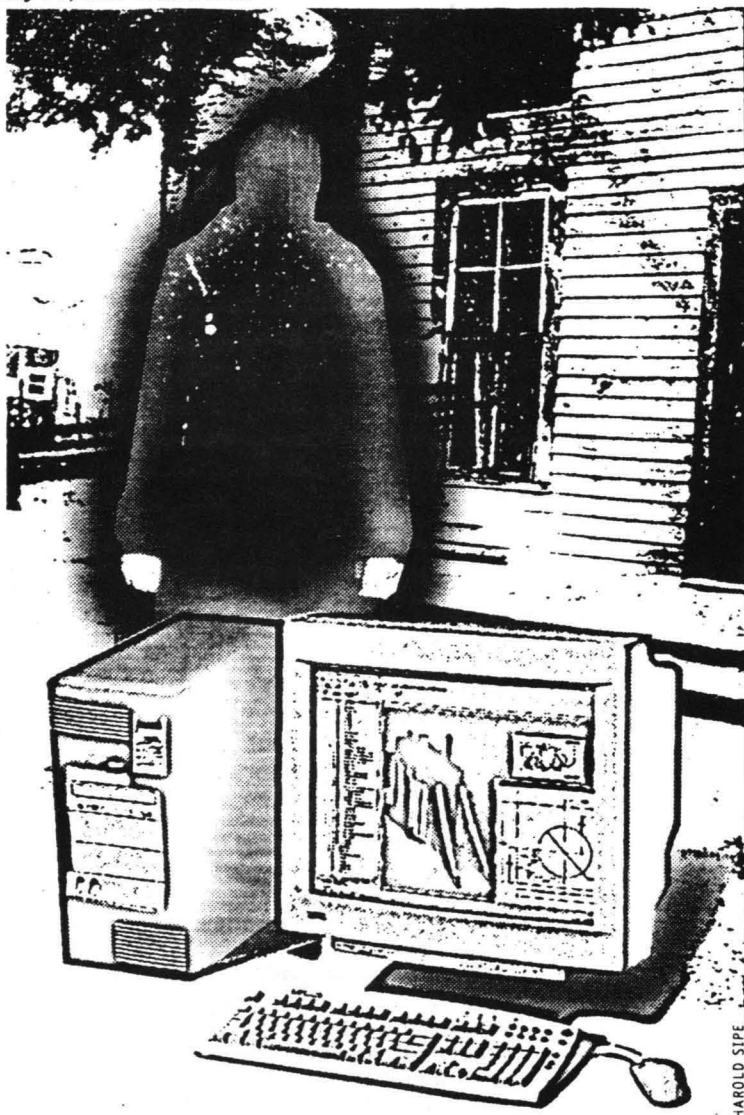
"We're not saying you can't pick up stray signals," Rawlings counters. "But it's not as frequent as people might think." Rawlings has gone so far as to place the recording device in her microwave, which keeps out stray radio waves, and she claims to have gotten results.

Rawlings says the possibility of picking up stray signals is what makes her method — sending questions out into the ether — so important: "What are the chances of a stray radio wave answering your questions specifically?" Admittedly, this makes her claims less easy to dismiss, although the nature of the questions leaves plenty of room for interpretation. They're not specific, fill-in-the-blank queries, but rather more general questions such as, "What is it like on the other side?" (The one-word answer Estep says she once received to that one: "Beauty.")

In the end, though, for all of the stock Estep puts in technology providing proof of an afterlife, improvements in electronic instrumentation give nonbelievers as much ammunition as believers. Stray radio waves, surges in power lines, fluctuations in electromagnetic fields all can easily be misinterpreted by someone with even the slightest capacity for self-deception. It's enough to keep skeptics skeptical about claims of the fantastic. Same as it ever was: The believers still must rely on faith.

"I can't say these voices have any validity at all," Rawlings admits. "You have to find that out. If it doesn't for you, it doesn't. It does for me. That's all I can tell you." **EW**

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"I went bonkers," Rawlings says. "My heart started pounding. I got sweaty, I started running all around the room. I woke half the house up."