

UFO

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ISLANDER, Gulf Breeze, FL - Sept. 29, 1999

Cigar shaped lights/fireballs streaking across Gulf of Mexico

By Bland Pugh

Florida MUFON State Director

On the morning of September 7th, the National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC) received eight separate reports of cigar shaped lights/fireballs streaking across the Gulf of Mexico. The reports started at 5:00 a.m. through 5:10 a.m. that date.

At approximately 10:00 a.m. I was contacted by our ASD/SSD in the Tampa area telling me of the report she'd received. She reported to me many people in the Tampa area saw the fireballs and streaking lights in the skies over the Gulf that morning at approximately 5:00 a.m. One person had contacted her, she would interview this person later that morning. Also the FOX-TV station in Tampa was scheduled to show a video of this occurrence later in the day. She also was to go to the TV station and review the tape.

The next morning I was contacted by yet another SSD from the Naples area.

She told me of the same sighting and explained to me she had reviewed the tape over and over again at her local TV station. After reviewing this video she and the TV crew all felt they were watching some space debris reentering the

atmosphere, they contacted NASA, who told them it was debris from a Russian booster rocket reentering the atmosphere and burning up.

Yesterday, I received a call from Peter Davenport, Director of NUFORC. Davenport wanted to know if we had an SSD in Tampa, and of course, I told him.

He then told me the reason for his call, the numerous calls from people reporting the sighting on the morning of September 9th. I told him the SSD's in the Tampa/South Florida areas were working on the case and I expected a report shortly.

The following are some excerpts from a few of those reports:

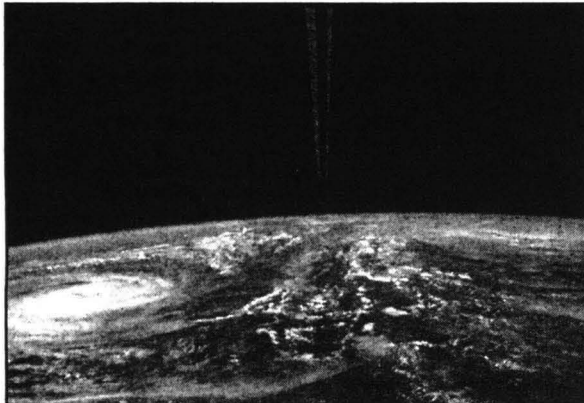
"At approximately 5:10 a.m. on Tuesday September 7th, I was working in St. Petersburg, FL. I looked out of the dock door between the trailer and top of the door. I saw something I did not recognize. I told my coworker to 'look at that.' He asked me what I was looking at. We both moved one door south and looked out. Traveling from north to south was an object I could only describe as a glass cigar tube with smoke in it and three equally spaced blue lights. It

was not foggy that night. The moon was clearly visible. We watched this for approximately 20-30 seconds. There was no sound."

"Went out to get paper and saw a bright light in the sky. Looked like a huge plane exploding at first. Bright flames at rear, bluish in color.

Appeared to be crashing, then it stopped and moved several times, then it disappeared in what looked like a cloud. Hundreds of people in area saw it but we were told it was a Russian rocket destructing. But I saw it change directions?????.....Tampa area.

"Saw what appeared to be meteor breaking up. Changed shape to 12-24 balls of light with and without tails, red, yellow, green, blue. They seemed to be inside an area of haze filled with sparkling lights. Followed by a bright white light. All the lights stayed the same in respect to their positions as they descended at an angle, and at very slow speed. My patrol partner and I thought possibly an airliner had blown up and was falling to earth, so we headed to the general area, finding nothing. Approximately twenty minutes later, local radio stations started getting phone calls re: this object/objects.



Not a weather balloon, not Venus, don't know what it was, but it was definitely a strange phenomenon.

My partner and I are Patrol officers/EMTs, I am 57, she is 36. We both observed this phenomenon from our separate vehicles."

.....Poinciana, Lake Wales, Lake Helen, Kissimmee, Florida Areas.

"Five upright disks traveling south, low altitude, medium speed, with light beams directly between each disc, which appeared to be in alignment with one another (front to back), and illuminated from the rear and sides.

At 5:05 a.m. I noticed a "bead" of lights to my west, so I looked. They appeared to be moving, so I got out of my car to get a better look, thinking they were water on a power line. There were at least five distinct upright disks or spheres, the first being a pulsating green, and the other four behind it bright white (and all exactly the same size). The disks were spaced evenly apart, and each had an INTENSE beam of light shining from one to the next. It had been raining, so we knew the object(s) were under 2000 feet (clouds did not interrupt the light), and the object was traveling (apparently) the speed of a Cessna aircraft, but was obviously much higher. The size of each disk was about one quarter moon, or the size of your thumbnail at arms length, but MUCH brighter. I followed the object visually for over twenty seconds from my direct west, until it disappeared over my southern horizon.".....Ocoee, FL. (Orlando area.)

"I am a security supervisor and was making a site check. I looked up towards the Western sky (10 o'clock above the horizon) and observed three objects moving north to south. Distance out from my location was approximately five miles west of me. The objects had a bluish-green color and at times had a yellow fire like tail. They were not in a straight line, the center object was a little lower than front or rear object. I am familiar with aircraft landing patterns in this area and these were not in that pattern. If I were to guess at their speed it would be 200 mph. Like a plane coming in for landing type speed. Objects disappeared for approximately five to ten seconds. Possibly going behind a cloud. We were having some lightning storms down here. Then they reappeared in the same level continuing S-SW in direction. The objects had a "cone" effect like photos of a missile shot where missile causes a white cone to precede it.".....South Miami, FL.

Incidentally, the sighting of a fireball was reported from Gulf Breeze at approximately 4:00 a.m. the same morning. Of course, the time would coincide with the 5:00 a.m. sightings in Central and South Florida because of the time zones.

As you might have noticed, the wording in some of these reports is a little difficult to follow, but remember these people were excited at the time of the reports. I will report on any other sightings or any further investigation of this sighting. You may go to this web site @ UFOCENTER.COM

TIMES, Burlington, WA - Oct. 8, 1999 CR: G. Conway



photo by Michael Olson

This mysterious circle was formed in a wheat field behind Peterson Road with no visible sign of entry. The field, save for the circles, had been harvested, thus the tire marks on the outer edges.

Did aliens study Farmer Fred's head?

BURLINGTON — A mysterious-looking crop circle, similar to the ones found in England, recently appeared in a 60-acre wheat field near Burlington.

The farmer who leases the land said he believes the pattern — which consisted of two circles connected by a wide, straight line — was created by youths.

"It ruins that area," he said. "It's destruction. That's what it is."

Preferring anonymity, "Fred" agreed to an interview only after being assured the location of his field and his name remain unidentified because he doesn't want to become the target for copycat vandalism.

"I think it had to be kids," he said. "I'd guess it was done about three weeks before harvest. The grain was all laid out perfect, laying one way. I think a recent television show must have showed them how crop circles could be made and they decided to try it."

The outermost circle was about 100 yards across in size.

"That might be," said a nearby resident, "but there was no visible entrance to the crop circle, which is strange. It's also located in the middle of the field, a long way from the road.

There was no sign in the surrounding wheat field of anyone passing through it. You would think there would be signs of where they had passed. If kids had done it, I think they would have made it closer to the road."

VALLEY NEW AGE

The love and light conference

Carbondaler's encounter with Hopi-land UFOs brings message of peace

By DON OLSEN

Fred Pulver was meditating on a hillside in Hopi land in 1975 when a "fireball" of information sent by aliens hit him directly in the chest.

"They transmit information through light," said Pulver, a Carbondale resident who participated in the First Annual Love and Light Conference at the Delta County Fairgrounds in Hotchkiss last month. "The light travels directly through the optic nerve and right into the brain."

"We're your brothers from space," the fireball of information told Pulver, who added that "they were very concerned about our welfare and wrapped up in our destiny."

"Then they sent another zap that jogged me into the time before I was born, still out in space, and I

remembered why I had wanted to come to Earth and be born. I'd been a boy soldier for Germany at the end of World War II. All my family had been killed, and then I was killed. I remembered I wanted to come back and work for peace instead of war ... these people (the aliens) helped me remember this. They were just wonderful."

Pulver was one of a handful of speakers at the three-day conference, which combined extraterrestrial experiences with new-age style counseling and workshops. His message, like many of the participants', was that love and an openness to the mysteries of the universe, were mankind's best hope.

"If you ever have an (extraterrestrial) contact, always examine what you were thinking about right before and right after the contact, it's very important," Pulver said. He believes that these light transmissions from UFOs are their benevolent attempts to transmit important information to humans. "They asked me what I had learned in life," Pulver said. "I said macrobiotics, and they said, 'then go out and teach this to others, this is your path.'"

Pulver then asked if he could come on board their ship and visit with the aliens, who the Hopis believe "are the gods who live in the San Francisco Peaks (near Flagstaff) and who they model their mysterious

Kachina dolls after.

"But they told me a visit would throw me off track from my path if I did that."

Pulver's story about the Hopi UFOs was only a small part of the Love and Light Conference, and even though his story seemed a bit far fetched, it was delivered, like the other presentations, with a sense of humor and a humility.

He was one of about 10 speakers, teachers and new-age gurus who gave seminars on numerology, The Pleiadian Message (the Earth may have been "seeded" by the legendary Pleiadians, creating human life), affirmation chants (they sounded like a cosmic version of Gabby George's auctioneering) and something called Perfect Health Vibrations.

One person who attended the conference said a 15-minute conversation with an astrologer-therapist from Delta totally changed his life. "I just can't believe it, she was just so right on," said the resident of Lazear.

Ann Ulrich, editor of the Star Beacon, a UFO report newsletter based in Paonia and organizer of the conference, thought it was a big success.

Next year, she said she hopes to offer at least part of the conference — a first for Hotchkiss — to locals at a lower admission. This year's ticket for all three days cost \$60.

Expo draws UFO activists

Many report sightings, abductions

By CAROLE RAFFERTY
Mercury News Staff Writer

The little gray men with large heads and bulbous, dark eyes stayed away.

But more than 500 true believers in things extraterrestrial — including doctors, policemen, lawyers, schoolteachers and high-tech executives — showed up at a two-day UFO Bay Area Expo in San Mateo. It continues today at the Marriott Hotel in San Mateo.

The event brought UFO experts and speakers from across the country, as well as South America, to discuss UFOs, crop circles, paranormal phenomena and unexplained activity near "Area 51," a secret military site about 90 miles north of Las Vegas where sightings of UFOs have been reported.

Several experts showed videotapes of the latest sightings of flying saucers and sky-born, rod-shaped objects.

Speakers included Richard Hoagland, a former NASA consultant; Steven Greer, a physician and founder of the Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence; and Brazilian A.J. Gevaerd, editor of Brazil's UFO magazine.

"This has become almost mainstream," said Ted Oli-

MERCURY-NEWS, San Jose, CA - Sept. 5, 1999

phant, a conference organizer. "Ten years ago it would have been embarrassing to discuss; now it's something you can easily talk about."

The movement gained strength in the early '90s, Oliphant said, after Hollywood began to take UFOs seriously, producing full-length feature movies such as "Roswell" and weekly shows like "The X-Files."

In 1992, a Roper Poll indicated that 2 percent of Americans believed they could have been abducted by aliens.

Oliphant, together with Victoria Jack, executive director of the con-

**One woman said she had
been abducted by aliens
many times, beginning
when she was a child.**

ference and a San Jose resident, say they have seen UFOs.

Oliphant said he sighted a UFO above Fayette, Ala., in 1990. He described a 100-foot diameter orb that pulsed across the sky, stopped, and pulsed again. He had a video camera with him and took three minutes of footage of the strange craft.

"I have no idea what it was, none," he said. "But it definitely wasn't an optical illusion. I have it on videotape."

Jack said she saw a UFO in 1994 in Rachel, Nev., close to Area 51.

"I saw a huge black triangle shape in the sky," Jack said. "It was evening time, it was so quiet, it glided across the sky, then disappeared behind a mountain. It couldn't have been a plane, it was too slow and too quiet."

One woman said she had been abducted by aliens many times, beginning when she was a child.

Melinda Leslie, co-director and founder of the Orange County Art Bell Chat Club, said she made several UFO sightings in 1989, which caused her to remember that she had been abducted by aliens as a child.

Medical experiments were performed on her, she said, describing her abductors as being gray, with large heads, huge eyes and small bodies. They did not speak to her, she added, but instead communicated by telepathy.

"I've also seen Nordics, they're blond with high cheek bones, very human looking," she said.

Leslie added that she was a director of a support group for survivors of abductions and personally knows more than 100 abductees living in Southern California.

Contact Carole Rafferty at crafty@sjmercury.com or (650) 688-7587.

ISLANDER, Gulf Breeze, FL - Sept. 15, 1999

Bland Pugh - Florida MUFON State Director

A lot of water has passed over the dam since I last wrote an article for the "Islander" and there have been many changes on the UFO scene. Skywatching is almost at a standstill, conferences have come and gone, but guess what guys ... the interest is still there and so is "Bubba." I get at least two to three calls a week from all over the country from people that are either coming to Gulf Breeze because of the UFO's or just want to know if anything is still appearing or happening in the area. Of course, I am not going to mislead anyone by telling them it is still the same as it was in the early through the mid 90's and to come on down, because it's not. My best advice, for those who are still hoping to see something, is to go to Shoreline Park or Pensacola Beach and stake out a good dark area and keep your eyes open. Don't be fooled by the many military aircraft in the area, they still drop flares, especially over open water. Just use your heads in judg-



ing what you may or may not see.

At approximately 5:44 Monday morning of September 6, 1999 several streaks of light were reported over the Gulf of Mexico. These streaks of light were seen from Gulf Breeze to Tampa and into the Ft. Myers area of south Florida.

The streaks of light began as a brilliant white, dimming and turning to a green color before vanishing. I received a call from our SSD, Lorraine Gerber, in the Tampa area on Monday morning advising me of the sighting. She advised that I should stay tuned to "Fox" news, as

they were covering the event in her area, which I did. I never saw anything until the next evening on Channel 5 Mobile, when they aired the segment that was taped from Tampa.

The next morning I received a phone call from another of our SSD's Shirley Fox of Charlotte and Lee counties in south Florida advising me that she'd contacted NASA concerning the sighting. NASA confirmed to her something had happened in the Gulf on Monday morning. Apparently, it was Russian space debris falling back into our atmosphere. Guess what, there's more coming in the next several days. So keep your eyes peeled for that. If you are interested in a great web site, log on to Drsky.com, I think a lot of you will be impressed and even better yet, you will become more informed about what is happening in your sky viewing area.

Till later, keep looking up and behind you.

Big debate falls from the skies

A strange light seen over Oregon is classified as space junk, but UFO trackers believe otherwise

By BETH QUINN

CORRESPONDENT, THE OREGONIAN

GRANTS PASS—

To white-water rafter Margaret Bradford, the strange light blazing in the heavens high above the Rogue River wilderness made for memorable stargazing.

"There was a bright light in the sky that looked like an airline light coming at you. It got brighter and brighter and brighter and then just faded

out," she said.

To North American Aerospace Defense Command inside Cheyenne Mountain Air Station in Colorado Springs, Colo., the bright light was strictly routine. U.S. Space Command tracked it as No. 25,761 in the catalog of the man-made objects orbiting the planet, the auxiliary motor of a Russian SL-12 rocket booster re-entering the Earth's atmosphere at 17,000 mph.

But to Peter Davenport of Seattle's National UFO Reporting Center and Nevada radio talk-

show host Art Bell, what fell to Earth over Southern Oregon at 9:30 p.m. Sept. 1 was big news and evidence of a government cover-up.

"Something's going on out there — something big," Bell told the 9 million listeners who tuned in to "Coast to Coast AM" that night, urging eyewitnesses to fax or e-mail their descriptions of the sighting.

"I'm particularly intrigued by this allegation or assertion that military jets were going out of the

Portland area apparently headed south," Davenport said as he played outtakes of messages from unidentified callers to his UFO hot line. "It's going to be very difficult to force this one into the space junk box."

Three weeks later, Bell and Davenport continue to push a UFO explanation of the Sept. 1 incident on late-night radio, generating phone calls, faxes and e-mails to Air Force bases across the country.

But officials at the 142nd Fighter Wing at Portland International Airport and the North American Aerospace Defense Command inside Cheyenne Mountain are sticking to their stories.

"We didn't scramble on a UFO," says Mona Spent Jordan of the Oregon Air National Guard.

"People are watching the skies," says Petty Officer Andy Karalis of NORAD. "They see what they want to see. They see what they want to believe."

In Davenport's three appearances on "Coast to Coast" so far this month, he and Bell have focused their suspicions on two aspects of the Sept. 1 incident: the fact that F-15 fighters were in the skies over Oregon that night and the fact that in the first week of September four separate sightings of strange lights in the skies over the United States and Australia were attributed by NORAD to Russian rocket debris.

"They're lying to us," Davenport told The Oregonian. "My impression at this time, based on the evidence available to me, is that we're not getting an accurate story from either NORAD or the Air National Guard."

As evidence, Davenport points to 23 sighting reports from Northern California and Oregon left on his Web site about the Sept. 1 light that describe from one to seven objects glowing white, orange or red, often with a flaming tail. In addition, he refers to — and plays cuts from — another 16 sighting reports from Northern California and Oregon left on his telephone hot line. Several of the recorded reports include claims of multiple objects maneuvering in formation or changing direction.

But military officials have their own evidence of what went on that night.

For the 142nd Fighter Wing, the evidence includes a September flying schedule laid out months in advance that shows six F-15 Eagles set for an 8:30 p.m. training flight of fighter maneuvers over the Pacific and aerial refueling over the coast between Lincoln City and Astoria. Jordan says four single and one pair of fighter jets took off from Portland between 8:28 p.m. and 8:40 p.m. and landed as two singles and two pairs between 9:06 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

"It's the same night that people saw something in the sky, and they put two and two together," Jordan says. "However, I know for a fact that our jets were flying night training missions and that we were not scrambled on anything or anybody that we couldn't identify."

