

# UFO

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## UFO Skywatch

### More Tampa Area Sightings



Photo source: www.spiritweb.org

By Bland Pugh

Florida MUFON State Director

The following arrived a couple of days ago, I'm passing it along to *The Islander*. The report came to me a little late, so this is not quite as timely as I would have liked.

#### Sighting Report:

"The witness was in his car having lunch, he just came from a 7-11 and was sitting behind the building he was working in. The building was near Waters St. on Country way, the north side, going west on Hillsborough St..

It was one to one and a half miles

short of Racetrack Road facing north when it came into view and passed overhead. He was listening to the radio, relaxing and watching the Buzzards and an Osprey flying in the sky. There were some cumulus clouds and low wisps of stratus clouds with the clear blue sky behind them. There, in the north, appeared a dark cylindrical object, 70 degrees above the horizon, approximately one mile away.

The object crossed over his car and he was able to see it again in the southwest. He got out of the car and walked 40 to 50 ft. out to a clearing where he was better able to

view it.

It was dark in color and the bottom looked black with a rim around it. He looked back to the north and saw another object, farther away, 50 degrees above the horizon traveling in the same path. It was disk like in shape, and was also dark gray in color.

This object finally disappeared and the cloud below it, a stratus cloud appeared to have been sucked up from below to the level this object was at. The first object was the size of a pea at arms length and it traveled approximately three inches at arms length. The second object was smaller, half that size and moved in an irregular pattern. It even disappeared for a second. The entire sighting took approximately four minutes.

He yelled for someone to come and look at it. There was a painter on a ladder, but he did not seem to understand what he was saying to him. Then two other painters came by to paint a line on the parking lot and told the witness to move his car. He asked them if they saw anything just then and they said that they did not.

The witness noticed since he was so sick all morning with a migraine headache and nausea he suddenly felt much better. His headache was gone and he felt very well. He was very elated, he said. He went directly to the telephone and called Lorraine Gerber to report what he had just seen."

#### Witness Interview:

"The witness has been in the military and is familiar with aircraft. He is a trained observer and is aware of conventional aerial objects. He has attended the MUFON meetings that are held on a monthly basis in Clearwater, Hillsborough and Pinellas County MUFON.

He came to the Abductee Support Group because of his memories as a child. He is aware of a so-called coverup about the facts regarding the UFO phenomena and has been in touch with the group. He lives near MacDill AFB as well as Tampa International Airport.

He is well aware of the flight paths from the airport and considered this sighting as most unusual. If there was something unusual coming into or out of MacDill, they denied it.

He was most surprised his sickening migraine headache just disappeared in a matter of a few minutes. He did not think that should have happened just like that. He said the radio, which he was listening to without any problems, started to crack and crackle. It did that several times right after the event.

The witness feels it is important to keep MUFON informed of the sightings that are occurring in the Tampa area since he is aware of our research involving the numerous sightings on September 7, 1999, which is still inconclusive.

He has been interested in the UFO phenomena and did have a sighting when he was younger in Tallahassee. We will have another investigator document that sighting this weekend."

bedroom one night by such an alien.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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CONTRA COSTA TIMES,

Walnut Creek, CA - Dec. 4, 1999

## Extraordinary look at UFO experiences

By Melissa Moy

TIMES STAFF WRITER

Dr. John E. Mack is not interested in proving or disproving alien abductions. Instead, he says he believes in his research and the patients he's worked with.

His patients who talked about alien encounters "sounded like not-disturbed people telling the truth," said the Harvard medical professor, who founded the Cambridge Hospital psychiatric department.

Mack spoke to about 50 people Friday at a luncheon sponsored by The Friday Lunch, an informal group.

In 1994, Mack shook the scientific community when he concluded that tales of alien abduction were factual. He wrote "Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens," which details the results of his research with clients who reported having encountered aliens.

Mack, a founding director of PEER, the Program for Extraordinary Experience Research, said he survived at Harvard because of his clinical approach.

What the patients were saying, "it seems to be true," Mack said. "They talked about what happened to them. It may not have been physical, but that it is real (to them) in some profound way."

Mack's new book, "Passport to the Cosmos: Human Transformation and Alien Encounters," draws on his additional research and asserts that the phenomenon of alien encounters is part of a new era in human consciousness.

There are three ways to approach extraordinary experiences, Mack said.

■ Clinical studies can be done to study the behavior and physical condition of "people who are suffering and need help."

■ Scientists could "try to prove the physical reality of abductions" through documentation and tests.

■ People could make attempts to understand the "philosophical implications" of these experiences.



Mack

### WEB SITE

To learn more about the Program for Extraordinary Experience Research, visit [www.peer-mack.org](http://www.peer-mack.org). Contact the Friday Lunch at [megan@sergiolub.com](mailto:megan@sergiolub.com).

"It takes a lot of courage to leave the box of common reality."

— Sergio Lub, Martinez businessman

Mack said it was crucial to rely on human experience, to legitimize witnesses with extraordinary experiences and to educate the public about such experiences.

Mack's message was well-received. Those who attended were counselors and therapists; environmental activists; scientists and researchers. Others were interested in holistic studies and healing. Some were just plain UFO fans.

A few shared their own experiences.

"It takes a lot of courage to leave the box of common reality," said Sergio Lub, the Martinez businessman who hosted the meeting. He praised Mack for his determination and research.

David Goldberg said he was impressed by Mack's courage to publish his research. "He made no attempts to justify or defend the material (in his first book)," said Goldberg, a former dean at John F. Kennedy University in Orinda. "The material itself is far out and very challenging."

Goldberg said he was looking forward to the new book.

"Anytime people can get together to discuss these issues is great," said Abigail Lewis of the San Francisco-based International Space Sciences Organization.

Mack's first book "caused a spiritual awakening in my life, that there's a larger reality," Lewis said.

DELAWARE STATE NEWS, Dover, DE

Dec. 9, 1999 CR: K. Grosz

■ **UFOS SPOTTED ON EASTERN SHORE:** Glowing objects, one resembling a missile, were spotted over the Eastern Shore by at least two people.

Kathy Dink, of Federalsburg, Md., said she was delivering Christmas trees and wreaths about 6 a.m. Tuesday when she saw a "bright, blue flame that looked like a missile or a rocket" that appeared to be falling.

At the same time, she also spotted a missile or tube-shaped object about 20 to 30 feet in length traveling in a different direction.

"The blue flame seemed to hit the rocket," Ms. Dink said. "If the blue flame hadn't hit the rocket, it looked like it would hit me."

Ms. Dink didn't hear any noise from the rocket, but noted the windows of her vehicle were rolled up.

Jim Henderson of Princess Anne, Md., said he was hunting when he saw the objects in the sky.

Spokesmen for the Patuxent River Naval Air Station and the NASA Wallops Flight Facility said they could not explain the sightings or confirm the existence of any aircraft in the area around the time of the sightings.

## Private session on propulsion has NASA nervous

By MATT BEER

San Francisco Examiner

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

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

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

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

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



FILE PHOTO

Diver Mark Stamey, of Syracuse, N.Y., lifts the UFO -- the lantern -- from the silt pond ending the mystery.

# An Eerie Glow Fills Pond

*This is a reprint from an article that appeared Nov. 11, 1974 in The Scranton Times detailing the report of an unidentified flying object landing in a Carbondale pond.*

BY BILL HALPIN

An unidentified flying object that reportedly fell from the skies Saturday night in to a silt pond adjoining the Carbondale Area High School football field and emitted a bright glow for nine hours, still remains there, as far as Carbondale police are concerned.

No attempts were made Sunday to recover the object and acting police chief Francis Dottle said this morning he is awaiting advice from authorities from the Unidentified Flying Object Research Center at Northwestern University in Illinois.

The acting chief said the area was guarded overnight as it was Saturday night and again Sunday, when hundreds of curious area residents were attracted to the scene after hearing reports of the incident that began Saturday at 7 p.m.

Three teenagers, Bill Lloyd, 15, and his brother, John, 13, of 6 Russell St., and a companion who resides across the street, Robert Gillette, 15, said they were walking about three blocks away from the silt pond when they heard a "whirring" sound in the sky above them.

The Lloyds said they looked up and saw a red ball crossing over Salem Mountain from the east and it was emitting sparks until it hovered over the silt pond and then plunged about 500 feet to the water.

The Gillette boy said the object turned the color of a bright star before it fell.

The youngsters called Carbondale police

who, by this time, had already received a phone call from an unidentified person telling of the object in the skies.

Police reportedly did not respond to the first two calls and only went to the scene about 9 p.m., after several other calls were received at headquarters about the object.

Patrolmen John Barbaro and Joseph Jacobina went to the pond to investigate and Patrolman Barbaro said, "I saw a glowing object about 20 feet out in the water."

Acting Chief Dottle was contacted about the matter and within a few hours 12 Carbondale regular and special patrolmen, police from Greenfield and Fell Townships and Forest City were on the scene.

Still considering the matter a hoax and thinking that the light may be from a flashlight beneath the waters, Patrolman Jacobina took out his service pistol and fired. Patrolman Jacobina said he failed to hit the object.

The Gillette boy said, "the object moved when it was shot at."

With the hour past midnight police grew more concerned as the object continued to radiate light that covered a circle about 15 feet in diameter.

A call was put in for a boat, and firemen from a Carbondale hose company responded and brought along a net.

The scene took on the look of a science fiction thriller as the net was hooked around the object around 2:45 a.m.

As the net was being raised slowly, the light grew brighter but then the net suddenly grew limp as the object plunged to the murky depths of the silt pond.

Police said the light then went out and they surmised that silt had covered the

glowing object. They then watched from the shoreline for the remainder of the day, night, and again this morning, waiting for someone to make a decision on what avenue of approach to take to retrieve the object.

Spectators expressed the opinion that the four-acre pond on the land of John Baumann could be pumped out in several hours.

Two volunteer scuba divers requested permission to go into the waters Sunday afternoon to look for the object but that idea was rejected by the acting chief.

The volunteers were identified as Dr. Laurence Berry, a teacher of psychology and geology, and assistant professor George Kelly, a meteorology teacher, both of Temple University in Philadelphia.

Police Saturday night contacted Dr. Allen Hynek, a noted UFO researcher at Northwestern University, and he said that Douglas Dains, reportedly an associate of his from Port Crane, N.Y., would be on the scene today to give advice.

UFO sightings in the upervalley are not as uncommon as some may think.

A rash of UFO sightings were reported in the Owego Turnpike area of Fell Township



FILE PHOTO

A group of boys settles into an old coal chute for a view.

last fall. During the same period there were reports of sightings in Wayne County.

Two Wayne deputy sheriffs told the acting police Chief Dottle Sunday afternoon they "knew what it (the object) is." They declined to elaborate but noted that they had similar things happen recently in Wayne County.

Dr. Berry of Temple University said the only thing that could glow underwater for such a length of time would be magnesium, which would not be affected by water.



# The truth is up there

National science group investigates reports of 'bizarre' lights that moved across the Lowcountry sky.

By Stephanie Broadbent  
Carolina Morning News

Perhaps it came from outer space.

As Melissa Hunt took her dogs outside Tuesday, she looked up long enough to see a strange blue-green light shoot across the trees above Bluffton.

While driving along a busy highway, Curt Brine watched a giant greenish-blue light illuminate the eastern sky of Savannah. It sped toward him before vanishing 15 seconds later.

A security guard on Hilton Head Island investigated a call reporting a "bright green light" off Egret Point, but by the time he arrived, the night was again dark.

Across the coast of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, dozens of people reported UFO sightings on Tuesday, sparking an investigation by a national science group which investigates unusual phenomena.

"I've never seen anything like it before," Hunt said Thursday. "No one was shooting off fireworks, but that's the closest thing I can describe it to."

Hunt saw the object for several seconds at about 8:30

p.m. Tuesday and said it gave off a distinct sound as it passed overhead.

"It was kind of like a whoosh," she said. "You could hear it go by. I hope I'm not crazy. I know I saw it. I just don't know what it was."

Hunt discarded the idea that the object she saw couldn't be explained.

"It didn't look like a craft or anything. I expect there's a natural explanation. It's just bizarre. It seemed like it was close, but maybe not. I know I heard it."

Brine had his windows rolled up and didn't hear any sound. But it was impossible to miss the giant bright light that moved from east to northwest across Savannah's sky about 8 p.m. Tuesday, he said.

Brine said the light covered the entire sky in front of him and moved toward him before disappearing. Not a fan of UFO theories, he brushed the episode aside and finished the drive home. But at work the next day, his interest rekindled.

"I came in the next day and there was a buzz," he said. "People were asking, 'What is it?' Some were speculating that it's a new, secret government aircraft. We were trying to figure out what it was."

Brine works for Adventure Radio Group and at least three radio stations there received dozens of calls reporting the strange lights. Brine, program director for Cool FM 98.3, said listeners have called since Wednesday morning, reporting UFOs.

Some even called Tuesday night reporting a "fireball in the sky," said Dan Hollywood Hunt, program director and disc jockey for Z-103.1 FM.

The station has received more than a dozen calls from Ridgeland, Savannah, Bluffton and Beaufort, he said. Other stations also received calls Wednesday and Thursday.

At first, the reports were ignored or laughed at, said Big John of Gator

104.9 FM, but after the Gator received a dozen more calls, that changed.

The search for answers began.

Colm Kelleher, deputy administrator of the National Institute for Discovery Science, said dozens of people reported strange lights Tuesday, from Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. The institute, based in Las Vegas, has a team of scientists and former law enforcement officers who investigate UFO sightings to provide a reasonable explanation using the scientific method.

It's still too soon to say for sure what caused the mysterious lights spotted in Florida, Savannah, Atlanta and the Lowcountry, but it may have been the result of a large meteor, he said.

Bolides, which don't burn up in the atmosphere and either strike land or come very close, can give off a bluish-green hue in the sky, he said.

Reports of blue-green fireballs are not uncommon. With the Leonid meteor shower expected to peak next week, there are likely to be many more sightings.

What is unusual about the Tuesday night sighting is how large the light was, how long it lasted, and the high level of distress it apparently caused in some animals, he said.

Kelleher said there were reports from a Georgia county that a meteor landed there, but the information hasn't been verified.

The group's investigation will probably be finished within a couple of weeks. Anyone with information about the lights or who saw them is asked to call the institute's hot line at 702-796-1700, he said.

Kelleher will be featured on the Real Z radio station 103.1 FM today at 8:10 a.m. to discuss the Tuesday night sightings. He'll also appear on the Gator and possibly Cool FM later in the week.

DAILY FACTS, Redlands, CA - Sept. 29, 1999

## UR convocation audience hears tales of UFOs

By DAVID JAMES HEISS  
For the Redlands Daily Facts

REDLANDS — UFOs were the topic of a lecture by renowned author and nuclear physicist Stanton T. Friedman at the University of Redlands Tuesday evening.

"Evidence is overwhelming that we are being visited by intelligently controlled flying objects," said Friedman. He preferred the term "intelligently controlled" because there is little evidence to support the fact that certain objects are flown (they could be remotely controlled, controlled psionically, etc.)

Friedman classified UFOs into three categories: identifiable flying objects, objects for which there is insufficient data to determine what

they are and UFOs. Since 1958 Friedman has been in pursuit to uncover the truth, poring over and tracking down thousands of documents during his career and talking to many witnesses and other investigators.

He displayed the results of a 1987 Gallup poll, which indicated that 49 percent of Americans thought that UFOs are real, while 30 percent did not. The rest were undecided. It also disclosed that more than 60 percent of college students, 57 percent of high school students and 36 percent of elementary school students feel that UFOs are real. Friedman implied, but did not specifically say, that the more education one has, the more open they

are that UFOs exist.

"Negativism comes from people who know little about the subject," said Friedman. "Ridicule prevents more people from reporting UFOs, and even fewer — about 10 percent of investigators — actually report their findings."

Friedman attended Rutgers University before transferring to the University of Chicago, where he boasted having been a classmate of the late Carl Sagan. Friedman is credited with leading the civilian investigation at Roswell in 1978.

"There's also an ego factor," he explained. "There's an attitude that, 'if aliens are visiting our planet, why wouldn't they want to talk to me — a respectable astrophysicist or MIT professor?'"

