

UFO

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WESTSIDE RECORD JOURNAL, Ferndale, WA - Sept. 15, 1999

UFO conference lands at the senior center

by Roxanne Murphy
Record-Journal reporter

Beverly Trout has taught thousands of people to country line dance, but she never thought that aliens might be interested in learning how.

Trout, Iowa State Director of the Mutual UFO Network, was the first presenter at the "Making Contact, UFO Sightings and Experiences" conference on Saturday at the Ferndale Senior Center.

The conference was presented by the Center for Ontological Action of Bellingham.

"I feel I'm in a league with the aliens," Trout said.

She has retrieved memories of most of her encounters through hypnosis.

Her descriptions included the following:

On Nov. 22, 1993, two aliens paid her a visit while she was sleeping. She was sprawled out on her bedroom floor with one entity behind her and the other moving busily to her left. The next thing she knew she was back in her bed.

In another encounter, she recalled a cowboy who was not dressed right. The features of his face were blanked out from the eyes to the mouth.

Also, she said, she was led to stand in a brightly lit room in front of a group of aliens that were all dressed as cowboys in "very bad fashion." They were shuffling their feet as they watched her.

She then realized she had been called to teach western country line dancing.

"I never entertained the possibility that line dancing might be useful to the aliens," she said.

She said the entity that moved busily to her left might have been scanning the computer in her bedroom for dances she had stored there.

She claimed that aliens also came to her home to study her equipment that she used to teach line dancing, like speakers, amplifiers and compact discs.

These encounters haven't been easy for Trout.

"It permeated my mental and emotional processes," she said.

UFO*BC representatives Graham Conway and Bill Oliver showed slides and



photos courtesy of UFO*BC

An 11-year-old boy in Prince George, B.C. shot this photo of what UFO*BC calls a "typical flying saucer" in the center. The box on the right is a portion of the photo enlarged.

told of the sightings they have researched including the following:

In 1970 or 1971, two couples were boating on Tagish Lake in the Yukon Territory. While traveling along the edge of the lake, one of the couples reported seeing seven strange glowing orbs. The couple said the objects moved around for about 15 minutes and then moved up the mountain to join other objects. The husband took a photo of the objects.

In March of 1998, UFO*BC looked into a 1997 sighting in Prince George, B.C. An 11-year-old boy was told by his mother to set his garter-snake pet free in their back

yard. The mother took a picture of the snake, gave the camera to her son and returned into the house. While the son was in the process of taking a picture of the snake, he thought he heard a noise above him. He looked up to see a disc-shaped object and he took a photo of it. Approximately four seconds later, the object was out of sight.

UFO*BC runs a hotline at (604) 878-6511. They welcome callers from all over the United States.

Psychotherapists Janet Colli and Thomas Beck described the work they are doing with encounter therapy and research.

"I don't know what's going on, but I've never seen such UFO activity and intensity."

— Peter Davenport
National UFO Reporting Center

"I know there are some of you out there holding things in," Colli said. "Humanity is counting on all of you to process this information."

Beck spoke of what is being done to process information.

"We are bringing together scientific data and the intuitive side of our being," he said.

Peter Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center, focused on recent events within the last month.

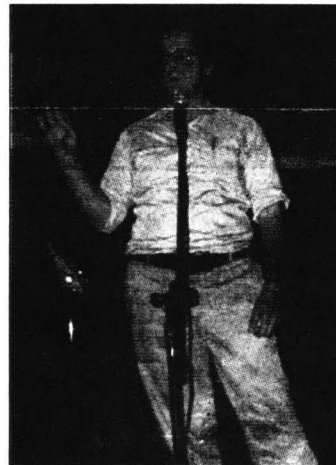
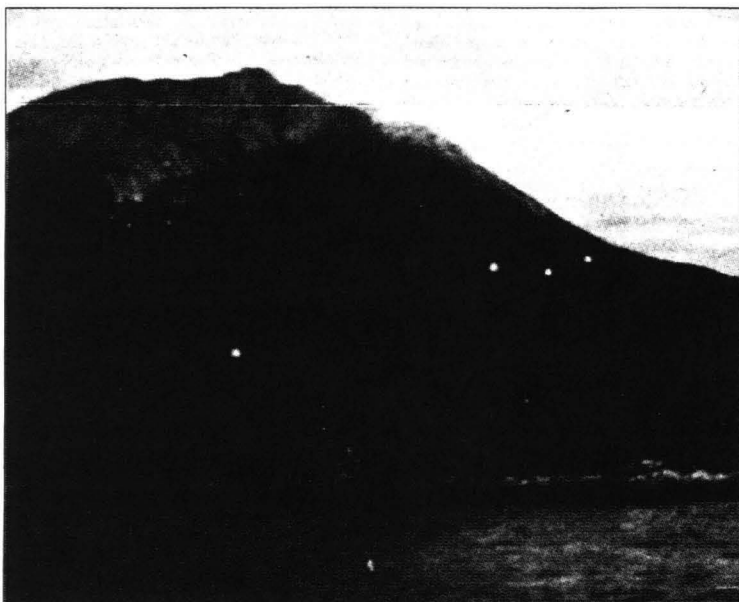
"I don't know what's going on, but I've never seen such UFO activity and intensity," he said.

He described occurrences where people from Las Vegas, New Mexico, Colorado, Oregon, California, Florida and New York have witnessed bright lights streaking across the sky that illuminated a large area. He said some of the events were reported at the same time and blackouts or brown-outs occurred in some of the cities following the streaks.

He claims the government has thrown out these cases.

"The fact that the government has not even addressed this means that they are worried about it," he said.

Paul Anderson, director of the Millenium Project also gave a presentation on crop circle and chemical trails.



(left) A couple reported seeing orbs while boating in the Yukon Territory and took a photo of them.

(above) Peter Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center, addresses the Ferndale crowd on recent events.

"I really saw the thing, I really did. And I've never seen anything like that since then."

A.D. "TOBY" MATHEWS
HENRICO COUNTY SHERIFF

Sheriff recalls UFO encounter in 1966



He suspects craft somehow linked to dog's death

BY MARK BOWES

TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

If he hadn't seen it with his own eyes, Henrico County Sheriff A.D. "Toby" Mathews said, he might not have believed it.

On a bright moonlit night 33 years ago this summer, Mathews said, he saw a large unidentified flying object hovering silently near his Varina farm. He suspects whatever was inside the mysterious craft was responsible for

snatching and snuffing the life out of his dog.

"I really saw the thing, I really did," Mathews, 65, said this week when asked to respond to talk of his close encounter. "And I've never seen anything like that since then."

Mathews said he never publicly disclosed what he saw until now because he felt no one would believe him. He talked about his UFO experience this week after The Times-Dispatch learned that he had told the story three years ago to his former chief deputy during a

Christmas dinner in Williamsburg.

Mathews, who's fond of sharing personal stories about his life, was candid about his UFO experience, which he noted occurred during a time when such sightings were reported with some regularity by Richmond-area residents.

During the spring and summer of 1966 —when Mathews said he saw a saucerlike object hover over a cornfield near his farm and then disappear in a flash — more than a half-dozen people, including three other Richmond-area police officers, reported spotting similar objects hovering over the city, Henrico and

Goochland County, according to news accounts in The Times-Dispatch and The Richmond News Leader.

One Richmond patrolman told The News Leader that he chased the UFO in his patrol car.

"If I live to be 100, I'll never forget it," said former Officer William L. Stevens Jr. in a July 21, 1966, news story.

Mathews' UFO encounter had been the subject of gossip for years and recently surfaced again as the local election season draws to a

SUN, San Bernardino, CA - Sept. 29, 1999

Physicist stands firm in his belief of UFOs

■ Stanton Friedman tells audience at the University of Redlands to look at technology with an open mind and not give in to the fear of being laughed at.

By MELANIE C. JOHNSON
San Bernardino County Sun

REDLANDS — Stanton Friedman made no apologies for believing in flying saucers and cautioned an 80-member audience at the University of Redlands' Orton Center Tuesday to do the same.

"If you're a believer, you're with the good guys," Friedman said. "Let's not be apologists ufo-logists."

Friedman, a nuclear physicist, author and original investigator on the Roswell Incident in which remains of a suspected flying saucer were found in New Mexico, spoke as part of the university's convocation lecture series.

Friedman has lectured at more than 600 colleges and appeared on the television shows "Nightline," "Unsolved Mysteries," and "Entertainment Tonight."

He urged the audience to tune out nonbelievers, look at technology with an open mind and stop giving in to the fear of being laughed at. Friedman also warned the crowd to be leery of those who call believers "crackpots."

"If you can't attack the data, at-

tack the people," Friedman said, listing that strategy as a rule of all debunkers.

"The noisiest negativism always comes from people who haven't read any of the relevant data."

Friedman cited the refusal to accept technology that they can't figure out as a flaw of many scientists who dismiss the existence of flying saucers.

"We have an unwillingness to use knowledge of technology to understand UFOs," he said. "We say it's impossible instead of 'I don't know how to do that.'"

He also called for an end to making flying saucer sightings material for stand-up comedy routines.

"It's time to lift the laughter curtain," Friedman said.

Audience opinion of Friedman's arguments varied.

Elizabeth Edwards, a junior literature, art and Spanish major, was not surprised by Friedman's arguments.

"I think he makes a lot of sense, but it's clear that he's presenting the side he believes in," Edwards said. "There was nothing shocking or new."

Laura Epstein, a junior creative writing major, said she felt less unsure about UFOs after the lecture.

"I was very undecided going in," Epstein said. "I'm still a little skeptical, but he leaned me more in the 'I believe' direction."

close. Mathews, a two-term sheriff, is running for the Varina District seat on the Henrico Board of Supervisors.

With just four days left until the general election, Mathews this week recounted his UFO experience with little hesitation. He said it occurred Aug. 9, 1966, after he returned home from a psychology class at the former Richmond Professional Institute (now Virginia Commonwealth University). He was a road sergeant with Henrico police and was living alone at the time at his farm on Charles City Road in the county's Glendale area.

At about 10:30 that evening, Mathews said, his German shepherd, tied to a chain out back, began barking loudly, so he went outside to investigate. After turning him loose, Mathews said the dog, which he had acquired only three weeks earlier, ran to the edge of an adjacent cornfield. He was astonished at what he saw next.

"I happened to look up and there was that UFO right above the cornfield, it was just hovering right up above the power lines" about 200 feet in the air, Mathews said.

The craft, which Mathews described as white and about 30 feet in diameter, made hardly a sound and emitted no light. The object was about 4 or 5 feet wide at its widest point, which was in the middle, he said.

"It was just like the ones you see on TV," Mathews said. "It was a bright moon that night," so he got a good look at it.

Mathews said he ran back inside his house to get a flashlight, and when he returned and shined it on the craft, the UFO turned slightly, emitted a burst of light and "took off like a bullet, just tremendously fast."

Mathews said he retrained the dog and went to bed after the craft disappeared, and he got up about 5 the next morning and went out to check on his dog. He let it run loose for a few minutes, as was his routine, but the dog didn't come back.

Mathews said he canvassed the area, but the dog was nowhere to be found. When he returned home, he was startled to find his dog lying motionless in the middle of the road just beyond his circular driveway. He was dead.

"He didn't have a mark on him — no blood, no singe [marks], no nothing," Mathews recalled. "It looked like he almost was sleeping. And whatever killed him, they had taken his chain collar off" and dropped it on the shoulder of the road. "I couldn't believe how it got off him like it did."

Mathews said his neighborhood in those days was remote and largely devoid of traffic at that hour. "I didn't see any cars come through at the time," Mathews said he assumed that his dog was killed by whoever, or whatever, was in the UFO. "The dog let me know that they were there," he said.

The dog's death remained a mystery, Mathews said. He buried the shepherd that morning in a meadow on his property.

Mathews said the city officer who saw a saucerlike object near the State Fairgrounds a month earlier had urged him to notify the news media about his encounter, but Mathews resisted. Mathews was living alone at the time, and there were no other witnesses, he said.

"I wasn't frightened by it; it was kind of awesome," Mathews said of the object. "Of course, back in those days I was still in the military reserve, and it didn't appear to be any type of military craft at all. Because No. 1, it wouldn't have done what it did" had it been a known military aircraft.

In December 1996, Mathews told his story to then-Chief Deputy Patrick Haley and his wife, Brenda, during a Christmas dinner party at the Seafarers Restaurant in Williamsburg.

"The way he told it was so specific and he was dead serious, he wasn't joking," said Haley, who now is deputy coordinator of law enforcement accreditation for the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. "We talked about this for months."

Haley, who resigned abruptly after about a year as the department's No. 2 officer because he believed incompetent leadership and dishonorable management practices by Mathews created a host of problems with the sheriff's office, recalled Mathews telling him a slightly different story about the encounter.

Haley said he remembered Mathews saying the craft had landed and emitted some kind of strong "pull" that drew him toward it, although he managed to resist it. Haley also recalled Mathews saying that his dog, after it was found dead, appeared to have been burnt or singed.

Mathews, however, said those things didn't happen. And he shrugged off how his strange encounter may be viewed by the public.

"Well, I did see it," he said. "I really don't know what it was."

L. Beach woman spots UFO coming from Ocean Park

■ Incident mirrors earlier one in southern Oregon

By STAN THOMPSON
Observer staff writer

LONG BEACH—"People who read this are going to think I'm crazy," says 74-year-old Mary Scaman. "I'm not."

Last Friday at 3 a.m., Cinderella, her 4-year-old calico cat, scratched the front door wanting outside. Mary dutifully hopped out of bed. The routine wasn't unusual.

What was unusual was what Mary saw when she

opened the door and did a double-take.

High in the night sky over the ocean shone a brilliant red light, "looking like the light on an airplane," she recalls, "but I noticed no airplane. It was coming from the direction of Ocean Park and traveling south."

"The light was oblong," she continues, her eyes widening, "kind of fish shaped with streamers sticking out the back, and it weaved back and forth like a fish, going at a pretty good speed. It looked like it

knew where it was going. "I couldn't believe my eyes. My mind was going a

mile a minute. Where did something like that come from?"

An hour later, she couldn't help but get out of bed for another look. Whatever had been out there had disappeared.

At 5 a.m., the time she routinely retrieves the *Oregonian* from her doorstep, Mary's eyes locked on a front page story describing—to her amazement—a woman who was white-water rafting in southern Oregon nearly a month earlier and had seen the same kind of mysterious light.

That report, according to the article, stirred debate over allegations the light was actually burning space junk re-entering the atmosphere, or a UFO the government was trying to cover up.

Despite her night-sky experience, Mary remains philosophical. "The world is changing so fast it's scary," she says.

"At least I don't have to go on a cruise trip. There's excitement right out my front window."

UFO Skywatch

Witness Account of Lighting/Saucer sighting

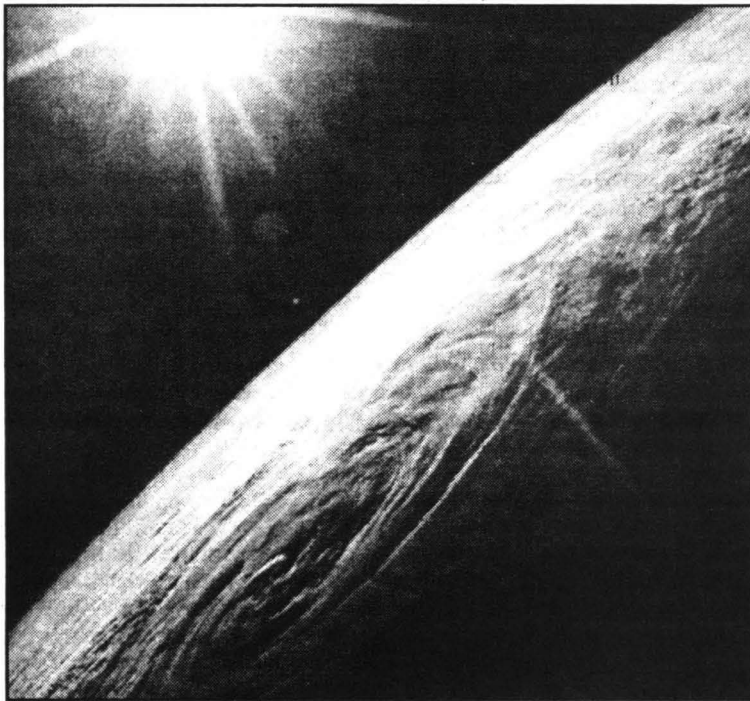
By Bland Pugh, SD MUFON

The case I wrote about last is still open, we have been uncovering evidence and interviewing people almost every day. The following is from an investigation that was conducted in Seminole, FL. Witness sighting account: Sept. 7, 1999 Tampa Bay "The witness woke abruptly at 4:59 a.m. because of colored lights flashing in her bedroom. They were so bright and she was more wide awake than she usually is on rising in the morning -- she then went to the living room, which also was lit with flashing colored lights. She immediately opened the locked front door and looked around the ground and saw nothing, and then looked up to the West to see a swirling, beautiful bunch of lights that were the cause of all the brightness in the surrounding area for this time of night.

These lights were forming a giant circle and contained every color of the rainbow--Pink, Rose, Red, Red-Orange, Yellow, Yellow-Orange, Green-White, Blue-Green and Violet. They were swirling in a counterclockwise direction and somehow made the witness stare in

awe at what she described as 'the most beautiful thing she had ever seen.' This swirling light formation was traveling very slowly from the West towards the South and just above a small palm tree and light

post only 250 to 300 feet away when the witness first saw it. She then started yelling for her son, who was asleep in the living room, and rushed into the house still yelling and telling him to 'Come See.'



After more yelling and watching the object briefly out of the living room window, the witness persuaded her son to come out and look. After only a very short time she was again outside watching this swirling lights phenomenon move further to the South. Her son finally arrived outside and saw the lights that were now nearly exhausted except for a stream of blue-violet exhaust.