Although two of the fighter wing's 18 F-15 fighters remain on continuous alert — 24 hours a day, 365 days a year — ready to intercept any unknown aircraft entering U.S. airspace from the Canadian border to Northern California, Jordan says the 142nd has never scrambled to intercept a UFO.

"If we have ever been scrambled, we have always identified every single object," she says.

At NORAD headquarters in Colorado, officials make no such claim.

Karalis, who handles thousands of e-mail queries each year about unusual lights in the sky, often determines the object was a meteor or other natural phenomenon.

"We only track man-made objects," he says.

On Sept. 1, NORAD was tracking the auxiliary motor of a Russian Proton rocket that was launched Feb. 28 from the Baikonur space center in Kazakhstan to boost the Raduga 1 satellite into orbit. The Russian boosters came down within days, but the motor — "about the size of a propane tank that you have for your gas grill," Karalis says — was scheduled to splash down in the Pacific south of Alaska at 0420 Zulu — Greenwich Mean Time — on Sept. 2.

It missed.

Instead, Space Catalogue No. 25,761 stayed aloft for another 10 minutes, traveling as far south as Oregon before re-entering the Earth's atmosphere at 9:30 p.m. Pacific time on Sept. 1, which is

0430 Sept. 2 in the military's Zulu time.

That same day, another bit of Russian space junk let loose during a space walk from the Mir space station streaked across the skies above Sydney, Australia. And on Sept. 7, two more Russian rockets were the explanation NORAD provided for the unusual lights seen at 5:05 a.m. near Tampa, Fla.

"If we're to believe the Australian government and Cheyenne Mountain, there have been four major Russian booster re-entries in the past five days," Davenport told Bell that night.

Believe it, says Harvard University astrophysicist Jonathan McDowell, whose Web site claims to detail every satellite launch ever made or attempted, all man-made objects now orbiting Earth and the current position of all known satellites in geostationary orbit.

"It used to be that they'd launch one every three days," he says. "They would always leave quite a big booster rocket in low orbit that would re-enter after a few days."

Although these days the Russians launch only about 30 satellites a year, their launch style still brings a periodic rain of debris.

"They tend to come in spurts. They kind of get their team up there to the launch site and launch a few off," McDowell says.

According to NORAD, Russia launched three satellites on Aug. 18, two on Aug. 26 and four on Sept. 6, all with boosters that re-entered Earth's atmosphere in the following days.

But the Russians aren't the only ones leaving orbiting junk above the Earth. Rocket debris from the United States, India and the European Space Agency has re-entered the atmosphere in the past month, including bits of rockets that exploded in 1972 and 1994, a U.S. booster launched in 1993 and a U.S. Navy navigation satellite launched in 1964.

And the blazing rain of space debris will get heavier — and maybe a whole lot scarier — in the months to come.

For one thing, the sun is reaching the maximum of its 11-year solar cycle, increasing the solar winds, which in turn push against Earth's atmosphere and make the

atmosphere more dense and increase the friction against objects traveling through it. Atmospheric friction is what slows satellites and, ultimately, brings them down.

"Every 11 years, everything falls out of the sky from that altitude," McDowell says.

The biggest piece of space junk still up there is the now-abandoned 100-ton Mir space station, which the Russians hope to bring down over the Pacific Ocean in a controlled re-entry.

On late-night radio, Art Bell is already speculating about the problems Mir's re-entry might cause.

And in Grants Pass, white-water enthusiast Bradford is still marveling about the strange blaze of light in the wilderness sky.

"We saw a satellite, shooting stars and something we couldn't identify," she says. "It was pretty awesome."

Do you have news of Jackson, Josephine or southern Klamath counties? You can reach Beth Quinn at 541-474-5926 or by e-mail at bquinn@terragon.com.

All clippings from your local papers are always greatly appreciated. Full credit is given for all items used.

UFO sightings inspiring revolution in China?

MEDFORD, N.J. (Wireless Flash) -- If communism falls in China within the next few years, some of the credit may have to go to E.T. Chinese leaders are worried a growing number of UFO sightings may inspire its citizens to revolt against communism.

Retired U.S. Air Force intelligence officer George Filer says Chinese officials are currently harassing members of the "Falun Gong," a political group with seventy million members who believe in extraterrestrials.

Filer claims the group's interest in aliens has the Chinese government in a tizzy, especially because UFO sightings were common in Russia in the months before the Iron Curtain fell.

UFO sightings in China have been on the rise over the last few months, and Filer claims Chinese officials are fearful citizens will interpret the saucer sightings as a sign it is time to overthrow the government.



CONTACT: George Filer (serious inquiries only), ****; 222 Jackson Road, Medford, NJ; 08055 (609) 654-0020

Are you familiar with Flash News?

Note the Georgia story about two UFOs being chased by possible F-15s in #35 Files. You might do a little checking to see if there are any

strange aircraft at Eglin AFB, particularly at Hurlburt AFB Special Operations Command. They might hide them in one of the back airfields at Eglin.

This is an index of the files written over the last several years at <http://www.ufoinfo.com/filer/index.html>. It can be very useful. Do you have any Congressional contacts? We're trying to get hearings in

Congress. Several astronauts and numerous military are willing to testify. The last one who had them was Congressman Gerald Ford.

I talked to some of the fishermen in Pensacola and Gulf Breeze who claimed UFOs were seen over the Gulf regularly. I can always use reports and turn around and put them in my files.

My contention was if Ed Walters never lived there, there was still a big UFO story in your area. Occasionally we still get reports.

Heck most papers have an astrology section, why not UFO reports?

This may be crazy stuff, but like Astronaut Edgar Mitchell (sixth man on the moon) told me, this is the most important endeavor of mankind! Keep up the good work. We may be some of the few who are trying to obtain intelligence on these guys.

I hope my old 486 computer will hold up to the aliens.

Regards,
George Filer

LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT, Conway, AR - Oct. 8, 1999

Exotic propulsion meeting piques NASA's interest

By MATT BEER
San Francisco Examiner

SAN FRANCISCO — An upcoming private meeting between Silicon Valley high-tech executives, NASA scientists and a high-profile UFO enthusiast has sparked an investigation by a government agency.

Special Agent Keith Tate, an investigator with the Long Beach, Calif., branch of NASA's Office of Inspector General, has been calling Silicon Valley sources, including The Examiner, seeking information about a planned Tuesday meeting between research scientists and Silicon Valley high-tech executives.

At that meeting, first reported by The Examiner, attendees, including scientists from the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, Calif., will discuss propulsion technologies.

"We're trying to determine if any proprietary information will be talked about at that meeting," said Tate. "We're very concerned about this."

Staging the meeting will be the International Space Sciences Organization. Its founder is Joe Firmage, a 28-year-old, high-tech executive who made headlines late last year when he published a Web site and book in which he recounted his beliefs in space aliens. On the ISSO site, he claims to have been visited in his bedroom one night by such an alien.

Firmage also has stated that

some of the high technology of today was obtained from the legendary alien space craft crash at Roswell, N.M., in 1947. Firmage stepped down from his post as CEO of the giant Santa Clara, Calif.-based USWeb Internet consulting firm following his revelations, due to shareholder concerns about his extraterrestrial pursuits.

ISSO spokesman Tony Young had no comment on the NASA probe.

Over the last several years, NASA has been researching an array of exotic propulsion technologies through a small program dubbed Breakthrough Propulsion Physics.

Some of these techniques thumb their noses at Albert Einstein's theory of relativity, which postulates that nothing can travel faster than the speed of light — 186,000 miles per second. These include using technologies familiar to science fiction fans: worm holes and warp drives.

Firmage, according to his Web site, believes "there is stunningly good evidence that UFOs are real starships."

He writes that "whatever did or did not happen at Roswell in 1947 will ultimately prove to be a rounding error when the implications of this phenomenon become widely known."

(Distributed by Scripps Howard News Service.)

EAST OREGONIAN, Pendleton, OR - Sept. 15, 1999

Hermiston gets visit from UFO

It wasn't the big bad wolf that 14-year old Jerome Price of Hermiston saw on the way to his grandmother's house near West Elm in Hermiston Saturday night — but it was kind of scary. Or as Jerome put it: "Shocking!"

Jerome said he and his cousin, also 14, saw a large object close to the tree line, with red lights all around, between 8:30 and 9 p.m. "At first I thought it was a helicopter because it was so close to the ground," he said. But it was too big and gone too fast.

When he glanced away and then back, the UFO was gone. But Price's experience may help explain a 10 p.m. report to the Umatilla County Sheriff's office in Pendleton the same evening. Katie Davis saw a "strange, bright green glowing object about a mile from (I am not making this up) Price Lane."



On the Street

Phil Hodgen

Attendees at UFO conference make 'Contact'

LIFESTYLE: Saturday's event drew believers and skeptics.

**[BY ERNEST A. JASMIN
THE BELLINGHAM HERALD]**

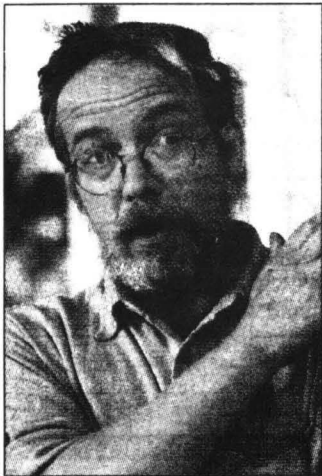
The Bellingham UFO club has branched out in new directions these past few months. It even has a new name (Contact: The Center for Ontological Action) to reflect its more inclusive vision of man's brushes with the unknown.

The event Contact, sponsored on Saturday at the Ferndale Senior Center, says it all. Imagine, if you will, a few dozen believers sitting in rapt concentration as speakers delve into topics ranging from UFO sightings to abduction trauma.

During her presentation on Saturday, alien encounter therapist Janet Colli encouraged anyone who has been abducted by an alien life form to work through his or her trauma.

"To anyone who classifies themselves as an abductee, I say keep going," she said. "You sit in a place you cannot bear to be and then you grow."

She also dwelled on the possibility of higher sentient beings who have evolved past the need for physical forms.



DAVID WILLOUGHBY HERALD PHOTO

ATTENDED CONFERENCE: Tim Kelly, 43, of Bellingham, first attended a Bellingham UFO Group meeting four years ago. He says he's never had an alien encounter.

"I get chills when I say this, but this is where we as a species are going," she said.

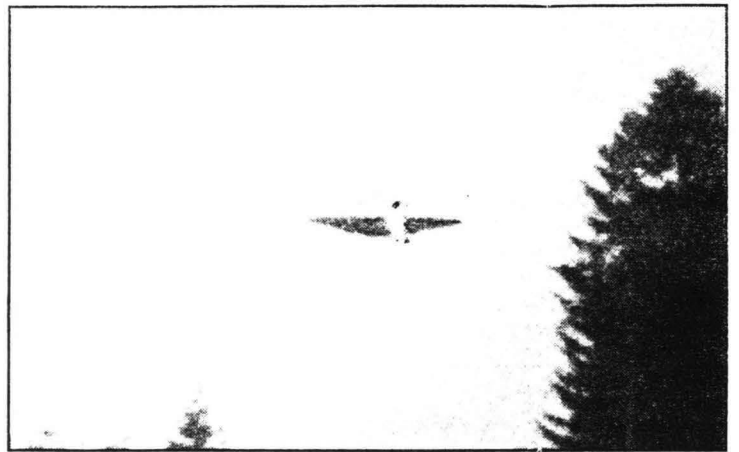
The conference is a big deal on the regional paranormal scene. Contact has had the yearly conference since 1997, when it was at Allied Arts and called "The Fourth Corner International UFO Conference." This is where Contact members whet their appetites for explanations of the unknown.



DAVID WILLOUGHBY HERALD PHOTO

GROUP'S PRESIDENT: Matt Thuney, 47, of Bellingham, founded the Bellingham UFO Group in the early 1990s.

bers, Kelly doesn't claim to have had an alien encounter. Similarly, he takes a lot of what is presented at meetings — topics that include crop circles, out of body experiences and the like — with a grain of salt. However, these days he's



Expose Virginia UFOs

When, on his way home from work in the wee hours of Jan. 18, 1967, a Chesapeake, Va., TV shop owner encountered an occupied "flying saucer," little did he expect that this classic "UFO abduction" would fuel a controversy now reaching its peak with the prospect of a lawsuit against Virginia Gov. James Gilmore for his failure to acknowledge and to repel this invasion of our air space and private space.

And little did the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation expect that the victim of this abduction would come to haunt its vast collection of UFO-related files dating back to the '50s.

The formal memo relaying the encounter to FBI headquarters notes no derogatory information about the victim.

Indeed, the document stands as credible evidence that such agencies as the Bureau long have been dead serious in collecting hard-core evidence of UFO reality and of citizens' non-consensual encounters with these humanoid UFO occupants as described in the memo.

As legal efforts move forward at the federal level in Arizona to compel the departments of Jus-

tice and Defense to protect all the states against this form of "invasion," citizens across Virginia now have the chance to join me in compelling Gov. Gilmore to faithfully execute the law of the land (via both the U.S. and the Virginia constitutions) so as to defend and protect our independence, safety, and security.

Accordingly, if you know of any Virginia-based victims of so-called "UFO abductions" willing to put their accounts into affidavit form, please have them contact me immediately.

This goes for any Virginians who, during the past 36 months, have witnessed the fly-over of mysterious "black triangular craft" in their neighborhoods.

Armed with this evidence, I can petition the appropriate circuit court to issue a writ of mandamus against our governor's dereliction of duty — and in the process help that Chesapeake man's story speak for itself.

Contact me at 3518 Martha Custis Drive, Alexandria, VA, 22302; or at overtc@bellatlantic.net.

LARRY W. BRYANT
Alexandria

▼ For more

INFORMATION: If you'd like to join Contact: The Center for Ontological Action, send \$25 to Contact, 1410 Girard St., Bellingham, WA 98225.

much less likely to disclaim someone else's paranormal paradigm.

"I definitely believe there's a cover up," he said. "I definitely believe there's something going on out there."

In contrast, Tom Sanger believes he's been contacted.

He came to Whatcom County from Tucson, Ariz., on Saturday for his annual trek to the Pleiades in the northern Cascade mountain range, a mountain he describes as a hotbed of UFO activity.

He went on to describe an ambiguous set of events that began after reading "Intruders: The Incredible Visitations at Copley Woods" by Budd Hopkins in the 1980s.

He said he experienced some sort of epiphany that made him re-

alize he'd been contacted somehow.

He says he began to seek out alien contact and that he's encountered some strange things.

For example, there are the odd experiences he describes regarding camping in the desert.

"I had whole nights of missing time," he said.

Sanger, who is in his 40s, maintains a Worldwide Web site regarding his annual visit to the Cascades at members.wbs.net/homepages/r/a/h/rahseed.html.

Contact president Matt Thuney, 47, of Bellingham founded the Bellingham UFO Group, which first met at his apartment in the early '90s.

From humble beginnings, the group's mailing list has grown to about 500 members, most of whom live in Western Washington and British Columbia.

One of Contact's members even conducts a support group for about a dozen people who claim to have survived traumatic encounters with alien beings.

"I've had a lifelong interest in UFO's and things that go bump in the night," he said.



PAT CHRISTIAN

You see a lot of strange things in this business

Little green aliens and ships from outer space, ha!

Ha, ha, ha, and double ha.

I have little confidence we've been visited by UFOs from out there, I say pointing about one degree left of the North Star.

Oh, I'm very sure there are creatures out there.

Yup, I think there are some right out there, and over there and probably somewhere exactly there, too.

But I just don't think they've gotten in my neighborhood (Earth) yet.

When they do come, I think they'll probably phone first or send an e-mail rather than make such a long trip only on speculation.

Now those alien abduction stories, I really doubt them.

If our aliens visitors were clever enough to travel all this way, I don't figure all those reports of alien abductions and probing would be coming from ordinary victims

Rather, I think our little aliens friends would be more interested in probing William Shakespeare, Mother Teresa, and maybe even Brigham Young and William Clinton to see what made/makes them tick.

Admittedly, there was a time when I actually sought after aliens.

I came home one night and Mom and Dad told me they saw a space ship over near an industrial park not too far from our home.

"It had followed us for a while, just staying above us," Mom said.

She said it then went near an industrial building for a while before leaving.

Mom had never lied to me before so I knew she had seen something. But what?

I decided to drive to the place she had last seen it, and then sleep in my car in case it came back for whatever it had come for.

If there were aliens, I wanted to meet them, if they were friendly, and maybe hitch a ride.

Just in case it/they had a ray gun and bad intentions, I took my big Bowie knife with me.

It/they never came and I didn't sleep well that night. And I never got to see a UFO.

But I did later.

Earlier this decade, I was walking at night with my son, Christopher, and

UNION-BULLETIN, Walla Walla, WA - Aug. 3, 1999

Our Readers' Opinions

Crop circles can be made with 2X4

I agree that your front-page story on crop circles (U-B July 27) was "kind of cool." Since the method of constructing these circles was widely publicized long ago (it involves dragging a 2x4 around a pivot), I suspect farmer Reser is pulling our legs just a bit when he claims not to know how they got there.

On the off-handed chance that author Farquhar got to Mr. Reser before Mr. Reser had a chance to do a little thinking, I would like to offer two obvious observations. First, walking through a wheat field does not leave a track that can be seen from the ground, as evidenced by Mr. Boone and Mr. Stickler blithely standing in the middle of the field with no trail leading to them, in your bottom photo.

And second, walking through a wheat field DOES leave a track that

can be seen from the air, as evidenced by the clear trails leading from each crop circle to the next, and back to the road, in your upper photo.

I think Mr. Farquhar missed the real story, which is: why would someone bother to do such a thing? It is "kind of cool," but it doesn't look especially easy, nor thrilling; so why take the time? What is the significance of the pattern? It sort of looks like the doodling one would make just to show one COULD.

But maybe there is some fraternity initiation rite, or sun-god fertility ritual? Good thing Mr. Reser is easy-going. I'd have been a little ticked if someone had tromped around in MY wheat field, "cool" or not.

Oh. Maybe Mr. Reser and Mr. Farquhar are "believers." In that case, please, let me be the first to point out that the word "gullible" is not in the dictionary.

Jim Thorn
Dayton

ISLANDER, Gulf Breeze, FL - Sept. 22, 1999

UFO: Fact or Fiction?