Though Friedman admits to never having encountered any UFOs, he's listened to enough stories and investigated enough accounts to be convinced. He has published some of his findings in titles like "Flying Saucers are REAL" and "UFOs: The Real Story." He has examined bits and pieces of materials from supposed downed craft, which he described as being similar to a foil that can be folded over and over and will unfold on its own, and cannot be cut.

He showed slides of famous UFO sightings and talked about one instance in which a boy on a farm looked up to see a round saucer hovering above the ground. The boy ran inside and told his parents who did-

n't believe him. He told them that it was still outside.

They went out and witnessed it fly away, leaving a glowing ring in the dirt where it had hovered. The boy's mother put her hand to it and it went numb.

After the family reported it to the sheriff, the story eventually fell into the hands of investigators, who came up and witnessed the discolored ring which remained bone dry during rain and snow storms.

Friedman has investigated the soil himself, and stated that the soil in the ring was not water soluble, and was "basically too salty" to harbor plants.

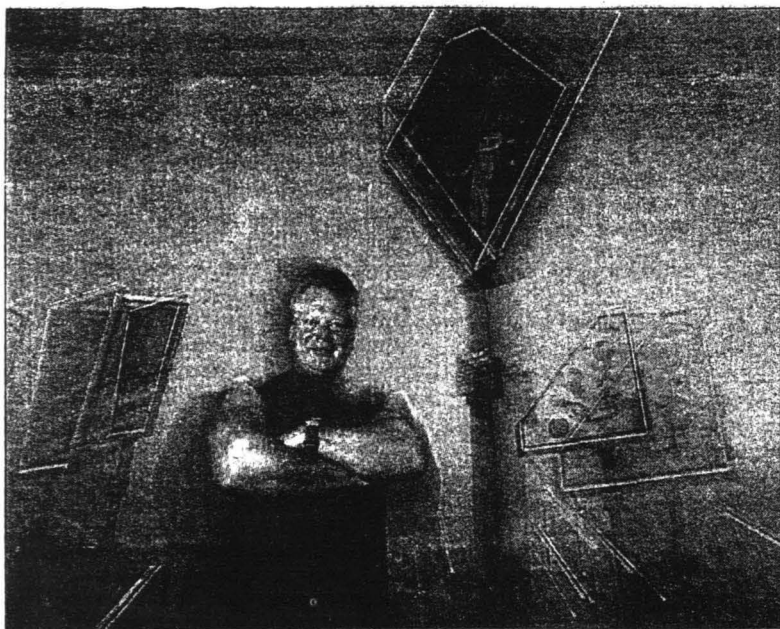
Friedman remains convinced that UFOs exist, and that the government is doing its best to pretend that they don't.

"Is there a government cover-up?" he asked. "You're darn right there is, but it's a long drawn-out story."

One person asked him about the credibility of "Men in Black," to which he laughed and said that he'd encountered only two people — of the many — who'd made such claims to men who tried to intimidate them into silence.

Friedman concluded by telling the audience, "I've been chasing gamma rays and neutrons for 40 years. I haven't seen them, but I know they're there! I've never been to Tokyo." He nodded his head sarcastically and said, "It's there."

# Gallup man 'abducted by aliens'



Caleb Kenna/Independent

Robert Allen of Gallup says he has been abducted by aliens and had more than ten UFO sightings since his childhood in Pennsylvania.

By Bill Donovan  
Diné Bureau

**WINDOW ROCK** — The truth is out there and for the past several years, Robert Allen has been roaming the Navajo Reservation and the Four Corners area looking for it.

Ex-military and a powerlifter by avocation, Allen has been living in Gallup in semi-retirement, spending much of his time ferreting out area people who have seen strange things in the night skies and may have been — either with or without their knowledge — abducted by aliens from other planets.

"I'm amazed at the amount of UFO activity there has been in the Gallup and Navajo Reservation areas in recent years," Allen said this past week when he was a guest on the Samson Jim program at KGAK Radio.

KGAK in recent weeks has regained the title of being UFO Central, a title that it lost a couple of years ago when the area's extra-terrestrial expert, Corley

Lee Jackson, left to go to another radio station.

The area around Crownpoint, which had that sighting of strange lights on Oct. 2 which may or may not have been caused by a refraction of light from a missile launching, has especially been active in UFOs in recent years, he said, as has Pine-dale. Leupp, Coyote Canyon, Dil-con and Mariano Lake. The Zuni Mountains and the Jones Ranch area have also had a number of sightings.

"Some of these areas may be of great interest to aliens because of the uranium mining that was done there," he said. "It's possible that they may need the uranium for fuel or maybe even for medicine."

Although he seeks out people who have seen lights or strange objects in the skies, he's been spending more and more of his time looking for those who have had really close encounters with the aliens — those who have been abducted at one time or

JOURNAL, Alexandria, VA - Dec. 14, 1999 CR: L. Bryant

## U.S. action needed on UFO cover-up

When the late U.S. Rep. Steven Schiff of New Mexico commissioned the U.S. General Accounting Office to look into all available government records pertaining to the 1947 crash-landing of one or more "flying saucers" near Roswell, N.M., he was responding to constituent concerns that certain federal agencies had failed to reveal to the public what they really knew (and when they knew it) about UFO reality.

Today, thanks to Mr. Schiff's bold and decisive stand to hold the Executive Branch to account, we realize that the resultant 1994 GAO investigation produced more questions than it did answers. In particular, we have the prevailing questions about the role of "Majestic-Twelve" — a super-secret, select panel of scientists and military officials allegedly created to deal, behind the scenes, with the aftermath of the "Roswell Incident," including (1) the intelligence analysis and technological exploitation of the retrieved alien debris and craft's occupants; and (2) the ongoing, illegal government coverup of the so-called "UFO/E.T. experience").

Over the past several months, those questions have acquired a new urgency with the "leakage" of several reams' worth of additional MJ-12 documentation to certain privately funded researchers in California.

Some of this material is being posted on the World Wide Web site <http://www.majesticdocuments.com>.

The picture revealed by the ever-growing MJ-12 documentation implicates several federal agencies (notably the Army, Air Force, Navy, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Central Intelligence Agency and National Security Council) in a conspiracy to defraud the American public of (1) its inherent right to know the full operations of any agency; (2) its right to take

part fully in the decision making process of government; and of (3) its expectation of maintaining confidence in the policies/programs/activities of its elected and appointed representatives.

What's more, by continuing to stonewall various MJ-12-related inquiries from the public, these agencies are contributing to the original MJ-12 legacy: a legacy of abuse of authority, violation of the public trust, and deliberate evasion of congressional oversight.

That latter element of malfeasance alone should be enough incentive for my congressman, James Moran, to call upon the General Accounting Office to begin an immediate, comprehensive investigation into the MJ-12 revelations.

Accordingly, I'm asking Mr. Moran to make that call to GAO headquarters as soon as possible, and thereby add his voice to that of the late Congressman Schiff.

LARRY W. BRYANT  
Alexandria

another like he has been.

He agrees with estimates that indicate about four million such abductions occur annually throughout the world as aliens try to get a better understanding of how the human body and psyche works.

There are two types of people who have these kinds of close encounters.

The rare ones are those who remember scenes from their abduction, maybe a bit of the spaceship they were taken to or maybe a little of the experimentation that was done to their body while aliens probed their bodies for clues to what makes humans tick.

The vast majority, like Allen, have other clues that they have been abducted. They may hear a strange voice, either in their head or on the telephone, or have an increased psychic ability. A lot of them say that time seemed to pass without them knowing. It could be just a few minutes or even a few hours but that time is lost.

"Most of the people have been abducted more than once," Allen said, explaining that aliens often abduct a kid six or seven years of age and then abduct them again every six or seven years up to the age of 40 to see how their bodies have changed.

Another indication that you have been abducted at some time in your life, he said, is to wake up with strange markings on your body or scrapes where tissue samples have been taken without your knowledge.

"You hear about this happening to people all of the time but the general public just dismisses it," Allen said, adding that those who are really attuned to the possibility have no problem in admitting the likelihood that they have spent some time without remembering it in one of the spaceships that routinely visit this area of earth.

That may be the case since in the last two weeks — on two different shows on the UFO presence in this area — KGAK telephone lines

haven't stopped ringing with more than 85 people — mostly Navajos — calling up to ask questions or tell about experiences they had or their parents had with encounters or sightings in the past 30 or 40 years in this area.

People called, saying they saw strange lights that seemingly hovered over their house or car for minutes or hours. Others reported seeing strange creatures along the road.

"People who have seen the aliens say they are between three and four feet tall and weigh about 50 pounds. They have big, black eyes and their skin is a chalky color," said Allen.

Most of the alien activity, he said, can be seen between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. and he encouraged people who will be out during that time to take a camera or video camera with them at all times.

He did caution people, however, to be careful about getting too close to a spaceship because it may be emitting a high level of radiation that could be harmful to humans.

"In those cases, it would be better to stand far away from the ship and take your photos," he said.

He also urged people to tell him or someone else in the UFO business about what they see so it can be documented. The more documentation that is done, the better chance humans will have in understanding why the aliens are here and what they want.

Persons who have had a recent encounter or even one that was 20 or 30 years ago can call Allen at 863-6247 or give their report to KGAK at 863-4444.

One of the questions that came up during one of the KGAK talk shows and one that comes up often, said Allen, is questions on the part of many people on why the aliens just haven't landed somewhere and shown themselves to all the world.

"I think that eventually this will happen," said Allen. "They'll eventually get to the point and tell us why they are here."



# UFOs

## Reports aplenty on unexplained

By Steven Singer

Staff writer

**T**he strange.  
The bizarre.  
The unexplained.  
These are the kinds of things that Stan Gordon, a Greensburg-based UFO researcher and bigfoot expert, has been studying since the late '50s.

And surprisingly, he says, residents of the Pittsburgh suburbs, people just like you or me, have been reporting things for years.

Things they just can't make head or tails of. Strange lights or objects in the sky. Bizarre creatures in the woods.

As early as the 1890s, a large number of reports has been recorded from residents along the Chestnut Ridge, a geographical area beginning in Preston County in West Virginia and spreading north right into our area through Pennsylvania's Westmoreland, Fayette and Indiana counties.

While the vast majority of the reports that Gordon receives are explainable as natural or man-made phenomena, there is still a significant number that he thinks defy explanation.

"It's very likely that something strange is going on here," says Gordon.

"I just want to get an idea of what it might be."

Let's take a closer look at what our friends and neighbors, people who might live right next door or in the house across the street, have been reporting.

■■■■  
**PENN TOWNSHIP** — April 15, 1973 various times throughout the night.

It was an evening just like any other.

While driving along the Penn-Wegley roadway at around 11 p.m., an area man saw something that startled him senseless.

He abruptly pulled over to the side of the road to get a better look.

move. Every 10 seconds or so the objects would hop over different areas of the mall, first over a department store, then the mall entrance, etc.

The only thing that linked each location over which the objects hovered was the placement of large air conditioning units.

After about three minutes, the objects simply vanished. They didn't shoot off in another direction — they just disappeared.

One of the most interesting aspects of this report, says Gordon, even more than the fact that it took place over such a well-known area as a shopping mall, is there was a similar report at 2:30 p.m. on the same day from Mt. Pleasant.

A large glowing object was hovering just above the trees, lighting up the whole area in what he later described as a "burning white glow."

The object, itself, looked like a "spinning white top" and had a surface like molten steel. There were two or three rings of light winding around the main section and square windows emitting different colored lights.

However, the most bizarre and unique thing he noticed was another object connected to the first by some sort of rope.

He tried to explain what it looked like numerous times, but the best he could do was to say that it looked like an astronaut who has left his ship out in space.

The witness described this connected object not as a human form, but more an "undetailed torso or hulk," about 8 to 10 feet tall.

The witness never saw this hulk retracted into the object but said it seemed to be "turned off like a Christmas light."

After a few moments of observing this floating top, the man's car shut off by itself and his headlights dimmed black.

After about four minutes the top then moved off very quickly in the direction of Harrison City. The car's headlights immediately came on extremely brightly as the object departed.

"When the man called in the report that night, his voice was trembling and he was obviously concerned," says Gordon.

However, that wasn't the only sighting reported that evening.

At almost the exact same spot, around 9:15 p.m. About 1,000 feet from a power station, witnesses in two separate cars reported seeing three lights traveling though the sky in a triangular formation, with two in front and one in back.

The lights were about 10 to 15 feet apart and had "about the brightness of a street lamp." They

While driving west on Route 31, a man reported seeing a similar large metallic object hover low on the side of the road.

■■■■  
**NORTH HUNTINGDON** — Feb. 12, 1988, around 5:45 a.m.

A woman walking her dog suddenly became illuminated by pulses of bright bluish green light from directly above her.

It happened three times in a row, but the woman couldn't see any source for the light to be coming from.

She quickly returned home, thinking that her walk had been too short for her dog. Still, by this point the animal was too agitated to take advantage of the great outdoors



STAN GORDON, UFO researcher, with reported debris from UFOs.

were surrounded by a gray haze.

The entire sighting lasted less than 10 minutes.

Even earlier in the evening between 8:30 and 9, a dozen people reported seeing a bright round object traveling high off the ground just a few miles away.

Witnesses say it had four square windows with red, yellow, blue and green light emitting from them. It also had a dome type structure on top emitting white light.

The object was witnessed until an airplane came into view and the object slowly moved out of sight.

Gordon thinks there may be a connection between the first and third sightings at least because both include reports of objects with windows emanating different colored lights.

■■■■  
**PENN HILLS** — September of 1973.

Several reports were received of a "gorilla like creature" in a wooded area near Hulton Road.

The creature had reddish brown fur and was seen standing on its hind legs at times and on all fours at others.

Tracks were also reportedly found.

anyway.

■■■■  
**MONROEVILLE** — June 1988.  
Over a number of days, strange sightings were reported in a wooded area of Monroeville.

Various people reported seeing small colored balls like "Ping-Pong balls." The balls bounced across the ground and floated above the trees.

In one case, people in a car tried to approach the lights, but when they got close to them, their headlights and car radio shut off. However, the motor remained running, but by this point they were too frightened to follow.

■■■■

■■■■  
**IRWIN** — Oct. 3, 1973.

A woman was called outside her home by her young son who kept crying that the moon was falling on the house.

When she got outside she was startled by a very brilliant object floating right above her home.

She described it as round and silvery white. It was so bright that it made her eyes water to look directly at it.

She ran into the house to get her husband to come see it, and when she returned, the object moved up and down, its light blinked on and off and then it zoomed away into the sky.

■■■■  
**MONROEVILLE** — Aug. 12, 1986 around 8:30 a.m.

Two employees of Monroeville Mall saw strange objects hovering over the trees behind the mall.

They described the objects as "elliptical in shape, bright, shiny silver." The objects were so bright that it hurt their eyes to look at them.

The objects were each "about the size of three school buses" and made absolutely no sound.

Before long the objects started to

**PLUM** — March of 1989, around 9:30 p.m.

Five objects were reported flying through the sky in a row.

At first, the witnesses thought the objects might be aircraft, but when they flew overhead, they made no sound and produced a very bright light below them.

■■■■  
**PENN HILLS** — May 17, 1998, around 11:40 p.m.

A witness reported seeing two luminous objects in the western sky.

One of the objects almost immediately moved off into the horizon, (continued on page 6)

but the other one stayed put.

It had a narrow oval shape with some kind of separation between the top and bottom sections. Swirling red and blue flashes of light emanated from it in various patterns.

It was visible for a little more than an hour before it rushed off out of view.

■ ■ ■  
**TURTLE CREEK** — Feb. 8, 1999, around 2 a.m.

A resident was working on his computer into the early morning when he looked out his window and the entire south east sky became lit up "like a fire."