As the swirl of lights seemed to disappear, a solid object gradually started to appear. The size of the lights (about 75 feet wide) seemed the same size when the object became visible. It was confirmed by investigators the swirl of lights were first confirmed by investigators in the West and moved slowly to the South and over a large wide tree. The object and the tree were both of the same width, namely seventy-five feet.

After about two minutes both witnesses were then astonished to see another unbelievable sight, as the object looking like a saucer, rose up and a cloud formed as if by magic and moved down as the saucer-object

"Inside the Pentagon - UFOs and Government Secrecy"

The October meeting of the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON, to be held on Sunday, October 10th, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Gulf Breeze Recreation Center, 800 Shoreline Drive in Gulf Breeze, will feature Commander Will Miller, U.S. Naval Reserve (Ret.).

His presentation will center on what he believes the Department of Defense (DoD) knows about UFOs and Extraterrestrial Intelligence (ETI). These insights were drawn from his thirty plus years of government service, both as a Naval Officer and as a DoD Civil Service employee, and more recently, as the military representative for CSETI, the Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence.

Commander Miller will also discuss significant UFO/ETI incidents within the DoD, recent discussions

with key DoD Intelligence personnel regarding UFO/ETI issues, Government/Military Secrecy, "Above Top Secret," the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and what we can do to help disclose the Truth!

Commander Miller is also the Military Advisor to the Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence (CSETI), supporting their interface with the Defense Department. In that capacity he has worked directly with CSETI's International Director, as well as former astronauts Edgar Mitchell (Apollo-14), and Brian O'Leary (NASA Manned Mars Mission) and key members of the Pentagon's Joint Staff. He has met with members of the DoD Intelligence community at the highest levels to discuss the UFO-ETI subject.

object moved up and engulfed the object. Through the cloud they could still see the outline of this UFO. Her son ran into the house filled with fear. The cloud rose very rapidly and disappeared into the clear night sky taking the object with it. After the swirling lights stopped and the object appeared, both witnesses described and drew similar pictures that were grey, and the two edges were a shiny white. No outlines, door or window markings were seen, just the grey-white color. Duration of the total sighting was approximately two minutes. The witness was so scared after the whole incident and for the full day. After the UFO was gone, she locked herself and family in the house. She called her husband at work, who works the night-morning shift, and then tried to make the home more secure by barricading the inside further. After her husband came home through the barricades, they called the airports and never did get a satisfactory answer of who to call for help, if help was needed. After waiting "on-hold," the last airport said there had been a lot of meteor sightings that morning and also confused by Russian satellite debris people had seen. They informed the husband to call police. The local TV station heard of their calls, and cameras and media

employees were there for pictures of the witness five hours after the sighting. No neighbors in their immediate area were awake at this hour in the morning. When the TV news came on later in the day, the comments made by the witness were cut out and it appeared from the TV man Russian satellite debris and meteor falling where the real sighting news, and the witness was not telling the truth. Besides having been very upset and not eating all day, the witness was most convincing and completely rational with investigators. Her name was also announced on the TV news, and has caused a lot of telephone calls from family members asking her 'what crazy idea is this?'

After hearing the adverse publicity, the witness agreed after discussing it with Lorraine Gerber, (State Section Director for Tampa Bay area) to withhold all family names. Although the witness did agree she may want to use her name at a later date."

The sentence structure is a little difficult to keep up with, but I think you get the drift of what our investigator was trying to get across. The rest of the report is well structured. Again this was all connected to the Tuesday morning sighting seen all across Florida and other areas.

The crop circle phenomenon

Have aliens visited Skagit County?

by Michael H. Olson

BURLINGTON — After publishing a photograph and brief story about a mysterious crop circle that appeared in a wheat field near Burlington, the *Argus* has been contacted by a number of phenomenon-researching experts who inquired about it.

We've also received an eye witness report from a Pony Express driver who said he saw other crop circles in the area during recent months.

"I have my head out of the van and I'm looking all the time, looking for things," said Jerry Twyman of Bothell, whose Pony Express

route covers portions of Skagit County.

Of the three crop circles he's seen in Skagit County, he reported that one was still intact in a wheat field on LaConner-Whitney Road. He added that it looked too scrappy to be made by aliens, though.

Even so, I decided to drive out and investigate.

He was right — there was an unusual formation in the wheat field. However, it looked small and amateurish, as though it had been formed by humans. For this reason, our paper has decided not to pay a lot of money to hire a pilot to take an aerial photograph.

The story would probably end

there, except Twyman said he has also seen two other crop circles in the area, ones that are less easily explained.

One was located in a wheat field off of Fir Island Road, near the bridge next to Rexville Park. This one was much more impressive and large, he said, similar to the one our paper photographed near Peterson Road. He saw it about two months ago. However, the farmer has harvested the field since then, so no photographs or proof of its existence are available.

"It was very obvious," Twyman said. "I had somebody with me and he saw it too. All the wheat was laid down perfect. I couldn't see

the shape of it, though, because I was at eye level, so I called a guy at Barker Airfield to see if he'd go out and take a picture of it. I left him a message on his answering machine suggesting he take a picture and sell it because it's probably worth money. But when he got hold of me later, he said the crankshaft on his aircraft was broken."

Twyman said he saw a third crop circle in a farmer's field at the corner of McLean and LaConner-Whitney Road. This one appeared to be large and well-made. He said no photos were taken of the circle, though, and the farmer has already harvested the field.

NEWS DEMOCRAT, Belleville, IL - Sept. 21, 1999

Area UFOs are in 'I Files'

At first, I thought Jay Rath must be kidding.

Then the author sent along a copy of "The I Files," a book he calls true reports of unexplained phenomena in Illinois.

It includes a catalog of every reliable UFO report he could find in Illinois from Albers to Ziegler. The metro-east is well represented.

"I had no idea of the rich treasures waiting for me in Illinois," Rath said. "Giant birds, lake monsters, at least one crop circle, one ghost ship, countless UFO sightings and reports not only of Bigfoot but of kangaroos."



WALLY SPIERS

Actually, reports might be a better description for the sightings. There is no way to tell whether they are true or accurate, for that matter. Rath collected his information from personal interviews, U.S. Air Force files, the National UFO Reporting

Center and newspapers.

Rath also has written "The W Files" (for Wisconsin) and "The M Files" (for Minnesota.)

In "The I Files" he includes reports from July 4, 1997, in which people all over the metro-east reported strange lights.

A story in the July 6, 1997, Belleville News-Democrat recounts the sightings of an intense blue light but has no explanation for the phenomena.

The first sighting was at 8:30 p.m. in Lenzburg, Rath reports.

Other sightings came from witnesses in Granite City, Fairview

Heights, Belleville Area College, Collinsville, Alton, Duplo, Freeburg and Columbia on the same night. There was a sighting in Caseyville 24 hours later.

Rath includes a chapter on Ray Doiron, the Renault man who claimed to see the Virgin Mary on the 13th of each month.

Doiron said Mary revealed that the world is in the biblical Revelation, the last stages of the world.

There is a chapter on a theory that Cahokia Mounds was built by escaped residents of the lost continent of Atlantis who later abandoned the city and moved south to become Aztecs.

Rath talks to a man he calls Jim, who claims to have been taken from his suburban Chicago home countless times for experiments. Jim thinks he is an unwilling participant in attempts to mutate humans. Rath also has reports on allegations that the Great Lakes Naval Training Station had a UFO that was shot down by a ship in the Pacific Ocean with a surface-to-air missile. There are chapters on Bigfoot creatures, a 1974 Chicago Police encounter with a kangaroo-like creature that escaped and later was sighted other places in Illinois and all the lost ships and planes on Lake Michigan.

UFOs are nothing new. They date to prehistoric times. Ancient people often interpreted strange lights in the sky as signs of favor or disfavor from the gods.

Shortly before the turn of the 20th century, there were reports of a mystery airship, often glowing, all across the Midwest.

Far-fetched? Probably. But believe or disbelieve, they are funny stories. Copies are for sale at \$14.95 through Trails Books at (800) 236-8088.

(Wally Spiers can be reached at 239-2506 or (800) 642-3878, Ext. 2506; e-mail address: wspi@bnd.com)

"That one was very distinct and shaped like a key," he said. "I went to the sheriff's department and asked if they had received any complaints from farmers about these crop circles. They said, 'No, they hadn't,' and I was flabbergasted. I just couldn't believe a farmer wouldn't make some sort of complaint when their crops are being damaged."

Actually, that isn't too surprising. When the *Argus* investigated a crop circle near Peterson Road, the farmer also asked us not to identify him or the location. He didn't want a copycat vandal attempting to create more of the circles next year.

Since Twyman, others have called the *Argus* about the crop circle photograph published in our Sept. 8 issue. These were researchers, though, looking for explanations and copies of our photographs to publish on the Internet.

One of them was Linda Moulton Howe of Pennsylvania, reporter and editor of Earthfiles.com, a publication specializing in investigation of unusual phenomenon. She has been studying crop circles for about 20 years.

She examined the pictures we sent her and replied:

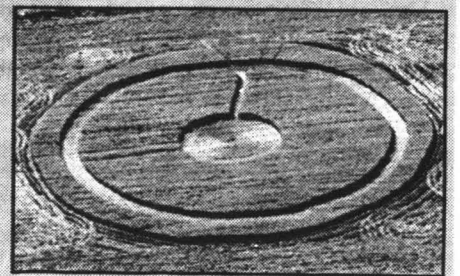
"The formation doesn't have the pristine appearance of most of (the circles) found in England, so I don't know what to think about this formation in Burlington."

However, she said a number of high-quality, unexplainable and mysterious circles have also been appearing in Canada during the last four weeks. These circles and others are not so easily explained as pranks.

"I've seen the NBC special on TV," she said. "When the network took four hoaxers down to New Zealand to create a fractal pattern (crop circle).

"If you take what they did for that special and compare it to some of the ones that have been found, there is no comparison. What they did in New Zealand was stiff and not fluid looking. It took them six hours on the clock to create.

"This summer, elaborate formations have been found at sun-up by people who say they had been in the fields only two or three hours before and saw nothing. That means we know as a fact that some of these mind-boggling formations are being created in three hours or less."



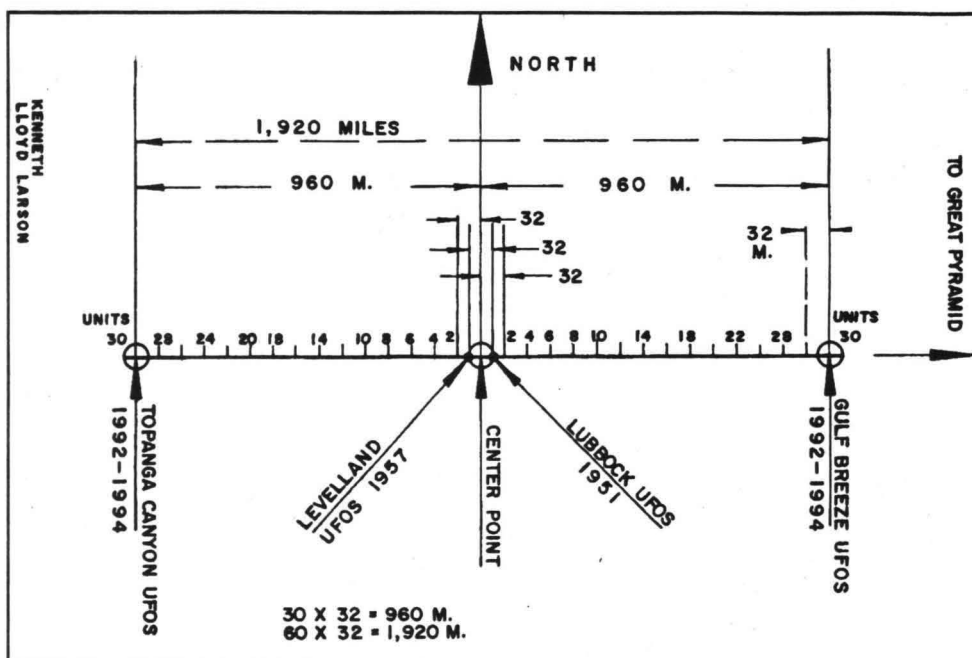
Argus photo, Sept. 6

During the years 1992 to 1994, various witnesses said they saw hovering and varicolored UFOs over Gulf Breeze, Florida. Much of the information and photos were contained in the book by Ed Walters (*The Gulf Breeze Sightings*) and in another 1997 book by Ed Walters and Bruce Maccabee called *UFOs are Real: Here's the Proof*. The latter book contained my theories about the key site and significance of the Gulf Breeze UFOs.

In the new book by Preston Dennett, UFOs Over Topanga Canyon, witnesses saw hovering and whirling objects over the area and over the years 1992 to 1994. On standard maps, I drew a straight line from Gulf Breeze to Topanga Canyon, California. On the map, each unit came to 96 miles. With Lubbock to Levelland equal to 32 miles, I discovered Gulf Breeze to the center between Lubbock and Levelland came to 960 miles and Topanga Canyon to the center between Lubbock and Levelland came to 960 miles.

Levelland and Topanga Canyon UFOs seem to have outlined on the topographical surface of North America a measured line of 960 miles and a second measured line of 960 miles, or a total line equal to 1,920 miles. The Gulf Breeze and Topanga Canyon UFOs seem to have directed attention to the Lubbock and Levelland UFOs of 1951 and 1957 and to the two measured line Breeze and Top

What we have in the drawings and text are measured lines, intelligent patterns and designs concerning our world and the universe. The value of pi equals 1:3.14159 or the ratio of the diameter of the circle to the circumference with the diameter as 1 and the circumference as 3.14159. The Gulf Breeze, Lubbock-Levelland and Topanga Canyon measured lines show the pi value or 1:3.14159 :: 5:8x2 :: 10:16x2 :: 20:32x2 :: 32:100.5 miles. Oddly, the Gulf Breeze UFOs are on the same latitude 30 degrees North as the ancient Great Pyramid of Gizeh in Egypt (circa 2600 B.C.) Thus, 30 units x 32



A point centered between the 1951 Lubbock UFOs and the 1957 Levelland UFOs determines the sites of the 1992-1994 Gulf Breeze UFOs and the 1992-1994 Topanga Canyon UFOs.

This new information based on my research adds to the 1992 discoveries (published in *The Islander Newspaper*) that showed on a Mercator flat map of the world a circle centered on Gulf Breeze would cut the extreme northwest edge of Alaska and the extreme southern edge of South America. Thus, Gulf Breeze would be on the Mercator map the topographical center of North America and South America.

On a half-section view of the round world, a straight line from the earth's center to the ancient Great Pyramid of Gizeh in Egypt (circa 2600 B.C.) would equal a second straight line from the Great Pyramid

to the North Pole, and this would equal a third straight line from the North Pole back to the earth's center so as to form a perfect equilateral triangle.

In turn, the equilateral triangle from Gulf Breeze to the North Pole to the earth's center to the site of Gulf Breeze would form the same size equilateral triangle as the Great Pyramid triangle. The Gulf Breeze, Levelland and Topanga Canyon UFOs seem to have made measures concerning the Mercator flat map and the spherical measures of our round world and related these measures to the ancient Great Pyramid site in Egypt, the earth's center, North Pole, South Pole and equator line.

Witness account of strange sighting

The following is an extract from an official report from the MUFON Assistant State Director for central Florida. This report, and several others, are being held at my office until we have totally exhausted all of the material related to the September 7th sighting.

Unfortunately, just as with any case that is as large as this, out comes the wannabe's and the high profile UFO investigators, all wanting to be the one that can attach their names to this incident, thus giving them more ammunition to carry with them on the speaking tour...and that spells money.

This is the Sighting Account:

"The witness was asleep in her bedroom when she awoke at 3:08 a.m. on September 7th. The room was fully illuminated with a silvery white light. Her first thought was it might be lightning, but when she looked out of her bedroom window,



which is situated directly on the bay, she observed two balloon-shaped spheres gliding from west to east over the bay.

The spheres were each about six times the size of a full moon but much brighter. They were about six hundred to seven hundred feet

above the bay, and so close to her window she felt she could almost reach out and touch them. There were rays of white light streaming from the bottom of each. The objects did not make any noise. Their color was a luminous white.

The night sky was completely clear, there was no precipitation and the bay was serene and calm.

Since the spheres were traveling rather rapidly and she didn't want to lose sight of them, the witness ran to her kitchen and balcony. She saw nothing -- they had disappeared.

The witness stated this phenomena was like nothing she had ever seen before. The light was so intense it permeated every corner of the bedroom.

She was filled with awe, and afterward experienced a feeling of great peace.

She then went back to bed and slept soundly for the remainder of the night."

QUESTION CORNER

By FATHER JOHN DIETZEN

The Salvation of Extraterrestrials



Q. In 1947 an incident occurred in Roswell, N.M., that was officially declared to be the crash of a weather balloon. Since then there have been rumors that it was the crash of a flying disc with extraterrestrial biological entities, living beings from somewhere else in the universe. I don't ask in jest or delusion; I really would like to find some answers. It is said that UFOs are the second most popular subject on the Internet these days — second only to sex. The number of people who believe life exists in the universe beyond our earth grows significantly with each of our scientific and space advances. The controversy goes on, but my question is: How would a discovery that there are rational beings somewhere besides on earth impact Christian faith and current Catholic theology in particular? Has any Catholic group undertaken a study of the subject and its doctrinal consequences? Could Jesus Christ have come to them also? (Missouri)

A. With all the insanities and evils the human race is inflicting on itself these days, one might be forgiven for wondering how much rational life there is now even on this earth. That aside, it seems to me the only claim we can make for sure in such matters is that nothing in Catholic faith or tradition would rule out the possibility that reasoning, conscious, "humanlike" creatures exist in other parts of creation.

If we intelligently believe in a divine being, can we suppose that God's creative imagination and power is exhausted by the human realities we know? Can we presume that God has "done it all" here, in us? Countless other life forms, with faculties necessary to relate to each other and the Creator in a conscious way, are surely possible.