A most exciting discovery has just been made, and your many readers around Gulf Breeze might be interested in this news.

During this year, author Preston Dennett published a new book called "UFOS OVER TOPANGA CANYON." Topanga Canyon is located in Los Angeles, California. Dennett wrote during the years 1992

to 1994 many witnesses living in Topanga Canyon saw hovering, brilliant, and varicolored UFOs moving thru the sky or landing on the ground, with very close contacts with residents.

When I read this new book, I suddenly realized Gulf Breeze had also experienced numerous sightings of UFOs during the years 1992 to 1994, photos taken, etc. In fact, *The Islander* published some of my articles on these Gulf Breeze sightings and my 1992 discovery that on a Mercator flat map of the world, a circle centered on Gulf Breeze would cut thru the northwest edge of Alaska and the extreme southern edge of South America--making Gulf Breeze the topographical center of North America and South America.

After reading Preston Dennett's new book, I took a map and drew a straight line from Gulf Breeze to Topanga Canyon, California. The center of this line rested on Levelland, Texas, where brilliant UFOs landed around the town on November 2nd and 3rd, 1957! In other words, the Gulf Breeze, Levelland, and Topanga Canyon UFOs laid out a straight measured line on the surface of North America. Gulf Breeze to Levelland equals about 900 miles; Levelland to Topanga Canyon also equals about 900 miles.

In 1997, Ed Walters and Bruce Maccabee published a book called "UFOS ARE REAL: HERE'S THE PROOF," that contained five pages on my research and drawings about the site of Gulf Breeze.

On September 23, 1999, Preston Dennett will give a talk on his new book at Border's Bookstore in Santa Monica, California.

Kenneth Larson
Los Angeles, California

daughter, Heather, near The Daily Herald.

It was dark, and what caught our attention was like having a shadow quickly pass over you.

We looked up and saw the big delta-shaped UFO pass over us silently.

"Did you see that?" I asked.

They said they had.

What it looked like, I asked. And they described the same arrowhead shape.

Christopher and I saw the same kind of UFO once again about three years later.

While riding bicycles from Salt Lake City to Sacramento, we had reached Rye Patch Dam in Nevada to camp for the night.

Pedaling from a restaurant along U.S. 80 to our campground at the reservoir, I saw the black UFO first.

Chris pedaled to the campground nearly an hour later and when he arrived I said, "Chris, you won't believe what I saw riding down here," I said when he showed up.

"I saw it too," Chris said, describing the same delta-shaped object that seemed to be flying so close as to be checking us out.

Later, when I first saw photos of the Air Force's stealth fighter, it was so remarkable that it looked exactly like what my children and I had seen.

Matching wits with UFOs

Enthusiasts seek logical explanations for those lights in the sky.

By Ralph Vigoda
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Nobody's saying it came from outer space. And nobody's saying it didn't.

"We haven't determined what it was," Tom Carey said, referring to a predawn incident in West Chester last month in which a woman reported strange lights dancing in the sky for about 90 minutes.

"They weren't from airplanes," Carey said. "They were apparently coming from an object of some size, because it blocked out the stars. She said it looked like they were doing grid-mapping of some sort."

The mystery was one of the topics discussed recently at the monthly meeting of the local chapter of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network, a group of people of widely varying backgrounds brought together by a com-

mon interest: the study of UFOs.

The group investigates each incident with a detective's fervor. To pinpoint the source of the lights, they check with local airports to see what aircraft were in the air that night. They look at astronomical phenomena that could have been the cause. They ask police whether anyone called in the sighting, and they talk to witnesses.

"We consider every explanation," said Carey, the chapter director, who holds the meetings in his Huntingdon Valley home. "We try to identify it in prosaic terms. But if we can't..."

Then it becomes a UFO and part of the network's national database.

Based in Seguin, Texas, the network is one of the country's oldest and largest organizations trying to resolve UFO mysteries. It was

founded in 1969 and claims 5,000 members. It publishes a monthly magazine, holds an annual symposium, trains field investigators, and has a UFO-reporting hotline. (The Web site is www.mufon.com)

Carey, who for many years was a financial analyst in the insurance industry, has been leading the local group since 1986. It has 60 dues-paying members from the five-county Philadelphia region — New Jersey and Delaware have their own chapters — although meetings typically draw eight to 10 people, he said.

"We had one woman call who said she saw lights from an object on which the wings were going in the wrong direction," Carey said. "We made a few calls, and it turned out there was a home-built job with inverted

wings at a local airport near West Chester. And the pattern of the lights she saw corresponded with the glide path to the airport."

Carey understands that many people would consider his sideline tomfoolery. But he insists they might change their minds if they did as much research as he and his colleagues have done.

"It's a belief system," he said. "I know there are really no good pictures of UFOs. And certainly there are a number of kooks — although not as many as you think — that gravitate toward subjects like this."

"Still, there are enough serious people reporting strange things that keep me interested. And, certainly, the Roswell case is overwhelming."

Roswell, N.M., is the site of perhaps the most famous UFO case in the country: the alleged crash of an alien spacecraft and the recovery of dead aliens in 1947. Carey, in fact, has just returned from Roswell, where he and fellow researcher Donald Schmitt of Wisconsin talked to eyewitnesses and found a cave where a boy supposedly stored pieces of the craft.

Carey hopes to write a book with Schmitt. The two have done hundreds of interviews, he said. He said they were close to finding irrefutable evidence that something from out of this world crashed in Roswell: a piece of the spaceship made up of a substance unknown on earth.

"It's as thin as aluminum foil, and you can wad it up in your hand," he said, recounting stories he has heard. "But then if you put it down, it flows out like water to a flat, even surface, without any creases or wrinkles. You can't cut it, scratch it or burn it."

Carey said he did not believe the government explanation that what fell to earth was a high-altitude weather balloon and a mannequin used in parachute experiments.

"The preponderance of evidence suggests a crash did occur in 1947 with a number of bodies, anywhere from three to six," he said. "There are literally hundreds of witnesses who have talked about various pieces of the story, all attesting to something otherworldly."

One does not have to go to New Mexico, though, to find claims of UFOs. The National UFO Reporting Center, which gathers sighting information (www.ufocenter.com), has compiled 32 accounts of UFOs in Pennsylvania and 16 in New Jersey this year. One from King of Prussia dated Aug. 19 at 10 p.m. begins, "While on our roof, my two sons and I saw three glowing, noiseless orange/brown/yellow objects flying fast in perfect formation directly over our house."

Carey said he had had two bonafide sightings, one in 1965 when he was in the Air Force, stationed in California, and one about six months ago in his back yard.

"It was in broad daylight, a triangular-shaped craft that flew silently over the house," he said of the second incident. "It was low enough so I should have been able to identify it, but it didn't have any wings or markings. It was smooth, with rounded edges, the color white, and it left a vapor trail."

"I'm not saying it was from Mars. I'm just saying I don't know what it was."

He is also trying to pinpoint the origin of a strange pulsating light captured on video by a young boy about a year ago in Port Richmond. On the tape, the boy is heard uttering, "Oh, my God," as a round light slowly moves across the sky.

Carey's interest in UFOs and aliens began as a youngster after he watched classic science-fiction movies such as *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, *The Thing* and *Invaders from Mars*.

"As you get older, you read a book about it and find you're still interested, and you wonder if anyone else is out there like you," he said.

There were, and they became part of his group, believers that tourists from other planets have been hovering in our skies for decades.

For More Information

■ Call the local MUFON chapter at 215-947-4740.

TENNESSEAN, Nashville, TN - Aug. 28, 1999 CR: B. Kinnard

Lobbyists not alien to extraterrestrials

Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — E.T., phone your lobbyist.

Just when it seems like everyone on Earth has his own political action committee, along comes a PAC representing extraterrestrials — or at least the human beings who believe in them.

It's called X-PPAC — short for Extraterrestrial Phenomena Political Action Committee — and it has raised about \$1,000 since its creation in mid-July.

The PAC's founder said the money would be used to lobby lawmakers to have congressional hearings on whether federal bureaucrats have covered up evidence of UFOs and alien activity.

"In Washington no one takes your issue seriously unless you have a lobbyist, a PAC and press clippings," said Stephen G. Bassett, treasurer of X-PPAC and the only federally registered UFO lobbyist in America.

In three-and-a-half years lobbying

for various extraterrestrial-watching groups, Bassett has met with only three members of Congress. He won't name them.

Congressional aides can't resist making jokes when asked how their bosses might respond to lobbying efforts by Bassett and X-PPAC.

"I think the first thing we would want to know is how many aliens has he got registered to vote here in the 7th District of Missouri," joked Dan Wadlington, spokesman for Rep. Roy Blunt, R-Mo. ■

A Moment In History

UFOs, gold rush, notes, etc.

by Jon Baughman

Our series on Rebecca Furnace will continue next week. This column is intended to catch up on old business and to point the direction for future articles.

UFO accounts

The series on UFOs has attracted more interest than anything I have written for several years. Occasional eyewitness accounts continue to come in. The most recent was from Stanley W. Hoenstine of Bedford. He describes two separate incidents, one local.

"When I was quite young my father told me of an incident that happened when he was a teenager. He told me he and his father were riding in a huckster wagon when they saw a shape that looked like a moon. It was traveling before them and disappeared behind a barn (the barn being near them). When I asked what it was, he said they couldn't explain it. I wondered about this occurrence many times and when UFOs became talked about, I thought many times about my father's story. I tell you this that you may know that the rest of my tale could be biased."

Before I continue with Mr. Hoenstine's account, let me say that the UFO craze in this country began about 1947. This does not mean there weren't sightings before that. There were. Keep this in mind.

Quoting Mr. Hoenstine again, "About 1980, my wife Mary and I took a trip west. We had just left the scene of the Custer Massacre, coming east. We were on Alternate Route 14 east of Lovell going toward Sheridan, Wyoming, crossing the Bighorn Mountain. We were traveling in a pickup with a slide-in camper. The mountain was very steep and scary but we finally reached the top after a very hairy ride. We had seen in red print the name of a place of interest which was one reason we were going there. The Indian Medicine Wheel was printed on older maps but not on some later ones. Maybe because an article I read stated that the Indians knew nothing about it."

"After going up a dirt road about two miles we found the wheel. It was laid out on the extreme top of the mountain. It was round, perhaps two hundred feet in diameter, with

stones laid all the way around and rows of stones from the center to the circumference, like spokes in a wheel. It could have been seen readily from a great distance in the air. After about 20 minutes spent looking, and getting some snow that was not yet melted in a gully, we left the wheel and started down the mountain.

"I remember turning my lights on as darkness was beginning to fall. As we proceeded slowly down the dirt road to our astonishment a large, glowing round object flew across in front of us. It appeared to be about one half mile away and traveling very fast. It was gone before we could turn on the radio. We heard on the radio that several stations had also seen what we had seen but there was no explanation of the incident. Right or wrong I often thought those from outer space saw us fooling around their space marker and had to come to check on us."

"We camped halfway down the spooky mountain that night. Everything seemed natural next morning."

Are any of our other readers familiar with this location (Indian Medicine Wheel) or its significance. If so, drop me a line at this newspaper. There are top secret US military installations at several locations in the West, including command posts and underground bunkers. UFOs are often seen near these installations.

NEWS, Detroit, MI - Oct. 7, 1999 CR: C. Grusinski

Skepticism is not alien to UFO expert giving program in Ann Arbor

By Suzanne Chessler
Special to The Detroit News

Temple University history professor David Jacobs knows all too well that most of his colleagues think he's a little weird.

But that doesn't stop him from pursuing his life's work as a pioneer in the field of UFO research and alien abduction.

Jacobs — who is the only U.S. college professor to teach an accredited course on UFOs (unidentified flying objects) — will discuss his views Sunday in

Ann Arbor. The program, aimed at local researchers who share ideas through the Michigan Chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, is open to the public.



David Jacobs

"In the academic community, skepticism and resistance are almost total," Jacobs acknowledges.

"These people feel the idea of UFOs and abductions are total nonsense. In the general public, there also is skepticism, and rightly so, but there is curiosity as well."

Jacobs first got interested in UFOs and alien abductions when he was a student at the University of California at Los Angeles in the 1960s.

As he read more about the subject, he began to think there might be something to it and altered his course of study. He did graduate work in history at the University of Wisconsin and wrote his doctoral dissertation on UFOs.

He has written three books on the topic — *The UFO Controversy in America*, *Secret Life* and *The Threat* — and is contributing to a

About the event

What: Meeting with David Jacobs.

Sponsor: Michigan Chapter of the Mutual UFO Network.

When: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sun.

Where: Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson, Ann Arbor.

Cost: \$15, including lunch, lecture and information package. **Information:** (231) 582-7097 or (810) 650-5088.

fourth — *UFOs and Abductions: The Challenge for Scientists, Skeptics and Scholars*.

"Since the 1950s and 1960s, we've been getting reports of people taken out of their normal environments and on board UFOs," says Jacobs, who investigates the cases and also conducts a support group for people who claim they've been abducted.

"These reports were not taken seriously for a long time, but we've been receiving so many of them over the years that people began to look into them. In 1998, I and two other colleagues conducted a poll and were astonished to find that at least 2 percent of American people report these types of experiences."

Jacobs, who also teaches American history and American culture classes at Temple, says he is uneasy about reported UFO episodes.

"If this is happening the way people say it's happening, it's fulfilling an agenda of the abductors," he says. "They're doing things in secret because they don't want us to know what they're doing."

Suzanne Chessler is a Metro Detroit free-lance writer.

Coloroddy

Christopher O'Brian, author of *Enter the Valley* (St. Martin's Press), says the San Luis Valley, which stretches from Saguache to Taos, N.M., has America's highest concentration of UFO sightings, crop circles and Bigfoot sightings, as well as cattle mutilations and appearances of mysterious aircraft.

STAR, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada
July 30, 1999 CR: G. Conway



FOREIGN NEWS

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

Recent sightings whet UFO buff's curiosity

By SIGRUN MARIA
KRISTINSDOTTIR
Star Reporter

There are unusually many recorded Unidentified Flying Object sightings in the Yukon compared to the rest of Canada.

The reasons for this are not that Yukoners get bushed, live in creosote-contaminated houses or are more prone to cabin fever than other Canadians.

The real reason, says local UFO investigator Martin Jasek, is that in a small community like the Yukon, everybody knows everyone else. Consequently, he hears about sightings that would go unnoticed by UFO researchers in larger places. He recently heard of two sightings in different parts

of the Yukon.

"The people I interview are very sincere and they seem normal to me," said Jasek.

"What's so nice about the Yukon is that everybody knows everybody, so you often get one story, and then they say, 'Oh, I know so and so, who saw something,' and it just keeps going and going. It just keeps coming, both historical stuff and recent stuff," Jasek said in an interview with the *Star* earlier this week.

The Yukon also has Canada's highest per-capita number of UFO investigators.

But again, the low number of Yukoners is the reason.

"Just two will do it," he smiled.

Jasek is the Yukon's representative

of UFO BC, based in Vancouver. His neighbour and the Yukon's other UFO investigator, Lorraine Bretlyn, is part of that organization as well, Jasek said.

Jasek, whose daytime job is with the federal water resources branch, has been a UFO investigator for about two years. In that time, Jasek has investigated about 40 sightings.

Jasek is working on a sighting from 1996 that involves 22 people. He has interviewed 15 of the 22 people so far, and received drawings from many of them. Jasek didn't want to give too many details on the sightings, because he wants to hear the stories untainted from the people.

"When I was growing up as a kid, I was always fascinated by outer space, and then I went to university and became a little bit more skeptical. Then I saw some programs on TV and got my interest back," said Jasek.

He has only seen what might have been a UFO once, last month in Winnipeg.

"I was driving down the freeway, and this white ball came up between the trees," said Jasek. The ball was about a third of the size of the moon, and it disappeared behind the trees, he said.

"That's pretty minor compared to some of the stories we do get," he added.

Two sightings were reported to Jasek from last weekend.

Last Friday, a man Jasek has known for seven years was at the Dawson City Music Festival when he saw a strange light by the Dome.

The man was with his wife, who didn't see the light, said Jasek. The man noticed a group of people across the street, and when he approached them, one woman in the group had seen the light as well.

Again, Jasek didn't want to go into details of the man's sighting, as he was hoping to find more people who saw the same.

Then, last Sunday night, a man in Watson Lake saw a white ball, three or four times the size of a shooting star, Jasek said. The ball moved, stopped and then shot off while turning blue.

Jasek also told the story of a man who was working on Montana Mountain near Carcross in 1988.

The man was staying on the mountain with his dog, when one night, a big saucer came up to him and shone blue light all over him. The man's dog got scared and hid under a bed, and after the saucer left, the man wrote the incident up in his work journal.



Star Photo by VINCE FEDOROFF

THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE - Martin Jasek is planning an Aug. 7 barbecue to enable Yukoners believing they've seen UFOs to compare their experiences.

This account, along with other Yukon stories, can be found on a website on the Internet at www.ufobc.org/yukon, said Jasek.

"I think the world should know what's actually going on, how extensive the sightings are, how common they are. They're not just lights in the sky; there's really up-close stuff happening," said Jasek. "These are definitely machines, not just lights in the sky."

He added he has no idea what the UFOs are doing.

Jasek explained that if people see something they think could be a UFO, they can contact the RCMP or the mil-

itary, but the number of those recorded sightings are never reported.

However, they can report to civilian UFO groups, such as the one Jasek and his neighbour belong to. Those accounts are gathered and the numbers are released out of Winnipeg annually. That's how numbers of recorded sightings are gathered.

Jasek said it often helps people to talk about what they see with someone, especially if they're frightened of what they saw.

People can contact Jasek confidentially at 633-2472, he said. He is planning a barbecue on Aug. 7, where people can come and share their stories.

KENT MESSENGER, Maidstone,
England - April 23, 1999

The truth is out there...

IT'S amazing, every time someone gets a UFO report in the local paper someone, in this case Mr Tudor, of Maidstone, writes in managing to ridicule the sighting, no doubt to discourage further reports.