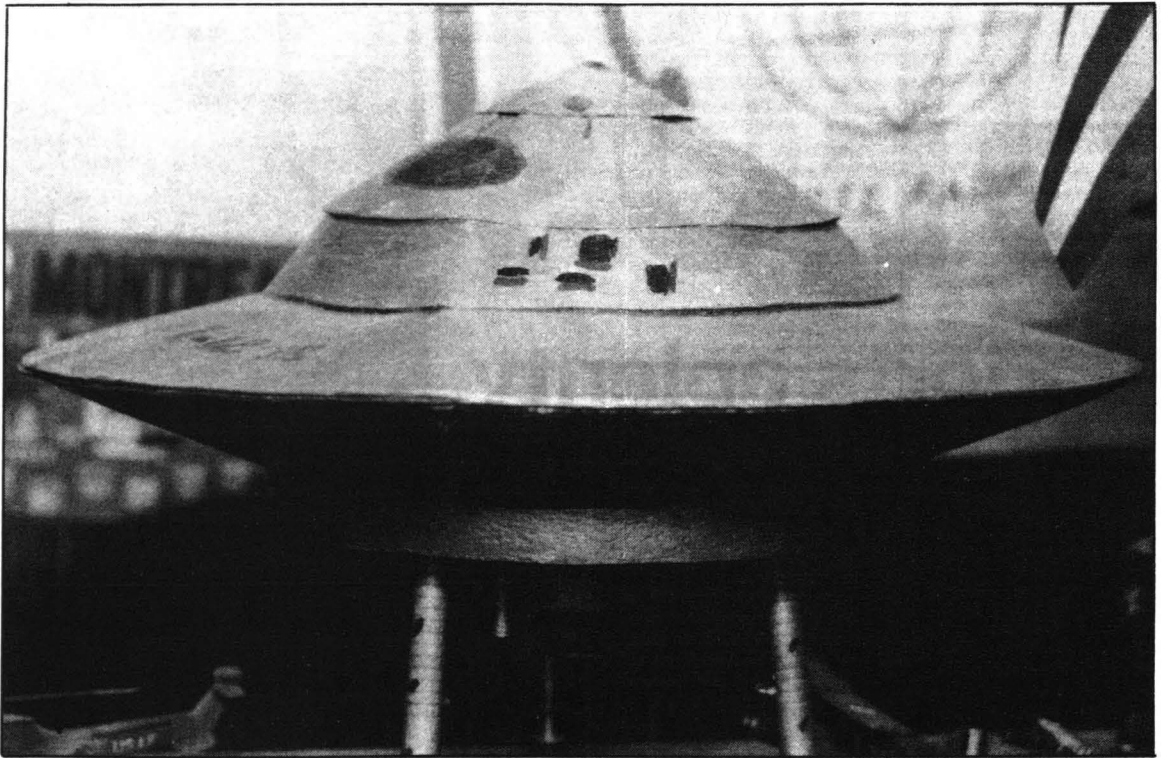
He described it as a rosy orange glow pulsating brighter some moments and then dimmer the next.

In the center of the glow was a white diamond shaped light.

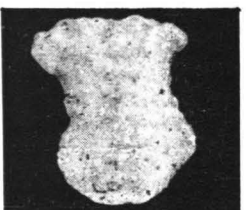
For a moment it flashed "like a flashbulb of a camera going off." Then, once the spots cleared from his eyes, everything was back to normal.

There have been other similar reports of a strange early morning glow in our area, says Gordon.

"I'm not sure what that's about at this point."



**THIS SCULPTURE** of the object that reportedly crash landed near Kecksburg was also constructed by Charles Hanna from eyewitness accounts. Hanna is an artist friend of Stan Gordon, local UFO researcher.



**VARIOUS CASTS** have been made from footprints of animals believed to be the illusive bigfoot in Pennsylvania.



**CHARLES HANNA** made this drawing of a Pennsylvanian bigfoot from eyewitness accounts of creatures sighted in different areas of the state.

**INDEPENDENT, Belleville, MI**  
Nov. 11, 1999

To go along with the recent talk by a UFO expert at the local library, I was given a list of Project Blue Book "Unknowns," taken off the internet.

It was a list of 701 UFO reports from 1947 to 1967 that were deemed "unexplained" by the Air Force's Project Blue Book investigation.

One of the unsolved cases was in Belleville, Michigan on Aug. 6, 1952. Other unexplained sightings that day were in Tokyo, Japan and Port Austin, Michigan. I was a student at Belleville High School that year and I don't remember any such incident. Maybe some other local resident will remember that sighting and will tell us about it.

**JOURNAL SENTINEL, Milwaukee, WI - Nov. 14, 1999**

## UFO believers are used to the abnormal seeming normal

**Many at conference accept  
life exists on other planets**

By DAVID COLE  
Special to the Journal Sentinel

**Bristol** — When a man in the back of the room at the Cosmic Awareness Conference Saturday stood up and said he'd been kidnapped and cloned by aliens, no one in the audience laughed or expressed open scorn.

That's because for many conference participants the seemingly abnormal is normal.

"Because we have heard so many unusual stories, we tend not to be shocked," said Ellen Stuart, 52, a former Milwaukee resident who now lives in Naperville, Ill.

That's not to say Stuart and the 50 or so other audience members necessarily believed the man. "I think mentally we were all thinking this guy is nuts," she said.

Yet the man's comments came at the end of a lengthy presentation by a former Chippewa Falls area woman who professes to share her body with an alien named Nara.

In fact, Janet Bergmark, 43, a psychology graduate student who now lives in a suburb of St. Paul, Minn., has written a book about her nearly life-long experiences. "It's way out there on the edge, but it is my reality," Bergmark told the group.

After her 45-minute speech, several people asked questions, but no one challenged the story.

The two-day conference is sponsored by a coalition of groups, including the Milwaukee-based UFO2U and by a Lake County, Ill., fan club of na-

tionally syndicated radio talk show host Art Bell.

Based on the turnout at a similar conference held in the same place last spring, organizers had hoped for several hundred participants at this weekend's forum. Saturday's unusually warm fall weather may have kept people home, they said.

The scheduled speakers were to focus on stories of extraterrestrial life, alien abductions and UFOs.

For those audience members who spoke during Bergmark's workshop and several interviewed afterward, the existence of life on other planets and inter-planetary contact appeared to be a foregone conclusion.

An activity scheduled for late Saturday night was a "Sky Watch/UFO Calling Party."

"There are too many planets out there for life not to be on other planets," said Kurt Foth, a 29-year-old chemist from Sheboygan who had heard about the conference from a friend and decided to attend out of curiosity.

During her presentation, Bergmark also claimed to have been regularly "abducted" by aliens while she slept. "Sometimes it seems as if I've been taken out of my room and all of a sudden I'm someplace else," she said. "I know I'm on some kind of ship or vehicle in space. I can't prove that — it's just sort of there."

Bergmark said almost all of the experiences have been positive and have made her realize our "spiritual beings" exist beyond our physical bodies.

While Bergmark and others were speaking, Greg Porasik, 28, of Kenosha was drinking beer and watching football in the main bar area a few doors away in the combination restaurant/tavern/conference center.

"There is no such thing as aliens," Porasik chortled when told of the nearby talk of aliens and UFOs. "I've got my own life to worry about."

The conference continued Sunday, with one presentation titled, "ET's — Can We Trust What They Say?"

CR: P. Harwood



# UFO researcher gathers data with open mind

**T**he truth is out there. At least, that's the slogan of Fox's sci-fi television show, "X-Files."

But when you step outside of TV land and into the real world, the "truth" can become a bit more illusive than the identity of the show's smoking man or even the presence of a heavily foreshadowed on-screen kiss.

**Stories by  
Steven Singer**

That's the lesson learned by Stan Gordon, UFO researcher, and Richard Busch, UFO skeptic.

Even after thousands of reports of strange phenomena, hundreds of which defy explanation, even Gordon isn't sure exactly what to make of the information he's gathered.

"My role is to gather data and try to evaluate it with an open mind," says Gordon, a resident of Greensburg and electronics salesman.

He's been doing just that since 1959, as a 10 year-old boy looking up every book on the paranormal he could find. It wasn't until 1965 when Gordon heard about a bizarre occurrence at nearby Kecksburg that he became actively involved in the search.

Now, almost 35 years later, Gordon is considered by some to be an expert on the incident at Kecksburg as well as UFO phenomena in general.

While some people claim that an alien space craft crash landed in that sleepy Pennsylvania town only to be covered up by a government



**SURROUNDED BY** a wall of radio equipment, Stan Gordon, a Greensburg UFO researcher and bigfoot expert, collects information of reports of the paranormal.

conspiracy, Gordon has the same opinion of the event as he does about UFOs - something strange happened, but what was it?

"I'm the first to say I don't have all the answers," says Gordon.

"There may be more than one origin to these phenomena."

He's quick to define his topic. UFOs are just what the acronym stands for - unidentified flying objects.

They're things people see in the sky that they can't immediately identify. In most cases, says Gordon, these things can be identified upon closer inspection of the report.

Many UFOs that have been reported to Gordon turn out to be bright stars, meteors, blimps, the results of laser

shows, search lights, space debris burning up in the atmosphere, sometimes even high altitude NASA experiments.

However, there are those reports that Gordon and others like him can't readily identify.

While Gordon doesn't think he knows definitively what these phenomena are, he does have a number of theories.

"One theory is that at least some of these are extraterrestrial spacecraft," he says.

"That's definitely one possibility that can be illuminated."

Other reports, he thinks may be of unknown natural phenomena.

The people who call in these reports have no reason to make up stories, he says.

They don't want to be identified.

One of the things that convinced Gordon of the veracity of some kind of strange phenomena actually taking place out there is the fact that people all over the world are reporting similar things.

There are reports of similar UFOs sometimes just miles apart in a single evening, sometimes continents apart.

Gordon, himself, has never seen a UFO or strange bigfoot-like creature. However, he knows how he'd react if he did come across something strange.

"I'd be cautious," he says. "I'd hope to have a camera or a witness with me."

"I'd observe as best I could to document it, and if there

was physical evidence, I'd collect it to analyze it."

However, one thing he would not do is approach any strange object or creature too closely. There have been rare accounts of secondary effects, like temporary blindness, from people who approached too close to UFOs, he says.

"Personally, my feeling is after hundreds of eyewitness

## Gordon to speak

Stan Gordon will speak about recent sightings in Westmoreland County on Sunday, Nov. 7, at 6:30 p.m. at the Manor Community Library on Race Street in Manor. For more information, call (724) 863-2128.

accounts, it's very likely at least some of these sightings are probably extraterrestrial space craft.

"It's also likely the government has some crashed space vehicles they're studying."

The reason for a governmental cover-up - they're not in control of whatever's causing the phenomena, says Gordon.

"They feel there's nothing they can do about UFOs, but they're concerned about them."

Gordon is concerned, too. He still investigates reports of unknown phenomena, funded entirely out of his own pocket.

He can be contacted through his 24-hour UFO hotline (724) 838-7767.

Or try his Web site <http://www.westol.com/~paufo> or write to Stan Gordon Productions; P.O. Box 936, Greensburg, Pa. 15601.

SUNDAY TIMES, Scranton, PA - Nov. 7, 1999

# Some Residents Expected To See Little Green Men

*This is a reprint of a story published Nov. 11, 1974 in The Scranton Times that details public reaction to an Unidentified Flying Object landing in a Carbondale silt pond.*

**BY JERRY PALKO**  
TIMES CORRESPONDENT

What was it that fell into a small silt pond in Carbondale Saturday night (Nov. 9)?

No one seems to know for certain, but there were plenty of opinions among the thousands who congregated at the site Sunday when police cordoned off the area just before 3 p.m.

An eyewitness who was in a boat as police were trying to recover the mysterious glowing object said: "It was glowing, that part of it we could see. We couldn't tell how big it was or what it was. The part that was glowing lit up a pretty big area, but looked like it was only about the size of a quarter. It was luminous under the water and when we got near it, it lit up (an area) three feet in diameter."

Another said, "There was a little light down there."

A bystander who was at the scene Saturday night said he felt it was "a meteorite. I was up here at one o'clock (1 a.m. Sunday) and saw meteorites in the sky. That's what it probably is. But everyone was seeing all kinds of things in the sky up here last night."



FILE PHOTO

**Spectators loom on the horizon as firefighters bring hose to the scene.**

A teacher from Temple University who visited the site Sunday afternoon theorized that it might be a meteorite composed of phosphorous. He said phosphorous burns under water and that might have accounted for the glow.

Still others considered the whole thing a hoax. "Somebody could have put something together and threw it in the water. Maybe a flashlight tied to something," one

spectator told the Times.

On the humorous end of things, there were plenty at the site who speculated area residents soon would be seeing little green men running around.

Probably the biggest problems caused by the object was the crowd it drew. A resident of the area said, "There's been thousands of people coming here all morning."

The crowd caused massive headaches for police. Cars literally blocked roads leading to the Russell Park area. Small children played on the steep banks of the hazardous pond and climbed on roofs of abandoned buildings nearby. Finally, at 2:45 p.m. Sunday, acting Police Chief Francis Dottle ordered the area cleared of spectators and said the entire site would be cordoned off and guarded by police and Civil Air Patrol volunteers until professionals could arrive and recover the object.

Moving the crowd out caused some tense moments for police. Many spectators refused to budge and some even became unruly.

Sparked on by curiosity, they didn't seem to understand that such a crowd could cause injuries or that youths playing on the hazardous area could be injured and that with the many cars blocking the roads it would be nearly impossible for emergency vehicles to get to the site. However, police finally did move the crowd.

INDEPENDENT, Belleville, MI - Nov. 25, 1999

# Dr. Charles Lietzau tells Belleville audience about alien abductions

**By Lorrie Dummann**  
Independent Special Writer

The Oct. 30 presentation given by UFO specialist Dr. Charles Lietzau, Ph.D., at the Fred C. Fischer Library in Belleville drew more than 50 men, women, and

children.

Dr. Lietzau lectured on the several types of alien beings that have been reported and seen on Earth -- some friendly and some not so friendly.

There were three people from the audience who said they had experienced alien

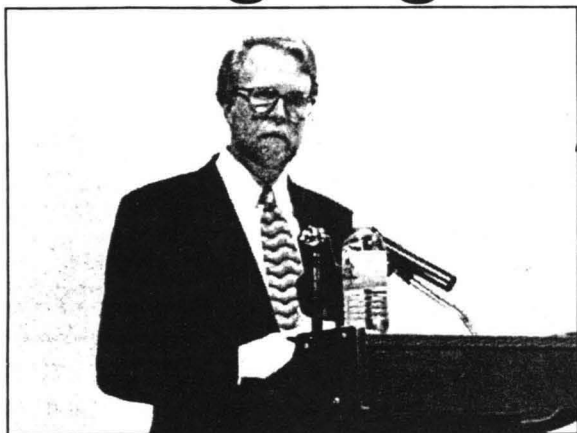
contact and abductions. One man said he has continued to be abducted since his childhood. Dr. Lietzau said this is often the case with abductees.

Symptoms of consciously unknown abduction include: strange scars on arms and legs called scoop marks, unaccount-

ed-for lapses in time, blackouts, and anxiety disorders.

Dr. Lietzau gave out a list of web sites for those interested in UFOs, aliens, crop circles, Big Foot, and the like. For more information, contact him at his web site: <http://www.clietlau@sprynet.com>

# UFO sightings more realistic lecture proves



PENN photo by Julie Przepierski  
Robert Hastings reveals the truth of UFOs.

By CATHY ANN JOHN  
Penn Contributing Writer

Approximately 50 students turned out Thursday in the HUB Multi-Purpose Room to hear Robert Hastings talk about the

myths, truths and history of UFOs.

Hastings, who recalls sighting a UFO while living on an Air Force base as a boy, said he became actively involved in UFO research in 1981 and has since spoken at more than 50 universities around the country.

Hastings said radar reports for that night showed that UFOs were tracked in the same area that the Hills recalled their encounter. Another similar abduction was said to have occurred with a policeman in 1966.

Hastings made mention of a professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, John E. Mack, whom in 1994 acknowledged studying alien phenomena. According to Hastings, Mack believed a great many of cases represented real physical contact between aliens and humans. His findings are published in his book "Abduction."

In 1965, hundreds of other witnesses, including pilots, reported seeing orange-gold objects, red to orange to yellow objects that increased in speed, high velocity,

raised altitude and could not be distinguished from the stars.

Some of these sightings were reported in such places as the Niagara Falls power plant, Syracuse power relay stations and New York City. Hastings said the largest power failure in history, known as the Northeast blackout, occurred that night, Nov. 9.

According to Hastings, the official excuse given by the Canadian Power Commission was that the relay had been broken. Though he believes the power outage had been tripped, as a result of UFOs being in the area, Hastings said the public remained unaware of the events surrounding the great Northeast blackout.