What "salvation" (from what? to what? how?) might mean for these creatures we have no clue. Considering the exuberant imagination and generosity with which God lavishes beings and life of all kinds on the planet around us and on the rest of the cosmos we do know, one might strongly suspect that this divine extravagance is not limited to here. Any theory about how or whether that happens, however, is pure speculation.

Some people claim it is typical human arrogance and narcissism even to question the existence of other humanly conscious life. We cannot be, as they say, the only fish in such a big pond.

That's not a very persuasive argument. It pretends to know much more about what God expects and receives from his creation, including ourselves, than we will probably ever know this side of eternity. Again, conjectures are fun, but we need to remember that's all they are, unless and until some of our descendants, hundreds of years from now, somehow find out for sure.

UFO tower to become a reality in valley

Cattle rancher intends to build an alien-theme gift shop, too

By Deborah Frazier

News Staff Writer

Judy Messoline used to joke about building a UFO watch tower and alien-theme gift shop on her ranch in the San Luis Valley.

Now, she's doing it.

"We need something different down here so maybe this is it," said Messoline, who's never seen an unidentified flying object, but would dearly love to. "We're even going to have a landing pad for UFO's."

The valley, bounded by the Sangre de Cristo and the La Garita mountains north of Alamosa, has a century-old reputation for UFO sightings. Old timers talk of hovering lights. Ranchers speak of flying objects buzzing by.

And, yes, some say there have been cattle mutilations. Messoline said her cattle haven't been touched — as far as she knows.

This week, Messoline got a special use permit from the Saguache County Commissioners for a 10-foot high observation tower on her land near Hooper.

"This is the first UFO watch tower that anyone has ever asked to build," said Vendi Maez, the county land use administrator.

Messoline, who moved to the valley four years ago from Golden and raises cattle, plans to let up to 20 vehicles park at the tower. It only will be open in the summer and she won't allow overnight stays.

Messoline is going to charge \$2 for adults, \$1 for kids and rent out binoculars. The tower will open Memorial Day.

"Even if people don't see a UFO, they'll see the beautiful stars," said Messoline, who also works at a local convenience store.

Joshua Hillman of Crestone said couples dating in the 1940s and 50s used to drive out to the Great Sand Dunes National Monument to watch the lights on the sand.

"These are people with no New Age affiliation," Hillman said.

"The county has quite a few UFO watchers. We have lots of reports, but not much documented," said Undersheriff Mike Norris. "On patrol, it's not unusual to find 30 vehicles parked in one area with everyone out looking at the sky."

In fact, Christopher O'Brien moved to Crestone, population 27, to chronicle the strange occurrences. O'Brien wrote *The Mysterious Valley*, and produced two episodes of the television series *Sightings*.

That's part of what gave Messoline the idea — and years of watching the television series *X Files*.

"There's some really interesting things on that show and I'd like to experience it," said Messoline.

Other days

10 years ago

Oct. 25, 1989

PINE BLUFF — A Jefferson County woman says she saw a bright white globe hovering over the treetops near her home. Jefferson County sheriff's Sgt. Bernard Adams and deputy Mark Bradley said they watched the object until it disappeared somewhere over Watson Chapel.

UFO treat: Just talk, no teasing

Meeting for explorers
of what's unexplained

By **HANNAH MITCHELL**

Staff Writer

HICKORY — Believers in UFOs are used to being laughed at, so they stick together.

That's why a bunch of Tarheel UFO enthusiasts will gather in Hickory Saturday to discuss the particulars of flying discs, alien abductions and other mysterious phenomena.

"Any time you talk about something that is unknown, people tend to ridicule you," said George Lund III of Charlotte, who is the director of the state chapter of the Mutual UFO Network. "This is a place they can go to share experiences and ideas without ridicule."

Anyone who's ever wondered about UFOs or thought they might have seen one is welcome to attend the network's fall meeting at Catawba Valley Community College. It starts at 1 p.m. The cost is \$2 for nonmembers, \$5 if you want to join the state chapter.

Lund expects about 50 network members to attend. The membership includes medical doctors, homemakers, students and two retired ministers.

Well-known Lincolnnton UFO researcher George Fawcett will review a new book on abductions and give participants a UFO quiz. The club also will show a video by a nuclear physicist about flying saucers.

One of the network's main focuses is documenting UFO sightings and encounters, and members will take advantage of the meeting to encourage more reports, Lund said.

"Sightings continue to be down. I just think they haven't been reported," he said.

"I think people have become complacent. They see something and say 'Ah, it's just a UFO.'"

Network leaders will encourage members and other participants to keep a disposable still camera or a video camera in their vehicles to record sightings on the spot.

Salisbury seems to be the hot spot for UFO sightings in the Charlotte area, although most people there don't like to talk with the network about what they see, Lund said. Most Salisbury UFOs have been described as flying metallic discs or strange lights in the night sky, he said.

Club investigators leave their phone numbers with local police and airports so callers can reach them with reports.

Even though network members agree on the existence of UFOs, they don't always agree on what the objects are, Lund said. Some believe the objects come here

DAILY NEWS, Los Angeles, CA - Oct. 23, 1999 CR: P. Dennett

Author relates local alien tales

Topanga Canyon sightings from 1992 backbone of book

By **Robert Monroe**

Staff Writer

CALABASAS — The truth is out there.

And, according to author and UFO researcher Preston Dennett on Friday, it has hovered many times over Topanga Canyon, the San Fernando Valley's own mini-Roswell.

Dennett's latest UFO book, "UFOs over Topanga Canyon: Eyewitness Accounts of the California Sightings" is filled with stories of strange lights in the sky and abductions by aliens, who have performed unwanted medical procedures and imparted sage advice to some of Dennett's interviewees. To a small crowd at Barnes and Noble, Dennett contended that the flood of local sightings is a sign.

"This UFO wave activity is a new phenomenon. They want to be seen," said Dennett, 34.

The backbone of Dennett's book are sightings reported by dozens of people of strange lights in the

Topanga Canyon skies on June 14, 1992. Dennett brought tape recordings of calls to Los Angeles County sheriff's dispatchers from that night. All the calls began with disclaimers along the same line.

"We are almost ashamed to tell you what we saw," said one caller. "My girlfriend and I have no psychotic illnesses whatsoever."

That summer of 1992 was a banner time for sightings. One woman interviewed by Dennett said aliens advised her that Ross Perot was no good for the country. Perot was running for president that year.

The woman said she dropped her support for Perot.

Another woman told Dennett that aliens abducted her and cut her arm, leaving a scar.

"I examined it just days after and there it was," he told the crowd.

Dennett was a skeptic until a publicized UFO sighting got him asking family members about UFOs. To his surprise, he said, several of them, and friends and co-workers all related their own

UFO stories.

"I can't believe they had all these stories to tell me," he said.

The book chronicles classic UFO phenomena — lights that disappear in the blink of an eye, aliens with big heads, big eyes. But what does he make of it? Maybe the rugged landscape of the canyon is an ideal place for aliens to observe humans while avoiding large-scale detection, he offered.

"One of the most common questions I get is, Why Topanga? — and I honestly don't know," he said.

Dennett's audience represented all points along the spectrum of credulity. Karna Hanson of Oak Park wanted more substance, fewer creepy accounts.

"It was more hype than a real communication of where we should be at," she said.

But Fred Luff, a member of some of the same UFO organizations that Dennett belongs to, believes. He's been following UFO phenomena since 1945, he said.

"You keep an open mind and approach it at face value," he said.

RECORD BEE, Lakeport, CA - Sept. 3, 1999

UFO sightings reported

From staff reports

LAKE COUNTY — The Lake County Record-Bee received two telephone calls reporting strange lights in the night sky above Clear Lake around 10 p.m. on Wednesday.

One report came from the Lucerne area, the other from

Lakeport. Although neither caller wanted to be identified, both said they saw multiple lights in the night sky.

"It was three lights in a triangle pattern," said the caller from the Lucerne area. "Each of the lights was trailing some-

thing behind it, like a tail."

A caller from Lakeport said she spotted "four multi-colored lights in the eastern sky moving together slowly." Added the caller, "The lights were not blinking like a plane's lights do and each of the lights was trailing something behind it."

Then one of the lights sharply veered off while the other three continued in the same direction, according to the caller.

A spokesman with the Lake County Sheriff's Department said one report of a UFO above Clear Lake had been phoned in about the same time on Wednesday.

from another star system. Others believe they come from a parallel universe. A few say they are unexplained natural phenomena.

Most of the network members follow the extraterrestrial theory, he said.

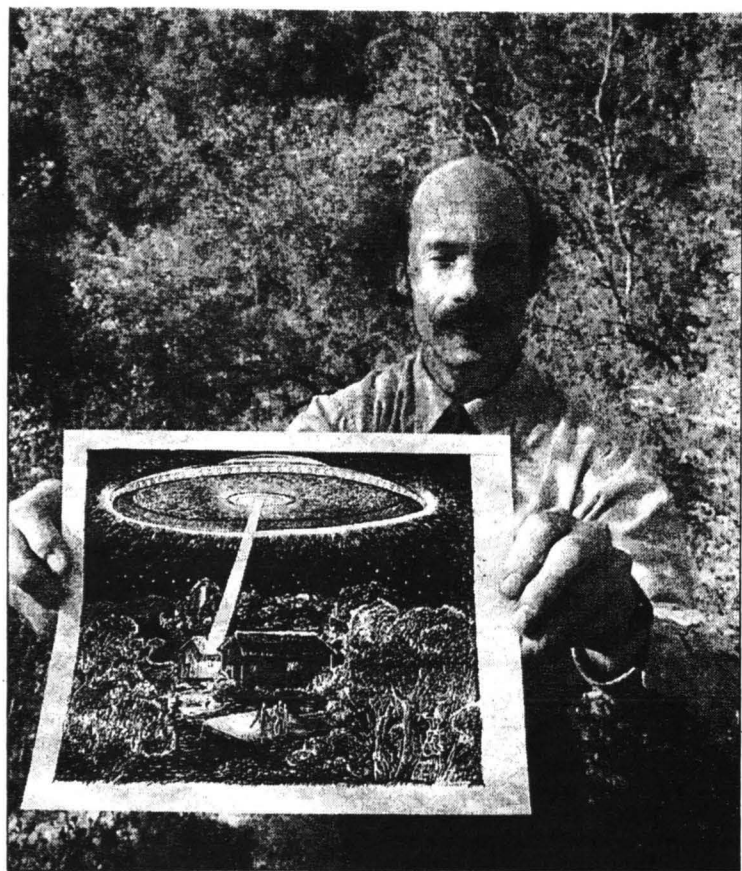
Lund, who retired from the Army Reserve, became interested in UFOs as a child, but he saw his first UFO just a few years ago.

"I was out getting the paper and there was a kind of brass-colored

object shaped like a thin football gliding across."

Since then, he says, he's seen "a couple" of others.

Once when Lund was discussing UFOs with fellow reservists, an officer with a top-secret clearance joined the group. "He said they simply don't exist and turned around and walked out," Lund remembers. "That tells me he knew something and didn't want to talk about it."



Special to The Dallas Morning News: Jan Sonnenmair

Preston Dennett, who wrote a book on purported UFOs in Topanga, holds an illustration of a reported sighting.

Encounter culture

Beachside California town is gaining a reputation as UFO central, but some don't quite see the light

By Paul Pringle

West Coast Bureau of The Dallas Morning News

LOS ANGELES — Ever since the 1960s, Topanga has been known as a spacey place. But lately, it's getting even spacier.

These days, the talk of the beachside canyon community — an enduring haven for old-time hippies, New Age herbalists, nudists, bikers, cultists and every combination thereof — is UFOs.

Lots of UFOs.

"It's kind of old hat now," said Lucile Yaney, 60, owner of the Inn of the Seventh Ray, a Topanga eatery that mixes vegetarianism with spiritualism. She was speaking of UFO sightings.

"We know that they're here. We hope they're not going to interfere with our planetary evolution."

Roswell, N.M., you're grounded. Back to Earth, Gulf Breeze, Fla. Those longstanding UFO hot spots can't compete with the current buzz that resonates in — and perhaps above — Topanga.

"I've seen them on five different occasions," said Preston Dennett, 34, a former Topanga resident who has just published a book on weirdness in the skies draping the Santa Monica Mountains. "They're scaring the wits out of people."

Mr. Dennett's *UFOs Over Topanga Canyon* (Llewellyn Publications, St. Paul, Minn.) is zooming off the shelves of local bookstores. Its 300 pages purport to document a "wave" of unidentified flying objects since 1992.

The author presents more than 80 detailed accounts of strange lights, levitated autos, bedroom invasions by large-headed creatures, abductions, alien-induced miscarriages, and "missing time" episodes (in which UFO witnesses suspect they were rendered unconscious for experiments).

There are also descriptions of Hollywood-style chase scenes — helicopters dogging metallic discs in the Pacific moonlight. In chapter five, one woman maintains that a close encounter with an extraterrestrial caused her to stop supporting Ross Perot's political campaigns.

Most of the wilder stories come from anonymous sources. But Mr. Dennett, who lives in the San Fernando Valley, taps the recollections of solid citizens as well. Some had first related their tales to the *Messenger* newspaper, a Topanga weekly that gives UFOs banner headlines. A few recounted their experiences for this article.

"The silvery object slid down the canyon," said David Phillips, 60, a psychology professor at Santa Monica College. He is among those who have reported a helicopter pursuit.

"The classic, disc-shaped silver object — it was between me and the helicopters."

Brush with unknown

Eric Andrews, 37, who runs a Topanga cement company, had a brush with the unknown that predated Mr. Dennett's wave. He said he was on a four-wheeling jaunt in 1977 when a bright light overhead stunned him.

"It was not like anything I had seen before," he said. "It made a big U-turn and took off at an incredible rate of speed."

Mr. Andrews conceded that the location of his sighting — Topanga, that is — might be problematic for outsiders.

"I know, I know," he said with a sigh. "There are a lot of dope-smoking, acid-dropping freaks here. I hear that — which is why I'm hesitant to tell anyone what I saw."

Topanga snakes through the rugged tawny high country between Santa Monica and Malibu, an area plagued by brushfires in the dry months and mudslides in the wet ones. Its 8,000 residents live in rickety A-frames, hill-hugging bungalows and the odd Mediterranean estate.

The canyon doesn't entirely deserve its wacky reputation. Many Topangans fall into the mainstream of teachers, lawyers, doctors and bricklayers. Artists of all varieties abound. The show-business types who have made Topanga their home include flower-power singer Donovan and Robin Williams, who shot to stardom portraying an alien on the sitcom *Mork and Mindy*.

"Isn't that a coincidence?" Mr. Dennett said, smiling gamely.

His night job

Mr. Dennett is a pencil-thin, balding Chicago native who wears a wispy mustache and a Velcro-strap wristwatch that displays the positions of the planets. He has written three books on UFOs, but his passion does not pay the bills.

By day, he works as an accountant for a collection agency. By night, he cruises Topanga in a dusty and dented Daihatsu, scanning the gloom above the ridgelines and debriefing fellow believers.

"People have told me there are a bunch of druggies and hippies here," he said. "But I always ask the witnesses I interview if they were under the influence. One guy told me he was on acid, and I said, 'good-bye.'"

On a recent afternoon, Mr. Dennett took a drive along Topanga's winding roads, pointing out to a visitor (an Earth-born one) the sites of otherworldly observations.

"Right here," he said, indicating a field of oak groves where he once tried to lure UFOs by directing high-voltage lights into the heavens. He claimed that the light show, along with determined meditation, delivered the goods.

"I saw a pinpoint of light," he said. "It quickly filled up the sky. ... These entities are telepathic. You think, 'I wish it would come' — and it does."

Mr. Dennett says intelligence-gathering UFOs flock to Topanga because it is isolated enough to make detection difficult but close enough to central Los Angeles for studies of big-city humans. He's had a tough time pitching his theories to the government, however.

"The authorities don't much like UFOs," he said.

But Ron Cohan, a California Highway Patrol officer who prowls Topanga's switchbacks, doesn't dismiss the UFO reports out of hand. Each year, he noted, his agency logs numerous calls from residents spooked by streaking lights.



The Dallas Morning News

The officer added that a colleague, whom he declined to identify, has told of hearing unsettling sounds in the canyon. (UFO enthusiasts label this an "audible encounter.") Mr. Cohan also recalled arresting a drunken-driving suspect who offered a UFO alibi.

"He was en route to a UFO landing area to meet someone," Mr. Cohan said. "He was extremely intoxicated ... but I don't discount his story."

A town divided

Topangans remain divided on the phenomena. At the Spiral Staircase bookstore, where Mr. Dennett's volume sells as briskly as *feng shui* guides, employees and patrons alike say they are convinced that something is out there.

"I saw a UFO when I was younger," said Linda Cook, 55, who works behind the counter. She shuddered at the memory. "I'm not positive they're here for the best things. I think they're encroaching on this Earth."

Oh, get real, says Barbara Allen, a board member for the Topanga Chamber of Commerce.

"I have no idea what they're seeing," said Ms. Allen, 59. "I think the first question to ask is, 'What are they drinking or smoking?' ... Helicopters and airplanes fly over all the time."

Another skeptic, 13-year-old Zak Forbes, weighed in while Mr. Dennett was touring UFO sites near Topanga State Park. Zak was leading a chocolate-colored horse past one of Mr. Dennett's favorite viewing points. What did the boy make of all this UFO business?

"I think some people are crazy," Zak said.

The youngster's words left Mr. Dennett looking as though he had just eyeballed an alien.