I know many people in Kent have seen and do see these things: UFOs in daylight over the North Downs, UFOs at the top of Wrotham Hill and in Harvel, UFOs coming down and shaking people's houses in a road near Gillingham, even the pilot of a twin-engined plane out of Biggin Hill who saw one pass in front of the nose of his aircraft in clear sunny daylight over the North Downs.

He told Radio Kent by phone and

they reported it on air, on their programme. The incident was actually seen by people on the ground at the same time. This is totally verifiable.

No doubt Mr Tudor has not seen one but I and other people around here have. We are not nutters and so anyone else who has seen one or more (the problem is they make no sound so you catch them by sheer chance) can write to me.

I certainly won't ridicule you, but I want to know why we see so many in Kent.

I love the county, but what are they coming here for? Does anyone know?

David Strudwick,
The Coach Drive, Vigo Village

UFO has been seen before

SWIRLING objects in the night sky have visited earth before, according to a reader.

The jellyfish-like object spotted in the sky above the M2 motorway, from Faversham to the Medway Towns on Friday, 2 April, was also seen floating round in February.

Kristjen Holden, who works in the *Gazette* and *Times* production department, contacted us to say she saw the same object in Whitstable.

She said: "I thought it was perhaps the Northern lights, or some natural phenomena, but I realise now that it couldn't possibly have been. It was nothing like that."

"I'm not narrow-minded, but I don't really believe in little green men from Mars."

"However, I would like to know what it was, even if it is a nightclub light or something. It could be dangerous for people driving down the motorway to be distracted by it."

UFO believer seeks starry-eyed cow-killers

ROBIN TURNER

A UFO researcher gathering evidence for a new book claims mystifying attacks on cattle may be down to extra-terrestrials and abductions.

Neil Spring, 17, formerly a sightings collator for the Global UFO investigation network, is planning to work as an independent researcher in Wales. If hundreds of witnesses are to be believed, the Welsh have been buzzed, visited, frightened and even abducted for decades.

He has already logged an impressive list of alleged UFO sightings, with the last major rash of observations having a personal interest.

He said, "I am particularly interested to hear from farmers if they have lost cattle in unusual circumstances or if they have discovered cattle which have been mutilated in some way and the injuries cannot be put down to attacks by wild animals."

"This type of attack on cattle has taken place across the world and there have been a number of typical attacks in Wales. Cows and sheep have been found with mutilations made by extremely precise instruments.

Calling interplanetary craft

WALES has experienced a series of UFO sightings including:

- January 20, 1974, a mysterious object reportedly crashed on the Berwyn mountain in North Wales. Villagers were frightened by a ground tremor and heard a deafening explosion. Witnesses saw a large, pulsating orange glow on the mountain and shortly after the area was cordoned off by RAF officials;
- 1976, 11-year-old Gaynor Sutherland watched terrified when, she said, a silver saucer-shaped craft landed in a field near her home in Flint;
- February 1977, 14 schoolchildren from Broadhaven reported seeing a

"People have experiences of strange objects or sightings but very often they don't know where to report it or what to do about it. I hope that people in Wales will get in touch with me so I can at least compare their experiences with those of hundreds of others."

"This is a growing issue which will not go away despite the attempts of

the MoD to play down the phenomenon for whatever reasons they have for doing this."

- The young researcher is currently putting the final touches to his book, *Cosmic Intrusion* which involves hundreds of witness testimonies about sightings of what observers are convinced are evidence of alien interest in Earth.
- strange, silver cigar-shaped object in a field near their primary school;
- Policeman Neville Hughes witnessed a strange flying craft on three occasions in Denbigh. He and colleague Berwyn Jones followed one in their patrol car for three miles;
- January 19, 1983, hundreds of witnesses across South Wales reported a number of large and brilliantly lit triangles, some flying at tree level;
- 1989 Mysterious crop circles appeared along the Gwent-Powys borderline. A total of 98 circles were discovered at Llanthony;
- February 1996, Bryon Jones, from Ammanford, reported a large metallic object crossing the sky.

He said, "Given the billions and billions of planets which are out there it would be incredible if we were the only advanced civilisation around. It is far more likely that there are aliens in existence than there being nothing out there at all."

He is building up a library of photographs and videos of mystery objects in the skies above Wales, including video footage of an object said to have been hovering over Newtown in Mid Wales in June 1997.

He said, "The video shows a metallic object in a clear blue sky and it darts off at incredible speed, the object seems to leave the screen within just three frames."

The researcher, of Bishopston, Swansea, has also been sent a number of photographs including that of a ball of light seen above Pembroke Dock in 1967 taken by Neil Weatherall and what appears to be a space ship appearing in a family photograph in Snowdonia, August 1975.

Anyone who has witnessed unusual happenings, and has video footage or photographs, can contact Neil Spring at 11, Northway Court, Bishopston, Swansea SA3 3J2 or telephone 01792 234766.

EAST KENT GAZETTE, Canterbury, England - April 21, 1999

WESTERN MAIL, Cardiff, Wales - May 17, 1999

Mystery, miracle or giant hoax?

LAURENCE Rockefeller, the American millionaire and philanthropist, is funding scientific research into crop circles, it emerged yesterday. Why? After all, this is a problem that everyone thought had been solved.

The Crop Circle Mystery caused headlines and arguments nearly every summer for 20 years. Strange shapes were appearing in cornfields in Wiltshire and other counties. From the ground, the corn was seen to be beaten down, amazingly regular. From the air, the patterns appeared.

They came first as simple circles. Later, there were circles within circles, then more intricate patterns still — circles radiating spiral arms, circles joined by straight lines, circles arranged in squares, even snowflake patterns of amazing intricacy and beauty.

For 20 years arguments raged. Were they caused by circular winds? Or were mysterious forces at work? The obvious solution was human hoax. But if so, how?

In 1992, two Southampton men, Doug Bower and Dave Chorley, confessed to making corn circles: every summer night for 20 years. Their method was simple: rakes and planks of wood to bash down the crop, ropes to guide them to a perfect circle, loops of wire on hats to guide straight lines.

It began as fun but, as UFO theories snowballed, they wanted to see how credulous people could be.

Dave Chorley died in 1996. The pair had retired from circle-making some time before. That should have been the end of the mystery. Yet corn circles continued to appear.

'They are worldwide,' says Michael Green, President of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies. And this week, the first of this season's British crop, 12 of them, have been seen in fields of oil-seed rape in Hampshire and at Milk Hill, Wiltshire.

Andrew Thomas, author of the crop-circle book, *Vital Signs*, claims that the Bower-Chorley 'confession' was itself a hoax: 'They could not explain how they laid the stalks so perfectly; nor why the circles have continued to appear.'

And now Laurence Rockefeller, brother of the late Nelson Rockefeller, is funding a researcher to re-investigate the phenomenon.

HE IS paying Connecticut-based Colin Andrews to engage staff and they have flown reconnaissance flights over Wiltshire and Hampshire. Andrews has a database of 10,000 crop circles. With computers and satellites, the research and debate has re-opened. So what could cause them?

'First theories were circular winds, mini-cyclones or "dust-devils" (tiny tornadoes), says Montague Keen, scientific adviser to the Centre for Crop-Circle Studies for three years. 'A meteorologist devised a theory of "plasma vortices", spiralling winds of electrically-charged air.'

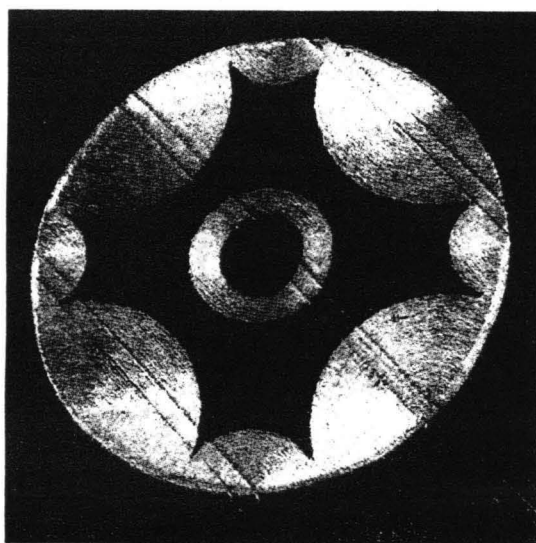
Ball lightning was another possibility — again circular, again involving powerful and little-understood forces of electricity.

'But straight lines do not come from natural phenomena,' says Keen. 'The patterns became increasingly complex and no natural phenomenon can change and evolve like that. There were too many for them all to be hoaxes.'

A U.S. physicist found evidence that corn inside the circles undergoes chemical and biological changes. It takes up more nitrates than corn outside, and microscopic holes form in the stem tissue. These



Mariborough, Wiltshire, July 11, 1997: Twelve circles, 100 yards across. Locals charged tourists £1.50 a visit



Morestead, Hampshire, 1997: A Maltese cross — an ancient symbol once worn by the Knights of Malta — 100ft across. Hundreds flocked to see it when it first appeared

by JULIAN CHAMPKIN

changes seem to argue for a sudden, sharp infusion of energy into the circle — far more than could come from men with planks or rollers.

'I was never quite convinced that his research was sufficiently rigorous,' says Mr Keen, 'but there were certainly electromagnetic changes within circles. Compasses behaved strangely; people felt either distress or euphoria inside the circles; and batteries went flat unaccountably often.'

'All this seems to point away from hoax towards something very strange, indeed. There is clearly some kind of intelligence behind them.'

And if it is not natural intelligence? 'Well, then you are thrown back to imagining some wholly unnatural intelligence.' As, for example, some form of psychic projection from human beings — dead or alive.

'Some shapes of the early Eighties seemed similar to shapes carved into rocks by Palaeolithic man,' said Michael Green, President of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies.

Were mental energies of past minds being channelled into cornfields?

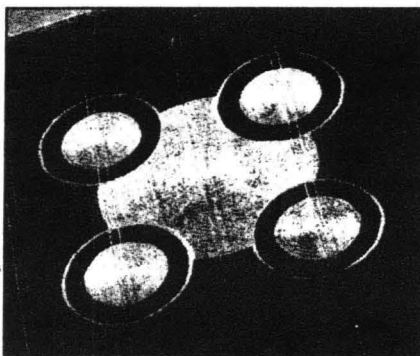
The first corn-circle for which evidence is claimed appeared in Hertfordshire in 1678. A pamphlet shows a woodcut of a circle mowing in a field of oats, and the devil mowing.

The pamphlet describes the sky over the field that night as being 'all of a flame'; so here, too, for those who are willing to believe, is a link with flying saucers and UFOs.

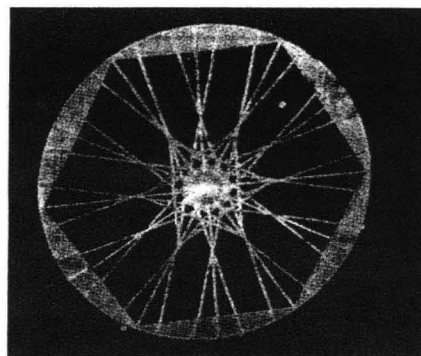
For, of course, there are the aliens as the final theory of crop circles. Michael Green does not believe that little green men are responsible — but he believes some kind of non-human intelligence is behind them.

He points to a succession of shapes, from simple to complex to very complex indeed. Can these be messages to be read by all of mankind?

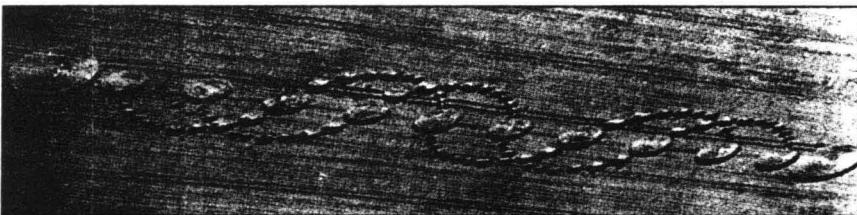
'These are written large on the landscape. They are there to be seen. There is a non-human intelligence behind them,' says Mr Green. 'That's what points one towards thinking the unthinkable.'



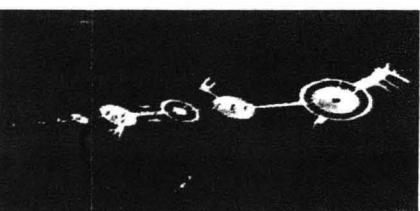
Headbourne Worthy, Hampshire, July 7, 1997: A similar but cruder crop circle design had appeared in the same field 19 years before



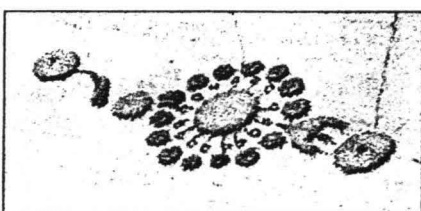
Cley Hill, Wiltshire, July 1997: Straight lines make up a hexagon — this is only the second time this shape has ever been seen in corn



Alton Barnes, Wiltshire, 1996: The 648ft chain of circles, linked in intricate mathematical beauty, are said to resemble the structure of DNA, the building block of life. If this is a fake it could only have been carried out by someone with scientific knowledge — or a very good textbook

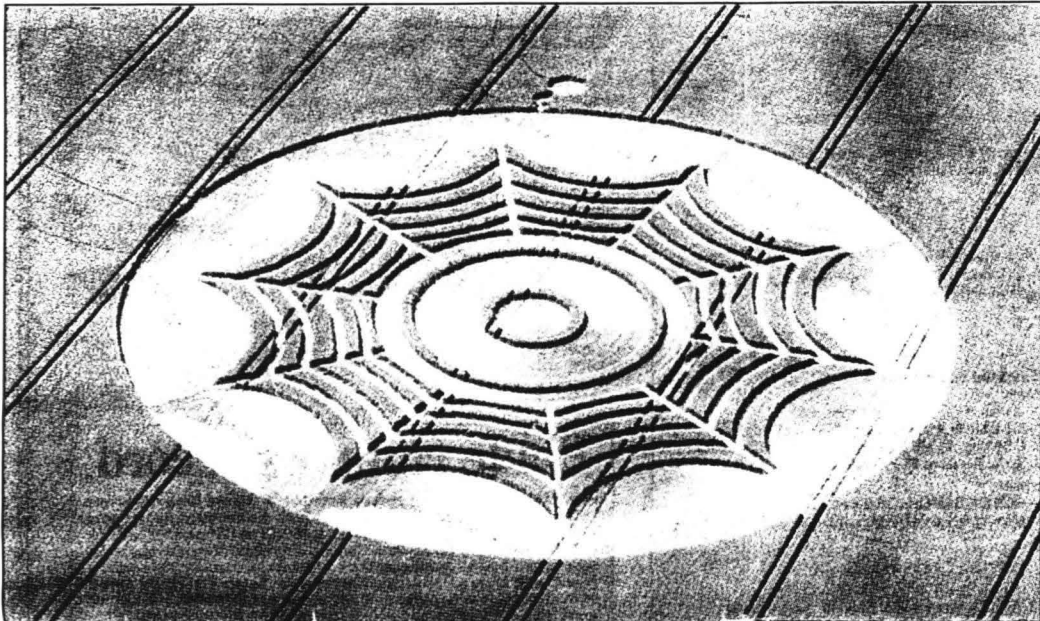


Alton Barnes, Wiltshire, July 11, 1990: The night this 555ft long design was created, there were 'strange accounts of humming sounds'

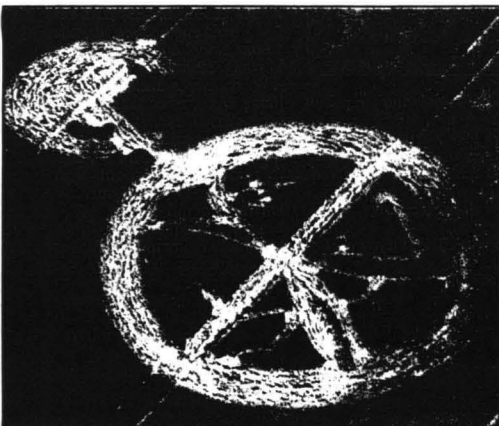


Milk Hill, Wiltshire, May 1999: Formed only days ago. 'We have evidence of a genuine phenomenon,' says Lucy Pringle, a leading corn circle researcher

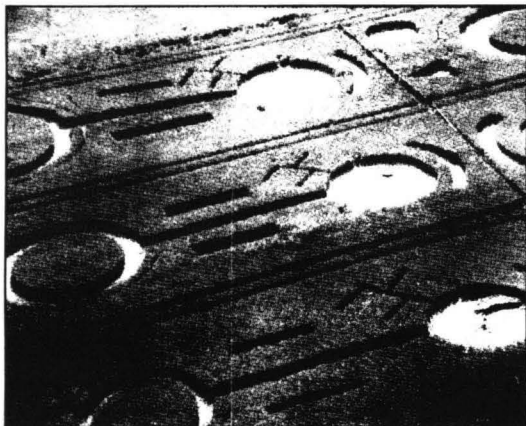
(continued on page 11)



Avebury, Wiltshire, August 11, 1994: What spider wove this web next to the ancient stone circle? This beautiful design has been nicknamed the Dreamcatcher. A hoaxer would have to be Houdini to leave no disturbance in the rest of the field



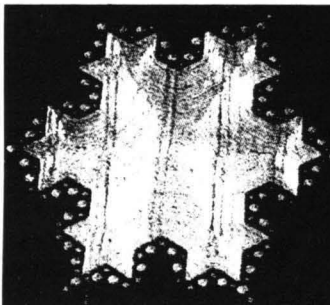
Malmesbury, Wiltshire, June 1998: Hamster wheel or sacred symbol? It was 300ft across but though the wheat had been flattened, not a single blade of it was broken



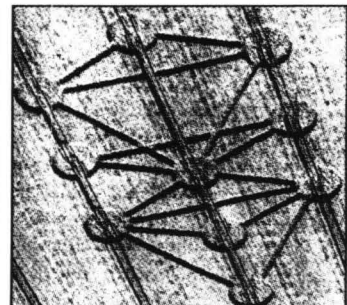
West Wycombe, Bucks, 1992: Definitely man-made. At a corn circle competition, entrants had to work overnight, without lights or noise. Tools included baseball bats and ladders



Squaring the circle: Close examination shows corn laid in perfect circles, with no stems broken. From ground level, the overall effect can be difficult to see making it even harder for hoaxers to create a design without mistakes



Silbury Hill, Wiltshire, July 1997: Summer snow appeared in a flake 200ft across. Local farmers charged sightseers to visit — some crop circles have made more than £5,000 for their lucky owners. A motive for hoaxers?