In 1977, according to Hastings, a second crash of sightings was recorded in Montana, Michigan

Hastings told students his objective was not to convince them that UFOs really existed, but to present to them the facts collected from years of research. On whether students should believe the information he was about to present, Hastings said it was offered on a take or leave basis.

During the 30 minute slide presentation showing drawings, illustrations and reproduced government documents, Hastings took students through a timeline from 1947 through the 1990s.

According to Hastings, the U.S. government, including the military and intelligence community, have for years engaged in high secrecy and covered up the existence of UFOs from the general public and in 1969 ended a project known as Project Bluebook, citing no further interest in the subject.

"In 1969, the U.S. Congress enacted a federal law which allows American citizens to access classified documents from over 40,000 various agencies," Hastings, who challenged students to prove for themselves the

documents he was about to present were real documents, said.

According to Hastings, in 1947 from as early as July, military personnel observed seeing flying objects in the sky, which the Pentagon said was a combination of hang clouds, small meteorites or flattened hail stones caused by icy conditions.

In 1948, in a project known as Project Sign, which was already six months into its investigation into these sightings, reported that other witnesses also recalled seeing similar flying objects.

"These sightings were confirmed by two government officers, but statements released by the government cited the sightings as hoaxes, hallucinations and misidentification of unknown objects," Hastings said.

In 1953, according to Hastings, the CIA took charge of UFO policy and released the Robertson Panel Report Jan. 15, to convince Americans that UFOs were misidentified flying objects or natural phenomena. Also, as a precaution to establish top secrecy, commercial pilots and Army personnel were told to report any

sightings to a special committee, JANAP 147.

Whether there has been actual contact between humans and other life forms, Hastings claims the first known, actual contact between humans and aliens occurred in 1961, although some cultist claimed contact during the 1950s.

According to him, Barney and Betty Hill, of rural New Hampshire, were driving down a farm road when they became aware of a beeping sound, followed by drowsiness. Upon awakening, the Hills had lost two hours that were unaccounted for, coupled with the fact that they were not in the same spot where they had lost consciousness.

After agreeing to undergo regressal hypnosis, Hastings said the Hills vividly relived the frightening experience by drawing pictures and recounting their experience of going aboard the "spaceship." When asked about the location, he said the Hills led them to a large star map and other solar systems.

To confirm the Hills' story of an actual abduction by aliens,

1945, said.

According to Hastings, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, a civilian research group made up of a board of directors and higher-ranking officials, including the first CIA director, Roscoe Hillenkoetter, who made the following statement:

"I know of neither Russia or America to have aircrafts capable of such speeds and maneuvers. Behind the scenes, high ranking officers are concerned about UFOs, but through official ridicule, many citizens are led to believe that unidentified flying objects are nonsense," Hastings said in repeating a statement made by Hillenkoetter.

though not very clear, which to him proves the government did have physical evidence — such as bodies, clothing and a spaceship — of UFOs existence.

Though Hastings acknowledges the government decision of withholding information, right or wrong, concerning UFOs to be prudent and warranted in order to fend off public scare, he maintains that the public should have been informed.

"The government did not know what they were or where they came from (disc shaped crafts). They had documents that indicated from as early as December of 1948 that UFOs were sighted above the top-secret Los Alamos nuclear weapons labs," Hastings, in reference to where the first nuclear weapons were invented in

BROAD TOP BULLETIN, Saxton, PA - Dec. 1, 1999 CR: C. Grusinski

## A Moment In (Recent) History

# UFOs shadowed US Aircraft Carrier

by Jon Baughman

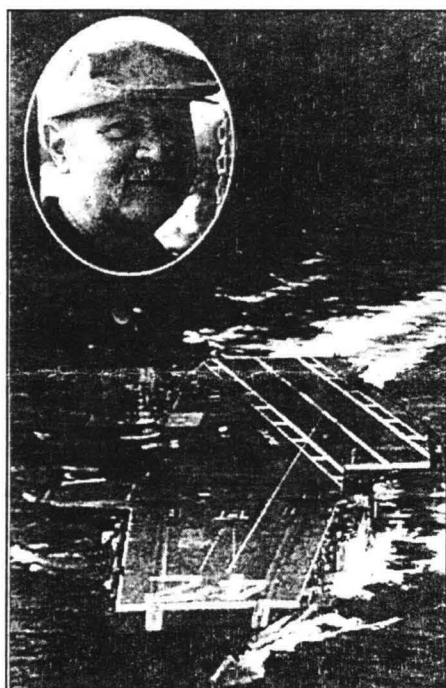
*In the year 1958 we were on a shakedown cruise, when there was a small light that was following our ship. Then the light came right at us, it came in close enough to us so you could see the shape of the object and also see that there were figures inside of it, the impression that I got was that those figures were not human beings." -- Chester Grusinski of Clinton Twp., Michigan.*

Since my series on UFOs a number of reports have been mailed to this writer. As I suspected, many of you have seen UFOs and some are only now mounting the courage to describe what you saw.

One such person is Chester Grusinski of Clinton Twp., Michigan, who served in the US Navy and in recent years has come forward to witness about UFOs. Grusinski has been featured in several Michigan newspapers and also appeared in the TV program, "Sightings." Many have doubted his story, but his determination shines through. He wants the US government to admit that there has been an intentional coverup of UFO reports and that the public deserves an explanation.

### Aboard Carrier

The year was 1958. Grusinski was only 18, a crew member on the USS Aircraft Carrier Franklin D. Roosevelt, cruising the Caribbean near Cuba.



Inset: Chester Grusinski. Bottom: USS Franklin D. Roosevelt, first Navy carrier to carry nuclear weapons.

Notes Grusinski, "I was down below when I was told to go topside to see something strange," says Chester, now 56. "So I went up and couldn't believe my eyes."

"I saw a bright white ball of light. It headed straight for us, getting bigger and brighter. It was spherical, approximately 75 to 100 feet long. It turned red orange and I could feel the heat on my face."

As this was going on the man on watch was yelling into the intercom for an officer to get up on deck. Grusinski continues, "I could see silhouettes of figures looking at us. They had no features and you could tell they weren't human. Then the bottom turned cherry red and it vanished in a flash."

Soon after the incident crew members who talked about it were transferred. Then the CIA came on board to investigate a so-called "gambling problem."

"It was a massive coverup," notes Grusinski. "There was no gambling."

Over the years he remembered the strange sighting. Then about 1977-78 he read in a newspaper clipping that a citizens group in New York had hired a law firm to go after the CIA and the US government to release top secret UFO information. He sent them a letter about his sighting. The group attempted to get him some information with little success.

Then, Grusinski pointed out, other researchers uncovered a UFO sighting in which three photographs were taken of a flying disk, also from the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. This was during Operation Mainbrace in which the UFO overtook the NATO fleet.

Grusinski was visiting libraries and doing research. He decided to try and locate fellow crew members who had also witnessed the 1958 event. He ran ads in *Naval Affairs* and other military magazines. Then in 1988 he learned from *DAV Magazine* about a USS FDR Reunion.

The reunion revealed that 8 to 10 separate UFO sightings were connected with this ship. He located several witnesses.

One incident took place off Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on July 26, 1956. Grusinski says, "Two disk objects were suspended in mid-air. They were over one another; they had two rows of counter-rotating lights. The upper disk released a fire ball object that dropped into the top of the lower one. Within seconds they both van-

ished with tremendous speed. These were seen by Leon Treadwell, Petty Officer Third Class. All involved witnesses were told to keep a tight lip. Treadwell had to sign papers that he would tell no one for 20 years. Another one for the same time period, the 25th or 27th of July, 1956, a cigar shaped object was seen and tracked on radar. And the CIC radars said it went off the scope in two or three sweeps. That was witnessed by John C. Hau, Chief Warrant Officer."

Why were so many sightings attached to the FDR? Grusinski has his own reasons for this. He said the FDR was the first US carrier to carry nuclear weapons, and at the time, the only one to carry the hydrogen bomb. UFO sightings are common around military installations where nuclear devices are stored. This is especially true of NATO installations.

Strangely, these incidents have been removed from the ship's logs.

The FDR was decommissioned in 1977. He says, "Myself and other UFO researchers have searched the logs; we also used the Freedom of Information Act, going as far back as 1980....I had also got a copy of the ship's deck logs from the year 1958-59; a lot of information was blackened out."

After his story appeared in *UFO Magazine*, he was contacted by *Sightings*. They also interviewed a Gunnery Officer who was a witness to the 1952 UFO sightings on the FDR. Grusinski located this man through the FDR Reunion. Overall, Grusinski felt the TV presentation was very good.

He is still looking for other witnesses who were on board the USS FDR. They may contact him at 19780 Vermader Street, Clinton Twp., Michigan 48035.





Stephen Bassett, the 52-year-old chief of the nation's first UFO lobby, the Extraterrestrial Phenomena Political

Action Committee, hopes to reveal the existence of aliens through rallies and congressional hearings.

# ALIEN ENCOUNTER

**A business consultant starts a political action committee to lobby Congress to reveal any government information about the existence of extraterrestrials.**

By Andrew DeMillo  
Donrey Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Stephen Bassett doesn't look like an "X-Files" agent. His teal Polo shirt and wrinkled dark dress pants don't look like the attire of someone who wants to reveal the existence of extraterrestrials. But Bassett has undertaken what he calls the politics of UFOs and not by chasing flying saucers or walking through crop circles. Bassett's mission is taking him to what some would call a much more sinister place — the

halls of Congress.

The 52-year-old business consultant and former physicist is a self-proclaimed pioneer, the nation's first UFO lobbyist. Working on a shoestring budget from his aunt's house in Bethesda, Md., Bassett is director of the Extraterrestrial Phenomena Political Action Committee.

Many are calling his ideas a little out of this world. Bassett isn't letting that stop him from shooting for the stars.

In a political town bustling with

more than 4,500 PACs jockeying for congressional support, X-PPAC seemed to Bassett the best way to make progress in what he calls "one of the most significant issues of our time."

"Our fundamental goal is formal disclosure by the government of the presence of extraterrestrials," Bassett said.

Modestly launched over the summer, X-PPAC hasn't hit the ground running as fast as Bassett would have

liked. The committee was announced on Nevada's Coast to Coast, a popular late-night radio show given to discussions about UFOs and things that go bump in the night.

Bassett hopes to stir up more attention through a series of public appearances, interviews and lectures scheduled throughout the year.

It's a daunting effort for a man who has spent most of his career developing corporate strategies, designing Web sites and advising research organizations. Since graduating from Eckerd College in Florida in 1970, Bassett has worked for the Environmental Protection Agency, worked in marketing and founded his own research group, Paradigm Research.

tations and other aspects of alien activities in the Bay Area and elsewhere on Earth.

DeBow's most recent column suggests that Lawrence Livermore Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories may have assisted in the development of a top secret, wedge-shaped military aircraft.

The labs may have helped to produce a gravity-neutralizing engine for the craft that was "reverse-engineered from UFOs," according to the column.

Most of the discussion in this column relates to a book called "Alien Rapture," which is somewhere between science fact and science fiction. In fact, as DeBow states in his column, the book is presented as "science fiction."

Other columns include UFO sightings in the East Bay and Northern California.

At his home studio in Concord, DeBow has a framed photo of three concentric circles in a salt field in the Fremont area, dated Aug. 28, 1992. He

provides precious few details about how he acquired the photograph or who snapped the frame.

The circles were presumably erased from the site soon after they were discovered, he says.

Jill Singleton, spokeswoman for Cargill Salt Co., says the company has no record of alien visitations.

"We're not aware of any UFOs that have landed on any of the 29,000 acres in which we operate," she says.

DeBow also relates the story of a personal UFO encounter, which occurred while driving with a friend about a decade ago in Fremont.

"We saw this light in the sky. I told (my friend) to turn the car around. This thing comes right toward us — it's really, really low," he says.

## Writer kept busy with UFO sightings

**Calls his interest a 'part-time hobby'**

By Glenn Roberts Jr.  
STAFF WRITER

The impenetrable enigma of UFOs, crop circles, aliens, abductions, cattle mutilations, government cover-ups and intergalactic conspiracies.

Matt DeBow, a television producer and UFO hobbyist who authors a monthly UFO Report column in the Psychic Reader newspaper, dabbles in this realm of fanatics, believers, skeptics and debunkers.

DeBow, 38, maintains an open mind and a sense of humor about his subject matter.

"It's a hobby for me. It's a part-time hobby. I'm not a die-hard UFO guy," he says.

And to the overly devoted UFO buffs, DeBow says, "People get weirded-out on this UFO stuff. They really do. People are way too serious — they've got to lighten up."

His monthly column, which he has been writing for three years, discusses sightings, visi-

Jumping out of the car, DeBow screamed at the object and then hopped back in the car, he says. And then the object was gone, he says.

It's very difficult to substantiate claims about UFOs, DeBow says.

His role, as he sees it, is to collect and disseminate information about the phenomena.

"I am a humanitarian and I believe this information needs to get out. I cover a lot of different topics. I take huge amounts of information and I compress it," he says.

He realizes the entertainment value of UFOs, too. He created a short series of local cable television shows a few years ago that poked fun at aliens.

And he has hopes to produce fictional television and movie productions based on UFO lore.

DeBow is now busy promoting his book and conducting a lecture series.

The book, UFO Chronicles, is a compilation of his writings for the Psychic Reader newspaper.

And the lecture series, like his column, will focus on specific topics pertaining to UFOs.

His PAC, which consists of himself and an assistant director — both unpaid — doesn't compare with lobbying heavyweights like AARP or the National Rifle Association. So far, he has raised about \$1,000 in contributions.

In Bassett's plan, the culmination of his effort will be a Capitol Hill rally next spring calling for open congressional hearings about the existence of UFOs. He hopes to draw at least 100,000 people: enough believers to fill Washington's RFK Memorial Stadium — twice.

"A rally of one or two thousand is not enough to make a statement," Bassett said. "We need to have a rally that will reflect the importance and power of the issue."

The group will focus more on lobbying for government disclosure rather than endorsing presidential or congressional candidates. Very few politicians are willing to "promote the politics of UFOs," Bassett concedes.

Bassett eyes the Internet as his mail tool. With its foreboding black background and giant silver X's, his Web site, found at [www.x-ppac.org](http://www.x-ppac.org), looks as dark as the conspiracy he seeks to uncover.

During the Cold War, the United States built up a massive secrecy infrastructure regarding UFOs, Bassett contends. He hopes to get information released about those secrets, including information about Area 51, the secret Air Force base in Southern Nevada. The UFO movement contends the Groom Lake base is the center of extraterrestrial activity and may contain evidence of aliens.

A lawyer familiar with the site said X-PPAC may hurt efforts for public disclosure about Area 51. Jonathan Turley — who represented employees alleging they were exposed to harmful and toxic materials while working at the government base — said he has tried to distance himself from such groups.

"The government benefits from the distraction of the extraterrestrial debate. I don't want to be associated with that," said Turley, a law professor at George Washington University.

Political experts find the idea of a UFO lobbyist a little hard to swallow. Once the novelty dies down, X-PPAC probably won't last too long, one University of Maryland professor predicts.

"They'll maybe get a pittance or some cute stories from the media," said Paul Herrnsen, who teaches politics and government. "Given the nature of their theme, it'll be difficult for them to get much further."

Bassett and his allies admit a ridicule factor exists for supporters of the UFO movement. They maintain the media and the government have undermined the issue through misinformation.

"When you say UFOs, people immediately think of the 'X-Files' or 'Independence Day,'" said Paul Nahay, X-PPAC's assistant director. "I'm trying to get people past that initial stage."

The growing interest in UFOs and aliens is evidenced by the popularity of television shows and movies, Bassett said.

"There is a lot of mainstream interest and belief in the existence of aliens," he said. "The support is out there."

Others see X-PPAC as an indication of how frustrated Americans have become when dealing with the federal government.

"Money talks in Washington. That's why so many groups set up PACs," said Gary Ruskin, executive director of the Congressional Accountability Project. "It just shows how deteriorated our democracy has become."