UFOs

UFO FOLKLORE

www.qtm.net/~geibdan

This site is great whether you're a believer or not, offering lighthearted and entertaining stories about ordinary folks, and quotes from such famous sighters as former president Jimmy Carter. Archived news is balanced with a Meet the Aliens section, plus an extensive collection of quotes from people such as Stephen Hawking and Arthur C. Clarke. There are numerous photographs and sighting reports, and it's the best place to catch up on extraterrestrial gossip. ★★★★★

FBI's ELECTRONIC READING ROOM

www.fbi.gov/foipa/main.htm

A visit to the Unusual Phenomena section of the FBI's Freedom of Information Act Electronic Reading Room gives you access to documents that were once classified top-secret. Included are records of animal mutilations, the now-bogus Majestic 12, the terminated Project Blue Book, the famous Roswell, N.M., case and more than 1,600 pages of information on UFO sightings dating from 1947. Some of these files are extremely large and may take a considerable amount of time to download. ★★

INTERNATIONAL UFO MUSEUM AND RESEARCH CENTER

www.iufomrc.com

Conceived by two people involved in the Roswell case, the IUFOMRC has created a site that provides detailed information on the much-disputed object that crashed in July 1947.

Highlights include a detailed summary of events, eyewitness accounts, a timeline with photographs and a map. The site also features Rockin' RALF, a downloadable dancing alien, photos of museum exhibits, a gift shop and a children's section. ★★

MUFON—THE MUTUAL UFO NETWORK

www.rutgers.edu/~mcgrew/mufon

Founded in 1969, MUFON maintains a UFO hotline, trains field investigators, publishes a monthly journal and hosts an annual UFO symposium. Useful information here includes what to do if you see a UFO, articles from the MUFON journal and excerpts from the MUFON Field Investigator's Manual. If you think you've captured a UFO on film, send it to MUFON for a free analysis from its experts. ★★

THE NATIONAL UFO REPORTING CENTER

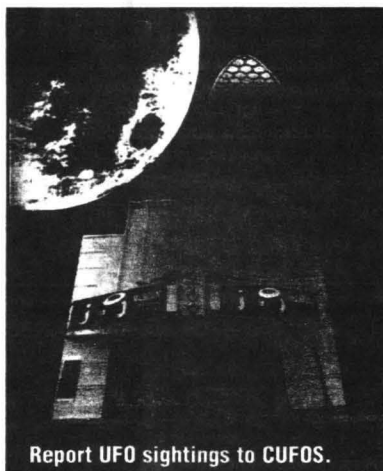
www.ufocenter.com

This nicely designed site has a RealAudio archive of witness interviews, plus online forms and a hotline to report sightings. If you'd like to research UFO reports, the Report Indexes contain some interesting case briefs, sightings that date back to the 1940s and incidents involving aircraft. Featured reports include an elk abduction and highlights of an investigation into the Phoenix Lights case. ★★

UFOCITY.COM

www.ufocity.com

If you're interested in a forum for serious discussion about UFOs, this is worthy of a book-



mark. UFOcity.com allows for varied opinions in its quest for the truth and views everything with a critical eye. Once you've browsed the well-written feature columns, check out the book reviews, read breaking news, catch up on recent reported sightings, or dig into the online UFO Magazine. ★★

THE J. ALLEN HYNK CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES

www.cufos.org

If you're a skeptic, this site will try to change your mind. Launched by an astronomy professor whose intent was to find astronomical explanations for UFO sightings, the center archives reports and documents, and promotes scientific interest in UFOs. Of particular interest is a list of frequently asked UFO questions to quell basic challenges. CUFOS also sells related publications and membership in the organization. ★

UFO MASTER INDEX

www.ufomind.com/ufo

This is a good place to find links to specific UFO topics. The UFO index is monstrous without being overwhelming, and it includes organizations, government positions, conspiracy theories, paranormal phenomena, social aspects of UFOs, sightings, media, witnesses, skeptics, military involvement and alien artifacts. OK, not quite everything is in here—agents Mulder and Scully are not included. ★★



An alien at UFO Folklore

PALLADIUM-ITEM, Richmond, IN - Nov. 4, 1999 CR: D. Worley

UFO abductions show strong signs that end is coming

In my 34 years of UFO investigation and research I've had 15 out of 115 abductees be shown vivid scenes of cataclysmic earth destruction. These are but a small sample of the true total. Some were shown similar geographic scenes in which much of seven western states were abducted under and became ocean. In this area the Pacific Plate grinds against the North American plate and has massive faults. Other views always show the Great Lakes and Mississippi Valley with the lakes a huge lake that empties southwest into the Mississippi Valley and meets a great arm of the sea at southern Illinois. Some scientist suspect a gigantic system of deep faults stretches from Labrador to Missouri.

Earth has suffered polar shifts before causing gigantic land upheaval and sea inundation. The Holy Bible forecasts the next one when it speaks of the stars falling or moving in the sky. In my data it is the human-like Nordic-type aliens who deliver these terrible messages in nighttime altered state situations. I was also the recipient of many geographic details given an abductee for me from an alien group calling themselves "The Lifeforce."

In another case I had a group of over 50 abductees were shown frightening disaster scenes and with this I crossed the line into total belief. I cannot believe that the aliens are expending this kind of prodigious effort just to tell years of grandiose lies. The "Great Cleansing," as the ancient Hopi Indians called it, is coming. The only question is when will it start?

Don Worley, Connersville

UFO Skywatch

ISLANDER, Gulf Breeze, FL - Nov. 3, 1999

Witness account of strange sighting

By Bland Pugh

Florida MUFON State Director

More September 7th sighting reports crossed my desk, it's really amazing these reports all seem to have the exact same time and date. This leads me to believe something significant happened on that early September morning. The following is a report written by a MUFON Field Investigation.

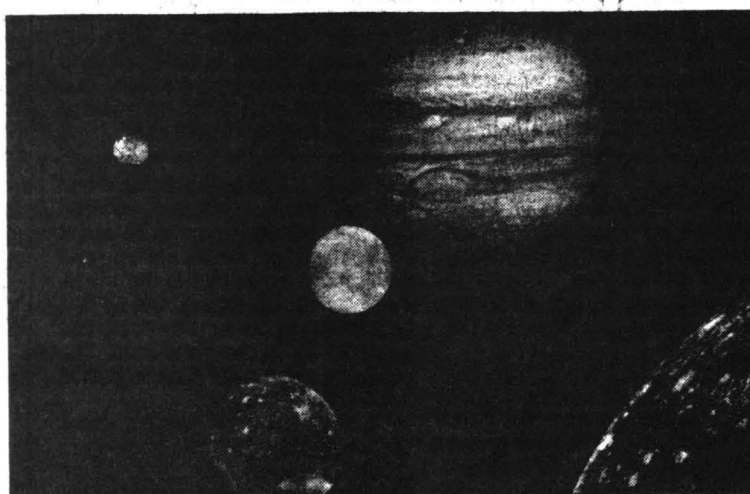
Sighting Account

"A former fire fighter was on his way to work in Sarasota and as he was traveling on Interstate 75 he saw an object to the south of him as the interstate turned to the Northwest. It seemed to be a jetliner so low he thought it might crash. He pulled over to the side of the road to observe it and noticed it just

hovering approximately 1,000 yards away from him. It was approximately 800 to 850 feet above the ground in a wooded area, and he could see three windows at the front of the vehicle. The object seemed to be approximately 225 feet long with a white strobe-like light at the nose and a blue one at the rear bottom glowing all over. He watched it for five minutes as it moved slowly to the Southwest. He left the scene to continue on to work. When he stopped for coffee at a 711 in Sarasota, he noticed emergency fire vehicles and medical vehicles circling around the area."

Sighting Evaluation

"The public was told by the media that NASA said it was a Russian Booster Rocket reentering at 17,000



mph from the Northwest to the Southeast. This object was not traveling at that speed, nor did it move in

that direction when it did move."

I will leave it to you to decide what was observed. *

'X-Files' sparks musical visions

Tunesmiths share otherworldly inspiration

By Phillip Zonkel
Special for USA TODAY

They trust no one but know the truth is out there, and X marks the spot.

Foo Fighters, Barenaked Ladies and Filter crave their weekly dose of *The X-Files*, which begins its seventh season Sunday, but these musicians and a host of others are more than rabid fans.

Some have been possessed to make lyrical references to or select a namesake influenced by the spooky series, while others have joined the artists participating on two compilation CDs, 1996's *Songs in the Key of X* and 1998's feature-film soundtrack, *The X-Files: The Album*. Those discs showcased artists such as Sheryl Crow, Elvis Costello, Brian Eno, R.E.M., Sting, Bjork and Sarah McLachlan.

"It was a giant surprise that all of these people loved the show and were interested in being a part of the soundtracks," says *X-Files* creator Chris Carter. "I think music inspired by *The X-Files* would be

moody and thoughtful and mysterious, but sometimes people did upbeat poppy songs that were appropriate."

He adds, "My original inspiration and idea (for the show) has allowed me to do something that I never imagined myself doing, which is being a record producer. I was really into music as a kid and am really into it now."

Carter entered the realm of recording after a close encounter of the musical kind.

"I was coming back from a mixing session in Burbank, where we were putting music to the show, and I was listening to this alternative radio station. I heard this Nick Cave song, *Red Right Hand*, and thought, 'I have to have that song,'" says the 43-year-old producer, who showcased the song during "Ascension," the sixth episode of Season 2.

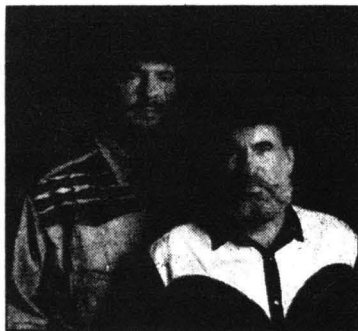
"We had never put (a song) on the show before. It was the first piece used that wasn't composed."

Since then, musicians' connections with the show have intensified. Here are dossiers on some *X-Files*.

The Bellamy Brothers

Connection to the conspiracy: Their current single, *Don't Put Me in the Ex-Files*, from *Lonely Planet*, the 29th album from this Dade City, Fla., country duo (brothers David, 49, and Howard, 53). "The song's about a guy being out all night, but he's really partying with the aliens," David says. "It's kind of the classic cheating song, but it's got a twist because he's somewhere his wife would never suspect." In addition, the video, which was shot in Bakersfield, Calif., in a campy Ed Wood style, features *The X-Files*' evil shape-shifting bounty hunter, Brian Thompson.

Do you believe? "I have seen a UFO," David says. "I was about 15 or 17, near our ranch in Darby, Fla. I was with my mom at the time, so I know I'm not crazy, because I showed it to her. My mom and I stopped in the driveway, she reached over to get the mail, and I just saw it sitting there. It was close to dusk but still mostly daytime. It was not a light in the night; it was a big ship sitting there. We saw the classic cigar-shaped thing. It was just hovering above an oak tree; there was no sound. The lights were a strange color that I'd never seen,



By Robert Deutsch, USA TODAY

Country encounters: The Bellamy Brothers, David, left, and Howard

almost like a pinkish orange. We looked at it for probably a good solid minute, and in a flash it was gone.

"I don't know if it was Martians or aliens because we lived near some Air Force testing places. It was a pretty good UFO area near Gulf Breeze. Almost everyone in town's seen UFOs. They'd take their lunch break and go down to the beach and watch them come over."

Abductee companion of choice: "I'd take Scully with me. She's better-looking than Mulder," David chuckles. "She's pretty logical and pretty good at figuring stuff out if someone tries to dissect me."

Frank Black

Connection to the conspiracy: An interplanetary enthusiast, Black, 34, started exposing his UFOlogy in songs on albums by his ex-group, The Pixies. He contributed *Man of Steel* to *Songs in the Key of X*.

Do you believe? "I was traveling with my mother across the United States, and we stopped in (Alliance), a small town in western Nebraska, to visit some relatives," Black says. "I didn't hear about this until I was a teenager. I was surprised to hear the story because my mother wasn't the type.

"She very matter-of-factly told

me, 'Yeah, it was broad daylight and this enormous spaceship hovered over the house. There were about six or 10 people there, and they all thought it was the end of the world. They called the police, and by the time they got there, the craft had begun to move down the road. The police followed it for a bit, and then it disappeared.'"

The truth is out there: "About three years ago, my wife and I were driving through (Alliance), and I did my own lame *X-Files* investigation for a couple of days — and came up with absolutely nothing, except making myself carsick from reading so many microfiches."

Film crew hopes to shed new light on UFO mystery

ANDREW POERTNER
RECORD STAFF WRITER

A television documentary crew is spending the week in Roswell checking out the local sights and shooting footage for an upcoming special.

The team for the show titled "The Secret Evidence That We Are Not Alone" spent Tuesday morning at the International UFO Museum and Research Center visiting with staff and examining the museum's displays.

Project director Gary Beebe explained his interest in the UFO phenomena and some of the information he is turned up. Among the documentary's goals, he said, is exposing the government's policy of denying any incident which may have an extraterrestrial basis.

"It has been specifically stated that there is a government policy of denial," Beebe said. "If you can't ridicule the story, ridicule the people."

One of the stories which will be presented in the show involves a reported UFO crash in Missouri, a story Beebe said is not widely known.

Accompanying Beebe was Charlette Mann, the granddaughter of an eyewitness to the event.

Mann said her grandfather, the Rev. William Huffman, was called out to a crash scene at Cape Girardeau, Mo., in the spring of 1941. It was believed an airplane had crashed and Huffman was wanted in case anyone needed his services as a Southern Baptist minister.

"When he arrived, to his amazement it was a UFO that had crashed," Mann said. "He went inside and there were chairs and writing on the walls which appeared to be

hieroglyphics.

Then the military showed up, she said, and rushed everyone out of the craft. Mann said her grandfather was taken aside and expressly told not to mention what he had seen to anyone.

Unable to lie to his family, Huffman explained what happened to him, but never divulged the events he'd witnessed to anyone else, Mann said.

Mann said her grandmother related her grandfather's story to her years later over a series of conversations. Mann also said as a child she'd seen a photograph which showed the victims of crash.

Rounding out the crew was Jim Marrs, author and scriptwriter. Marrs authored "Crossfire: The Plot That Killed Kennedy," which was used in creating the Oliver Stone film, "JFK." Marrs also penned the novel "Alien Agenda."

"This is not going to be a sensational show, it's going to be accurate," Marrs said. "We are delving into the government's own words and government documents."

Marrs predicted the UFO mystery will be the next issue raised by the American public on a large scale and placed at the government's doorstep.

"This is probably the biggest coverup since Watergate and the Kennedy assassination."

The crew is expected to spend most of the week in Roswell shooting file footage of the city as well as using the UFO museum's alien mannequin in a recreation of the Missouri event.

Beebe said while the documentary is being independently produced, he has contacts with a network and expects the special to air in January.



FOREIGN NEWS

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

GAZETTE, Shields, England - April 23, 1999

Goodness gracious ... GREAT BALLS OF FIRE

BACK in the 1950s, when the whole subject of UFOs was beginning to be taken seriously by people, literally thousands of witnesses across the world reported seeing glowing fireballs.

These distinctive objects followed a pattern.

They were invariably large, often described as "like a miniature sun" and silent.

They would appear at night, often in clusters and unnerve people by shooting across the sky at incredible speed.

At other times they would just hang in the air, "bobbing and weaving" like fireflies.

Naturally, many scientists and astronomers claimed that the fireballs were simply meteors burning up in the earth's atmosphere.

Another suggestion, favoured by many in the US military, was that the objects were balls of swamp gas.

This theory suggested that pockets of inflammable gases could build up in swampy or marshy areas before escaping into the atmosphere, where they somehow ignited.

Others suggested that the gases possessed a natural luminescence which made them glow in the dark.



Special
report by
GORDON
HOST

If the swamp gas theory sounds a little far-fetched to you, then you're in good company.

It didn't convince a lot of people back in the Fifties, either.

Firstly, pockets of gas which suddenly ignited would just disappear in a spectacular, but incredibly brief explosion.

Secondly, even before they ignited, such pockets of gas would be very quickly dispersed by the wind.

Even if the marsh gas theory could explain a small number of cases, it suddenly couldn't explain them all.

During the 1980s, another UFO-related phenomenon caught the public's attention; that of alien abductions.

People were not just seeing lights in the sky, but were actually claiming to have been kidnapped by extra-terrestrials and taken aboard their spacecraft.

Suddenly, glowing balls of fire seemed a little bit boring and sightings became more spasmodic.

Until recently, that is.



Last month, I received several reports over the Internet from the USA in which mysterious, glowing fireballs were once again making their appearance in America, Australia, Europe and several other countries.

They have also arrived in spectacular fashion in the north-east of England.

Andy Ellis is a UFO investigator from Leeds and belongs to an organisation called Yorkshire UFO Info.

Andy began hearing reports of mysterious fireballs appearing over Consett and Stanley at the same time as I began getting similar reports from colleagues in the same area.

We decided to investigate. While Andy contacted witnesses, I contacted the police.

An inspector who was aware of the fireball sightings told me he'd heard suggestions that the phenomenon may be the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights, but it quickly became obvious that this could not even begin to explain the Consett and Stanley sightings.

One of the witnesses stated that the object she saw one evening was "as large as a din-

ner plate held at arm's length."

Another witness said: "It was like a flood-light at a football ground."

Those who have seen the fireballs say they are usually yellow or orange, but can also appear white, blue, or green.

Several Internet sites are now carrying reports of the North Durham fireballs and the phenomenon shows no signs of abating.

In a situation like this, there's only one thing that the dedicated researcher can do; go out in the wilds of north Durham and see for his or herself.

Over the next few days, Andy and I, along with one or two other investigators, will be camping out under the stars and hoping that the fireballs make an appearance.

We'll be equipped with camcorders, cameras, night-vision binoculars and other equipment, so if they do show up, we should have the hard evidence to prove it.

If we should have any close encounters, Bizarre readers will be the first to know.

Don't forget: you can write to Gordon Host via the Gazette or e-mail him directly at gordonhost@lineone.net

Is secret Black Mountain base behind Forest UFO sightings?



*The truth is out there ... UFO investigators Michael Carter and Margaret Coles.

A SECRET Government base hollowed out deep beneath the Black Mountains could be one explanation for strange sightings in the Forest area, says the man behind a recently-formed UFO group.