Barbury Castle, Wiltshire, May 4, 1997: The Kabbala tree of life, an occult symbol from Hebrew mythology — laid along the field's existing tractor lines. Fascinatingly, circle watchers had prayed for just such a symbol to appear

UFO adds to spooky spot's mystery

If you want mystery, then Blue Bell Hill is the place to go.

The imposing peak atop the North Downs which stands like a barrier wall between Chatham and Maidstone can lay claim to being Britain's leading spooky spot.

In recent years the area has given rise to a number of sightings of a female ghost and the mysterious Blue Bell Hill black panther.

Now it may also have become the hub for UFO activity.

As reported in *Kent Today* yesterday, a woman told police she was followed along the M2 for nearly 15 miles between Faversham and Blue Bell Hill by a mysterious flying object that hovered above her car late on Good Friday.

Valerie Springhall and her sister Pauline Davis were terrified when what they describe as a 50ft long jelly fish-shaped object appeared to keep them under observation.

"I was absolutely terrified," said Mrs Springhall, of St Dunstan's Drive, Gravesend. "I have never seen anything like it before in my life."

She said the object frightened her so much she was suffering chest pains through panic.

"I have never believed in things like this before, but three of us saw it," she said.

Mrs Springhead said she and her husband Mark had taken her sister and brother-in-law to Ramsgate for an evening out.

Just after passing the Faversham turn-off on the M2 at around 11.10pm, they overtook a lorry. "Then I saw what looked like a whirlwind cross the road from left to right and then back again," she said.

"I woke my sister to tell her, and then noticed it had got much bigger and was flying about 20ft off the ground to our left."

"It was around 50ft long, fluorescent white, and changing

Panther, ghost and now a 50ft jellyfish object. **Geoff Maynard reports**

shape from round to oval as it revolved. It tipped over slightly and we could see small fluorescent circles in the main body.

"It stayed with us until the Blue Bell Hill turning at Chatham, and then disappeared."

She insisted that nobody in the car had been drinking and when they got home they contacted the police.

Swale police said they had no explanation. No other drivers had reported anything unusual, but lights had been seen in sky over Maidstone the same evening. Police have no explanation and all the airfields in the area have said there were no flights around that time.

David Snowman, operations manager at Lydd airport, said: "It sounds as if it could only have been a helicopter but no one would fly that low close to a motorway."

Flights from Rochester, Manston and Headcorn stopped when it got dark and the Met office has confirmed there were no freak lightning storms.

The only possible explanation is that Army helicopters might have been conducting manoeuvres over the area.

Sean Tudor, writer of articles on Blue Bell Hill's female hitchhiker ghost, has previously espoused the theory that the mysterious happenings are associated with construction work. The Channel Tunnel Rail Link works currently taking place run right up to and beneath Blue Bell Hill.

Mr Tudor said: "I have been waiting for something strange to happen and there have been sightings of UFOs in the area before in 1977, I believe."

Those orbs are abnormal

Stunning photographs of unexplained lights floating through woodland outside New York have appeared online. UFO hunter Brian Williams claims to have over 15,000 digital pictures in his archive, and dozens are on show at www.orbsite.com.

These are not flying saucer snaps. Instead, these glowing balls of plasma, which Williams calls "orbs", are small and insubstantial. There are no aliens, no landings, no messages — just weird lights that drift through the branches at Wanaque, New Jersey.

The images range from the simple, such as plain blue and red balls blurring in a night sky, to more complex and beautiful images, such as the breathtaking effect of an orb tangled in the bare twigs of an aspen.

Williams describes several orb types, including "black holes", "arcs" and "red eyes",

Uri Geller's Weird Web



which not only look but behave differently. Some are hard to spot, some streak like comets across the sky. He is convinced they are signs of alien technology, perhaps windows through which extraterrestrials watch Earth.

My own hunch links the orbs with what para-psychologists call "luminous phenomena". Strange lights are one of the commonest by-products of spiritual agitation. Clouds of fire blazed over the crowds at revival meetings in 19th-century

Ireland, and preachers during the Welsh revival at the turn of this century were sometimes haloed by sparkles of light.

Floating balls of ethereal moonlight often materialise at seances, and many psychics see glowing bands of light around energetic and lively friends. My guess is Brian Williams is a natural psychic with an unusual gift for photographing the phenomena most people can only glimpse. His archive could prove essential evidence for paranormal physics.

UFO hovering above us on the motorway

A MOTORIST has told police she was followed along the M2 for nearly 15 miles by a mysterious flying object that hovered above her car.

The woman was with her husband and a friend who also saw the UFO which they reported when they arrived home at Gravesend.

The police said the woman driver, who has not been named, said the strange flying object followed them along the London-bound carriageway of the motorway from Faversham to Blue Bell Hill at Chatham where it disappeared.

The incident was said to have happened at about 11pm on Friday.

Police have so far been unable to find any explanation.

Police spokesman PC Dave Wisdom said the driver described the object as transparent with lights underneath

which followed the car about 20ft from the ground.

He said: "The woman said the object would rise, disappear and then reappear and it was swirling in the sky like the bottom of a jellyfish."

Officers investigating the incident said it had been established that none of the occupants of the car had been drinking.

Checks were made with other areas and Maidstone police had also received reports about lights in the sky that evening. But it appears these were probably laser beam searchlights being used to advertise a town centre pub.

"It seems unlikely that these lights could have been seen as far away as Faversham and at the moment we have no explanation for this sighting," said a police spokesman.

EYEWITNESS: MARCH 12 1999

TEN-YEAR-OLD Hailey Williamson (main picture), of Horton Street, Derby, reported the most recent Derbyshire sighting at 7.25pm while walking home from the shops on the junction with Osmaston Road.

"I was amazed. I have never seen anything like it in my whole life. At first I thought it was a star but it got bigger.

"It was like a big circle the size of the moon, with three little circles around it in the shape of a triangle - it looked like there could have been one big spaceship with three smaller things around it.

"My mum was waiting at the door for me when I got home and she said that she saw a plane going over, but I just couldn't take my eyes off the object and didn't even hear the plane."

Hailey's father, Neville, a quality inspector for a printing firm, said that he took her to the same spot 24 hours later to eliminate any other possibilities.

Mr Williamson said: "Hailey is quite bright and observant and, from what she told me, I do not believe that she has exaggerated any of the observation. Nor do I believe that she mistook something which was only a plane.

"Hailey has been left quite scared and disturbed by the sighting but has also shown a lot of interest and excitement about it.

"She is still nervous about going up to the shop on her own."

The triangular truth is out there...

BELPER NEWS, Derbyshire, England - April 7, 1999

Wedge-shape UFOs are spotted again near town

MORE sightings of a wedge-shaped UFO flying over the Belper-area have been reported.

One elderly couple saw the black object a few weeks ago but did not want to speak about their 'close encounter of the first kind'.

And Ripley mum-of-four Carole Jones (36) says she and her youngsters had a good look at the UFO last December - two days before Christmas.

She was travelling along the A38 when they spotted a bright ball of light hovering over the Pentrich area.

They had watched it for four minutes at around 10.45pm when it began flying towards their car and turned into a triangle.

Housewife Mrs Jones said: "The kids started to panic so I drove down the Ripley slip-road.

"I looked up and could see a perfect triangle with a red light at the front and green lights at the other corners."

A flying machine of a similar description was seen over the Belper area last month by at least five people.

That object also changed its shape - from diamond to triangle - and one observer was first attracted to a huge orange light.

● Have you seen any UFOs in the Belper area? If so, telephone the newsdesk on (01773) 820939.

IT'S a Derbyshire mystery which could be straight out of the X-Files.

A recent increase in the number of sightings of a mysterious "flying triangle" has caused a stir among stargazers.

Derby-based UFO expert Omar Fowler knows more than most about strange objects in the sky, but even he cannot explain why there has been a recent increase in sightings.

Mr Fowler (68) has been interested in UFO phenomena for more than 30 years, after seeing a silver ball in the sky while on a shopping trip in Guildford.

He founded the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena in 1967, and in 1990 the former aeronautical engineer moved to Derbyshire and set up the Phenomenon Research Association (PRA), at his Sinfon home.

For the last few years, the PRA has been involved in investigating the Flying Triangle, an object normally described as being far bigger than a jumbo jet with bright lights and shaped like a stealth bomber.

Mr Fowler has received a dozen eye-witness accounts of the Triangle this year alone from people in Derbyshire.

He said: "There has definitely been an increase of activity

by Phil Stubbs

reported in the area since the beginning of this year which has been reflected around the rest of the country.

"It is very difficult to give an explanation for the recent increase, especially the ones we get from places like Belper.

"Belper has no military installations or nuclear power stations which is what alien craft are normally interested in."

Mr Fowler believes that aliens have been carrying out systematic studies of our planet for hundreds of years.

He is convinced that Britain has secretly developed a triangular-shaped stealth aircraft far more advanced than the American version, which may account for some sightings.

But a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said: "The MoD is not developing a stealth bomber. The only interest in UFOs we have is to determine whether a sighting possesses a defence threat, and that is all."

The PRA holds regular monthly meetings at the Allenton & District Royal British Legion in Chellaston Road.

It discusses the latest evidence of alien activity from around the world and collects eye-witness accounts from people in Derbyshire which are sent to a central database for UFO research in Berlin.

The number of Flying Triangles

sightings this year has already reached nearly half of the total sightings for 1998.

But by far the largest number of reports received was between December 1994 and May 1995, when the PRA investigated 52 sightings from Matlock to Chaddesden.

Mr Fowler said that the PRA do not automatically accept all reports as genuine sightings.

He said: "We had about three incidents last year which turned out to be the new police helicopter with its search lights on.

"We have also had a number of planets, like Venus and Saturn, sighted this year which caused a few telephone calls."

A spokesman for Derbyshire Police explained the policy for dealing with UFO sightings.

He said: "We create an incident report on our computer, and usually send an officer to the scene to corroborate the report. We then ring the MoD."

Mr Fowler will be giving a talk entitled UFOs Past and Present at Friends Meeting House, St Helen's Street, Derby, on Wednesday April 7 at 7.30pm.

Admission costs £3 and £2 for concessions. For details call Jon Twigg on Derby 727359. Anyone who wants to report a UFO sighting, or would like further information on the Phenomenon Research Association in Derby should contact Mr Fowler on Derby 761464.

EYEWITNESS: MARCH 10 1999

HELEN Spencer-Smith, of Milford, was driving along the A6 through Duffield at 11pm when she saw a bright light in the sky ahead of her.

"The sky was cloudy and drizzly. The light seemed to be stationary to the left of the road.

"As I came through Duffield to the north side, I pulled into a bus pull-in and wound down my window. The light came nearer and I noticed a blue flashing light to the rear of the craft.

"As it flew over me, I saw very clearly a flat, triangular, black shape with equal sides, flying point first.

"It sped off across Duffield Bank."

EYEWITNESS: MARCH 10 1999

MELANIE Cunningham reportedly saw the flying triangle at 10.45pm while letting her cat out into the back garden of her Belper home.

"My attention was drawn to a big, bright orange light in the sky. I rushed upstairs to grab my binoculars for a closer look.

"Outside again, still viewing a bright orange 'ball', it started to move at a steady pace in a north to south direction.

"It appeared as a large, perfect, black triangle with an orange front light.

"Down one side I saw a row of red lights. It vanished behind some houses, having been flying unusually low, silently and steadily just above the roof tops."

Woman convinced by new sightings of UFOs

FALKIRK HERALD, Stirling, Scotland - May 22, 1999

A VIDEO enthusiast believes she has proof that unidentified flying objects exist.

Carol Brown could hardly believe her eyes when she spotted two bright orange lights in the sky near her home.

The 24-year-old microbiologist grabbed her video camera and filmed the mysterious objects high in the skies above the Braes.

Now a top UFO expert says he would like to study the startling footage.

Carol Wardlaw Place, Carronsore, told The Falkirk Herald: "I had gone into my bedroom and something caught my eye at the window.

"I looked out and saw two bright orange lights side by side

over towards the Braes area.

"One seemed to fade and disappear while the other went from side to side for five minutes before it disappeared as well."

Carol added: "A few minutes later, another two lights appeared in the same place. I ran to get the video camera and managed to catch them on tape.

"You need to see it to believe it. I've never seen anything like it. They stayed for five or ten minutes and then disappeared."

The experience has left Carol in no doubt about the existence of UFOs.

She said: "I believed there had to be something else in the universe apart from us, but I was a bit cynical. But I refuse to believe

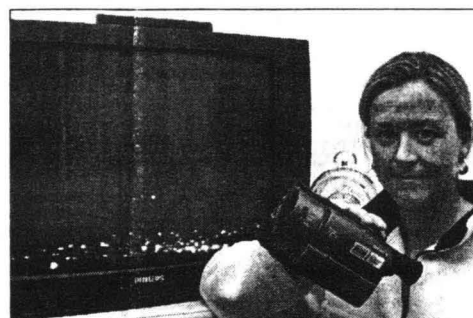
that what I saw was a helicopter or anything like that - I'm totally convinced it was a UFO."

The Falkirk area became a hotspot of UFO activity several years ago following a rash of sightings.

UFO expert Ron Halliday from the Scottish Earth Mysteries Research Group said yesterday (Wednesday): "If she has something on film then I'm obviously keen to see it. We've had quite a few sightings from that area, probably more than anywhere else, and a lot of people have captured strange things on film."

Mr Halliday, who works at Stirling University, can be contacted on (01786) 473171.

KEVIN SCHOFIELD



ON CAMERA: Carol Brown captured her sightings with her video
Picture: Euan Pitcaithly

Witness was frozen with fear

MY friend and co-author of my new book, Jon Downes, has a very apt saying for something that happened to me recently!

"There ain't no such thing as coincidence!" he often booms. Why does this piece of ultimate wisdom apply in my case? Please allow me to explain! As I was sitting down to enjoy my breakfast a while back, the postman delivered a very interesting letter.

After beginning to read the contents of this innocent-looking envelope, I was starting to feel a little uneasy. The writer of this letter, who has, in no uncertain terms, begged me to keep her identity a well-kept secret for fear that her family and employers will think her totally insane, swears that the story that I am about to relate is the absolute truth, and that the events that cold winter's evening at Woodbury Castle are retold truthfully.

She has kept this story a secret from everyone, including her close family, for three years, and has only now, after reading the article about my book, printed recently in *The Journal*, decided to tell someone about her terrifying night's adventure.

So, I have decided that since this is such an important story as regards local UFO records, I will report it here in my column. I must add that I cannot, and will not, however, ever reveal the good lady's name or any personal details about her, on this she has my word! I can only hope that you, dear reader, take my word for its reliability. Now for the story.

It is a clear, winter's night in November 1996, Mrs X was returning from visiting friends at Honiton, via the main road over Woodbury Common.

As she approached the castle she noticed a very bright light hovering just to her left, low down on the horizon. She remembers glancing down at her

Nigel Wright's Diary of the Paranormal



car clock, the time was just gone 11pm.

She was curious about the strange light, and decided to slow down to take a proper look at it. She pulled in at the car park to the left of the castle, by the trees. As the trees were obscuring her view, she got out of her car and walked to the left, to see the night sky properly. She looked up, and there, hovering at a fairly low level, roughly above Lyme Bay, she saw what she describes as an object "shaped roughly like an axe-head".

The object made no noise, which made her begin to be a bit worried about it, since up to then she had assumed the object to be a military helicopter of some kind since they are often seen over this part of the common.

This time, however, there was definitely NO noise whatsoever! It must be added that the night was perfectly calm and the stars were out, so any engine noise would have been heard from that distance away.

As she continued to watch the craft it came even lower in the sky and a clear blue beam of light emerged from the bottom of it and came to earth directly below it. At this point, our witness was very frightened and, perhaps very sensibly, decided to return to her car to continue her journey home.

However, as she was about to turn for her car, she noticed what appeared to be a figure, emerging from the beam of light below the craft. At this

point, she admits that her blood ran cold, and she was "frozen with sheer fear".

Somehow she broke from her state of panic and ran to her car. She continued her journey home travelling at a "little higher speed than usual". I can't say I'm really surprised about that fact, are you?

All investigators of the paranormal have always had to face the same kind of problems when it comes to this sort of report.

That is to say:

1) Is the witness telling the truth? Well, I have a sort of set of rules for this question, that is will they be looking for any sort of financial reward for the story?

The answer to this question is this particular case is most definitely NO. The lady concerned has made it very clear to me, during two phone conversations, that she wishes never to reveal her identity, or receive any payment for this story. So that rules that one out.

2) Are there any other witnesses to the event? I cannot really say about this incident. Since I have never heard about this particular sighting before, I must conclude that there are not.

Maybe there is someone out there who also witnessed this. If this is the case, PLEASE come forward and help to establish just what did occur on that cold, winter night three years ago.

May I, through this column, appeal to anyone else who may have seen any other weird objects over the Woodbury Common area since this time to come forward with any other stories of sightings.

You can write to me, care of *The Journal*, and I promise absolute discretion.

The more that we discover, the better will become the understanding of just what is happening out, and up there! Bye for now.

STAR, Doncaster, England - April 15, 1999

Mum's UFO encounters

EARLY one summer morning, Stainforth mum Debbie Scorer walked out of her house to find a giant triangle hovering above her.

To this day she does not know what the object was, but it is the first of three weird sightings Debbie has discussed with UFO researchers.

Debbie, of Fifth Square, went out into her garden last August after thinking she had heard the sound of a helicopter.

When she went outside she saw the huge shape above her home with moving lights along the sides. The whole thing was slowly moving just above the rooftops, she claims.

It was one of three events last summer she has reported to Paul Westwood, an investigator with the International UFO Research Network.

She also reported a second

Experts probe sightings

experience with her whole family as they drove through Stainforth where she, boyfriend Tony Curran and children Jamie Lee and Thomas saw a light in the sky.