# Police officers in St. Clair County report seeing early-morning UFO

But no one at nearby Scott AFB noticed a large shape covered with lights

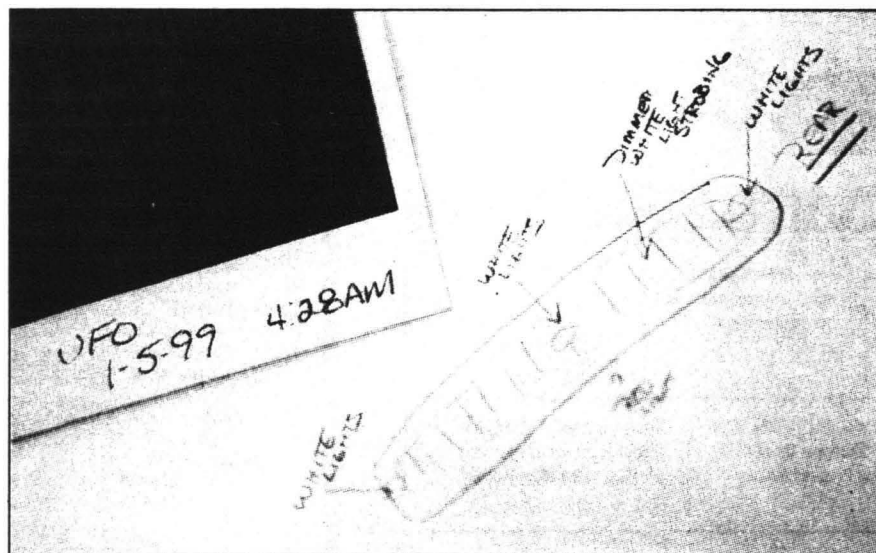
BY VALERIE SCHREMP  
Of the Post-Dispatch

In the past few days, Millstadt police Officer Craig Stevens has slept little, taken countless phone messages from national experts and heard all of the little green men jokes his fellow officers can muster.

It's amusing — to a point, he said.

"It's not like I'm the only one who saw it and I'm Joe Blow from the local bar who just stepped out drunk, you know?"

Stevens, of Highland, and at least three other officers from the Lebanon, Shiloh and Duplo police departments said they saw something in the sky early Wednesday



ANDREW CUTRARO / POST-DISPATCH

Millstadt police Officer Craig Stevens made this sketch of an object he reported seeing in the early-morning sky Wednesday. Next to the sketch is a Polaroid photograph that Stevens took of the object.

— something that looked like a UFO.

Shaped like an arrowhead, sprinkled with dimmer lights all over its surface and three brighter lights on its tail, the thing made its northeast-to-southwest flight

across the Metro East area about 4 a.m.

The first report came in to Highland police from the owner of a miniature golf course. He was driving into Lebanon, so the police contacted Lebanon authorities.

The officer there guffawed at the dispatcher. But he spotted the thing heading toward Shiloh, and he sped through traffic lights to try to catch up with it. It reached Shiloh, where an officer there spotted it.

SUNDAY TIMES, Scranton, PA - Nov. 7, 1999

## Mystery Ends Or Does It?

The late Bill Halpin, a writer for The Scranton Times, topped his story Nov. 12, 1974 with this fitting lead:

"All that glitters is not gold, but by the same token all that glitters isn't a flying saucer, either."

Those words led a story that detailed how a diver from Syracuse, N.Y., lifted an electric railroad lantern from the murky waters of a silt pond at Carbondale's Russell Park, finally giving an explanation to widespread reports that an Unidentified Flying Object had landed there.

Did it end the story? Hardly.

Doubts persisted in the Pioneer City long after the lantern had been pulled from the water.

We dusted off the archives in the Times library to find some accounts of what was written and what people had to say after the object splashed down in the pond:

A police officer who was in the boat when the first attempt was made to recover the object flatly refused to believe the lantern to be what he had seen in the early morning hours after the report of the UFO landing.

"Off the record, no," he said when asked if the

object was the same as he had first seen. He said what he first saw did not move, but did "pulsate." He also said a lantern, such as the one recovered by the diver, would have given off a straighter beam and in a smaller diameter than what he witnessed.

Much speculation centers around whether a lantern such as one found in the pond could have stayed lighted for as much as nine hours. A Carbondale merchant who sells such lanterns says no. He said there is 'no way' such a lantern could stay lighted that long under water without a protective enclosure.

Another point concerns other sightings in the area. Two workers at the Dundaff Mountain strip mine operation observed a white light in the sky on Nov. 8. It was southeast of Dundaff Mountain on the other side of Carbondale. This would put the light between Salem Mountain and the mountain east of Archbald. One of the workers, a 56-year-old Carbondale man, said he and his companion saw the light moving, stop, and then disappear.

Police initially attempted to retrieve the object from the pond with a net attached to a long wooden pole, but were

Stevens, sitting in his patrol car in Millstadt on his overnight shift, heard the radio chatter and drove to the north end of town. He scanned the sky but saw only airplane lights.

Then he looked west.

"Wow," he thought, jumping out of the car. "This thing's huge!"

He said it moved slowly, like a blimp, about 1,000 feet off the ground. It was about two stories high and about three times as long. In addition to the three lights in the back, dimmer lights sprinkled the entire surface, almost, as he described it, like a "starfield camouflage."

He grabbed his Polaroid camera and snapped a shot. The object headed toward Duplo, and Stevens radioed dispatch. The dispatcher radioed back, reporting an officer there spotted it too.

The Polaroid didn't develop well in the cold, and the image only shows

unsuccessful — another point which sheds some doubt. Considering that police officers were in a boat immediately above the glowing object and considering the lantern retrieved Nov. 11 was in about six or seven feet of water, the question being asked was why they were unable to retrieve it at the outset?

One version is the light went out when they stirred silt from the bottom, cover-

the three bright lights. At the station, Stevens made an unofficial police report and sketched a likeness of what he saw.

"It's been driving me nuts since I've seen it," he said. "I haven't been able to sleep for the last day and a half."

He's searched the Internet for a likeness of the object but can only find a picture of a "Stealth Blimp" on the Popular Mechanics Web site. It looked like an experimental military ship, he said.

The only calls that Scott Air Force Base received about the object were from the media, a spokeswoman said Saturday. And the military base's control tower was closed at that hour.

Stevens has also fielded calls from the media, science institutes, UFO experts, and a former FBI man who had "a hundred questions." One expert was adamant that people spotted a similar ship in California the day after Christmas. He and the Lebanon officer went on Art Bell's nationally broadcast radio show.

Stevens said he is taking the attention, and his sighting, in stride.

"It didn't scare me; it was cool. I'll never forget it," he said.

ing the glow. Another suggests it was something that was too heavy to retrieve with a net.

Robert Barry, a UFO investigator from Collingswood, N.J., told the Times that authorities told him they felt there was a larger object beneath or attached to the object they had attempted to net. He also said he was told they were unable to move the object.



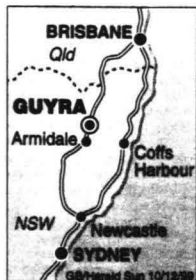


## FOREIGN NEWS

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

‘It was clear as daylight, you could see it so clean,’

# UFO tunnel twist



By SIMON PRISTEL

THE secret of an unidentified flying object remained buried in the mud under a country dam last night.

Police divers found a deep tunnel in the dam floor but could not find the mystery object that has thrust the northern NSW town of Guyra into the world spotlight.

The search is expected to resume this morning.

Guyra was abuzz with rumors after something crashed into the town's water supply Monday or Tuesday, flattening an area of reed beds 15m long by 6m wide.

"I've heard everything from a flying saucer, a comet, space junk to a chunk of ice which fell off a plane," said a spokesman for Guyra Council.

But the defence, police, fire, health, environment and assorted UFO experts were scratching their heads.

"The mood is absolutely electric," Guyra real estate agent David Bearup said.

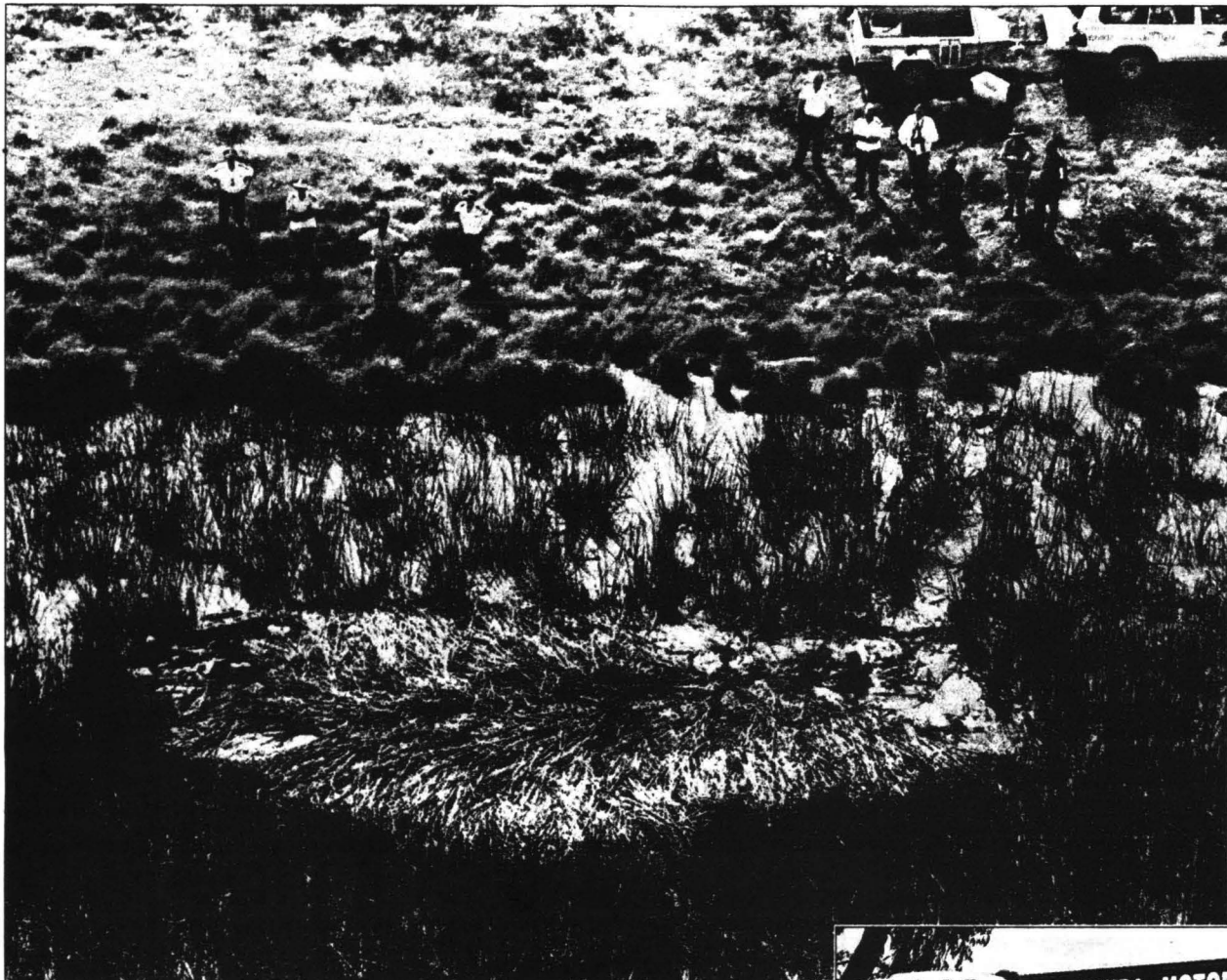
The decision to use earth-moving equipment to retrieve the object was made late yesterday when police divers flown in from Sydney discovered a 20m long tunnel about 40cm wide under the impact site.

Two consultant geologists brought in from Armidale — 40km south of Guyra — believe it could have been a meteorite weighing about 5kg — the size of a grapefruit.

Tests on water samples revealed no toxins or radioactivity. The water supply is expected to be deemed safe after earlier fears water would have to be trucked to 2200 people.

Police said a council worker stumbled on the crater while checking the dam on Wednesday.

A truck driver, Wayne Petersen, said he saw



**Mystery object:** investigators inspect the crash site in the Guyra dam and, inset, a local car dealer cashes in on the publicity generated by the UFO.

what appeared to be a falling star about 9pm on Monday. "It was blue, between the size of a golf ball and a tennis ball and it came from an easterly direction," he said.

"It shot down on a 45-degree angle.

"It was clear as daylight, you know, you could see it so clean."

Lorraine Willcox, whose house is 4km from the dam, making it the closest, said the first she knew of the mystery was when police and the mayor interrupted the annual presentation at Guyra High School to tell

them to conserve water. Unexplained happenings are nothing new to this community.

Two F1-11 jets have crashed there in the past 15 years and there is the legend of the Guyra Ghost, blamed for inexplicable occurrences in the 1920s.

Locals have already composed a poem in honor of the latest mystery.

*An object from the sky, what's all the bloody fuss?*

*UFOs in Guyra are nothing new to us.*

*The town's abuzz with rumors,*

*are there aliens from afar?*

*The dogs cower in their kennels*

*and locals crowd the bar.*

The editor of *Sky & Space* magazine, Jonathan Nally, believes the Guyra crater could have been made by a huge chunk of ice that fell off the side of an aircraft.

He said waste water from aircraft toilets was usually stored on board, but it sometimes leaked from the valves and froze on the side of the plane.

Paul Norman from the UFO Research Society

said he suspected the crater was made by space junk — not an alien craft.

"We are not interested in the ones that crash. We are interested in the ones that keep going," Mr Norman said.

Mr Bearup said there was no way of telling if the mystery object had come from outer space.

"I haven't seen anyone in a blue suit walking around with their underpants over the top, so I just don't know," he said.



WESTERN PRODUCER, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Canada  
Aug. 19, 1999 CR: G. Conway

## Crop circles may show at harvest

By Mary MacArthur  
Camrose bureau

Farmers are asked to watch for crop circles this fall while driving the combine.

Farmers, during harvest, report the majority of crop circles spotted in Canada, said Paul Anderson with the Vancouver-based Circles Phenomenon Research International.

"That's when the most are found," said Anderson.

Last year, 14 crop circles were reported, the majority in Saskatchewan.

Already this year two crop circles have been found on a First Nations reserve near Hagersville, Ont.

Crop circles are a controversial phenomenon seen around the world.

Believers feel the circles are forms of communication from other beings. Skeptics think the crop trampled into unusual shapes is just a prank.

With more reports each year, Anderson doesn't know if there are actually more crop circles or whether more people are aware of how to report them.

"Now there is more of a network. It's coming together."

Anderson hopes farmers will report any circles to his agency's regional offices. An investigator will then take samples for lab analysis, photos and investigate other possibly related phenomena.

Contact: 604-731-8522 or the website at [geocities.com/Area51/Cavern/3310](http://geocities.com/Area51/Cavern/3310).

COUNTY PRESS, Newport, Isle of Wight - May 28, 1999

## UFO hunter delves into Island's latest X Files

AN INTERNATIONAL UFO magazine opened the IW X Files in its latest issue.

A brief summary of two-and-a-half years of research by Newport resident Richard Cattle was featured as a two-page spread in the May/June issue of *UFO Magazine*.

It features statements from Islanders recounting their UFO experiences from July 1950 up to November 1997.

"I gather newsworthy sightings that have been seen by two or three independent witnesses," said Mr Cattle.

He said the most bizarre account came from two people who saw several UFOs heading from Newport to Godshill in September, 1976.

"The two witnesses saw five discs flying at high speed over the Pan Estate making a noise like heavy thunder. They hovered over Godshill for a little while before heading out to sea very quickly," he said.

His interest in UFOs started after his own sighting on the morning of Sunday, October 13, 1996, at the top of Hunnyhill, Newport.

He saw a bright white light travelling at a medium altitude that appeared to be shrinking and expanding.

Mr Cattle, of St James's Street, said the light then rose to avoid two planes manoeuvring over the Solent, before it disappeared in a westerly direction.

A report of his sighting appeared in the *County Press*, which led him corresponding with other witnesses who saw the object in Ryde and Shanklin.

He does not believe any of the UFO sightings are extra terrestrials, but is unsure exactly what they are.

"I believe the people have seen these UFOs and I just document what they have seen."

"For such a small Island there have been a large number of sightings but it does not compare to other areas in this country such as Warminster and Glastonbury," he said.