"When you think of it the Forest and the area around it has a lot to offer if you want to operate in secret," says Michael Carter.

"It is so remote, yet close to main towns like Gloucester and Bristol, and most people who live

in the area are too involved with their lives to notice anything abnormal going on in the skies."

Mr Carter and his mother, Margaret Coles, launched the new group less than a month ago and have already held a successful meeting for interested people in the Victoria Hotel, Newnham-on-Severn.

People from Ross and Monmouth joined as well as Forest enthusiasts and it was agreed to organise activities including field trips - perhaps to places like the Black Mountains

to investigate the claim about the secret base which appeared in a national UFO and mystery magazine.

Mr Carter said members of the group - and telephone callers - had backed up his belief that there was a concentration of UFO activity in the area.

What the group was about was investigating unidentified flying objects and other paranormal happenings to try to discover what was behind them.

"I had a call the other

evening about lights in the sky over Coleford, and I was able to track the source down to spot-lights at the Angel Hotel playing on the cloud base," he said.

"It just goes to show that some sightings are not very mysterious at all, even though the observers in this case had thought the lights came from above the clouds."

The next meeting of the group is on Sunday May 2 and details are available from Mr Carter on 01594 823491 or Mrs Coles on 01594 825662.

FALKIRK HERALD, Stirling, Scotland - June 17, 1999

Billy boldy goes

A UFO-obsessed councillor is set to appear on TV, radio and your nearest bookshelf.

Billy Buchanan, who represents Bonnybridge, is starring in a new ITV documentary and is releasing a CD on UFOs.

He is also planning a series of children's books about Zai, a "wee alien" who crashlands in Bonnybridge.

In addition, Councillor Buchanan and Bonnybridge are set to be featured in a New York magazine.

The London Weekend Television documentary, Into the Unknown, is set to be broadcast in the autumn.

Mr Buchanan was recently filmed in Bonnybridge and also in London, presenting petitions to Downing Street and the Ministry of Defence - demanding an investigation into UFOs in the Bonnybridge area. He sings live on the documentary and plans to release a three-song CD when it is broadcast.

Sings

Mr Buchanan, backed by musicians from Falkirk shop The Music Warehouse, sings *The Lights of Bonnybridge*. They're Here and rap song Oh, Mr Blair.

"Hopefully a big music company might pick it up," he said. "I could see me on Top of the Pops."

Mr Buchanan and Bonnybridge are set to feature in *Gourmet*, a good-living magazine based in New York, which has expressed interest in his story and CD.

"Bonnybridge is world renowned," he said. "It's popping up every week - I'm delighted. It can only be good for the area. Hopefully it will increase the number of people coming in."

The next project for the maverick councillor is a series of illustrated children's books - *My Pal Zai from the Planet Tril*.

The 12-book series will tell the story of Zai, a "cuddly, loving wee mischievous alien", who crashes into a deep loch in the hills above Bonnybridge.

The alien is befriended by Mr Buchanan and together they have a string of adventures. Mr Buchanan said he was in negotiations with a Cumbernauld publisher.

"I've written the books and I'm involved with a publisher," he said.

"We're finalising the graphics and how the character looks." Mr Buchanan said he intended to use proceeds to further plans to open a visitor centre in Bonnybridge - for humans.

He has also helped to set up The Lights of Bonnybridge Community and Education Research Group to co-ordinate information about sightings in the area.

ALAN MUIR

AFTER 25 YEARS AN ARMY OFFICER REVEALS HIS PART IN A BIZARRE WELSH UFO COVER-UP

ROSWELL



What the village saw

WITNESSES on the record:

● **David Heddwyn Jones, chiropodist:** "The craft was about 30ft in diameter. It was soundless, a dull grey with green lights on its perimeters."

● **Mrs V Wallis, Llangynog resident:** "The military and police stayed in the area for days and farmers were told they were not allowed to work their land for a week."

● **Ken Houghton: Bettws-y-Coed resident:** "What I saw looked like sheet lightning and then a luminous sphere falling at speed towards the ground."

● **Pat Evans, nurse:** "There was an explosion and what felt like an earthquake. I thought a plane had crashed and when I went to help saw the white lights of military vehicles zig-zagging up the mountain."

● **Margaret Fry, Llandderfel resident:** "The army cordoned off the whole mountain. Nobody was allowed into the area, not even the police. The craft was domed, about 50ft in size and metallic with an orange glow."

REVISITED?

A RETIRED Army officer has broken a 25-year silence to lift the lid on a British UFO incident that ranks with the infamous Roswell affair in the USA.

The officer, James Prescott, who is still unable to reveal details about himself, including his rank, was in charge of a crack unit that was called to an incident in Wales in January 1974.

Prescott has finally admitted that he can no longer bury the truth about the bizarre happenings at Llandderfel, North Wales.

Minutes before his clandestine unit arrived, police switchboards had been jammed with calls from villagers saying a UFO had crash landed in the Berwyn Mountains.

Prescott is adamant he saw what he terms "alien beings" and

By JASON LAMPORT

maintains their lifeless "humanoid" bodies were taken to a top military base for examination.

"What I saw in those boxes that day changed my whole concept of life," said Prescott, who was based in the south of England at the time.

"I cannot name my unit or barracks as they are still operational but we were put on standby to move north at short notice.

"We received orders to proceed to Llangollen and wait. On arrival, our unit was split into four groups. There was a great deal of ground and aircraft activity.

"Myself and four others were ordered to go to Llandderfel. When we reached our objective we were ordered to load two large oblong boxes, which we were warned not

to open, and proceed to Porton Down military facility.

"We set off south with our cargo and during the journey stopped for a drink. We were immediately approached by a man in civilian clothes who produced an ID card and ordered us to keep going and not to stop again.

"When we arrived the boxes were opened by staff in our presence. We were shocked to see two creatures which had been placed inside decontamination suits.

"When the suits were opened it was obvious the creatures were not of this world and when examined, were found to be dead.

"The bodies were about five to 6ft tall, humanoid in shape but so thin they looked almost skeletal.

"Although I did not see a craft at the scene I was informed that a large craft had crashed."



The Raël thing

His sermons on alien worship, free love and cloning have attracted followers the world over — especially in Quebec. Could this former race-car driver be the 'prophet for the Third Millennium?'



BY TARAS GRESCOE

It's a balmy summer evening and the lateral light of a late sunset is pinkening the glowing faces of a group of francophones gathered outside the Salle Gesù, a venerable pile of cut stone in downtown Montreal. It's an unusually convivial and touchy-feely crowd, even for Quebec: There are shouts of recognition, lingering hugs and affectionate rubbing of shoulders and biceps. Most of the crowd is beautiful, too: buff, tanned men in ribbed white T-shirts who'd look at home in Chippendale's bowties, and striking women, apparently from every continent, staring newcomers, including me, directly in the eye.

This is a gathering of the Raélians, an organization whose members believe that the fact the human race was created by extraterrestrials shouldn't interfere with our hedonistic enjoyment of sex. The skinny guy in front of me in the ticket line looks like a bit of a Star Trek fan. He does magic tricks with the change the cashier hands him from the \$25 entrance fee, pulling coins from her ears. She smiles sweetly: "*Peux-tu me sortir un bisou aussi?*" — "How 'bout pulling out a kiss for me, too?" — and he obligingly pecks her on the cheeks. In the lobby, women dressed in white are passing out pamphlets for UFOland, a kind of alien amusement park in

the Eastern Townships ("Exact replica of a UFO! World's biggest building made of bales of straw! World's tallest replica of DNA!") The Raélian Movement isn't, I've been assured, one of those Solar Temple-style death cults. Which is a good thing, because, judging from all the beatific smiles and unconditional love around me, I get the feeling I'm one of the few non-Raélians in the building tonight.

I enter the auditorium and sit down next to a tall blond woman, who is outfitted with a white halter top, a furry white purse and tight white pants. She turns to me, fixes me with baby blue eyes as round as saucers, and asks, in heavily-accented French, where I first heard the message. "Boulevard Saint-Laurent," I deadpan — which is where, during a recent street fair, a Raélian on Rollerblades handed me a pamphlet for tonight's conference on human cloning. Ivana, as she's called, tells me she heard the message from her brother, and she left her native Warsaw to be near other Raélians in northern France. I ask her whether she lived in a community, but she shakes her head: "We're free to come and go as we please, you know." Ivana tells me she moved to Quebec about five months ago to be near Raël, the movement's leader, and is making her living as a dancer. I reflexively ask her what troupe she's with. "No," she says, looking at me as though I'm a bit of a dunce. "I dance in the clubs." *Right:* I'd heard that a disproportionate number of Raélians come from the exotic dance community. Every few minutes, Ivana interrupts our conversation to hiss ineffectually at a toddler in a print dress running rampant in the aisles: "Isis!"

The Raélians claim about 35,000 members worldwide, and though only 4,000 are French Canadian, the fact that Raël himself now lives here has made Quebec the organization's de facto headquarters. He's found fertile material for recruiting in *la belle province*. Though 85% of Quebecers still identify themselves as Catholic, church attendance here is the lowest on the continent, with only 15% of the provincial population actually showing up for services with any kind of frequency (versus 21% of Canadians overall, and 40% of Americans). That

doesn't mean spirituality has vanished from Quebec, however: It's just veered flaky and esoteric, so that there are now 800 different sects and religions to choose from in the Montreal area alone. Quebec's more notorious New Age religions have included the cult of Roch "Moses" Thériault, a Seventh-Day Adventist who one day saw the light, declared himself "Oint the Eternal," and took his brood to the remote Gaspé Peninsula, where he oversaw amputations, castrations, disinterments of rotting corpses, and brawls among the survivors (Thériault comes up for parole this year). Then there's the infamous Order of the Solar Temple, a cult founded by a Belgian homeopath whose local branch boasted the former mayor of Richelieu, several journalists and a Hydro-Québec vice-president — before they committed mass suicide, embarking on that long voyage to Sirius.

The Raélian Movement, thankfully, has a reputation for being a little less demanding of its followers. Raël is actually Claude Vorilhon, a former French automobile journalist, who explains in his book, *The True Face of God*, that he was taken to the planet of the Elohim in a flying saucer in 1975 and introduced to such noted earthlings as Jesus, Buddha, Joseph Smith and Confucius. The Elohim, small human-shaped beings with pale green skin and almond eyes, were apparently the original inspiration for the Judeo-Christian god. They informed Vorilhon that he was the final prophet — sent to relay a message of peace and sensual meditation to humankind under his new name of Raël — before the Elohim would return to Jerusalem in the year 2025. They didn't, however, oblige him to give up race-car driving, and Raël spent much of the '80s and '90s whipping around the world's racetracks in his beloved Mazda RX 7 Turbo. (Now in his early 50s, he's in semi-retirement from the stock-car tracks, although he's been known to enliven his speeches with videos of past racing exploits.) The theme of tonight's lecture, cloning, seems to be linked to Raël's conviction that the human race was created in the laboratory from the DNA of aliens, 25,000 years ago.

A friend of mine who spent a week in a Raélian Sensual Meditation camp in the Quebec countryside, came back with a mixed report of the experience, which sounded like a cross between a nudist camp and a New Age retreat. The rules were simple: Everybody was free to say no to a sexual invitation, nobody had the right to feel jealous or possessive if their lover desired another, and the wearing of condoms was mandatory. The place was filled with gay men, girls fresh off the plane from Japan, Swiss women walking around naked — and far too many Québécois studs for my friend's taste. He'd been expecting some kind of smorgasbord of free love, and was disappointed to note that the disproportion of men to women meant that couples paired up early on and stayed together for the whole week. Suffice it to say, he came back to Montreal a frustrated lad. But not a bitter one: "It would have been paradise," he told me, "if I hadn't had to listen to Raël natter for six hours every day." In turn, some of the Raélian males confided to him that they accepted the religion's basic message — namely, that there is no God, no soul and our creators' greatest gifts to us are the beauty and sensuality of the human body. They just stopped listening when Raël started talking about UFOs.

As extraterrestrial religions go, the Raélian Movement International — as it's sometimes called — seems to be a fairly benign one. The organization stirred up controversy in 1992 when they responded to Quebec's Catholic school board on birth control dispensers by handing out condoms outside schools. Litigants in Switzerland have accused some Raélians of being paedophiles, citing Vorilhon's entreaties to "awaken the spirit of your

child, but also his body," but Raël subsequently distanced himself from such practices. Most of the criticism has come from the families of new acolytes, worried about the fact that they are required to kick back a tenth of their income to Raël as a tithe. In the 1995 book, *The Gods Have Landed*, Susan Jean Palmer, an expert in cults at Montreal's Dawson College, found no evidence of nefarious activity among the Raélians. (Her main objection was that women were under-represented in the movement's upper echelons, which proves nothing more than that North American social scientists should consider getting a life.) Recounting one of the monthly Sunday meetings at Holiday Inns throughout Quebec, Palmer described the style of feminine dress as ranging "from elegant *Paris Match*, to punk, to (apparently unconscious) parodies of Brigitte Bardot in her St. Tropez heyday." Certainly enough to keep the stray bodybuilders of the me-generation coming back for more. Like the Rajneeshi before them, the Raélian Movement is essentially a lifestyle cult. In increasingly irreligious Catholic societies, Raël's success seems to derive from offering a structured environment for decadent behaviour: He offers a no-guilt playground for hedonism and sexual experimentation.

As the auditorium continues to fill, I notice that Ivana's interest in me has waned since she's discovered that I don't really have the fundamentals of the "message" down, and her gaze wanders to the muscled men milling in the aisles. But then the lights dim, and the evening begins: Brigitte Boisselier, dressed in a wide-brimmed hat and elegant high heels, strides on stage, and explains that she is a biochemist who was fired from the French firm

Air Liquide — and declared a "dangerous mother" by the French state — because of her advocacy of human cloning. But now, she says happily, she is a bishop in the Raélian Movement, and warns us "not to expect a politically correct evening!"

Next on stage is Richard Seed, an American famous for declaring he wants to be the first human to be cloned ("after, of course, my wife Gloria"). He welcomes cloning as the first step towards rejuvenation — a balding fellow with bad posture, he repeatedly mentions how nice it would be to be 22 again — but besides that, he says, "clones will be fun." Dick Seed, a cloning advocate, is at pains to inform us that he's a Christian and a Methodist. I wonder what this guy with a suit and a tie and a doctorate in physics from Harvard is doing in this roomful of French-speaking UFO enthusiasts.

Finally, after being introduced as "the prophet of the Third Millennium," Raël appears. Short, with an utterly receded forehead and the remains of curly black hair drawn up into a topknot, he looks like a Samurai warrior crossed with the Man from Glad. He's wearing an all-white shirt, baggy white pants and white slippers, and sports the heavy silver medallion I've seen around many necks tonight, a Star of David filled with swirls. (The swirls used to be a swastika, but apparently a fair number of Israelis were offended by this attempt at reconciling such a terminally opposed Yin and Yang.) Somehow, I have trouble convincing myself this is a divine messenger. Raël has an accent that makes it sound like he's trying to dislodge a mussel caught in

(continued on page 14)

the back of his throat. Which makes me suspect that I'm actually in the presence of a Belgian.

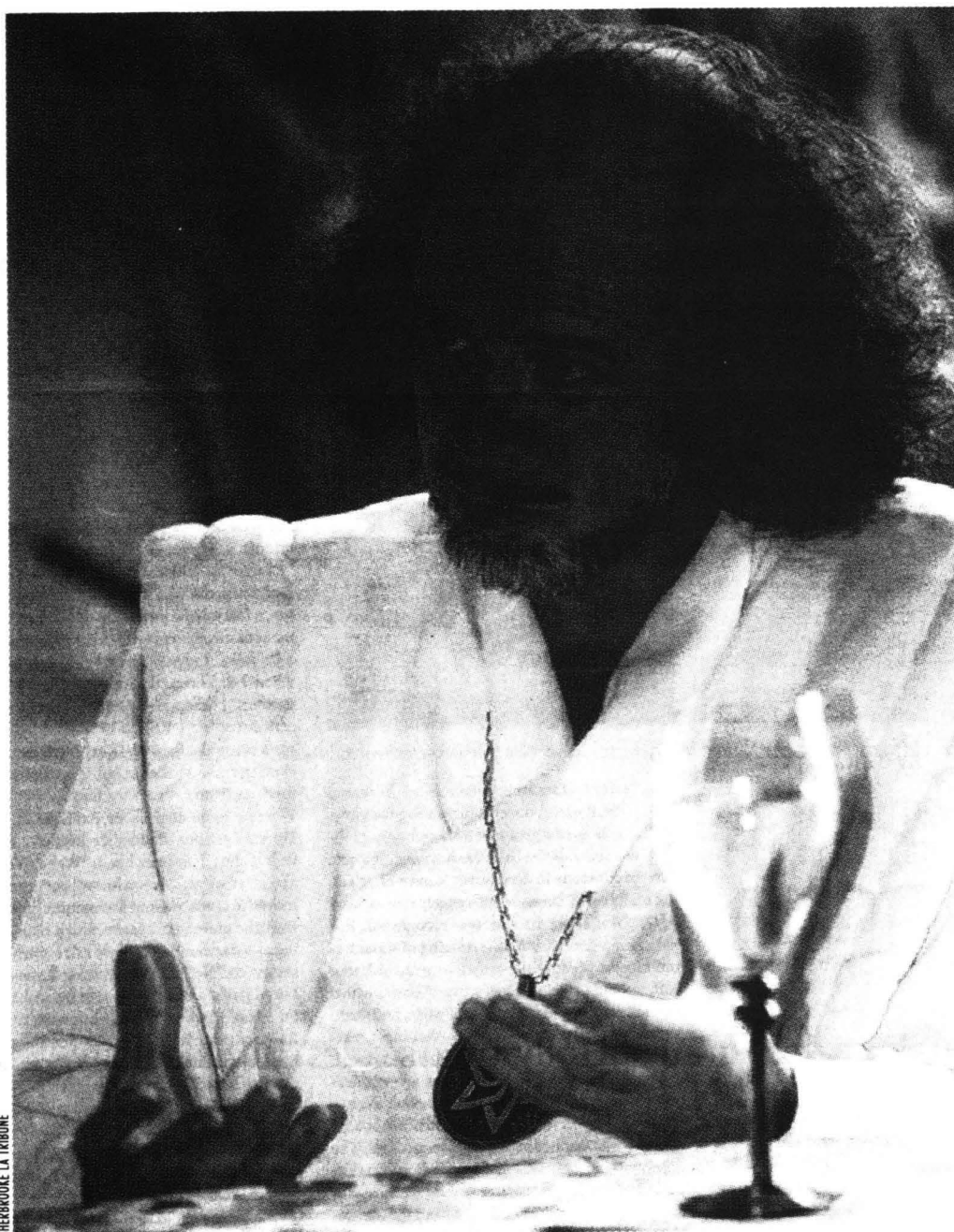
Raël paces around like a seasoned stand-up comedian, working the crowd. He announces that he's just gained his Québécois citizenship, and half the audience is on its feet applauding. "Unfortunately, I have to be Canadian, too!" After taking a couple of shots at the Pope, ("The difference between me and Jean Paul II [sic] is that, every year, everything that he says is proved to be false, and everything I say proves to be true!") he turns to the main theme of the evening. He doesn't want to encourage human cloning to create little replicas of himself. He wants to clone himself so he can live forever! "Do you want to die at the age of 35?" he asks. "No!" is the resounding reply from the audience. Actually, judging from the youthful beauty of most of the people here, I'm beginning to suspect that I've stumbled onto some sort of sect inspired by the '70s science-fiction film *Logan's Run*, where those over 30 are not only distrusted, but vaporized. And as an anglo writer, in a room full of French-Canadian hedonists, I feel like I'm 32 going on 50.