And then researchers were with her watching the skies when what Mr Westwood described as a possible UFO was spotted in the skies above RAF Finningley.

Debbie said: "The first object, the triangle over the house, looked like a stealth bomber but made no sound and moved too slowly.

"I wasn't scared - just fascinated. There was also a sul-

phur smell. It was about 1.30am. I spoke to my sister about it later and she had some numbers for UFO groups and I phoned one to report it."

She said the second sighting came when the family were driving through the village. Her daughter described it as a big orange with the appearance of segment shapes.

They first sighted it over houses and followed it until they reached the end of Stainforth's Kingsway, where it moved off towards Dunscroft Broadway.

Investigator Mr Westwood said he was unable to find an explanation and was satisfied the stories tied up with each other.

He said: "They seem like honest and genuine people who sincerely believe what they have seen."

■ Anyone who thinks they have seen a UFO can contact IUFORN on 01977 609068.

CHAD, Mansfield, England - April 28, 1999

Did you see this spectacular UFO?

I WOULD be interested to hear from any readers who were lucky enough to see the spectacular UFO hovering silently over the Oak Tree Lane Estate in Mansfield on Wednesday 7th April at approximately 11.10pm.

This giant oval object glowed a bright orange and had numerous white circular 'portholes' around its centre. It slowly descended below an approaching aircraft heading towards East Midlands Airport, then shot off towards Rainworth at about 11.25pm at tremendous speed.

I was relieved to hear on Radio Trent it had been seen that night over many areas of Lincolnshire and Derbyshire and hovered over Southwell and Newark before being spotted over Nottingham City centre after midnight.

I was hoping for a newspaper or TV report, but as usual nobody seems interested in what to me is the most astounding phenomenon.

UFOs have been reported by millions of people, to be merely dismissed by sceptics as hallucination, mass hysteria, a mystical yearning of the human psyche, or a rebellion against impersonal science.

All I can say is, if you are out walking your dog at night look to the sky because, believe me, these things are real.

STEVEN TODD.

63 Mapleton Drive, Mansfield.

Sky's the limit for Gloria

The region's leading UFO magazine has a new editor at a time when public interest in strange phenomena has never been greater. **Bill Wilson reports.**

GLORIA Dixon has been monitoring unexplained flying objects and other strange occurrences for more than 30 years, but you compare her to *The X-Files*' investigator Scully at your peril.

"I hate it", she says. "Whenever there is something on television or in a paper about UFOs they always mention *The X-Files*. I do have a problem with that."

"Scully and Mulder are never short of cash or facilities, but we are not funded, carry out research at our own expense, and pay to produce our own reports and magazines."

The Newcastle mother-of-one has recently taken over the editorship of *Strange Daze* magazine, a 44-page mix of esoteric research which describes itself as "a balanced and objective magazine in a sometimes very unbalanced subject matter".

Gloria, who combines her editorship with the post as director of investigations for the British UFO Research Association (Bufora), produces the quarterly A4 publication on her computer at home in Wideopen.

The past few years have seen a flood of series like *The X-Files*, *Star Trek*, *Dark Skies*, and *Millennium* and films like *Men In Black* and *Independence Day*, which have fuelled the public's fascination and sometimes over-active imaginations.

Unfortunately, dedicated researchers and investigators like Gloria are lumped together too easily in the public consciousness with "alien believers" or conspiracy freaks who use the Internet to swap lurid tales of extra-terrestrial races living under American deserts.

An exasperated Gloria says: "Unfortunately, more and more nonsense and lack of logic is developing around this subject and the UFO community at large, which is getting us all precisely nowhere in our understanding of the issues involved with the UFO mystery."

"The UFO pot is being filled with anomalous phenomena - all being packaged to reinforce belief systems which are based on tales of abductions and aliens."

She hopes to bring a dose of reality to such inexplicable hokum during her time at the helm of the magazine, which started life in Newcastle in the mid-1990s.

"I want *Strange Daze* to be looking at specific areas in depth, and hope to invite new writers and researchers into exploring and addressing some of the important issues."

"I hope to publish articles of a good academic standard which will be miles away from *The X-Files* end of the scene. We are really writing on behalf



Picture: Simon Greener

Investigator: Gloria Dixon, the new editor of Newcastle-based UFO magazine *Strange Daze*.

of people who are looking at different reasons for unexplained phenomena - that is, reasons other than the one of aliens arriving.

"The explanations may involve science, military hardware, seismic activity, or lie within ourselves on another plane of human consciousness we are currently unaware of."

As well as scientific explanations, Gloria also believes UFOlogy covers a range of psychic mysteries, including ghosts, visions, near-death experiences, time warps, and all manner of remarkable and inexplicable phenomena.

In her opinion, "close encounter" experiences have as much to do with the paranormal field of folklore and mysticism as they do with extra-terrestrial visitations.

The current edition of *Strange Daze*, No.17, and her first at the editor's helm, certainly reflects this broad-minded approach, with articles about Russia's own Roswell event, sleep-induced states of being, and manmade flying saucers.

Gloria first became interested in the UFO phenomena when she was in her early teens.

Her father was an aeronautics scientist who specialised in parachute systems and worked on the US space programme.

She spent 12 years in the United States when the NASA space programme was at its height and the whole country was alive with a renewed pioneer spirit.

This excitement in America about

outer space led Gloria to read the report *Project Blue Book*, set up by the US government to investigate UFOs, which was wound up in 1969.

"When I was in America I also heard interesting stories about space sightings which increased my interest."

"Ten years ago I joined Bufora and got involved in research for them, and then progressed to become director of investigations."

In that role she frequently delves into case studies of reported sightings across the country, from the north of Scotland to the south of England. The delta shape seen over Belgium in the early-1990s is still being seen over this country.

About 8pc of reports to Bufora last year involved black triangular objects seen hovering silently in the sky, at times very low, and often with unusual navigation lights.

These reports came in from many areas of the UK including Scotland, the North-West, the South-West and Berkshire.

"We had an awful lot of reports of this type of triangle from all over the country."

"There is no doubt that there are a percentage of reports where testing of

new military prototype aircraft are taking place."

"The military doesn't want people sticking noses into their research too much, and are very glad of 'weirdo' type reports of aliens and extra-terrestrial craft as they deflect attention from what they are doing."

"It is our job to be able to address the nature of baffling and mysterious phenomena, but isolate the real mysteries from those that can be explained through research and science."

Her clear thinking, articulate and rational approach is miles away from the image of a zealot obsessively waiting for the little "greys" of popular folklore to come and save mankind.

She says: "Ninety five per cent of all UFO sighting reports can be explained. There is no doubt at all that the largest culprit for these sightings are aircraft, both military and civilian, observed at unusual angles and distances sometimes with extreme atmospheric conditions, which can create distortion for the viewer."

"But if a case has been reported a long time after the sighting, it can be difficult to check the specific agencies, such as airports."

"And there is also a problem with

memory retrieval being accurate a long time after an event. The various agencies such as airports, military bases, police, coastguard, who could help identify the sighting are often unhelpful or disinterested about responding to our inquiries."

"They have had more correspondence and phone calls from 'UFO investigators' over the last couple of years than they are interested in dealing with, and in some cases view us as cranks - which is totally understandable."

She adds: "In many ways UFO is a very unfortunate term, and has led to much misinterpretation."

"The term represents many things to many people, but has become almost totally identifiable with the culture of alien abduction."

"A recent magazine poll found more than half of us believe there is intelligent life on other worlds."

"Aliens and UFOs have become part of today's new belief-system as religion continues to wane, and we suffer end-of-an-era angst as year 2000 approaches."

"As we turn away from God, people are looking to the skies to find something else to believe in to give some sort of spiritual meaning to their lives."

"The aliens of today are the angels and demons of yesteryear."

● *A Strange Daze* subscription (four issues) costs £8. Write to The Editor, *Strange Daze*, Unit 2A, East Cheap, Heaton, Newcastle, NE6 5UA. Cheques payable to Gloria Dixon.

Gloria Dixon

'There is no doubt that there are a percentage of reports where testing of new military prototype aircraft are taking place.'

EVENING LEADER, Wrexham, England - May 17, 1999

IS ANYONE OUT THERE?

Appeal over 'lights' incident

By DAN EVANS

FLICKERING lights? Mysterious flashes in the sky? Did you see anything unusual over Llangollen one evening last month?

The *Evening Leader* has been asked to appeal for witnesses to some alleged strange aerial happenings

above Pengwern, Llangollen, on March 4 at 7.45pm.

Balls of electric blue light were apparently spotted by locals who claim the entire Pengwern valley was lit up in an incident now being probed by UFO experts.

Ufologist Ron Lalek of Broughton is investigating the case. He said: "I would be very grateful if further witnesses could come forward and equally

grateful if someone could offer a reasonable explanation."

The witnesses were apparently alerted to the odd happenings when interference appeared on their television sets as they watched in their home early that evening.

The flickering repeated itself and, on seeing it, they rushed to a window from where they claim to have seen the mysterious illuminations.

Mr Lalek described how the

X-Files-style drama unfolded: "At about 9.15pm the first witness drove up Gwernant Road to the apparent site of the ball of light, which from below seemed well to the right of two radio masts on the hill."

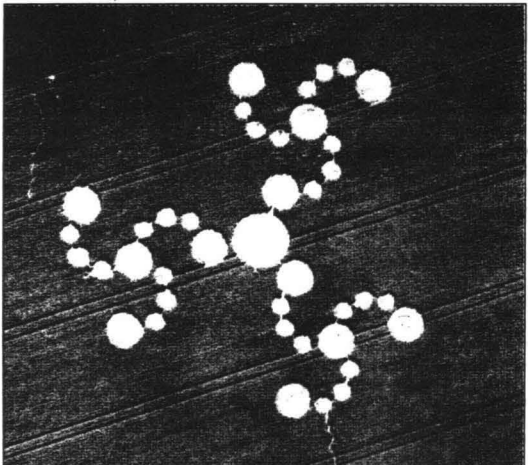
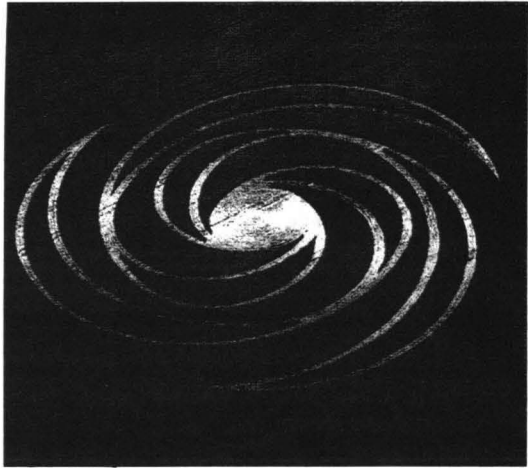
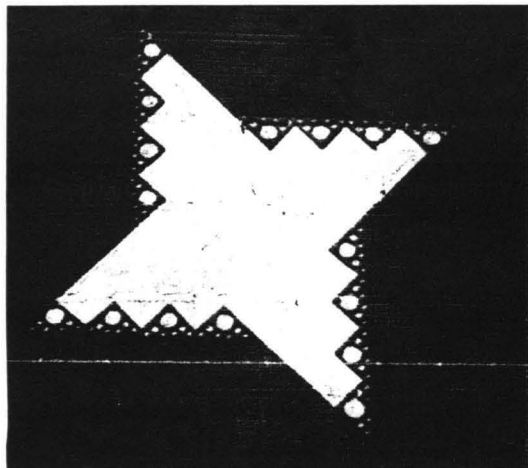
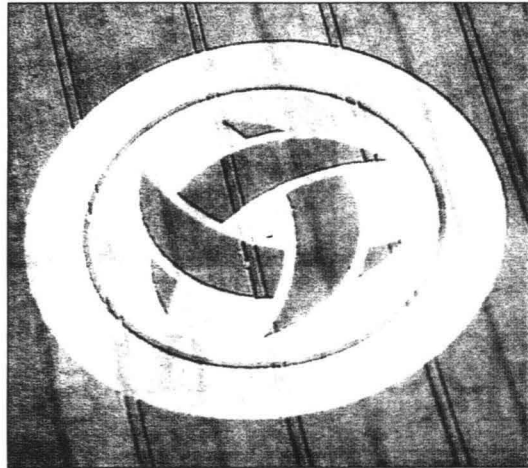
"They searched the area for half an hour and saw three coloured sparks and many white lights which shot into the air over a hedge just 10m in front of them. This happened twice."

The witnesses speculated that it could not have been an electrical arcing due to the masts or ball lightning and went home from where they continued to see white flashes in the field until 10.14pm.

Police in Llangollen say they received no reports of the incident. The Ministry of Defence were unavailable for comment.

Anyone with information can contact Mr Lalek on 01244 537058.

the BIG feature



Crop circles found this week in Hampshire by Colin Andrews

Going round in circles

IN the dead of night, under the cloak of darkness Doug Bowers and his partner in crime Dave Chorley sneaked through a gate into a Hampshire farmer's carefully maintained field of wheat and put their elaborate plan into action.

With just a couple of planks of wood, a few metal chains and a carefully orchestrated mathematical plan they set about trying to claim the glory of the crop circle phenomena for themselves. Trampling the crop down, in sweeping circles, some 400ft across, they left their artistic mark and crept away without even stirring the wildlife.

The craze of the crop circle mysteries has swept the world. From the paddy fields of China to the American tobacco plantations every nation has reported an alarming rise in crops being elaborately "decorated" with symbols and patterns. And right at the height of the frenzy, when the world began to panic and look to the sky for an answer, Southampton pensioners Doug and Dave stepped forward and held up their hands. "It was us," they claimed. "We're responsible not the aliens". The pair claimed they had been responsible for crop circles across the country and said at first they considered the circles a joke but continued in glee after realising their prank had turned into an international obsession sparking massive research projects and government intervention.

From the day of their confession the world, which had been glued to TV screens and newspaper pictures revealing the next more elaborate design, switched off. The crop circles were dismissed as pranks by "cereal" hoaxers who were costing farmers their livelihoods and it was only a small few who were still looking into space for the truth. For the majority Doug and Dave's confession was feasible and a satisfactory answer to this puzzling conundrum. But to former Hampshire engineer Colin Andrews, 53, and many like him, dismissing the whole phenomena as a hoax was not an option. Colin is a highly intelligent, incredibly straight talking man who isn't the usual crackpot you find following such a cause.

Sitting at a pub table in the chocolate-box village of Wherwell, north Hampshire, where he is staying while over from his new home in Connecticut, USA, Colin talks sensibly and matter-of-factly about the subject. He doesn't blind me with science, trying to lose me at every possible turn but tells it as it is. He is conscious of seeming a little "off beat and unstable" but to me this is a middle-aged man with an inquisitive mind who is just searching for an answer to what, on the surface, seems a sensible, straightforward question.

Colin believes in his heart that, although some 80 per cent are definite hoaxes, a small, yet increasing number, are the work of some external force

They've all been dismissed as intricate hoaxes created in farmers' fields causing thousands of pounds worth of damage. But one Hampshire man's 16 years of research has dispelled some of the myths and revealed a more scientific explanation for a small minority of these crop circle conundrums. Feature Writer of the Year RACHEL LAMB reports.



and it is this percentage he wants to understand.

CROP circles have cost Colin Andrews dearly. His inquisitive desire to unravel the truth has seen him throw away a 22-year marriage, an established career in management with Test Valley Borough Council and, very nearly, his relationship with his only daughter Mandy.

It all began following a chance sight-

that Colin's life was to change forever. From that day on his passion, his obsession, his whole life would centre on a phenomenon that even the sceptics couldn't totally explain. He laid his reputation on the line and travelled the four corners of the globe to find an answer.

"I look on what I gave up as a big sacrifice but I was torn between the woman I loved and a career I'd worked hard for and the desire to find an explanation to what I'd seen in the field."

"At that time I didn't know what they were. We didn't even have a name for them then. But I knew they were special - intriguing even."

"The more I investigated and researched the more the world's eye looked to me as a source of information. My engineering background gave me the benefit of looking on the subject with more of a scientific eye. And as the years rolled on and more of these crop circles began springing up in fields around the Hampshire and Wiltshire area I was called on increasingly to offer explanations and to try to decipher whether they were a product of a human prank or extra-terrestrial intervention."

"The more high profile the subject became (and in the late 80s and early 90s you couldn't open a paper or turn on the telly without seeing one) the more I, and in turn my whole family, were catapulted into the media limelight."

"We had TV crews with tripods and lights camping on our lawn day after day and it was a lot to handle. For my wife it was a hard cross to bear. She wasn't passionate as I was about the subject yet day in day out she was forced to deal with the media invading her life. In the end she gave me an ultimatum: her or crop circles."

"I look back now and feel guilty and do regret I threw away 22 years but I have a new life now and I met my new wife when I was lecturing in the States on the subject. We have a common interest in crop circle phenomena. I know my past was a lot to sacrifice but I have dedicated 16 years to finding an answer to something, given up my life, spent all my own money because I had this passion, this desire to find an answer and it will all seem a waste if I'd have just given up and gone back to engineering."

"But despite all my hard efforts, years of intensive research and the minds of skilled scientists across the world we are still, if I am honest, not much closer to the truth than we were back then. - but there's one thing I am certain of."



HOAXER: Doug Bowers

ing of an unusual design in a field north of Winchester in 1983.

"I was on my way to a business meeting and was a little pre-occupied. I, by some chance, just happened to glance to the side and I spotted this pattern in the crop. I pulled over to have a look and was fascinated by what I saw," he said.

"I was compelled to look closer. It was a giant circle about 500ft across with four satellite circles branching from it. From where I was standing I couldn't see any linkage lines which would have indicated that someone had physically designed it. I'd forgotten about the business meeting and went down for a closer look. The design was immense and there was nothing, no sign of any tracks or human intervention. I couldn't explain it but I wanted to know what caused it, I needed to know."

"I went on to my meeting and returned later to talk to the farmer and other relevant authorities to try to decipher exactly where this had come from. No-one could give me an answer. So I decided to look into the matter myself."