Mr Cattle is trying to put together a book on 1W UFO sightings and would like anyone with details of recent sightings to call him on 07775 841538.

# China's 'sightings' scrutinized

## UFO reports often are taken more seriously

By CHARLES HUTZLER  
Associated Press

**PUSALU VILLAGE, China** — Poor farmers in Beijing's barren hills saw it: an object swathed in colored light arcing heavenward that some say must have been a UFO.

They're not alone. People in 12 other Chinese cities reported possible UFO sightings last month. UFO researchers, meanwhile, were busy looking into claims of an alien abduction in Beijing.

At the beginning of the new millennium, China is astir with sightings of otherworldly visitors. Such sightings are treated with unexpected seriousness in this country usually straightjacketed by its communist rulers.

China has a bimonthly magazine — circulation 400,000 — devoted to UFO research. The conservative state-run media report UFO sightings. UFO buffs claim support from eminent scientists and liaisons with the secretive military, giving their work a scientific sheen of respectability.

"Some of these sightings are real, some are fake and with others it's unclear," said Shen Shituan, a real rocket scientist, president of Beijing Aerospace University and honorary director of the China UFO Research Association. "All these phenomena are worth researching."

Research into UFOs will help spur new forms of high-speed travel, unlimited sources of energy and faster-growing crops, claims Sun Shili, president of the government-approved UFO Research Association (membership 50,000).

A foreign trade expert and a Spanish translator for Mao Tse-tung, Sun says he saw a UFO nearly 30 years ago while he was at a labor camp for ideologically suspect officials.

"It was extremely bright and not very big," said Sun. "At that time, I had no knowledge of UFOs. I thought it was a probe sent by the Soviet revisionists."

For thousands of years, Chinese have looked to the skies for portents of change on Earth. While China is passing through its first millennium using the West's Gregorian calendar, the traditional lunar calendar is ushering in the Year of the Dragon, regarded as time of tumultuous change.

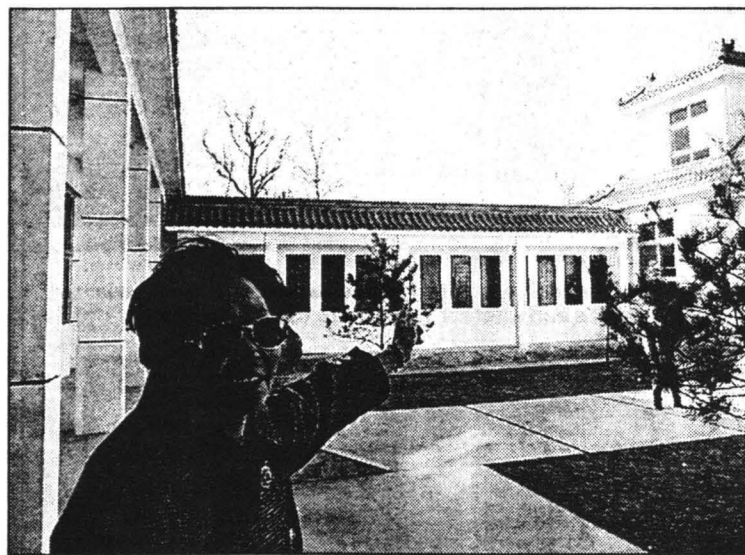
"All of that sort of millennial fear and trepidation fits in so nicely with Chinese cosmology — and also the Hollywood propaganda that everybody's been lapping up," said Geremie Barme, a Chinese culture watcher at Australia National University.

In Pusalu, a patch of struggling corn and bean farms 30 miles from Beijing, villagers believe cosmic forces were at play on Dec. 11. As they tell it, an object the size of a person shimmering with golden light moved slowly up into the sky from the surrounding arid mountains.



Associated Press

A cyclist passes a copy of *The Journal of UFO Research* on sale at a newsstand. UFO sightings have been reported across China in recent weeks, prompting a spate of stories in the Chinese media.



CHARLES HUTZLER/Associated Press

Wang Cunqiao points to where she saw a UFO above a village hall at Pusalu Village, near Beijing. "It was so beautiful, sort of yellow," Wang said. "It was like someone flying up to heaven."

"It was so beautiful, sort of yellow," villager Wang Cunqiao said. "It was like someone flying up to heaven."

What "it" was remains a topic of debate. Many villagers are fervent Buddhists. But local leaders want to play down any religious overtones, fearing that government censure may spoil plans to attract tourism to Pusalu.

"Some say it was caused by an earthquake. Some say it was a UFO. Some say it was a ray of Buddha. I'm telling everyone to call it an auspicious sign," said Chen Jianwen, village secretary for the officially atheistic Communist Party.

State media ignored religious interpretations and labeled the ce-

lestial events in Pusalu, Beijing, Shanghai and 10 other Chinese cities in December as possible UFOs. But UFO researchers have largely dismissed the sightings as airplane contrails catching the low sun.

"If the military didn't chase it, it's because they knew it wasn't a UFO. They were probably testing a new aircraft," said Chen Yanchun, a shipping company executive who helps manage the China UFO Research Resource Center.

Operating from a three-room flat in a Beijing apartment block, the Resource Center keeps a version of China's X-Files: 140 dictionary-sized boxes of fading newspaper clippings and eyewitness accounts of sightings. The collec-

*"Some of these sightings are real, some are fake and with others it's unclear. All these phenomena are worth researching."*

**SHEN SHITUAN**

A REAL ROCKET SCIENTIST, PRESIDENT OF BEIJING AEROSPACE UNIVERSITY AND HONORARY DIRECTOR OF THE CHINA UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

tion has, among others items, accounts that the military scrambled planes in 1998 in an unsuccessful pursuit of a UFO.

Chen said the center has had 500 reported UFO sightings in 1999, but after investigation confirmed cases will likely number 200 or so. He's currently checking on a worker's claims that aliens entered his Beijing home in December and spirited him 165 miles east and back in a few hours.

"The increase in flying saucer incidents is natural," said Chen, a former Aerospace Ministry researcher with a doctorate in aerodynamics. He cited more man-made aerospace activity and radio signals from Earth penetrating farther into space.

Sun has another theory: He believes aliens may find China attractive for the same reason foreign investors and tourists do.

"It's very possible that relatively rapid development attracts investigations by flying saucers, and here in China we're becoming more developed," he said. "Generally, well-developed areas like the United States have reported more sightings."



He's the kind of guy who makes skeptics skeptical: He believes the truth is out there. Whether it's crop circles or a stargirl, Chad Deetken makes it sound so reasonable.

# OUTSTANDING IN HIS FIELD



**HOAX OR SIGNAL?** A Wiltshire English crop circle that was photographed this year fuels debate over whether it was made by a man or made by an alien.

KEN MacQUEEN  
VANCOUVER SUN

Even by the hairy standards of Chad Deetken, Vancouver's Gumshoe of the Improbable, this is one weird and wild December.

First, there's the planning for his annual crop-circle lecture. Sure he's got an awesome collection of slides, for 1999 produced a visually stunning crop of mysterious English circles. And he's flying in a name speaker, Ron Russell, mid-west U.S. coordinator for the Centre for Crop Circle Studies.

But can he fill the auditorium of the Pacific Space Centre during Christmas party season?

All the while, he's got the Stargirl "mystery skull" to worry about.

It was Deetken who talked the Texas owners of this eerily deformed skull — supposedly found deep in a Mexican mine some 60 years ago — into sending it to a forensic laboratory in Vancouver for a DNA analysis.

The Internet is alive with speculation. Is it human? Is it, as regional mythology suggests, a child of a human mother and a "Star Being?"

The implications of a semi-human skull are huge. He says: "You have the potential of, whew, proof — no, call it evidence — of alien intervention in human evolution."

Evidence of extra-terrestrial life? It's almost beyond the imagining of Chad Deetken. And, let it be said, few things are.

"It's being analyzed as we speak," he said in November, a trace of awe in his voice. "I've had it in my hands. I've seen it up close, and it is extremely odd."

The skull became the pet project of Dr. David Sweet, a world-regarded forensic dentist, who is both an associate professor at the University of B.C. and director of the Bureau of Legal Dentistry, an independent laboratory at UBC.

Sweet recalls first meeting Deetken and a doctor friend, who showed him pictures of the skull, with its abnormally large brain cavity, its wide eye-sockets dominating a small face, its myriad of deformities.

"They showed me a photograph and didn't say anything about where it came from or what was going on," Sweet recalls. "And I said this looks alien."

"It was kind of a joke, but it reminded me of ET or it reminded me of photographs of something you would see in a science fiction movie."

Deetken smiled. In a world of constipated scientists, he had found a place where the mystery skull would get an impartial analysis.

Say what you want about Chad Deetken, he's heard it all before. But he has a reputation — in certain circles — as a clear-eyed, hard-nosed investigator. Not just anyone is entrusted with a potential alien skull.

His Vancouver-based company, Pacific Research, is kind of a one-man detective agency for the weird stuff — the kind of paranormal, other-worldly anomalies that lurk way out there in X-Files territory. "Veritate Quaerentes," his business card reads, "in search of truth."

• When a crop circle appeared by the Vanderhoof, B.C., airport, Aug. 27, 1998, Pacific Research was on the case, bagging scores of samples for lab analysis.

• The mutilation of cattle by mysterious means? Deetken hates cattle mutilations. There is an unsettling evil to them, he says, and yet he's been paid to investigate several.

• Back in March, 1996, he was off to Puerto Rico for the case of the chupacabra — the "goat sucker" that had inflamed the imagination of the countryside.

Was a short, hairy beast, as locals claimed, gutting domestic animals and drinking them dry of blood? Even *The X-Files* did an episode on goat-suckers.

Chasing the goat sucker was one of Deetken's stranger adventures. It was hard to sort substance from "social hysteria," he says. "The chupacabra, to me, is probably the thinnest in terms of evidence."

Perhaps that explains his passion for the English crop circles he chases every summer. They are real. They are beautiful and complex puzzles.

Maybe they are a natural phenomena involving violent whirs of discharging electrons, or magnetic fluctuations generated by tectonic plate energy. Maybe they all are hoaxes.

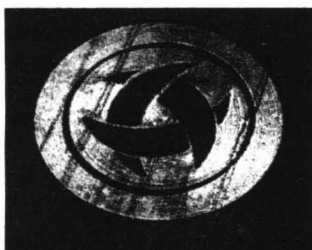
Maybe, as Deetken has come to believe, they are messages from "an unknown intelligence" — a kind of inter-planetary graffiti.

"It appears to be something to tantalize us," he says, replaying debates with many a "croppie" over pints of English beer.

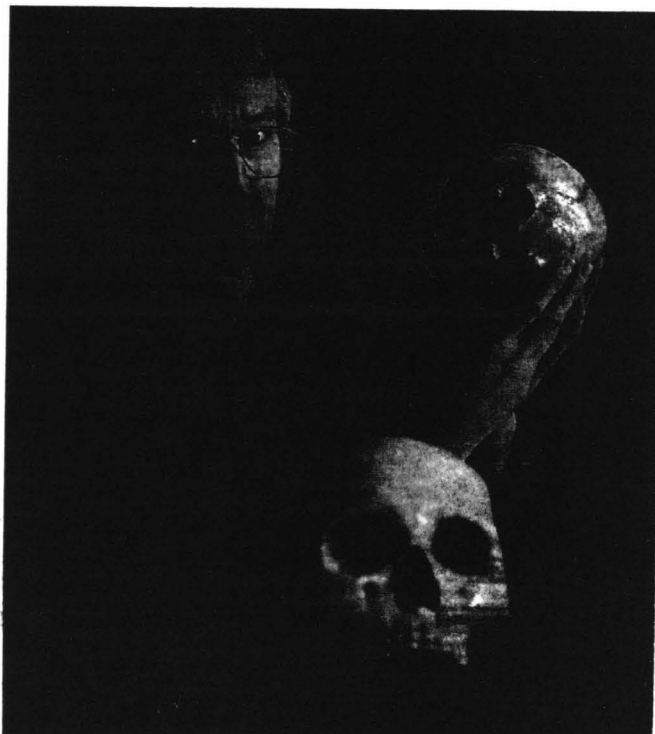
"The reason for this may be to expand our consciousness, our level of thinking about the universe. About our place in the universe." He shrugs.

"This just may be the purpose: to expand our minds."

Or to pull our legs, says Barry Beyerstein, a psychology professor at Simon Fraser University and a skeptic.



**SIMPLE DESIGN:** A Wiltshire circle.



WARD PERRIN/Vancouver Sun

**A HUNGER FOR ANSWERS:** Chad Deetken holds an unusual skull from a child between the ages of five and seven years while an adult male skull sits in the foreground. The unusually shaped child's skull was found in Mexico. Samples have been taken from the skull for DNA testing.

Crop circles, he says, though he's never seen one, have "all the earmarks of classic

hoaxes."

Why England? Why an easy medium like crops, he asks. If alien visitors are so advanced, "Why don't they carve a new face on Mount Rushmore to get my attention?"

Of Deetken and his ilk, Beyerstein says: "Some people have a very strong need to enchant themselves."

Of Beyerstein and his ilk, Deetken says he's skeptical of skeptics who haven't seen what they're skeptical about.

Yes, there are hoaxes, he concedes. But all of them?

More than 140 formations were flattened this year into fields of wheat, barley, corn or canola in the rolling farmland southwest of London — complex designs hundreds of metres in diameter forming overnight. A record 20 were detected in Canada this year.

Hoaxes are usually poorly rendered and badly trampled, lacking the enlarged stem cells and evidence of residual energy croppies detect in the best circles. Besides, he asks, how can hordes of crop vandals roam undetected in the compact English countryside. And to what end?

When it comes to crop formations, colleagues agree, Deetken is outstanding in the field.

To Stephen Harvey, president of the Vancouver Sasquatch Society, Deetken is a "peer" with a shared interest in exploring beyond conventional science.

"The scientists are, in our society, what the church was back in the 1500s, when the world was flat until you could prove it otherwise," Harvey says.

Dave Pengilly, a director of UFO B.C., calls Deetken's circle expertise "unparalleled in Canada."

**Vancouver, an otherwise normal residential street:**

Chad Deetken, face-to-face, is no Fox Mulder, though they share a certain belief that the truth is way out there.

His home is Kitsilano cozy. It has a white picket fence.

He pads about the house in slippers. Exposed brick walls are lined with books — not all of them strange — and enlivened with the souvenirs of world

(continued from page 13 - SUN,  
Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Dec. 26, 1999)

travel. An aquarium hums and bubbles. With his soft, reassuring voice, with a greying moustache warming a bemused smile, with his wardrobe of flannel and fleece, Deetken is as threatening as your average community college professor.

He lacks the gun, the FBI badge or Mulder's brooding paranoia.

Indeed, he seems too open; so lacking in guile, he can make the most outrageous things sound almost reasonable.

The great difference, of course, is that Mulder is a fictional television character reacting to the plot twists of an increasingly bizarre coven of *X-Files* screen writers.

Deetken is a real guy. He believes this stuff.

At age 54, he should know better — and he's quite convinced he does.

His apprenticeship was suitably eclectic.

He was born in Germany, raised in Cambridge, Ont., and finished high school in Michigan. He went to university in New Mexico, studying animal husbandry and range management. He wanted to be a cowboy.

He also studied astronomy and photography. He shifted passions from cowboys to sailing, building a boat and touring coastal Mexico.

Back in Canada there were stints on the oil rigs of Alberta and the Arctic. A two-year trek of Europe and Asia. Ten years in a communal house in Kitsilano. Marriage 15 years ago to Gwen Shrimpton, who says she admired his restless curiosity.

"We were married before he got into crop circles," she says, "but he was always interested in different things."

She calls him, "sort of my wild side." She's the grounded one, with a real job at B.C. Hydro in, appropriately, vegetation management.

Their summers are spent touring circle sites. They hang out with about 70 hard-core cropies at The Barge Inn, a pub in the village of Alton-Barnes in the heart of circle country.

The Barge maintains a war room of maps, photos and shared intelligence — a muster station for the motley force of ultra-lights, borrowed Cessnas and mini-vans that scramble after each new sighting.

"Part of the appeal is the formations, obviously," says Shrimpton. "The other part of the appeal is the people. It's a fascinating group of people. A group of people that are called from all over the world. And everyone is so unique, they are all really eccentric characters."