What's more, I'm blatantly scribbling in a notepad, just as Raël is having a go at journalists. Distancing his religion from the Solar Temple and, "who were those other guys?" — someone yells: "Waco!" — he confesses his disgust with lazy reporters. "I used to be one myself, you know. But why do the journalists always call me when there's a collective suicide? I don't want to die! I want to be around to piss them off for a long time!" The crowd responds with roars of delight.

Ivana, I've noticed, is eyeing my dancing pencil with a look of resentment in her baby blues. Against my will, an image out of the *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* springs to mind: Ivana leaping to her feet, pointing to me in a rage, and the word "Journalist!" issuing from her inhumanly twisted mouth. A circle of toned and tanned bodies inexorably closes in on me, and the scene fades to black as I disappear beneath a pile of writhing lap dancers.

The Raélians have a very nice little religion, I say to myself, gathering up my journalistic impediments and making a quick exit. They might even be fun to hang out with for a summer, practising a little sensual meditation with a United Nations panel of strippers — if only it weren't for all that UFO stuff. The problem is, I can tell my pleasure would be ruined by the knee-jerk curiosity inculcated by my own sect, the Newsman cult. Too many questions are already springing to mind: What happens if you neglect to pay Raël his 10% tithe? If the Elohim created humans from their own DNA, who created the Elohim? Most importantly, what happens to Raélians when they get old?

Since I ask questions as obsessively as most true believers avoid them, it's a foregone conclusion: I don't have the requisite faith to make it as a Raëlian. In fact, I say to myself, emerging dazed into the comforting Montreal twilight, I probably need a little deprogramming myself.



At one retreat, male followers of Raël, above, confided that they accept his basic message — that there is no God, no soul and our creators' greatest gifts to us are the beauty and sensuality of the human body. They just stopped listening when the leader started talking about UFOs.

ELLESMERE PORT PIONEER, Cheshire, England - May 19, 1999

UFO probe after gory sheep 'killings'

ELLESMERE Port's own 'X-File' investigators have been probing a gory mystery in rural Cheshire.

Mike McManus and John Millington, of the Supernatural Encounters Association, have been checking out strange goings-on for the past couple of years.

Although a large number of their investigations have taken place around the Wirral, they also advertise their specialist services throughout Cheshire, Shropshire and Wales.

And this was how they were contacted by a farmer from Malpas who asked them to look into an odd occurrence on his property.

Mike said: 'He told us that a few weeks ago he woke up to find 20 of his sheep dead. He said their throats had been cut and they had all been laid out in a neat pile.'

'The farmer, whose identity we are unable to reveal just yet,



DARK SKIES: Mike McManus and John Millington of the Supernatural Encounters Association.

2180P31a

said there was no blood near the wounds and all the blood had been sucked out of them.

'He said it was almost as if the throats had been cut with a laser beam and he was ordered by the authorities to bury them almost immediately.'

He added: 'There have been a

lot of UFO and ghost sightings in and around the Malpas area recently. In coming months we're going down there to watch the skies to see if we can capture any evidence of UFOs.'

Cheshire police say they have no record of the incident at the farm.

The truth is out there, Mr Blair!



Ernie Sears from Netley Abbey believes there is a cover-up going on over the sightings of UFOs.

Like television's X-Files, he believes the truth is out there.



ALIEN LIFE?: Steve Spielberg's ET.

TONY Blair is paranoid. He reneges on pledge after election pledge. Why? Because "spin doctors" tell me that a "pledge" isn't as binding as a promise. It is obvious that government secrecy threatens the bastions of our democracy.

My own experience of cover-ups, secrecy and the government's refusal to take the people into its confidence, stems from March 1960.

There was an incident that month. I saw a UFO. The control tower officials at Portsmouth's Thorney Island airbase denied it, but I saw a glowing cigar shape hovering over the Admiralty surface weapons establishment on top of Portsdown Hill.

It vanished in the blink of an eye as two Gloster Meteor jet fighters were scrambled over Gosport and closed in on it. "You did not see any object or jets," the authorities told me.

I've had years of paranormal experiences, including another sighting of a huge, silent, hovering, triangular object over my house in 1977. It disappeared in the clear evening sky.

Fortunately that sighting was corroborated by four other witnesses some five miles away, although all other official inquiries met with denial.

There was a similar incident in 1978. A small white "blob" tracked by a jet fighter drew a polite "Sorry, old boy, nothing up from here" by a major at Middle Wallop Air Defence base.

Perhaps significantly on that occasion, I heard the switchboard operator say in the background, "We have a code red here, sir."

Much "paranormal" activity followed and I subsequently became a so-called "healer" among other "psychic" phenomena. There followed lecture tours, radio, TV, interviews and magazine articles. I wrote an 80,000-word book over 12 years. This work, entitled *On The Other Hand* (a play on my healing skills!) is currently with a publisher in synopsis form.

If you feel I'm an "airhead", my letters to the Daily Echo dating back to the Seventies, often concern bicycles on pavements, country music and my freestyle dancing, the quality of justice, and much else. Anything that seemed to threaten our freedom.

Naturally, UFO information will be hard to come by. I joined Steve Gerrard's Southampton UFO Group some years ago.

The London-based Witness Support Group, (by UFO witnesses for UFO witnesses), will get sightings information, via newsletters. As one of my wall tracts, quoting Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's fictitious detective Sherlock Holmes, says: "When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth."

For too long we have been denied access to the truth by our peers.

Take for instance the Bilderberg Group! Who's that, I hear you ask?

Well, it consists of one hundred or so mummies, who all possess "clout" of some kind, bankers, royalty, defence ministers, philosophers, billionaires, even newspaper directors - that's who! This group meets under tight security in various countries. This year it was Portugal, I believe. No records of their discussions are ever released.

Even Tony Blair claimed originally not to know of its existence but he changed his mind 12 months later! The Bilderberg Group had been called the "Secret World Government". Beware of it, that's what I say. Tony Blair even supports D Notices (orders by government to prevent the release of news) but this is all part of the Bilderberg plot as far as I am concerned.

Just you read the work of best-selling author Nick Redfern. It took him a decade to write that classic book, *A Covert Agenda* (Simon and Schuster, 1998). I can honestly say it is epoch

making. Check it out yourself. See how the Government uses the OSA (Official Secrets Act) to muzzle the newspaper editor!

But central to his theme is the detailed evidence of a 50-year cover-up of how extra-terrestrials have clearly been infiltrating our airspace.

And you think this is dramatic? It isn't for those who are aware of the truth! Thank you, Daily Echo for publishing this article.

I am sure there are many loyal and intelligent readers who know what this is all about.

After all, it is our freedoms that are at risk.

TAMESIDE REPORTER, Stalybridge, Cheshire, England - June 10, 1999

Have you seen the lights?

HAVE you seen two bright orange lights hovering over Audenshaw Reservoirs or have you heard the high pitched whistling that accompanies them.

If so, a UFO researcher from Stalybridge is asking you to contact him.

Dave Dimelow is investigating reports from four people of two bright orange balls of light hovering over the reservoirs and a high pitched sound piercing the quiet at night.

All four sightings were made between 10.30pm and 11pm. The

main group of sightings were made around a month ago but sightings are still being reported up to the present day.

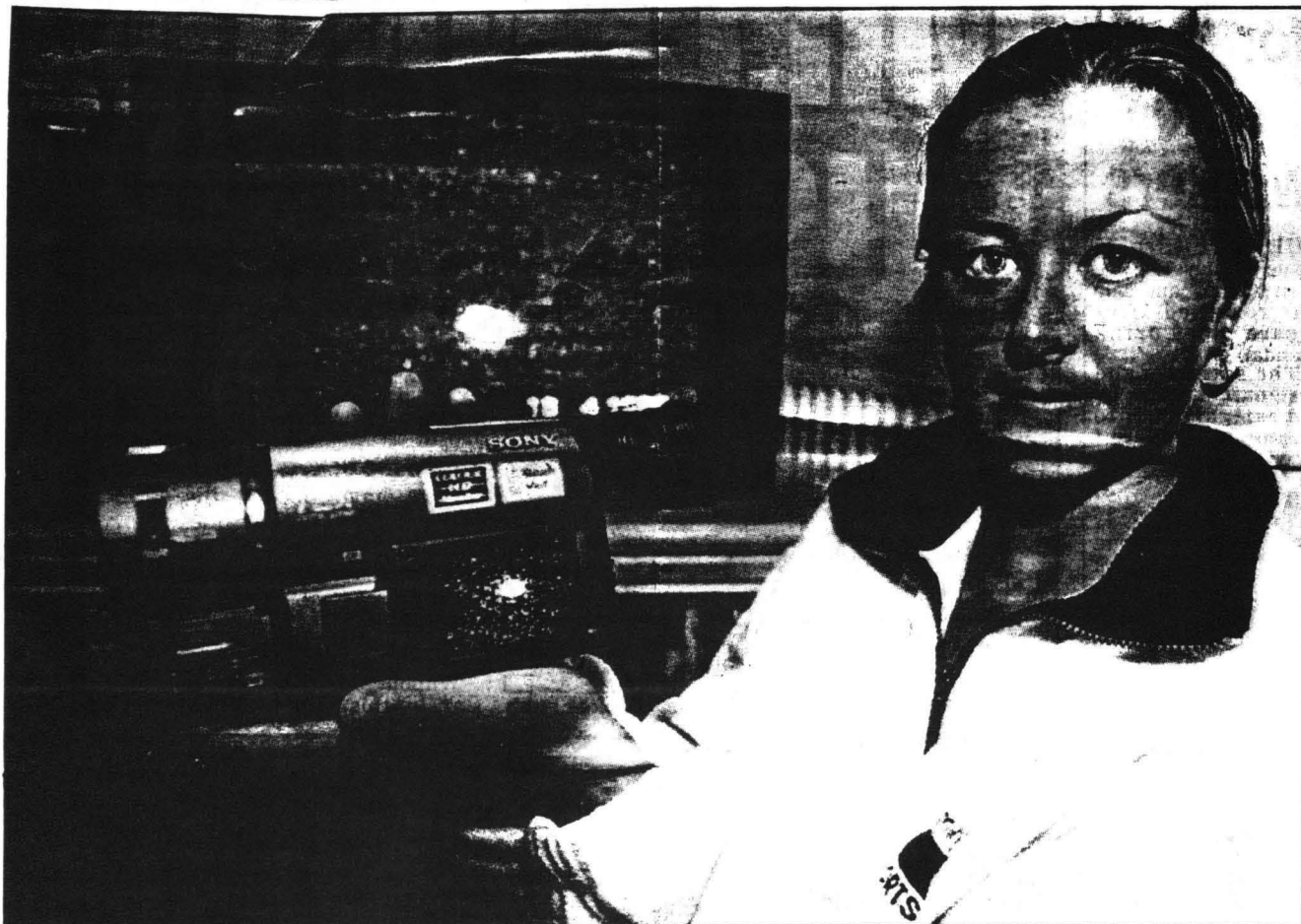
Dave, a member of the Aerial Phenomenon Research and Information Exchange (APRIE) said: "Manchester Airport has reported no anomalous readings on its radars and the Ministry of Defence are yet to get back to me."

If anyone has seen these two lights they can contact Dave on 0161-338-5639.

Close encounters

UFO expert Ron Halliday, a senior academic at Scotland's Stirling University, claimed that the British military may be using large rural areas of Scotland to conceal UFOs and alien life. Glasgow's *Herald* newspaper reported that Halliday has pinpointed the remote Highland village of Machrihanish as one possible site of a secret base because the village used to be the site of a large NATO base and still has a long airport runway. Although some of the locals have reported seeing flying saucers and other unexplained phenomena during the past few years, most of the village's 200 residents doubt Halliday's claim.

ARE UFOs TAPPING INTO OUR ENERGY SUPPLIES?



CAUGHT ON CAMERA ... microbiologist Carol Brown filmed what she believed was a UFO above her home

Hot spot's great balls of fire...

EVIDENCE has emerged that the Bonnybridge UFO hot spot is flaring into renewed activity. It comes in the shape of a startling video taken by 24-year-old microbiologist Carol Brown.

Filmed from her home in Carronshore, on the outskirts of Falkirk, the amazing footage shows a bizarre ball of light hovering.

Carol told me: "I went upstairs to my bedroom and something caught my eye. There were two bright orange lights side by side like fireballs.

"They seemed to be hovering above the ground over electricity pylons. One faded and disappeared, the second moved from side to side for several minutes before vanishing.

"But that wasn't the end, after a few minutes two more lights appeared, and this time I managed to get the video camera out. I only caught one UFO on tape, though I got a good look at all of them. The sighting lasted more than 20 minutes and I even had time to watch them through binoculars.

"I would describe them as round solid objects. They didn't have a definite edge, they just looked fuzzy.

"As my partner noted a plane passed beneath it at one point, so it must have been quite high up."

THE incident has changed Carol's view of the UFO phenomenon.

She went on: "I've never seen anything before this. I was cynical about UFO reports until now.

"But when you see it for yourself it's differ-



ent. I know what I saw wasn't a plane or helicopter. I'm not saying it's an alien craft, but I'd like to know what it was."

Carol wasn't the only witness to the strange incident as she explained: "My partner saw it too at the same time from a different place. He had gone to a local fast food outlet and spotted the two



MYSTERIOUS ... the strange white light that Carol believes was a UFO

remarkably similar to an object glimpsed by several people over Carronshore in October 1994.

According to witness Beatrice Campbell: "There was one large object which had a light orange glow."

The same colour as Carol's UFO.

ANOTHER witness, Adriane Keating, said: "It was reddish in colour.

"It was shaped like a ball surrounded by a heat haze.

"It hovered for about ten minutes, disappeared from view for two minutes then came back.

"At first I thought it was a plane. But it could not have been. I saw a plane fly under it."

The coincidences with

Carol's encounter will surely convince sceptics that something strange is going on in the skies above Falkirk.

Why should an almost identical UFO turn up at the same spot after a gap of five years?

What will also excite the interest of ufologists is the appearance of a UFO near electricity pylons.

There has long been a suspicion that these objects, wherever they come from, are drawing energy from our technology.

The BP complex, just a few miles from Carronshore, is one of the biggest petro-chemical centres in Europe.

Do UFOs keep coming to the Falkirk area to tap into our energy sources?



Hairy, smelly, spooky

The man above is lecturing *The Fortean Times'* annual UnConvention on the subject of the yowie, or Australian Yeti. The theme of the event? Millennial psychosis, of course. By **Andrew Mueller**

During the slower stretches of the morning lecture on UFOs, pseudo-science and new religions, the man sitting in front of me reads a red pamphlet advertising a company that offers the chance to get married in a zero-gravity environment. The rest of the auditorium seems largely composed of unaccompanied, dishevelled, red-eyed males, their faces encrusted with the artless stubble of those who have no reason to bother, scribbling intently in notebooks.

In the room across the hall, merchandising stalls team with *Star Trek*, *Star Wars* and *X-Files* toys, flying-saucer egg-cups, rocket-shaped salt-and-pepper shakers, and books with titles like *How to Contact the Dead and Particles*. A computer offers to read your aura for £15 a go, and some sort of ICA-affiliated group touts for volunteers to participate in a - hopefully purely theatrical - re-enactment of the 1978 mass suicide by the followers of loony evangelist Jim Jones.

In the lobby downstairs, a small flock of Marilyn Manson clones perch on the edge of their chairs with cups of tea and earnestly discuss recent developments in spirit photography - a phenomenon which, given that they all look as if they are well used to looking in mirrors and seeing nothing, may represent the only chance any of them are ever going to have of getting a passport for their holidays in the gloomy, forested uplands of Transylvania. By the entrance behind them, new arrivals are welcomed by

a small child dressed as an alien.

This year's UnConvention is the sixth annual para-scientific talk-fest staged by the reliably entertaining and intriguing journal, *The Fortean Times*, and is the biggest yet, drawing speakers from all over the world and a crowd estimated by Paul Sieveking, one of *FT*'s editors, at somewhere between 1,000 and 1,500. For two days, this mostly quiet and cheerful crowd partake of seances and psychic energy experiments, and shuffle dutifully between lectures; in this latter respect, at least, UnConvention feels a bit like being back at university, except that everybody arrives before 11 o'clock and the lecturers are a good deal less demented. The scheduled topics include millennial psychosis, poltergeists, monsters and - of particular interest to this Australian-born attendee - yowies, the mythical giant apemen occasionally spotted galumphing through the forests of the Great Dividing Range.