It was from this split-second glance

(continued on page 16)



INVESTIGATING: Colin Andrews in the centre of a crop circle found on Thursday near Andover

THE Doug and Dave hoax claim has satisfied the majority. When a crop circle appears now in a farmer's field people tend to dismiss it as a prank. Years on and Doug Bower is still fuelling that argument, making TV programmes with the BBC walking them through how to make a crop circle from scratch.

Doug is now 74 and is sticking by his story. He says he doesn't care what people believe despite his claims that he and partner Dave Chorley, who moved to Australia, had been making crop circles for 15 years and fooling the masses being rubbished by experts and scientists, including Colin Andrews. Many didn't question the pair's confession. Even the military, it seems, wanted the world to believe their story. In fact, some of the crop circles, including one made during the biggest crop circle observation Operation Blackbird, were made with military precision. With a cynical eye I would perhaps say the military were pushing home the hoax theory to stop widespread panic. But experts wanted to know how, if the pair were responsible, they could have made a 400ft crop circle in Bishop's Waltham, in the dead of night without anyone seeing and that same night make the same size crop circle 100 miles away in another farmer's field.

"Crop circles were appearing, and still are, faster than we could count. It wasn't physically possible for two men to complete such an intricate task in the time it took a farmer to leave his field at night and return the next morning. We are talking a period of only six or so hours, then doing the same in a field on the other side of another county - practically impossible," said Colin.

"We can say categorically today that crop circles are 80 per cent hoaxes with artists from London and mathematicians trying their hand but two men in the early Eighties and Nineties couldn't have physically accomplished the number that were appear-

ing. Even before the media took hold of the phenomenon crop circles were appearing everywhere. It was only when national interest was sparked in the press that more hoaxers got on the bandwagon. Up until then I'm positive Doug and Dave weren't the only factor responsible.

"You have to remember crop circles have been sighted for years. In fact the earliest reports go back to the 1600s. Obviously there were no photographs but the descriptions were very similar to what we are still seeing today.

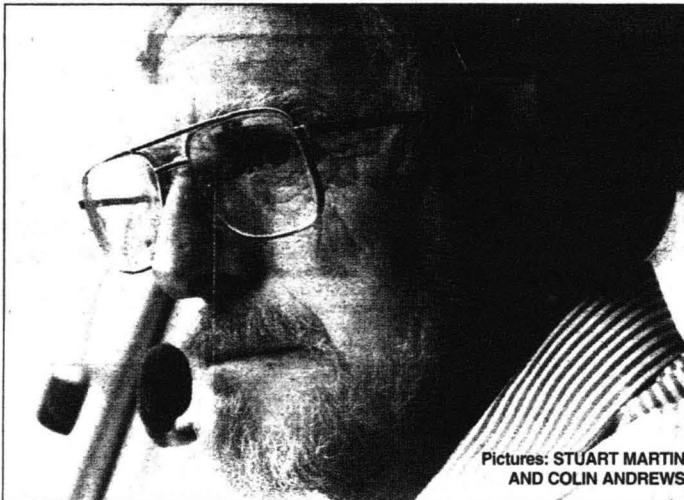
"1975 is the earliest we can date back to with photographic evidence and in these ones we can see the trademark sphere with satellite spheres and no linking lines.

"I'm not here to tell you aliens are responsible or UFO craft, I want to find the truth. And the truth is that there are 20 per cent of the 100,000s of crop circles that have similar anomalies which I, and many more intelligent people than me around the world, believe could not be attributed to humans.

"Firstly the sweeping and flattening of the crop. When a shaft of wheat is trampled down by a force like wood or a human foot the stem will crease and bend into position. What we have discovered, in those crop circles we considered not to be man-made, is that the wheat, corn, oil seed rape, in fact whatever the crop, looks almost like it has been steamed into that position, swept round in the circles or hexagons without being bent, creased or broken. Also the soil underneath the design tends not to have been powdered, or compressed as it would have been if any weight had been put on it, like say from the weight of a human. The soil seems untouched.

"There are many other scientific facts which point to non-human intervention, including a recent discovery of which we are very excited, and that is that the earth's magnetic field is distorted around the sites where a crop circle is or has been.

"This is an amazing discovery and



Pictures: STUART MARTIN AND COLIN ANDREWS

BIRD'S EYE VIEW: Colin keeps an eye out for circles from his plane

we are still undertaking tests to establish how far this goes to prove anything. A magnetometer placed in the centre of the sites gives a very clear indication of a distortion in the earth's magnetic field and this is our main area of concentration at the moment.

"What is also interesting is that crop circles of the non-hoax variety seem to appear very close to key archaeological sites like at Stonehenge Cheesefoot Head and Bishop's Waltham. Whether this has a direct significance or not is being researched as we speak as are many other areas of possibility.

"In the hoaxes there are human errors which are visible, in the other 20 per cent the circles are perfection. Now whether the lights and moving steel spheres over these sights which have been spotted by many a sky watcher are real is still a mystery.

"I could go into all the scientific details of it all but it is technical even in its simplest form. We are making more progress than we have done and it is all thanks to an American oil tycoon who is putting his money behind my convictions."

FORMER congressman Laurence Rockefeller, 89, is well known in America for his generosity to cancer and research charities as for years he has ploughed money into local hospitals and aid agencies. But in a surprise move last year the brother of the late vice-president Nelson Rockefeller expressed a fascination with the work Colin Andrews was doing with crop circles and sent his agent to chat to him about possible research projects and costings of such plans.

"I'd been approached by so many people before and had wasted my time costing things up because no-one ever came back with any cash.

"Up until last year everything I'd done in this field I'd used the royalties from my first book and my own cash to fund. But when I was approached by Mr Rockefeller's staff

I obliged with the costings and low and behold a letter came back confirming his full financial support for all, bar one, of my seven projects. I was staggered. It meant that I could really throw everything into trying to find an answer to this now age-old question.

"People - sceptics should I say - accuse me of dragging out the research because it is in my best interests, making something of nothing because I have given up everything and feel I should continue. But that is wholly untrue. Nobody more than me wants to draw a line under the last 16 years and one way or another move on. If, as the sceptics believe, it is all hoax and I can't prove otherwise then I will only be too happy to hold my hands up and admit defeat but at the moment the research that is being done with the Rockefeller money is unearthing new and important information which I think will please Mr Rockefeller and hopefully enable us to draw closer to a conclusion.

"After all this time, effort and money I do feel a little bit of a failure in the fact that I still have no real answers to explain what I saw on that hill in 1983 or the hundreds I am flying over as part of this project.

"I want to give myself another year to try to get to the bottom of whether crop circles are a result of extra-terrestrial forces, the weather, the earth's magnetic field or plain and simply human intervention.

"If at the end of this I am still no closer I will call it a day and let the younger scientists from somewhere like the States, where I am based now in Connecticut, or elsewhere round the world to take centre stage.

"I have a career to go back to and a loving wife and family. I can't say I won't still be interested. You can't give up all this and then just walk away. Whatever force we are dealing with here it is of a higher intelligence in my opinion. I hope that before I call it quits and while Mr Rockefeller is still funding the programme we can finally answer one of life's most puzzling questions - then finally my life can return to normal."



The town of Quillacas in Bolivia is the site of the legendary city of Atlantis, says British explorer Jim Allen, noting that the plain where it is situated was once covered by lakes and inland seas.

CR: G. Duplantier

SKAMANIA CO. PIONEER, Stevenson, WA - Sept. 8, 1999

Eye of the storm...

By Joanna Grammon

People all over the world are familiar with Bigfoot, our elusive hominid. But few know of the "little people," their diminutive counterparts.

"Forgotten Tribes," a 1991 book by Donald Hines, tells oral tales of the mid-Columbia tribes, including the local Cascades Tribe. Hines documents little people stories from the Umatillas to the Cascades.

Called Pah-ho-ho-Klah or Te-chummah, they reportedly lived high in the mountains, in caves or underground lava tubes. They were known to call out or whistle to people, making them lost in the fog and rain at night, taking them further from their path or luring them to fall from a cliff to their death.

The following story retold by Hines was first recounted in 1927 by the widow of a Umatilla warrior. Her husband had been hunting deer with his two brothers in the Blue Mountains when he said he encountered an old man, not much larger than a baby. The man was standing on top of a log dressed in spotted fawnskin, carrying a little bow and arrows.

Thinking the small man was cold and tired, the hunter wrapped him in a blanket and put the little person behind him on the saddle. In a short while, the hunter came upon his brothers, and they talked over whether they should take him back to their village with them. They continued on, but shortly after that, the dwarf simply disappeared.

A Warm Springs man, Ah-nah-chu Pick-wah-pah, which means "Behind the Rock," described his encounter with a little person to Lucullus McWhorter, who collected legends and folklore from 1903 until his death in 1944, now part of the Washington State University collection.

The Warm Springs (Tenino) man described becoming lost in the fog and rain while hunting. After setting up camp and eating some roasted meat from a deer he had killed, he heard the little people calling like birds as it got dark. "I did not move, did not make any noise," he told the ethnographer.

"If I answered the calls, I would go crazy, be lost five days and five nights. It would rain and be foggy five days and five nights." He stoked the fire and kept guard all night. The next night, he slept, then awoke to find a Pah-ho-ho Klah dressed in summer buckskin clothing sitting by the campfire, straightening an arrow. He was not afraid, but went back to sleep.

At dawn, he heard little people's voices retreating in the trees, and as the sun came up, the weather cleared. He was no longer lost, and carried his deer into camp within three hours.

Like Bigfoot, the little people supposedly left footprints, albeit tiny ones. They were also known as "stick Indians." If you've read "River Song," a Columbia River-based novel by Craig Lesley, you know a pivotal scene involves a "stick Indian" whistling in the fog at night in the cliffs along the river.

I went to junior high and high school, all but my senior year, at Wapato on the Yakama Reservation. A classmate told our class about the little people at the behest of a favorite teacher, Mr. Giovannini, who could speak some Yakama.

He told us when the Yakamas went huckleberrying or camping in the mountains, they warned their children not to wander too far away, because the little people might get them.

Atlantis found in Bolivia, researcher claims

Cites 50 similarities between town and Plato's lost city

BY CARLOS QUIROGA

LA PAZ, BOLIVIA • The legendary lost continent of Atlantis, which was thought to be buried in a torrent of water, may sit 3,600 metres above sea level in Bolivia, a British explorer said yesterday.

"It is time to officially declare to Bolivia and the world that Bolivia is where the legendary city most probably existed out of any other possible site in the world," Jim Allen told a news conference.

Mr. Allen, a former Royal Air Force photographic interpreter and author of *Atlantis: the Andes Solution*, has devoted the last 20 years of his life to proving his theory.

Mr. Allen believes that Quillacas, a town of 1,000 people located 1,300 kilometres south of the capital city La Paz, was the centre of the lost continent.

The town is in a volcanic area and its buildings are constructed with red and black rock in line with the description of Atlantis

penned by Greek philosopher Plato in the fourth century BC, Mr. Allen said.

The Bolivian altiplano — flooded by heavy rains tens of thousands of years ago — has at least 50 characteristics that coincide with Plato's tale, Mr. Allen said. Perhaps the most important is the remains of an enormous channel, 180 metres wide, that matches Plato's description of Atlantis' irrigation canal.

The Greek sage also said the walls of the fabled city were plated in gold, silver, bronze, tin and "orichalcum," a natural alloy of gold and copper found only in the Andes. Defenders of Mr. Allen's theory note all those metals are found close to Lake Poopo near La Paz.

Plato, who wrote of the demise of the splendid civilization, depicted Atlantis as a series of islands, with one dwarfing the others in size.

"The whole region rose sheer out of the sea to a great height, but the part about the city was all smooth plain, enclosing it round about and being itself encircled by mountains that stretched as far as the sea," the philosopher wrote.

Jose Luis Paredes, a Bolivian congressman, and geologist Car-



DAVID MERCADO / REUTERS

Jim Allen

los Aliaga hailed Mr. Allen's announcement as "transcending international borders."

The altiplano takes up 10% of Bolivia and is the largest plain in the world. It is flanked by the Andes mountains, which to the west extend almost to the Pacific Ocean.

The plateau was flooded periodically by heavy rains and covered by an inland sea between 25,000 and 40,000 years ago. The receding waters left behind two enormous lakes, Poopo and Titicaca.

"South Americans shouldn't call themselves South Americans, but rather Atlantians," Mr. Allen said.

Reuters

Shroud dated to before 8th century

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — A new analysis of pollen grains and plant images on the Shroud of Turin places its origin to Jerusalem before the eighth century.

The study gives a boost to those who believe the shroud is the burial cloth of Jesus and refutes a 1988 examination by scientists that concluded the shroud was made between 1260 and 1390.

"We have identified by images and by pollen grains species on the shroud restricted to the vicinity of Jerusalem," botany professor Avinoam Danin of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem said Monday.

The shroud contains pollen

grains and the image of a crucified man, as well as faint images of plants.

Analysis of the floral images, and a separate analysis of the pollen grains by another botanist, Uri Baruch, identified a combination of plant species that could be found only in March and April in the region of Jerusalem.

Danin identified a high density of pollen of the tumbleweed *Gundelia tournefortii*. The analysis also found the bean caper (*Zygophyllum dumosum*). The two species coexist in a limited area.

Two pollen grains of the species were also found on the Sudarium of Oviedo, believed to be the burial face cloth of Jesus.

Danin, who has done extensive study on plants in Jerusalem, said the pollen grains are native to the Gaza Strip.

CR: J. & L. Nicholson

Arguing the

BIG case

For Sasquatch believers
there's no turning back

By D. PARVAZ
PI REPORTER

VANCOUVER, B.C. — For those of you who thought Sasquatch fever ended with "Harry and the Hendersons" — well, you're wrong. There's still a great deal of interest in finding one of those creatures and making the myth a reality.

The third annual International Sasquatch Symposium that ends today — or rather just the fact that there is such an event, let alone that it's annual, international and five days long — may convince you.

And as long as the creature's existence remains an unanswered question, there are those willing to take a shot at answering it.

Once you stop rolling your eyes at what might initially appear to be an auditorium filled with nuts, some of the stuff actually starts to make sense. So let's start asking some questions, like what, exactly, is a Sasquatch and who the heck are these 200-or-so people who believe it exists?

The myth: The Sasquatch has been part of the mythology of just about every culture. Among them: Yeti in Tibet, Yowie Man in Australia and, of course, the Northwest's Sasquatch.

Joseph Page, a First Nations elder and storyteller from Mission, B.C., says "Sasquatch" is the Chehalis band's word for "Crazy Man of the Forest." The Chehalis call the Sasquatch crazy because of his solitary ways, not because they think there's a lunatic roaming the woods. In fact, they believe the creatures are somewhat spiritual and help tribal members when necessary.

In a dedication ceremony, Page gave some background. "It was the Sasquatch that taught our people how to build our long house," he says. He follows his talk with a prayer that refers to the Sasquatch as "our brother," and asks for his wisdom.

Everyone in the room stands during the prayer, apparently needing all the help they can get.

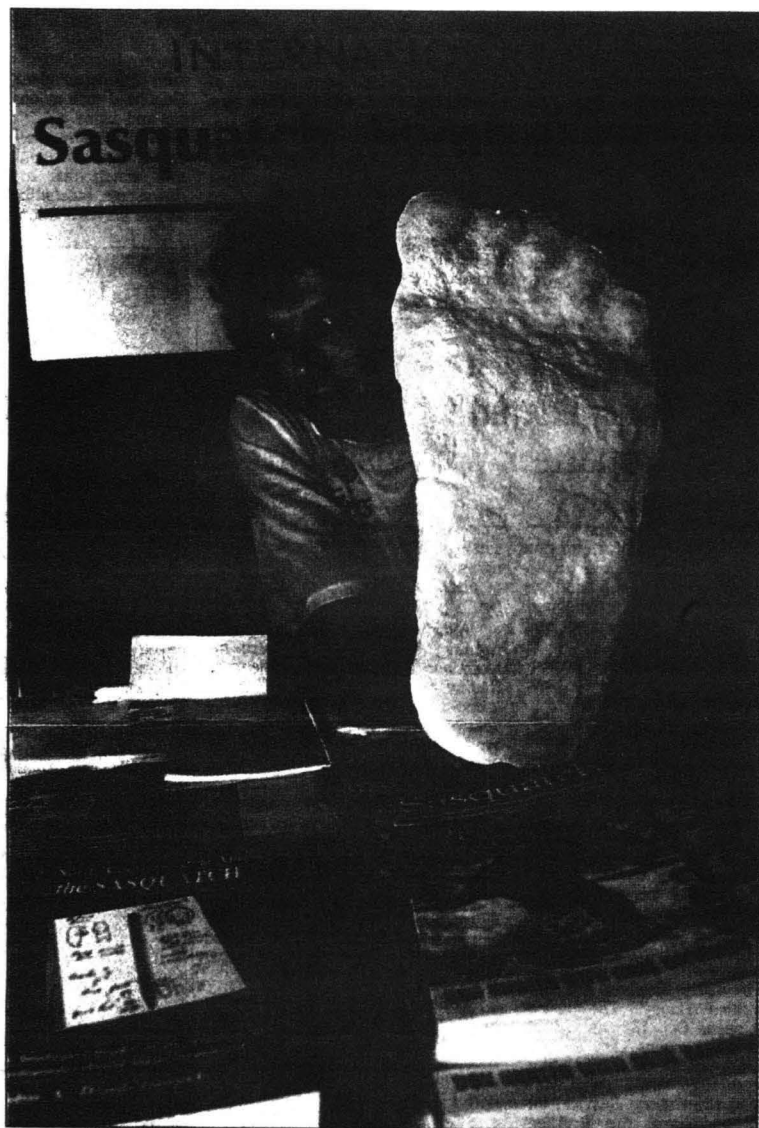
The believers: Pity the plight of the Sasquatch hunter. People tend to think he's crazy because, well, he has no proof that the creature he's devoted his life to discovering even exists.

The flimsy collection of "evidence" — shaky, grainy footage, unidentifiable hair samples, gnarled casts of big footprints — is inconclusive.

In quieter moments, the believer admits this to himself. And yet he can't help himself. He's hooked.

When considering all the eyewitness testimony and the possibility that he's been consistently lied to, Sasquatch investigator Thomas Steenburg shakes his head and says, "Stop the planet, I want to get off."