Deetken got the call a decade ago, during an episode of *Unsolved Mysteries*. He became a student of the circles and other anomalies.

For several years, he hired on as a field investigator for Robert Bigelow, the mega-rich Las Vegas real estate magnate with a passion for UFO investigation.

It was Bigelow who underwrote Deetken's first trip to England, in 1992, and several of his cattle mutilation investigations.

Since then, Bigelow's non-profit National Institute for Discovery Science has bankrolled millions in paranormal research, though his interest in crop circles has cooled.

These days Deetken underwrites his own investigations with proceeds from crop circle lectures and stints as a movie industry medic.

He's pumped by a summer of circles and by the possibilities of the skull, yet he sees himself as a skeptic.

"Am I letting my imagination get the better of me?" he asks. "You have to kind of pull back, circle the wagons, and kind of regroup. Make sure that you haven't left planet Earth."

**Pacific Space Centre, Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.**

In the chill rain, grim disciples of the prophet Rael hand out leaflets declaring crop circles to be "The True Face of God."

Inside, the mood is friendly and warm. Shrimpton works the cash, \$15 admission. Deetken, wearing a crop circle tie, fusses with last-minute details, relaxing as the crowd reaches a respectable 150.

They mill in the auditorium foyer, buying circle calendars, sweatshirts and postcards. UFO B.C. — a kindred spirit — displays a table of literature and its quarterly magazine. "More UFO Activity Near Mission," notes the latest issue.

Paul Anderson, Vancouver director of Circles Phenomenon Canada, in friendly rivalry with Pacific Research, has a table dedicated to Canadian circles.

Where Deetken is the peripatetic researcher, Anderson is the collector,

amassing a web library of photos, reports and research.

A graphic designer in the workaday world, Anderson says he's excited by the increasing complexity of the 20 Canadian circles found this year, from Christopher Cross, P.E.I., to Dease Lake in northern B.C.

"I don't mean this in a bad way," he says of Deetken, "but he's lost interest in the Canadian ones because he says once you've seen England's, everything else kind of pales in comparison."

True enough, there is no Canadian content tonight.

Russell, sardonic and scholarly, proves an engaging speaker. With Deetken working the projector, they rattle through two slide carousels.

The crowd — a few millennial misfits, a pixie dusting of New Agers and a solid majority of the middle-aged middle class — oohs and ahhs.

Assured by Deetken that this is a "highly evolved audience" he lapses into circle jargon, speaking of fractals and "Julia sets," a Koch snowflake and a triangle-based "Kierpinski Gasket" in a field of barley.

His theories are accepted uncritically. Hoaxes, he says, may be part of a conspiracy to discredit all circles, "to make it appear that nothing is going on."

Later, he describes the intense physiological reaction felt within some circles. "Spiritual machines" he calls them. Perhaps they're not here to be examined, but "so they can examine us."

The crowd chews on this for the rest of the evening.

"I think we're being given a great gift," Russell tells them, "and for the most part, except for you here, it's being ignored."

#### Bureau of Legal Dentistry:

The results are in.

Prof. David Sweet, forensic odontologist, hauls out the skull — a mystery no more.

Even to the unschooled it is curiosity, especially when placed beside its companion, the skull of a female found at the same time. The Earth mother, some have theorized.

Sweet has been showing it off to visiting specialists. None can agree what caused such gross deformities, he says.

But some questions have definitive answers. A neat square of bone has been cut away and pulverized for DNA analysis. Deetken is here, too, already briefed by phone.

The news is bad. Or good, depending on your views on alien impregnation of Earth women.

The lab has solved mysteries for courts and police and medical examiners across North America, Europe and Africa. Says Sweet: "We've never been approached from the standpoint, 'Is this alien?'"

The short answer: no.

It is a profoundly deformed human child probably aged five to seven — a male, the X and Y chromosomes reveal, says Sweet. "The mother was human and the father was human and contributed those genes to the offspring."

Case closed? "Absolutely," says Sweet. Deetken isn't so sure, nor is Lloyd Pye, Deetken's American partner on the project and author of *Everything You Know is Wrong*.

"It's like hoping there is Santa Claus," says Deetken. "Maybe there is and we just haven't found him yet."

There are other tests, if the money can be found, he says, brightening. And he's heard of another skull. Very strange.

As for mysteries — the kind that reach through cracks in the cosmos to tap Chad Deetken's shoulder — the world is full of them. And other worlds, too.

AD SCENE, Thanet, Kent, England - April 2, 1999

# UFO TAPE IS JUDGED FAKE

**A** UFO tape sent to our sister paper the *Whitstable Times* has been exposed as a fake following extensive investigation by video experts

A woman, who refused to be named, said in an accompanying letter that the video had been shot near Seasalter when she was returning home to Faversham.

The tape, which only lasts for a few minutes, shows three lights hovering in a triangular formation.

But experts from Kent University said they were certain it was a forgery and revealed it was probably a kite with lights on it.

The Times had handed over the tape to East Kent UFO Research Unit last week who took it to the university for testing.

Mervyn Newell of the UFO unit said: "The experts at the university are 95 per cent certain that the tape shows a kite with lights on it."

"Stunt kites are very manoeuvrable and somebody who knows what they are doing can make them do anything including hover or turn sharply."

"On the equipment the university used, when standing back from the screen a shape was revealed which was darker than the surrounding sky. The shape of the object made the experts believe they were looking at a kite."

"On the tape you can also see just before the object disappeared that one of the lights was running into the others. This told the experts that the object was being turned so it would appear to vanish as the lights pointed away from the camera."

"People get a kick out of doing fakes like this. Some of these are quite clever and it's a shame they don't use their talents for something more worthwhile than forgeries."

"But this does not mean the woman who took the footage itself is involved in the forgery. We would still like her to come forward with original cassette she filmed the footage on so we can further our investigations."

## Canada's X-Files grow dusty as fewer people spot UFOs

BY PAUL WALDIE

Maybe we're getting too much science fiction on television or maybe we just don't care anymore.

Whatever the reason, Canadians are reporting fewer UFO sightings, according to the federal bureaucrat who receives the reports.

"I would say it's really dropped off," said Mike Hunzicker, who heads Transport Canada's Aviation Operations Centre in Ottawa. "Nobody really cares anymore. I

really wish I could find somebody who wanted these [reports]. UFOs are just a non-issue."

The centre monitors all air traffic in Canada but it also has the job of keeping reports of UFOs. At one time, the military and the National Research Council monitored UFO sightings. But they stopped doing that years ago, Mr. Hunzicker said. Now the sightings end up in a folder marked "X-Files" that sits in a drawer in his office.

ports are passed on to researchers at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick who are studying meteorites.

The centre has no plans to prepare for any rash of calls when the millennium closes in a few weeks. Instead, it's concentrating on monitoring possible computer problems associated with the new year.

"That's all I need are UFO calls. We just don't need to tie up our phone lines with that."

When asked if he believes in extraterrestrials, Mr. Hunzicker replied: "I'd like to think so. I think it would be neat."

So, has he ever seen a UFO? "I haven't been that drunk yet."

National Post

#### The Truth is Out There: A paranormal sampler

- The Starchild skull "of uncertain origin": <http://www.starchildproject.com/>
- Circles Phenomenon Research Canada, a Canadian crop circle compendium by Vancouver's Paul Anderson: <http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Cavem/3310/>
- UFO BC News, sightings and UFO hotline - <http://www.ufobc.org>
- B.C. Scientific Cryptozoology Club, sasquatch, Ogopogo and friends: <http://www.ultranet.ca/bcscoc>
- National Institute for Discovery Science, research foundation of Las Vegas multimillionaire and ufologist Robert Bigelow: <http://www.accessnm.com/nids/index.html>

#### Prove It: Skeptics, hoaxers and spooferports

- B.C. skeptics homepage: <http://seivcc.fireplug.net/bcskeptics>
- Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP), a "critical investigation of paranormal and fringe science claims." Plenty of links to skeptical organizations. <http://www.csicop.org/home.html>
- The Circlemakers, "home of England's crop circle makers": <http://www.circlemakers.org/>

## Truth out there

Re: Canada's X-Files Grow Dusty As Fewer People Spot UFOs, Dec. 13.

I am not surprised that people who see UFOs in Canada don't bother reporting their sighting to Transport Canada's Aviation Operations Centre and to bureaucrats such as Mike Hunzicker, who believes anyone who sees a UFO is "drunk." In fact, UFO sightings have exploded around the world in the past three years, with the number of sightings in Canada at an all-time high. Recent sightings over China and throughout Asia, as well as a torrent of reports from the United States, Europe and Mexico, indicate that UFOs are far from being a "non-issue."

John Oliphant, Vancouver.

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
Dec. 18, 1999 CR: G. Conway





# **TRANSLATIONS**

City and country of incident: Trenque Lauquen,  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Date of incident: August 25, 1999  
Name of paper and date of clip: La Opinión,  
September 12, 1999  
City and country of paper: Trenque Lauquen,  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Credit: Dr. Roberto Banchs, Buenos Aires,  
Argentina

## **EXTRATERRESTRIAL ENCOUNTER?**

### **<<I looked up and saw five figures>>**

#### **Carlos Colón tells us about the strange experience he went through**

Carlos Colón is a neighbor of this city. He is a well known mechanic of agricultural machinery for which reason he usually travels the roads close to Trenque Lauquen in his Chevrolet pickup. But some days ago he had an experience he surely will not forget when he had an encounter with, a vision?, strange beings? on Route 5.

At first he preferred to keep quiet about what he experienced because he didn't want the subject to be sensationalized, and he still fears he will not be taken seriously. But yesterday he spoke to **La Opinión** and told us what happened to him on August 25 when he was returning from the ranch of a friend.

According to him the event happened at 4:30 pm on National Route 5 at the exit of the first curve after the train crossing, towards the La Zanja and Pehuelches stations, when a humming noise altered the routine of his return trip to Trenque Lauquen which he was making alone, accompanied only by the music from a local radio station.

The humming noise became louder so he decided to stop the vehicle. "I thought the radio was noisy due to a failure of the alternator", he said. That is when his experience would begin, which shocked him and would add to the number of people who, following human logic, claimed to have seen inexplicable things in an area close to that of the event.

#### **The Encounter**

"I started to check the radio thinking the noise came from there, without stopping the engine", he said, "but out of the corner of my eye I see a movement on the shoulder, and when I look up I see five figures that at first looked like people", he said. The appearance of these humanoid type figures suggested to him that something very strange was happening. "When I take a better look I see they were all white but as if they were inside a screen, like a projection... the shape could be seen quite well... I remember that I even tried to get out of the car and I could see them between the spare tire and the cabin, to the right of the pickup, I look at them and they come closer and closer until they stop some 20 meters from me."

The alleged beings "get together and I see them move something like hands, because I saw no feet since they moved in a sliding motion. They get together, the screen becomes smaller in the shape of a cone that lifts up ... I can't give any

details because I was so scared, it's difficult for me to retain that image", he said, still amazed at his experience.

#### **The Outcome**

While he is observing the beings, he says that something comes down "like a big light and afterwards I see the figures as if they were behind a frosty window, I stood looking upwards and then I hear the music from the pickup, I look back and it was on the road and I was standing beside the fence, I don't understand how I got there."

When he got back to the pickup he says that the radio station was tuned and the humming noise was gone.

He then continued on to Trenque Lauquen and before he reached his home he went to have his blood pressure taken because he had trouble some years ago, and "it was fine; but a bad sensation remained in my body like uneasiness and anguish because I can't know what happened, and you think you're crazy."

#### **The Description**

As to the beings that Colón alleges to have had visual contact with, he said "there were five, like humans, very tall, almost 2 meters, the head looked like an elongated inverted water drop with a very big neck, and in the middle of the head they had a black stain or spot like an upside down drop, I don't say it was an eye, I didn't make out eyes nor features", he said, and remarked that "they were no more than 20 cm wide, an intense matte white color."

In his report Colón describes the figures as humanoid, "I think they were just like us, the only difference being in the neck and the head", he said.

#### **The Mystery**

Carlos Colón joins a large number of neighbors in this city and region who claim having had this kind of encounters with presumably non-human beings, or in other experiences they claim to have seen lights or UFOs. Several of these stories coincide in an area close to the place where Colón stopped his pickup alarmed by the noise which he thought interfered the radio.

But not everybody likes to go to the media, fearing not to be believed or to be discredited. "The less I talk about it the better because I wasn't left with a good sensation, I wouldn't want to see them again," Colón said yesterday while talking to this paper and trying to turn the leaf and leave this experience behind.

#### **Going Back**

However, the day after the event Colón went back to the site. "I took the motorcycle and returned and when I get there I find a ticket from the Chevalier company that I had in my pocket the day before and some coins, then I was convinced that I had been there, I didn't hallucinate," he said.

As to the experience, Colón believes it lasted between two and seven minutes, although he said that during that time he had some kind of loss of conscience from which he recovered when he heard the music from the pickup parked on the side of the road.

Experts who study the alleged encounters of extraterrestrial beings with humans contacted this man, whom they momentarily calmed down, and let him know that he is not alone with his experience.

Translation: Jane Thomas Guma  
Glendale, Arizona  
December 1999





TIMES, Los Angeles, CA - Nov. 18, 1999 CR: G. Duplantier

# Unseen Dimensions Hold Theory Aloft

■ Skeptics have scoffed at a radical new view of the universe, saying its vibrating 11-dimensional strings are too small to be verified. But backers say confirmation through experiments may not be out of the question after all.

By K.C. COLE  
TIMES SCIENCE WRITER

**S**tring theory—the notion that everything in the universe is woven in a tapestry of 11-dimensional vibrating strings—has seduced an increasing number of physicists over the past 20 years with its sheer mathematical beauty and power to solve difficult problems.

At the same time, skeptics have found it easy to dismiss these successes as so much theoretical smoke. After all, critics argue, the vibrating strings and unseen dimensions that hold them are too tiny ever to be seen in experiments. And a theory that can't be tested is about as relevant to a physicist as a bicycle is to a fish.

But what if the unseen dimensions were much larger than previously thought, big enough to see in relatively simple experiments? "You cannot rule out that possibility," says Harvard physicist Andrew Strominger. "That's astonishing."

In fact, the idea that the strings might be big enough to perceive is rapidly gaining attention, if not outright respect, among many scientists.

If true, it would mean that "string theory is just out of reach of experiment," according to physicist Joseph Lykken of

## OF SPACE, TIME AND STRINGS

*Rocking the foundations of physics*

■ Third in a series

the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Ill. Even more important, it would mean a whole new way of solving most of thus-far elusive mysteries—ranging from the unexplainable weakness of gravity to the unaccountable existence of matter in the universe at all.

According to this new scenario, the everyday, three-dimensional universe we live in is trapped on a thin membrane—something like the world inhabited by characters playing out their lives within the confines of a movie screen. Unknown to these shallow, two-dimensional players, a larger universe spreads into numerous extra dimensions, like theaters in a multiplex.

## Making Better Sense of Gravity's Disparity

**A**nd while we are stuck as firmly in our membrane as Rhett and Scarlett are stuck on the screen, certain aspects of our universe can ooze off—leaving behind experimentally detectable tracks.