The yowie is introduced to a somewhat bemused audience on the Saturday afternoon by a likeable, softly-spoken Australian cryptozoology researcher and writer called Tony Healy. Healy specialises in mythical and semi-mythical Australian fauna, from the Tasmanian Tiger (which definitely existed once and may still do) to the bunyip (which probably never existed but might have), though the yowie is his driving passion. Since the late 1960s, Healy has been compiling reports of sightings of apemen all over the world - the American Bigfoot, the Canadian Sasquatch, the Nepalese Yeti and the yowie of his homeland.

Having previously thought that claims of yowie sightings were generally the province of people who'd either been at the blue mushrooms or out in the sun without a hat, I am impressed by both the lengthy list of testimonials that Healy submits and the equanimity with which he admits that the sole, hurriedly snapped, ill-focused, black-and-white photo of a yowie he has ever managed to acquire "could just as easily be a penguin, really".

Healy's self-effacing approach to his area of interest is very much in keeping with the *Fortean* ethos - the *FT* itself generally regards paranormal phenomena and their more excitable adherents with an amused disdain. In fact, if

superstitious I get, I am beginning to think there may be something uncanny or paranormal about the yowies. Yeah - you can see them, and I've never heard any doubt from the people who have that they are flesh-and-blood creatures, but you can't kill them, for whatever reason."

The dozens of eyewitness reports - including one by a federal Senator, Bill O'Chee - that Healy has collected in his decades of research yield both remarkable similarities (the loping, ape-like gait, the thick all-over hair, an overwhelmingly foul body odour, often likened to burnt electrical wiring) and maddening inconsistencies (casts of alleged yowie footprints range from three-toed to six-toed). Healy also

depicted in cave paintings that long predate the British invasion of the continent. While it is easily conceivable that a violent, knuckle-dragging, pot-bellied, no-necked, sub-human could lurk in the sub-conscious imaginations of Europeans, there is no way that the early Australian aboriginals could ever have seen either giant apes or Rugby League.

"I do still kind of reckon someone will get something on film one day," says Healy, who is yet to see a yowie himself. "I just hope it's me."

In a suite of rooms away from the lecture halls, UnConvention also attempts some semi-scientific research into psychic phenomena. An installation called *The Mind Machine* aims to determine whether or not people can influence as definitively indiscriminate an outcome as the flipping of a coin (in my case, no: I score a statistically entirely predictable two out of four).

An organisation called ASSAP - the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena - is also running a series of events intended to find out whether or not human beings can influence the apparently ungovernably random through sheer force of will. This, of course, is exactly what high street bookmakers do every day of the week, but the ASSAP exhibit has the advantages of not costing anything and being less full of depressing old men with no elbows in their jackets. I join the queue of people trying to roll abnormally high or low totals on five dice, guess what's on hidden cards, and move a scale by thinking at it, and return thoroughly ordinary results. I ask if anyone ever manages anything different.

"Not often," admits an ASSAP member, with a you-don't-have-to-be-crazy-to-work-here-but-it-helps grin. "But two people did move the scale last year."

The last thing I do is attend one of the seances, where 16 of us hold hands in a dark room and, to the accompaniment of suitably portentous taped piano music, try to get some objects, daubed with glow-in-the-dark paint, to move about. The tambourine, the bell and the slate stay obstinately put, but the wicker ball appears to roll about a bit and float, briefly, and the candlestick falls over with a startling bang. Both of these could have been engineered easily enough by either the host, Dr Richard Wiseman, or someone under the table, giving the tablecloth a tug, but when the lights come back on, one of the other seance-goers is pale and shaking, and another is struggling with tears.

The governing theme for this year's UnConvention was, inevitably, the impending millennium and the madnesses associated with it - although, ironically, the increasing attendances at successive UnConventions may be, like the rising memberships of apocalyptic cults and interest in the paranormal enumerated by a couple of UnConvention lecturers, a result of exactly the same contradiction: that of a godless world approaching a portent-laden date. We all want to believe in something.

"We hadn't had a decent yowie sighting for years," Tony Healy told me. "But there's [sic] been about a dozen in the last few months."

Healy admits that the sole, ill-focused, black-and-white photo of a yowie he has managed to acquire 'could just as easily be a penguin'

UnConvention has a serious flaw, it's that most of the speakers seem less interested in their putative subjects than fascinated by the people who take those subjects at all seriously, and so much of the weekend basks in an inevitable atmosphere of self-consciously ironic superiority.

However, when I speak to Healy the following day, he does, eventually and shyly, suggest that he believes that there may be something more to the yowie phenomenon than he let on during his lecture.

"The longer I stay in this business," he says, hesitantly, "the more

concedes that the lack of photographic or skeletal evidence is baffling, but contends that remarkably few of the yowie stories he has heard begin with the words "Well, I'd just come out of the pub..."

"There's no reason why these people would make these stories up," he argues. "You know what Australians are like - any excuse to laugh at people."

Another factor that continues to gnaw at Healy is that the yowie, or something very like it, exists in Aboriginal as well as Anglo-Saxon Australian folklore, and appears to be

yard in Renton, Wash. One day, Karen says she heard the strange voice of a woman calling their names.

After a moment the two girls went back to playing.

Then Karen and Anna "saw a woman with glowing white skin and a long blue dress standing at the edge of the bushes," writes Davis.

"The woman raised her arm and pointed a finger at the two girls. . . . She reached out to the girls with an open hand. Karen screamed. That seemed to release them. The girls ran to their house without looking back."

Too bad. Had they hung around they may have heard an even more terrifying sound.

"Aaavon caaaaalling."

The Actor

The Elizabethan Theater in Ashland, Ore., has long been home to a ghostly legend.

The ghost of the great actor Charles Laughton, who once played the Hunchback of Notre Dame, is said to appear during plays.

Laughton, as the story goes, signed a contract to play King Lear in 1962, but inconveniently died before the performance.

Sometime afterward, Laughton's laugh was heard from the back of the theater.

Then, a Laughton-like phantasm was actually seen blundering around backstage in a Falstaff costume.

Which is really not so hard to explain. If there's anything a hammy actor can't fathom, it's knowing when to take an exit.

■ Doug Clark can be reached at (509) 459-5432 or by e-mail at dougcl@spokesman.com.

Grisly book brings out the undead

The Spokesman-Review

Evil clouds. The Blue Lady. Dead actors who hang around more often than Hamlet's old man . . .

From Jefferson Davis' perspective, the Northwest is spookier than the "Blair Witch Project."

The Vancouver anthropologist, named after the Confederacy's long-dead president, says his fascination with things that go bump in the night dates back to watching the weekly creature feature on TV as a kid.

Now Davis has released his second hair-raising book: "Ghosts, Critters & Sacred Places of Washington and Oregon" (Norseman Ventures, \$12.95).

The first, "Ghosts and Strange Critters of Washington and Oregon," came out last December. New to the self-publishing biz, he blew his pre-Halloween 1998 deadline, which is why he is hawking two new books at once.

Davis materialized in Spokane recently to hawk books at a publishers' fair. With Halloween looming, the time is ripe to air a few of his stories and set a proper mood for a creepy contest.



Doug Clark

Anyone who has had a scary encounter with a ghost or City Council wannabe Steve Eugster should call me at 459-5432. Tell your tale. Leave your name and number. If your story is chosen for a future column, you will win a copy of Davis' latest book.

But first things first.

The Cloud

Cold weather is not strange to Spokane.

But a sudden bone-chilling surge of arctic air on a warm August night convinced a young couple they were dealing with something far beyond an explanation from TV weather druid Tom Sherry.

Ryan and his girlfriend, Deshan, told Davis they were headed for coffee when they passed the intersection of Garland and Cedar.

The street light winked out. Then, according to Ryan, a moving pocket of cold air hit them with enough force to rock them off their heels.

"I try to stand on the middle line," says Davis of the weirdo claims he writes about. "But I believe the people I talk to sincerely believe."

Ryan and Deshan ran to the end of the block. They looked back. What they saw froze them even worse: A pale gray, 9-foot cloud floated above the ground.

They watched it hover there for several seconds" before high-tailing to the coffee shop, writes Davis.

What was it? We'll probably never know.

But one fact is undeniable. There is a liquor store very close to Garland and Cedar.

The Blue Lady

Anna and her cousin, Karen, spent many childhood days playing in an aunt's

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Oct. 5, 1999 CR: G. Conway

KEYWORD: SASQUATCH

entries, with one taken from *Scientist Looks at Sasquatch* that gives a factual "account" of a sasquatch find. Most poems are very stream-of-consciousness, with titles such as *Man Moving Shaggy*, *He Gathers Himself in the Cedar Shade*, and *Sasq Meets Buddha*. Navigation from poem to poem is also a steam-of-consciousness, with intratextu-

al linking words - much like footprints - taking you from poem to poem on any whiff of the beast. The prologue poem, an excerpt from Margaret Atwood's *Oratorio for Sasquatch*, Man, and Two Androids, warns that, "here there are no maps, here there are no trails; the treetrunks you slashed, to show you the way back, have healed themselves behind you." Of course you can always return to the site's table of contents. *Siobhan Roberts, National Post*

<http://oberon.educ.sfu.ca/sasq/sasq02.htm> Sasquatch, you say? You'll find him on the Web site Sasquatch Journal & Other Meta-furs, a collection of poems written by a graduate student at the University of British Columbia as an example of "a networked interdisciplinary text." There are 67

Ghosts and boars and Bigfoot, oh my!

► Edmond has own tales
of strange events

SHARLA BARDIN

The Edmond Sun

There is just something eerily fun about listening to a ghost tale.

Some can't get enough of stories involving restless spirits who teeter between worlds, or strange and unexplainable bumps in the night.

A great many people also enjoy hearing of experiences that would make the skin crawl or the hair on one's neck sprout up.

Of course, October is a prime time for such kooky retellings.

"We're the only species that likes to scare ourselves," said David Farris, adding that we dedicate "a whole month to being scared."

Farris is a fan of spooky tales, compiling many into the book "Mysterious Oklahoma." In that publication, the Edmond resident shares experiences about ghosts, a haunted stretch of highway, UFOs and alien abductions and strange sights in the Sooner skies.

Even Edmond has mysterious events that are worth sharing, stories of ghosts and even a glimpse of Big-

foot-like creature.

So, for all those with a taste for odd occurrences, here are some morsels of enjoyment.

Checking the books

Lora Wilkinson admits that she does not believe in ghosts.

"I'm not prone to fantasy," she said. "I'm very down to earth."

But she still can't explain what happened to her one rainy day three years ago.

Wilkinson works for the Angel House art gallery and gift shop on East Main Street.

It was 11:30 in the morning and there were no customers in the house. So, Wilkinson busied herself by balancing the store's ledger.

She looked up and suddenly saw a man standing in the doorway just steps away from her.

Wilkinson said he was dressed in an "old-fashioned royal blue suit," a style reminiscent of the early 1900s.

But he was gone quickly, she said while demonstrating with a snap of her finger.

Although it didn't give Wilkinson the fright of her life, she still is mystified about the experience.

"To this day, I'm still kind of puzzled by it."

Some have speculated that the man may have been John Angel, whose family lived in the home for 64 years.

Wilkinson jokes that since Angel was a banker he may have been checking to see that she was doing the books correctly.

Still, the ordeal didn't scare her away from work. "If anything about this house spooked me, I'd be out of here."

"If there are ghosts in this house, they are friendly."

Strange voices

Lorrie Keller had heard stories from people about eerie happenings in the Edmond Historical Society and Museum building at 431 S. Boulevard. For a time, the building served as the city's community center.

"I never experienced anything that scared me," said Keller, who is the artistic director for Star-DanceSwan, a modern dance company.

The company operated out of the building from 1984 to 1994. But Keller did have an unusual experience one night in the building.

The company was preparing a new piece, so Keller and a friend were working into the wee hours of the morning painting the set. She took a break and walked into the hallway to get a drink of water.

The two ladies kept working on the last-minute touches and details when Keller mentioned to her friend that while in the hallway she heard something strange.

It sounded like the chatter from a group of women, she said, adding it "was nothing negative or horrible."

As she told her friend about the sound, Keller found out her friend

had also heard the voices in the hallway.

"We just looked at each other and said 'Could it be possible?'"

"It wasn't spooky," Keller said. "I had no fear."

Soon after, the ladies finished their work and left.

The voices were not the only inexplicable event at the museum building. Keller recalls a story told to her about a man who was cleaning up after a Halloween party.

He was walking through a dark hall in the building when he saw a light and soon after noticed an outline of a person in a uniform. He told the figure he was just cleaning up, looked again and saw no one.

The man vowed not to come back at that time of night again.

Keller is not sure what caused the voices, nor does she discount such tales of the unexplained.

"I do not rule out the sense of wonder in our lives."

Mysterious Edmond

Farris has been told his fair share of mystifying stories, and some involve the Edmond area.

One incident involves a man who spotted a "Bigfoot-type creature digging in the snow" near the creek in front of the armory off Bryant Avenue.

In another interesting animal category, Farris has been told about a colony of razorbacks 12 years ago at the Waterloo and Post roads location.

He's also heard of "a very haunted house" near the University of Central Oklahoma campus.

Farris admits that he's drawn to eerie tales — such as stories told to him and information from libraries — which eventually led to the content of "Mysterious Oklahoma."

The book, which Farris wrote in 1995, has sold 3,000 copies and he's now planning on a second volume.

Farris believes people enjoy a good spook now and then.

"We like to scare ourselves as humans, but we like to have control."

He equates the control aspect to watching scary movies in the dark, with the knowledge that one can turn the lights back on at any moment.

So, for all those who enjoy a fleeting fright, now you know tales about the ghost who watches over bank books, a cluster of women chatting early in the morning and even a visit from a Bigfoot-like character to the community.

In "Mysterious Oklahoma," Farris includes a quote from Albert Einstein that seems to sum up the attraction many have to the extraordinary.

"The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science."

(Sharla Bardin can be reached via email at sbardin@edmond-sun.com)

Mysterious events

The following are stories found in "Mysterious Oklahoma," written by Edmond resident David Farris:

A haunted highway

"While driving down a lonely country highway, travelers in Oklahoma may pass right through an area known to be haunted. This could be a stretch of Highway 20, just east of Claremore.

In the winter of 1965, Mae Doria was driving in this location when she gave a ride to a young boy about 11 or 12 years old who was hitch-hiking. The two chatted as they traveled east. Upon reaching Pryor, the boy asked to be let out in an area where there were no houses. When Ms. Doria asked him where he lived he replied, 'Over there.'

She looked to see where he meant and when she turned her head back to the boy he had disappeared! ... In an ironic twist of fate, two years later she was talking to the gas man about psychic experiences. When she mentioned the phantom hitch-hiker the man immediately knew the location. He claimed to have heard tales of a phantom boy hitch-hiker being picked up in that area

as far back as 1936."

A fort ghost

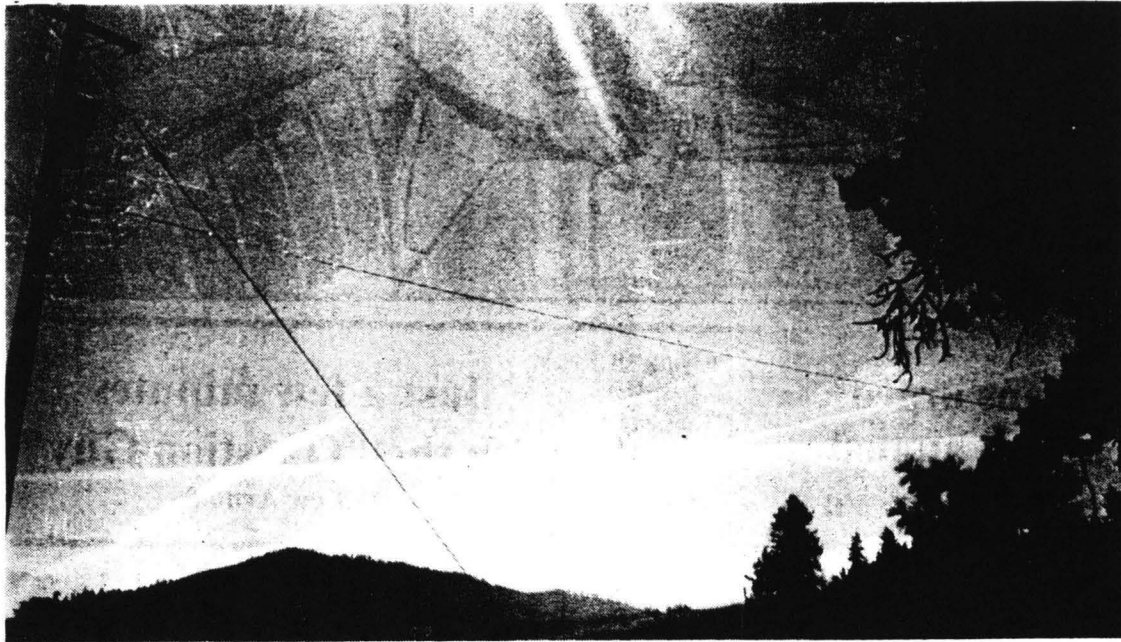
Fort Washita, located in the Madill-Durant area, is said to be haunted. The fort was established in 1842 and captured by the rebels during the Civil War. The ruins are said to be haunted by the ghost of a headless woman known as Aunt Jane or Aunt Betsy. As the story goes, the ghost is of an early settler killed by robbers.

One tale of a ghostly encounter was about "a woman who was in the kitchen washing dishes when she heard a strange sound that she had heard before; a stone rolling down the roof stopping at the eaves. She paused from her dishwashing and noticed a silvery-white headless figure in the doorway who said to her, 'Follow me and I will reward you.'