Steenburg, of Calgary, Alberta, even seems a little depressed when he realizes he's spent 20 years of his life trying to find a Sasquatch. "Twenty years ... goes by like



John Kirk, president of the British Columbia Scientific Cryptozoology Club in Burnaby, holds a cast of a Bigfoot imprint. LORNE GREEN

Artist David Johnson's depiction of the Yeti, the Asian equivalent of the North American Sasquatch or Bigfoot.



THE NEW YORK TIMES

that," he says, snapping his fingers.

While Steenburg is one of the more outspoken characters at the symposium, the most colorful personality is Rene Dahinden, who in his absence, is referred to as "The Rene Factor."

Dahinden is the guy everyone in the Sasquatch community knows — for a couple of reasons.

First off, he's been on the creature's trail since 1956, three years after he moved to Canada from Switzerland.

Then there's the matter of visibility — Dahinden is everywhere. He's appeared in two Kokanee beer TV commercials. Plus, the 69-year-old has a voice that can be heard in all four corners of the symposium, denouncing findings and investigations in his thick Euro-accent.

"We saw enough fake films. You just take one look, you dig around a little and bingo," he says. And then came what Dahinden refers to as "that damn film" — a k a the Patterson film.

Shot in 1967 on 16 mm color film — 24 feet, 60 seconds, 900 frames, each and everyone of them under copyright — the film shows what looks like a cross between a female human and a gorilla (affectionately dubbed "Patty" by Sasquatch enthusiasts) crossing a clearing in Bluff Creek, Calif.

How familiar this crowd is with the film becomes evident when John Kirk, president of the British Columbia Scientific Cryptozoology Club — <http://www.ultranet.ca/bcsc> — is spotted pointing out the significance of frame 352 to a timid radio reporter in his fast-clipped English accent.

Kirk is excited about the film, but Dahinden seems defeated by it.

"I set out to prove that the film is fake, because that was the only thing that I could think you could prove," says Dahinden of the footage shot by Roger Patterson, a rodeo cowboy, and Robert Gimlin, a cattleman.

"That's what I've done for the last 30 years — investigate this damn film. ... But this damn film, we can't crack. People say it's a guy in a fur suit. I don't want to listen to one more idiot. They know nothing about nothing."

He says what just about everyone else does: that people in the scientific community tend to stay away from the Sasquatch investigation because they fear what it will do to their credibility.

"So they are not getting involved ... but they say 'bring us a body.' If we have the body of the Sasquatch, we

don't need you (bleeps) to tell us we have one!"

Them skeptics and them bones: So the contentious question of Sasquatch's existence remains.

Bigfoot believers hate to deal with that question because, really, there's just no getting around it.

They've never found any remains, but to most of the folks at the symposium, that's beside the point. Take black bears, for example.

The wildlife branch of the provincial Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks says there are 120,000 to 160,000 black bears in British Columbia.

"The mortality rate will conservatively be, say, at 10 percent," says Dahinden, leaving us with about 14,000 dead black bears each year.

"One would think that you could ... step out 10 feet in the bush and fall over one of these black bears. ... You know damn well that this isn't the case."

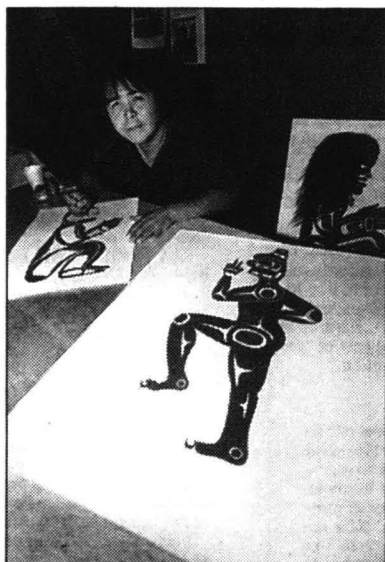
So OK, there aren't any bones because the Sasquatch is a rare animal and its bones either get buried by dense foliage and/or snow, or maybe it just goes to extremely remote places to die.

Or maybe the Sasquatch is an alien from another planet, a "Hairy Angel," a "Star Person."

This, of course, refers to the panel discussion on the "Bigfoot/UFO Connection."

At the risk of sounding dismissive — oh, what the heck — trying to

(continued on page 19) 18



LORNE GREEN

Artist Ben Houstie of Bella Bella, B.C., displays his impressions of Sasquatch at the symposium.

follow the arguments by paranormal supporters John Cotton and Jack "Kewaunee" Lapsertitis is like trying to discuss NAFTA with the Cheshire Cat.

Heavy-handed with vague references to quantum physics and metaphysics, the two hold that Sasquatch is an extraterrestrial being, transported by aliens to Earth. They — the Sasquatch — are here to give indigenous people guidance on herbal medicine and to teach us about the environment.

The paranormalists are not popular among the more zoologically minded Sasquatch investigators, but symposium organizer Steven Harvey says he feels obliged to include them in the event. "By my estimate ... they are 25 percent of the (Sasquatch) people, and 25 percent is something I can't ignore," he says.

The UFO people aren't the only ones who get attacked. When Chad Deetken, a member of the Sasquatch Society and a crop-circle specialist, played his copy of "The Bigfoot Recordings," narrated by Jonathan Frakes of TV's "Star Trek: The Next Generation," Dahinden piped up again.

Before moving on, Deetken responded: "I know better than to try and argue with you, Rene."

Then Larry Lund, a Bigfoot investigator from Vancouver, Wash., also challenged the tape, calling it a total hoax. (The tape sounded like Tom Waits, "Sesame Street's" Gonzo and Don Knotts having a coughing fit at the same time.)

Dahinden also had a bit of an outburst when Grover Krantz, a retired professor of anthropology at Washington State University, referred to some footprint casts.

Krantz says the emotional reaction to Sasquatch theories is understandable.

"This is a little too close. This thing is close to us, close to human," says Krantz, who is tall, has a head full of thick white hair and big beard.

He adds that some of the animosity also stems from competition and jealousy.

"See, the guy who shoots the first Sasquatch gets the first prize, the big prize," he says. "After that, the scientists will descend on this, and that's that."

"There is no second prize."

■ P-I reporter D. Parvaz can be reached at 206-448-8095 or dparvaz@seattle-pi.com

They all believe in Bigfoot, but they don't all get along

BY ALLAN DOWD

VANCOUVER • Sasquatch watchers gathered at a Vancouver conference this weekend to debate the relationship between the ape-like animal and UFOs.

While delegates to the International Sasquatch Symposium have no doubt about the existence of the sasquatch, when it comes to the beast's link with flying objects, "It's a huge divide," said Stephen Harvey, or-

ganizer of the conference.

According to the cryptozoologists, or students of hidden animals, sasquatch — or Bigfoot — is an ordinary flesh-and-blood creature that just happens to have avoided capture.

But to believers in the paranormal, or psychic phenomena, sasquatch is an "interdimensional" being with strange powers and ties to extraterrestrials aboard UFOs.

Both camps tend to think there must be more than one specimen.

the 1920s from tales of the Chehalis Indians in British Columbia.

Stories about a sasquatch connection with flying saucers are also a staple of supermarket tabloids — a fact that has the cryptozoologists complaining that the paranormals give sasquatch research a bad name.

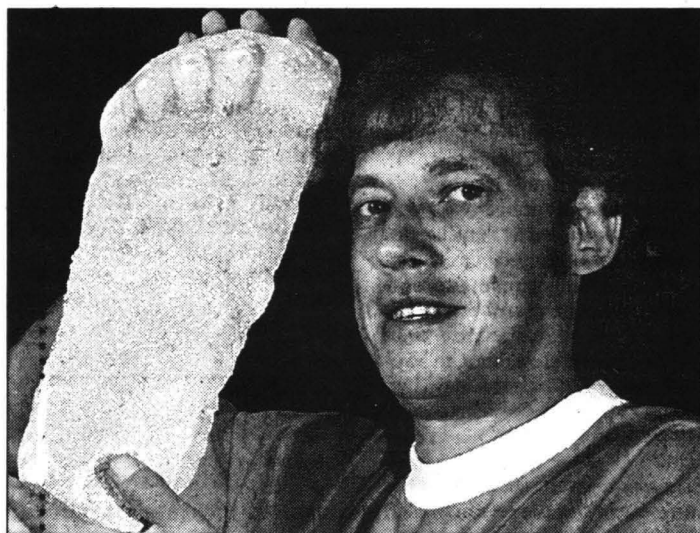
"I mean, if you call the police to report a murder and describe what happened and say you saw little green men, how long before the police officer stops taking notes?" Mr. Miller said.

Members of the paranormal wing contend that their opponents' minds are closed and say that is why the cryptozoologists have never been able to produce more than circumstantial evidence, such as alleged footprints, of the creature's existence.

"The way to go is to become more evolved ourselves," said Jack "Kewaunee" Lapsertitis, a writer and member of the Self-Mastery Earth Institute in Trout Lake, Wash.

Mr. Lapsertitis, who has reported having had five dealings with sasquatch during the past seven weeks, contended that since the creature could travel between dimensions of reality and space, it would not be found unless it wanted to be.

Reuters



STEVE BOSCH / THE VANCOUVER SUN

John Kirk, president of the B.C. Scientific Cryptozoology Club, holds what he believes is a footprint of sasquatch.

Sasquatch devotee says the truth stinks

A true believer believes the great unwashed — the skeptics — have low IQs.
LARRY PYNN
VANCOUVER SUN

John Kirk is so close to finding the sasquatch he can smell it. In fact, he says, he did smell the Pacific Northwest's legendary ape-man two years ago while he was attending a group picnic in the Seymour Demonstration Forest in North Vancouver.

"I went for a walk in the forest and there it was — two prints, 14 inches long by six inches wide,"

recalls Kirk, a Burnaby writer and president of the B.C. Scientific Cryptozoology Club. And all around him was an equally potent sign. "It smelled like a combination of skunk and rotten eggs. That's a trademark of the sasquatch — a bad smell."

Kirk is equally familiar with the pervasive air of skepticism that accompanies such stories, an annoyance he attributes to people with "low IQs" who haven't bothered to study the sasquatch literature.

Starting today in Vancouver, Kirk will find a more receptive audience at the third annual International Sasquatch Symposium at the Pacific Space Centre.

About 200 sasquatch devotees and researchers from across North America — many of whom keep abreast of the latest discoveries on various Internet Web sites — are expected to attend the five-day event.

There will be testimonials, native oral history, and the results of scientific field studies — all designed to reaffirm the shadowy existence of the sasquatch, a Canadian name derived in the 1920s from the Chehalis Indian band near Harrison Lake.

In the U.S., however, the popular name for the creature is Bigfoot, a moniker that Kirk finds equally obvious and silly.

"Everything about sasquatch is big," he says with a mischievous tone. "Why just the foot? You could call it all kinds of weird things."

But labels are just one of the issues that divide the sasquatch community. Kirk explains that "serious" researchers like himself have very little patience for the group that believes the sasquatch is some sort of "paranormal" phenomenon.

"The goal is to eventually open a museum for Sasquatch and Ogopogo," says Harvey, who delivers *Vancouver Sun* newspapers for a living. "Somewhere in a tourist area of Vancouver."

The beauty of the sasquatch, Okanagan Lake's legendary Ogopogo serpent, and all the other cryptic creatures of the world's mountains and oceans is that their legends never die, simply because it is impossible to disprove them. Which, it is worth noting, doesn't exactly hurt the sales of books on the subject.

Kirk (by the way, he also claims to have spotted Ogopogo) is flogging his new book, *In the Domain of the Lake Monsters*. "They put it in the occult section," he laments. "It should be in natural history. But whatever sells best."

Paul LeBlond, a retired oceanography professor at the University of B.C. and one of the 100 or so members of Kirk's cryptozoology club, has co-authored, *Cadborosaurus: Survivor from the Deep*, about a prehistoric relic that supposedly once swam the waters of the Pacific Northwest.

And one of the paranormal speakers at the weekend symposium, Jack Lapseritis, of Trout Lake, Wash., has written *Psychic Sasquatch*. The list of popular pulp on the subject just goes on and on.

Of course, one cannot leave out Rene Dahinden, author of one of the early books, *Sasquatch*, in 1973, and, more recently, star of the Kokanee beer commercials.

You know, the one where he's asked if he's ever used Kokanee to lure in a sasquatch. As he looks at the camera and says, "Do you think I'm crazy or something?" the beast makes off with the beer in the background.

Dahinden, a 69-year-old Richmond resident and sasquatch researcher for more than 40 years, is also distinguished as owner of the publication copyright to the most famous piece of sasquatch evidence to date. That's the 16-millimetre film footage shot by Roger Patterson and Robert Gimlin at Bluff Creek, Calif., in 1967 that purports to show a female Sasquatch walking away from the camera.

Doubters repeatedly try to debunk the film as depicting nothing more than a man in a monkey costume. And one investigator who used a computer to enhance several frames in the film recently claimed to have detected a suspicious fastener around the creature's waist.

But Dahinden, along with Kirk and a host of others, is unconvinced and continues to defend the film as the best visual evidence to date that Sasquatch does indeed roam the wilderness. They argue that the graininess of a 16-mm film simply cannot provide the sort of detail necessary under magnification.

"It's so ridiculous," Dahinden says, concerned about what the persistent rumour is doing to his investment. "It certainly doesn't help, that's for sure."

As for Kirk, he believes that part of the reason no one has come up with a sasquatch carcass is because hunters are unwilling to shoot something so human-like. As well, he believes that logging and human pressures are forcing the creature farther afield, to remote parts of the Kootenays and central coast.

Still, Kirk has a dream. His fleeting experience two years ago gave him a tantalizing whiff of success. His dream is to ultimately see a sasquatch, a thought that fills him with excitement and more than a hint of trepidation.

Kirk is six feet, five inches tall, and weighs 200 pounds, but even he is daunted by the idea of coming face to face with a biped standing perhaps seven feet tall and weighing 500 pounds.

"I'd really like to see one," he confides. "But I look down on everything I see. To run into something larger physically and so shrouded in mystery. I'd be leery... but it would also be a revelation."

Sasquatch information can be found on the following Web sites:
A "Bigfoot" directory:
<http://altavista.looksmart.com>
The Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization:
<http://www.moneymaker.org/BFRR/index.htm>
British Columbia Scientific Cryptozoology Club:
<http://www.ultranet.ca/bcsc>



STEVE BOSCH/Vancouver Sun

'BIG FOOT': John Kirk with cast of alleged footprint of a California sasquatch.

That would include the view of the sasquatch as a time-traveller and shapeshifter who's been known to arrive by spaceship and even abduct humans.

"Sasquatch has received a lot of publicity because of the tabloids," Kirk relates. "Headlines like, 'I married Big Foot,' or, 'I Had Big Foot's Child.' It seems to capture America's attention. You try to be credible, but you have these idiots come along and tell the most fanciful stories."

To a mocking non-believer, it might seem strange that anyone open-minded enough to actually believe in the sasquatch would so readily dismiss the concept of one having arrived aboard a UFO.

But the division is so vast between these two sasquatch factions that they will be separated at the weekend conference like fighting hockey players.

The paranormals have their forum on Friday, leaving the remaining sessions to the majority of what organizers call "straight-ahead" researchers.

"It's a funny aspect to human nature," agrees Stephen Harvey, president of the Vancouver Sasquatch Society, the vehicle by which a handful of enthusiasts stage the symposium. "They're not scheduled together. The straight-ahead people consider the paranormals to be way out there, the lunatic fringe."

Harvey got into the whole sasquatch culture in 1990, when he moved to Harrison Hot Springs, a long-standing hotbed of sightings and interest.

He helped stage the Sasquatch Forum for four years in the small Harrison Lake community before moving it to Vancouver, for logistical reasons, and calling it the International Sasquatch Symposium.

COLUMBIAN, Vancouver,
WA - Sept. 7, 1999



DAVE JEWETT
Ink

Sasquatch tries acting

Sasquatch, the legendary creature of the Northwest woods, is getting a movie break thanks to the enormous success of the movie thriller, "The Blair Witch Project."

Variety, the show business newspaper, says Sasquatch (a.k.a. Bigfoot) will be at the center of a feature-length spoof on "Blair Witch," with the working title "The Bigfoot Project." Filming had already begun.

In the story, three tourists get lost near the famous Hollywood sign, and encounter a Bigfoot monster. The ostracized runt of the Sasquatch family has turned into a bum, wandering the Southern California landscape. The tourist's bodies are later found, together with their video footage of the encounter, in scenes recalling "Blair Witch."

DAVE JEWETT'S column appears Tuesday and Thursday. If you have an item of interest, call Dave at The Columbian, 699-6006, or drop him a line. You may also send e-mail to dave.jewett@columbian.com.

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK - Sept. 12, 1999 CR: J. & L. Nicholson

THE PLANET'S HUM



Japanese researchers have been studying a mysterious hum emitted by Earth as its geological and atmospheric events combined to produce a frenetic symphony. Naoki Suda and Kaqunari Nawa dredged out the sounds from a mass of seismic data, according to a report in New

Scientist, and say that the pitches of the 50 notes range between 2 and 7 millihertz — about 16 octaves below middle C. They said that the individual notes sound pleasant enough, but combined, they are like an endless banging on a trash can.

□ Earthweek, a roundup of natural occurrences, is compiled by Steve Newman of the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Sept. 9, 1999 CR: G. Conway
CHINESE SIGHT GIANT MONSTER IN MANMADE LAKE

BEIJING • A Chinese version of the Loch Ness monster has been spooking holiday-makers at a popular resort this summer, state media reported yesterday. Sightings of the creature, which reportedly makes its home in the depths of man-made Songhua Lake in Jilin province, began in the 1950s but have become much more numerous this summer, Xinhua news agency said. A local swimsuit merchant claimed to have spotted the monster eight times since mid-July and described it as black-skinned and from 80 to 90 metres in length. The man took several photos of the creature after it surfaced for several minutes on August 19, but "it appeared as a blurred spot because of the distance," Xinhua said. A speed boat driver on the 200-km-long lake fled in panic after seeing a "large, black thing" moving quickly towards him earlier in the season. China's most famous lake monster is said to be in Tianchi, or Heavenly Lake, also in Jilin province.