The terrified woman screamed and replied, 'I can't, I can't' before fainting. Her husband rushed into the kitchen to find his wife unconscious on the floor."

To receive a copy of the book, send \$12.95 plus \$2.50 for shipping and handling to David Farris at P.O. Box 5991, Edmond, OK, 73083-5991.

Mystery grids observed by many lacing skies over Chewelah



Fuzzy grids over Chewelah were photographed two weeks ago and were observed again Friday morning over the south end of the Colville Valley.

By Lew Arnold

Who knows what evil lurks in the skies above Chewelah?

Prompted by theories ranging from weather modification to mass inoculations, a growing number of people are focusing their gaze (and cameras) toward the heavens in an attempt to catch a glimpse of the suspicious contrails criss-crossing the skies above Eastern Washington, other parts of the US and Europe.

A local resident recently caught the phenomenon on film and brought the photos to *The Independent*. Although the photographs are difficult to reprint, the originals were truly

magnificent and the color originals can be viewed on the Internet from a link which will be placed on our web-site at www.panoramaland.com.

Over the years, ground observers have grown accustomed to condensation trails (contrails) marking the high altitude flight paths of military and commercial jets. The frozen vapor trails typically disburse and disappear quickly.

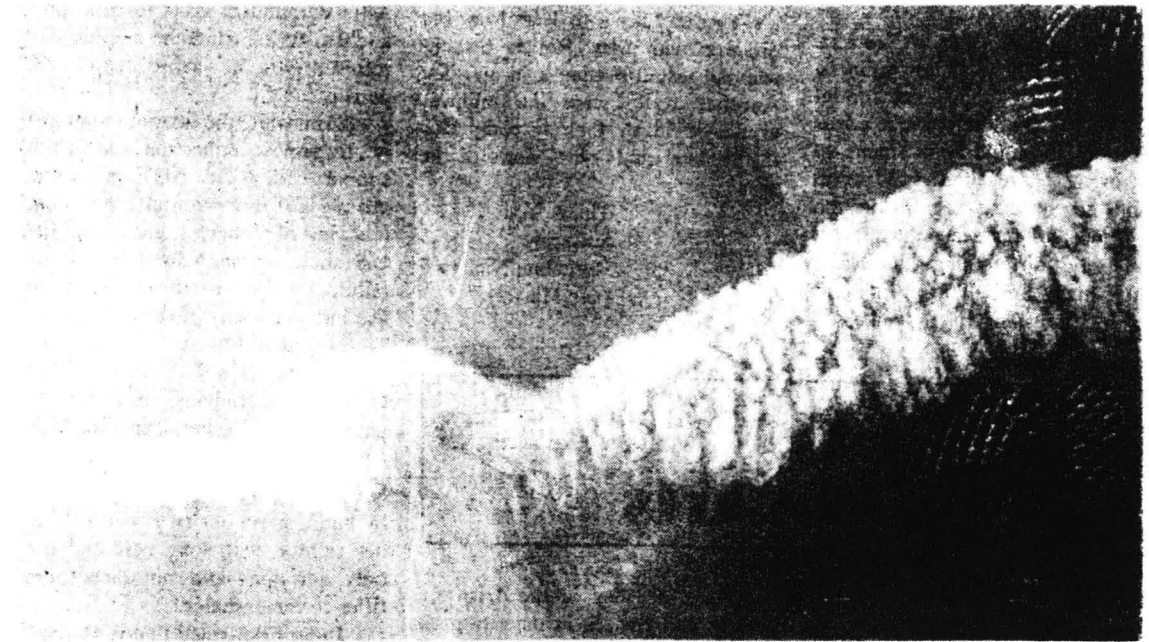
Chemtrails (chemical trails), however, exhibit atypical behavior which distinguishes them from ordinary contrails. They are usually much wider, sometimes darker and hang around for hours, often covering

the sky with criss-crossed patterns.

The Air Force, National Weather Service and other governmental agencies say that there is nothing unexplainable about the phenomenon.

Conspiracy buffs and a few reputable sources describe "chemtrails" as an aerial phenomenon underway for at least the past several years, with a noticeable increase since last spring.

One newsletter publisher claims that more than 400 interviews have been conducted confirming the presence of multiple "lines in the sky" being purposefully laid by large jet tankers (usually white in color and always without identifying markings) over cities and rural areas.



Careful observation of this photo of part of a grid trail taken by a local resident, reveals what appears to be material falling out of the vaporous cloud.

lattice-like grid patterns," says the *Sky-watchers* newsletter. "Tic-tac-toe in the sky" or "furrowing a farm field" are expression commonly used to describe the multiple-aircraft maneuvers, in which white contrail-like emissions linger for hours, gradually spreading into a hazy overcast that completely obscures clear blue skies.

"Usually laid in an east-west direction, with characteristic criss-cross trails often observed, jets layering the deliberate chemtrails have often been observed switching their emissions off as they approach mountains or other geographically delineating features, only to turn their spray back on after making their turns back over the area

show host Art Bell has done several segments on the "chemtrail" phenomenon.

In a recent show, Bell speculated that the spray was a form of mass inoculation. A guest, retired Major Ed Dames, dispelled Art's speculation and indicated that "chemtrails" were part of a highly classified government program which he could not disclose.

Dames is a former military officer who worked with a secret remote viewing program used to gather intelligence. The government has supposedly dropped the remote viewing project, but Dames teaches a civilian version which he calls Techni-

1520a prohibits the Secretary of Defense from conducting any test or experiment involving the use of a chemical agent or biological agent on a civilian population. The section, however, does not apply to a test carried out for any "peaceful purpose that is related to a medical, therapeutic, pharmaceutical, agricultural, industrial, or research activity."

In addition, the section does not apply to "any purpose that is directly related to protection against toxic chemicals or biological weapons and agents" or "any law enforcement purpose" including riot control.

If there is truly something strange going on in the skies above Chewelah, history has taught us that it will many years before secret government documents are declassified and our descendants learn the real truth about what happened during the summer of 1999.

'Free energy' pitch generates charged reactions

By Anita Manning
USA TODAY

ARLINGTON, Texas — For hundreds of years, dreamers have searched for a magic machine that could create energy out of thin air.

And for just as long, there have been those who promised such machines for a price. Call them prophets, hucksters, charlatans, visionaries. It all depends on what you believe.

For the past several weeks, in meeting rooms and civic centers from Wyoming to Washington, a man named Dennis Lee has been telling audiences he can set Americans free from the "central electric power grid." He touts a "new technology" that capitalizes on what he calls the "Fourth Law of Motion," described as the theory that "for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction that can be reapplied to the action."

His amazing electric motor, he promised in a Sept. 17 full-page ad in USA TODAY, is "way over 200% efficient" and "may give you FREE electricity for the rest of your life."

But the claims don't wash with everyone. Scientists say Lee's machine can't do what he says it can do, and now he's under legal assault by the states of Tennessee and Washington.

Still, the free seminars — continuing this week through the Southeast and ending in Philadelphia on Nov. 10 — draw the fascinated and curious.

Saturday night in Arlington, a crowd of about 350 people gathered in a large room in a convention center. For more than four hours, Lee paced across the stage, demonstrating light bulbs powered by a low-energy motor, a glowing lamp that runs on solar power or battery, and magnets that float through copper pipe.

"I will tell you about a plan to eliminate all forms of pollution in the next two to three years," he says. "We will prove tonight that you can run a car on water — regular tap water. If you can burn hydrogen and you can burn oxygen, why can't you burn water?"

Heads nod throughout the room. Lee says he's a Christian who takes direction from God, not from big business or government. Government and the media are conspiring to suppress his message, he says.

Jerry Hess, who drove to Arlington from his home in Muenster, Texas, about 85 miles away, believes Lee when he says the government is withholding information about free energy. "It's so revolutionary that it would upset everybody's apple cart," Hess says.

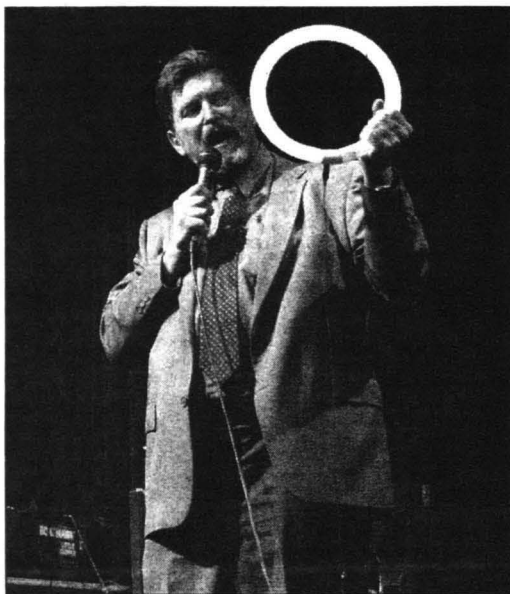
At each stop, here's what Lee offers: For \$275, people can join a cooperative. All but \$75 goes into an escrow fund. The first buyer is urged to recruit 49 others, each paying \$275.

Next, Lee's company will build and install an electricity machine at the house of the lead person in a co-op.

Once the free-energy machine has been up and running for 24 hours, the \$10,000 escrow money from each co-op will transfer to the account of the International Tesla Electric Co. (ITEC), to be used to build other machines for the remaining co-op members.

A sheet of "required disclosures" says the company is "at a late stage in the development and possible production of an up to 15 kw/h free electricity generator," but that, "exactly 'when' and even 'if' that generator will ever be ready to be installed on any residence is uncertain."

It also promises a 100% refund of the \$200 in escrow if, in a year's time, the lead person in a co-op has not received a generator that performs as expected. The audience is invited to bid on dealerships, which give the authority to sign co-op



Man on a mission? Dennis Lee says his machine can make utility companies obsolete — but skeptics say he's selling a bill of goods.

members and arrange seminars for prospective members, taking a cut of fees. Lee says he has sold 2,000 dealerships. There's a Web site, www.ucsofa.com, but late Monday the server was being upgraded.

Lee's pitch has brought him to the attention of authorities in Tennessee, where he appeared Sept. 27 and 28. The attorney general's office got a temporary restraining order against Lee and his associated companies to prohibit them from conducting business under the Tennessee Securities Act. A hearing has been scheduled for Nov. 18 on allegations that Lee sold unregistered securities in the state.

It's not Lee's first encounter with the law. He served two years in a California prison after pleading guilty to eight of 46 charges related to misrepresentation of the energy-saving potential of a heat pump.

In 1985, Washington's attorney general brought action against Lee for violations of the state's consumer protection act. A corporation owned by Lee purportedly misrepresented facts and failed to deliver on sales of solar refrigeration systems. Lee left the state without paying fines of \$31,000.

After his appearances in Yakima on Oct. 16 and in Tacoma on Oct. 18, the state securities administrator issued a cease-and-desist order against Lee and his companies, citing a "clear and present danger to the investing public."

The order says Lee and colleagues are offering investments without being registered in the state and are violating a statute that makes it illegal to "operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person."

Energy from air?

Lee doesn't deny he has had legal troubles, but he says the only bearing they have is to illustrate the lengths to which authorities will go to silence him. In a recent telephone interview, Lee said that in 1988 "I developed a technology to take energy out of the air and deliver it free," but "I was arrested for saying it. I thought I was doing a good thing. I didn't understand how complex this was, how much of our economic structure was dependent on energy."

While critics say his claims are impossible to demonstrate, he says he's demonstrating them every night. "We're not saying we're trying to defy the laws of physics, and we're not de-

tying the laws of conservation," he says. "According to conservation laws, you cannot get more energy out of a machine than you put into it. I couldn't agree more wholeheartedly. But can you get electricity out of a machine from an energy source you don't have to pay for? Yes. Free energy."

The source, he says, is electromagnetic force fields. "They're everywhere, unlimited in amounts of energy, if you can tap into electromagnetic force fields of the Earth with magnets."

The machine that taps the energy is "less than 100% efficient," Lee concedes, despite the ads that say the device is "way over 200% efficient." The motor is "doing so much more work than the electricity going in (that) somebody who's reckless would be saying it's way over 200% efficiency, but we don't think that. We'll say that (in ads) because we've got to get everybody's attention, and it's doing twice as much as it should be doing, so in that sense it's 200% efficient. If you just gauged it on energy going into it from batteries, it would be way over 200% efficient, but the energy is coming from the same force that holds a magnet on the side of a cabinet."

Lee says he has nothing to hide, and he invites one and all to attend his seminars. "If I'm right, they get set free of the electric grid," he says. "If I'm wrong, they wasted an evening."

Yet what he displays at the shows are components, not the fully assembled electricity machine. "If I had put it together on the stage, the sheriff would take it away," he says. "I learned the only way I can do this safely is to say, 'Here's my peanut butter — the Fourth Law of Motion. Here's my jelly — the most efficient motor in the world. If I put it together, you can make free electricity.'"

Or just 'snake oil'?

Wyoming assistant attorney general Christopher Petrie, who attended Lee's seminar Oct. 12 in Cheyenne, says: "It's a snake-oil sale, pretty much. Perpetual motion and water-powered cars and all sorts of conspiracy, that seems to be a big part of the presentation — preying on people's fears."

Physicist Robert Park of the American Physical Society, who has followed Lee's work for years, says the machine can't do what Lee says it will do. "He started selling dealer-

ships eight years ago but never delivered anything," Park says.

Park, a physics professor at the University of Maryland in College Park, says he has attended seminars that attracted as many as 700 people. "Most are your typical mom and pop retired from some middle-class income and looking for extra income. . . . I watch the faces of these people, and they're into it. When he launches one of his frequent anti-government diatribes or tells people God told him to do this, they applaud."

Physicist Phil Schewe of the American Institute of Physics says he hasn't seen Lee's machine, but for it to work, "there has to be some fuel, a reservoir of energy to make something move." Lee says the machine derives its energy from force fields generated by permanent magnets, but "where are the magnets getting their fuel?" Schewe asks. "There are such things as permanent magnets, but they're not capable of powering anything. If you want to generate electricity, those permanent magnets have to be set into motion. And setting them into motion requires energy."

Lee is not alone in promoting alternative energy sources that defy science, Park says. But people's skepticism "shuts down when you start talking science."

"I compare him to a stage magician. When a magician pulls a rabbit out of a hat, the audience doesn't know where the rabbit comes from, but they generally know it wasn't magic. In this case, he doesn't pull the rabbit out," Park says. "He looks in the hat and tells the audience there's a rabbit in there."

Lee is undeterred. He says powerful forces are against him, but he is confident he derives inspiration from God. "I know the CIA's been talking about killing me on this trip, and that's OK," he says. "I'm ready to go. You don't threaten a Christian with heaven."

A 'Barnum' with believers

Dennis Lee has detractors among past associates, but others believe that he'll be as good as his word.

A critic, Charlie Doyle of Lyle, Wash., worked as a Lee assistant for six months and says Lee is personally appealing — "like P.T. Barnum and Jimmy Swaggart put together."

Despite setbacks, Doyle says, Lee is driven to press onward. Three years ago, Doyle says, Lee booked a seminar at a large arena in Philadelphia. "He was going to show a free-energy car, a free-energy generator. None of us had any idea what he was talking about," Doyle says.

It was at that Philadelphia show that Lee came to the attention of Eric Krieg, an electrical engineer and a founder of the Philadelphia Association for Critical Thinking. Krieg initially thought Lee's pitch was funny, but "I saw people file through to put down \$10,000, and I thought, 'Wow.' He went home that night and designed a Web page, www.phact.org/e/dennis.html, that aims to debunk Lee's claims. He has become the leader of the anti-Lee forces on the Internet.

Jim Murray, an inventor who lives in Piscataway, N.J., worked for three years with Lee's organization, quitting in July. "I designed and built the thing that's in the ad," he says. "I told him it didn't work."

Lee says Murray was a "spy" who "is working for someone else for money to discredit me." He did work on some machines for Lee, but not the ones now on display, Lee says. "The motor I'm showing Jim Murray has never seen. I don't tell all my spies what I'm really going to do."

Lee's dealers say they have faith in him. "My belief is he's going to produce these things," says Carroll Caldwell of Tulsa, who attended the Arlington, Texas, show.

Another dealer, Curtis Middletown of Arlington, an electrician for 28 years, says he knows Lee has "the technology and the means" to produce the energy machines.

But Doyle is sorry he got involved: "I feel I made a big mistake. It was foolish. I'm embarrassed now. It's like getting into some wacky religion and going crazy for a while."

SPCA

REWARD OFFERED FOR TORONTO'S CAT KILLER

TORONTO — The SPCA of Ontario is offering a \$60,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for what is believed to be a string of cat killings in the north end of the city.

In the latest incident, a decapitated cat was found Saturday in the same area where other mutilated felines were found earlier this summer.

The SPCA realized reports of dead cats in the area were more than isolated incidents when three mangled cats were found Aug. 12, including one that was decapitated and another that was cut in half.

Southern News

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada
Oct. 19, 1999 CR: G. Conway

Iraqi drivers see 'dancing ghosts' on road

Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Ghost stories are pretty common around the old Iraqi city of Haditha. Still, when the ghosts start dancing naked in front of oncoming motorists, it creates quite a stir.

The state-run Alwan weekly said Saturday that drivers passing through Horan Valley outside the town of Haditha, 135 miles northeast of Baghdad, were reporting that "ghosts appeared next to the bridge, naked and doing some acrobatic moves."

"The ghosts were causing the drivers to panic," the paper said.

Alwan quoted motorist Shawk Sabar as saying, "they were almost human — although I could not concentrate on their looks because I was so scared and it was dark."

The ghosts were so lifelike that one motorist thought he'd hit a person and reported the accident to police.

Some drivers don't brake for ghosts, according to Alwan, just in case they are really a ploy by thieves to rob cars.

OBSERVER, Charlotte, NC - Aug. 22, 1999 CR: G. Fawcett