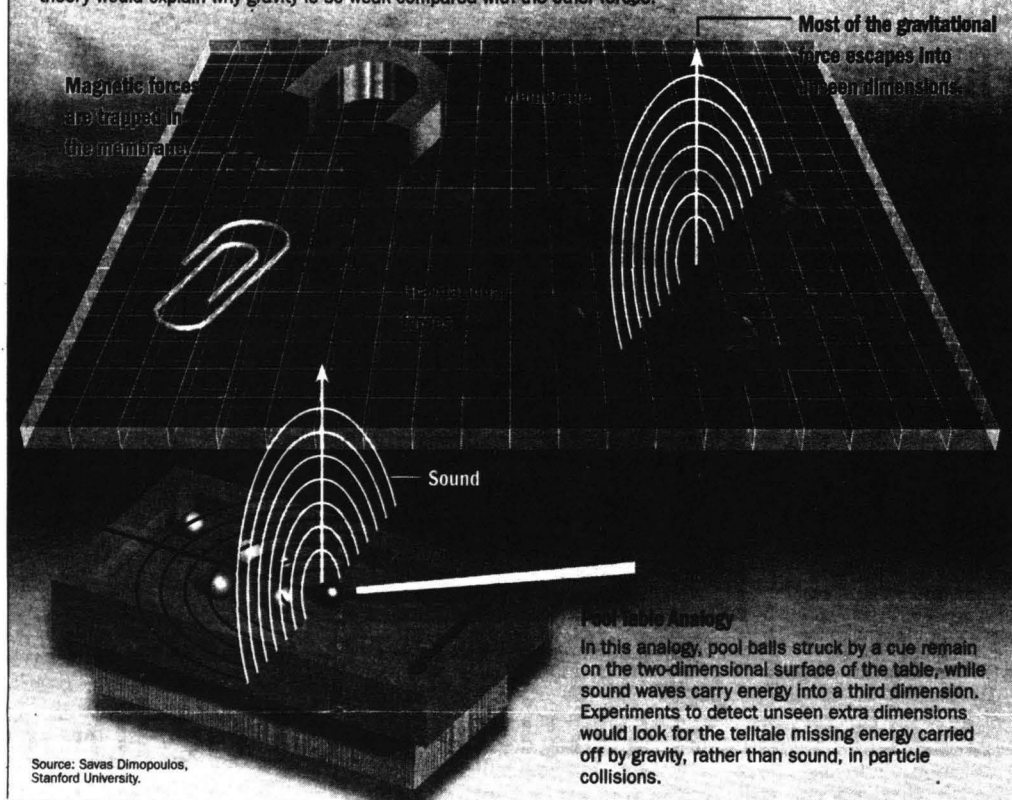
In fact, Stanford physicist Savas Dimopoulos speculates (not entirely tongue in cheek) that Bill Gates might figure out how to make a profit in the universe beyond our membrane. "There is extra space out there," he said recently during a workshop at the Aspen Institute for Physics. "Maybe you can store things. This is a possibility that hasn't been investigated."

Of course, these ideas are wildly speculative, to put it mildly. But the general idea that our universe is but a thin sliver of a larger reality offers multiple advantages to theorists.

For example, one of the thorniest problems in physics is the vast disparity between the relative weakness of gravity and the strength of all the other forces, such as electricity, magnetism and nuclear forces. A tiny magnet is powerful enough to lift a paper clip off a table in defiance of

## A Universe on a Membrane

According to some radical new theories, our universe is trapped entirely on a very thin membrane that is part of a much larger universe of extra dimensions. Electric, magnetic and nuclear forces are stuck inside the membrane, while gravity leaks out. If true, this theory would explain why gravity is so weak compared with the other forces.



the gravitational pull of every atom in the entire Earth.

Such a huge difference just doesn't make sense.

However, it would make perfect sense, according to Dimopoulos and his colleagues, if gravity were weak only because it alone could leak off our membrane into the larger universe.

Imagine our three-dimensional universe as the skin of a soap bubble floating in a larger world. Electricity, magnetism and nuclear forces are stuck inside the skin.

In contrast, the gravitational attraction of the paper clip to the Earth gets diluted as most of the gravity oozes out of our membrane into other dimensions.

"The reason why gravity is weak is that [most of it] lives far away from us," says Dimopoulos. "In a way, it's a very simple idea."

Taking another tack, MIT's Lisa Randall and her colleagues are exploring the possibility that gravity changes strength dramatically in various parts of this higher-dimensional world; we just happen to live on a slice of it where gravity is weak.

And gravity is only the tip of the iceberg. After you introduce the idea that our three-dimensional universe is simply a slice of life in a larger world, it's only natural to assume that other membranes lurk out there as well. Signals from these other membranes could affect our universe just as gusts of wind can deform the skin of a bubble.

In our universe, the energy infiltrating our area of the cosmos from other membranes might show up as puzzling new particles—or perhaps some unexplained property of matter. Because these other forces are extremely diluted, however—living as they do mostly in that larger, extra-dimensional universe—they would have very weak effects.

As such, they would enable scientists to explain many quantities in physics that snuggle up puzzlingly close to zero, but don't quite amount to exactly nothing. Among them: the mass of a barely there particle called the neutrino, the exceedingly slight excess of matter over antimatter that allows us to exist, and the "weight" of empty space.

The extra dimensions also provide a logical hiding place for the long-sought "dark matter" that gravitationally pulls on clusters of galaxies but has remained otherwise frustratingly invisible.

"It's just mind-boggling," said Randall. "There are some hard problems out there that we haven't been able to get at. Maybe there's something lurking here which will help us solve some of these problems."

## Answers Could Come Within a Few Years

**P**hysicists won't have to wait forever to find out if these ideas have any basis in fact. Dimopoulos' latest work predicts that previously unknown forces reaching us from membranes far beyond could be a million times stronger than gravity, and therefore even easier to detect. Energy oozing out of our membrane might show up as missing energy in particle experiments in a new accelerator now under construction in Europe, the Large Hadron Collider.

Or, new families of particles created from extra-dimensional vibrations might pop out of these experiments. If the physicists get very, very lucky, the first signs of higher dimensions could materialize at Fermilab within the next few years.

Even more imminent, if more speculative, are pending results from several tabletop experiments at Stanford and the University

of Colorado to sense "large" extra dimensions. Because measuring gravity is the only way to perceive these dimensions—and gravity is uncannily weak—finding evidence will be difficult.

Moreover, it's known that at most, these extra dimensions could be the width of a grain of rice. (Gravity has been well tested down to scales as small as a millimeter, and no evidence of extra dimensions has shown up yet.)

In Dimopoulos' scenario, the two extra dimensions are curled up into tiny tubes, like cocktail straws, about a millimeter in diameter. An experiment sensitive enough to probe on that tiny scale could witness a dramatic change in Newton's familiar laws of gravity.

Of course, physicists will have to explain the geometry of these extra dimensional landscapes, as well as the way they evolved: Why should three dimensions spread out while two roll up? Why a millimeter and not a yard?

The range of possibilities is almost endless. But so are the opportunities.

Indeed, the very fact that these scenarios are not impossible has stoked much excitement among string theorists. It is as if, said Strominger, humans are like water bugs skipping over the surface of a deep ocean. Everything we know is so much foam and flotsam stuck to the surface. But there may be a whole undiscovered world waiting underneath.

"This kind of structure never occurred to anybody before, but it turns out it's very natural," he said. "It tells us that our imagination has been very limited. It shows how little we know about the universe beyond that which we've actually measured."

REBECCA PERRY / Los Angeles Times

# Iceland's elves hide in every corner of culture, make mischief for builders

BY COLIN NICKERSON  
THE BOSTON GLOBE

**HAFNARFJORDUR, Iceland** — This can be a tough country for blasting out a foundation or constructing a roadbed.

Never mind the boiling geysers, wind-blasted precipices or frozen barrens. It's not the razor-sharp lava rock that daunts builders; it's the hidden people lurking below.

"There are all sorts of beings beneath our stones," said Brynjolfur Snorrason, a folklorist often asked to advise contractors on how best to avoid the lairs of Iceland's elves and other seldom-seen creatures whose presence still seems to permeate this far northern island nation.

Highway engineers in recent years have been forced to reroute roads around supposed elf dwellings. Similarly, builders of the country's first shopping mall took care to lay electrical cables and other underground installations well away from suspected abodes of gnomes and fairies. Couples planning a new house will sometimes hire "elf-spotters" to ensure the lot is free of spirit folk.

In Iceland, such precautions are seen as simple prudence.

"It can be a strange country," said Arni Bjornsson, head of ethnological studies at the National Museum of Iceland. "Even hard-headed engineers, who say they don't hold with superstition, will build a road around a certain hill or boulder rather than take the risk of offending elves."

Icelanders love to boast of how their island republic marches in the front rank of modern times. Literacy, 100 percent. Poverty, zero. High-technology, all pervasive.

Iceland is the most geographically remote of European nations — a thinly-populated realm of fire and ice rising from the North Atlantic, just below the Arctic Circle — but it's plugged in, powered up and prosperous.

It's also overrun with elves, gnomes, trolls, light-fairies, lovelings and a unique species called "huldufolk," or hidden people. Iceland even has a glut of 13 unjolly Santas, the so-called Yuletide Lads, who skulk about cities, towns

and rural farmsteads each Christmas — traditionally bringing more mayhem than merriment, though lately they've stopped stealing children.

The nation's president, Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, theorizes that the surfeit of spirit-beings stems from Icelanders' abiding sense of loneliness and isolation.

"Icelanders are few in number, so in the old times we doubled our population with tales of elves and fairies," he said in an interview at the presidential residence, Bessastadir, on a remote moor where show dervishes and sea spume whip over bizarrely-shaped formations of lava rock.

Even today, only 273,000 people occupy a land roughly the size of Maine and Massachusetts. And Icelanders still take spirit folk seriously: Public opinion polls and academic studies show more than half of all inhabitants think it possible or probable — 10 percent call it "certain" — they share their island with other beings, ranging from grumpy glacier-dwelling trolls to occasionally gregarious hidden people.

"Almost everywhere in Iceland you will find people who believe in such things," said Audbjorg Halldorsdottir, an official with the country's Overseas Business Service. "Or if they don't believe, exactly, they don't disbelieve entirely. Folklore remains part of everyday life."

That lore is the occasional bane of construction engineers and real estate developers. Earlier this year, Iceland's highway agency had to change the course of a new road leading out of Reykjavik after citizens protested that the original route would disturb an elf's lair under a big rock.

"There are people who believe in elves, and we try to show respect for people's beliefs," said Viktor Ingolfsson, an official with the department. "If that means building around an elf stone, we try to accommodate."

Such broadmindedness might be just self-protection. Tales abound of broken limbs, busted equipment and other woes befalling builders who go where

elves and hidden people traditionally tread.

"For the most part, huldufolk are harmless, even gentle beings," said Magnus H. Skarphedinsson, a schoolteacher and self-described elf expert. "But if you brutalize them, bad things will happen — perhaps only that your project will have big cost overruns. But also you could fall from a disease. Or die. It can be very dangerous to bother elves."

There are skeptics, of course, the National Museum's Bjornsson among them.

"Hidden folk have provided a wonderful excuse for clumsy workers: 'I didn't wreck that bulldozer, boss, an elf did it!'" he said.

Bjornsson, one of Iceland's foremost experts in folklore, called himself a disbeliever, adding quickly: "But not entirely, not 100 percent. It is hard to be totally scientific in a country as spectacularly strange as ours."

Iceland was first settled in the late 9th Century A.D. by Vikings from Norway and smaller numbers of Gaels from the British Islands. They found an eerie, treeless wasteland still in the first throes of creation — with vast billows of steam hissing from geothermal vents, volcanoes spouting fire and new islets heaving into existence off the boulder-strewn shores.

Iceland remains a land in extraordinary natural flux. And its prosperity is very recent: Until this century, most Icelanders were impoverished sheep farmers or fishermen huddled in damp turf homes. The population was regularly — and heavily — culled by famine, plague and earth cataclysms.

"Our country seems custom-designed for superstition," Bjornsson said. "Such an extreme landscape inspires visions of the supernatural. The everyday reality surrounding Icelanders would be called hallucinations or nightmares anywhere else — hot-water geysers, molten rock, terrible earthquakes and the cold sea raging all around. No wonder we have odd tales!"

The rarely-seen races populating Iceland are said to include

elves, gnomes, light-fairies — sisters to Tinkerbell — dwarves, lovelings (slender wee creatures inhabiting hedgerows) and mountain spirits. Most of these have counterparts in the folklore of other lands. But Iceland's huldufolk, or hidden people, are a unique breed: Human-sized, highly-social beings dressed in colorful costume, seeming to inhabit a sort of parallel universe.

"But sometimes they will invite humans to their cliff homes for a chat and pancakes," said Skarphedinsson.

Inevitably, perhaps, there's been an attempt by some entrepre-neuring Icelanders to cash in on the elves. Tourist agencies flog "hidden world" maps purporting to show locations of elf homes. Guided tours of elfdom also are available. All this is less troubling to folklore purists than attempts to revise Iceland's spirit people to make them seem more correct and wholesome.

A prime example is what's become of the Yuletide Lads. Originally, these 13 creatures were nasty sons of the ogress Gryla, sent forth on dark winter nights to steal children for her stewpot. Then, earlier this century, they were downgraded to less scary mischief-makers, leaving rotten potatoes in the shoes of bad children at Christmas, but ignoring the good.

These days they are portrayed as rascally but cute gift-bringers fitted out in wool coats and red caps, and soon to be celebrated on Icelandic postage stamps. No more sneaking away with babies for mom to devour.

"Reykjavik retailers didn't want child-stealers associated with the selling season," said Sigrun Halgrimsdottir, herself a shopkeeper. "So we're stuck with 13 American-style Santas, except they are a little sly."

"But, truth is, no one takes these lads too seriously," she said. "Icelanders are too sophisticated for fairy tales. We don't need make-believe Santas when we have real-life elves and huldufolk everywhere in our land."

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Dec. 14, 1999 CR: G. Conway

## ASTRONOMY

# Meteors seen smashing into surface of moon

## Leonid shower first confirmed sighting

BY ALEXANDRA WITZE

Last month's Leonid meteor shower brought an unexpected milestone for astronomers — the first confirmed sightings of meteors smashing into the moon.

Scientists have confirmed that at least six Leonids were seen hitting the moon on the night of Nov. 17-18, the peak of the annual meteor shower.

Each hit produced a brief flash, which amateur astronomers caught on videotape or by eye.

For instance, Brian Cudnik, a Houston amateur astronomer, reported seeing an orange flash near the centre of the moon's dark edge at 10:46 that night.

David Dunham, president of a group that studies lunar phenomena, confirmed the flash when he found it on his black-and-white video recording from the same time.

Two other amateur astronomers, from Monterrey, Mexico, and Greenbelt, Md., then discovered five other flashes.

Observers from many areas, including San Antonio, Tex., and Victoria, B.C., helped cross-check

the sighting and timing of those flashes.

Scientists estimate that the meteoroids must have been a foot or two across, weighing up to several hundred pounds each, in order to create such a visible flash on impact.

Anyone who missed the Leonids might try checking out the Geminid meteor shower, which peaks tonight.

The Dallas Morning News



# Now Newfoundland's fairies, sprites and wee folk have their own Web page

## I SAW IT ON THE WEB

**D**o mysterious, pint-sized beings inhabit Newfoundland's Baccalieu Trail? Local folklore argues that wee, whimsical creatures lurk throughout this picturesque region, which is about an hour from St. John's by car. Now there is a Web page that documents the phenomenon of fairies, and preserves on the Internet what has previously been transmitted only through oral tradition. Where do you go to meet a fairy? The Web site advises that the curious should look in either a bog or a wooded area. But beware — if you should encounter some fairies, they may play tricks



on you, like causing you to become lost and then move in circles through the forest. They use strange musical instruments to lure travellers away from the path deep into the forest. Fortunately, their mischief rarely goes further than this. A local student whose account is presented on the Web site thinks one can encounter a fairy in just about any place. "Anywhere a fairy can also step. They do not live in any particular spot. No one has ever found the exact location where they live. No one can tell if it's un-

der a bush, in a tree — no one knows!" What's most interesting about the site ([www3.nf.sympatico.ca/mayad/fairies/](http://www3.nf.sympatico.ca/mayad/fairies/)) is the section that relates well-known local stories about chance encounters with fairies. One is about a 10-year-old girl who went out to pick berries and was lost in the woods for a time. When she was finally located and brought back to her family, they found her to be a different person. One way for a person to undergo this kind of transformation is to stumble upon some fairies — indeed,

the little girl was said to be "fairy-changed." The Web site has links that introduce visitors to some of the rich history of the Baccalieu region, which was first settled by Europeans back in 1610. The towns of the Baccalieu are particularly fortunate where historical sites are concerned — residents have taken care to preserve many notable old buildings, creating a hidden trove of delight for historically minded visitors. And should you venture into the bogs and woods to pick berries, remember what one contributor to the Newfoundland fairy site pointed out: If you want to avoid a fairy, it helps to avoid wearing anything red. *Neil Maghami, National Post*

# Media needs to promote science literacy, panel says

By CHRISTIE HART  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Bill Kurtis likes to tell the story about the time he saw a UFO.

The news anchor-turned-science reporter had decided he was going to debunk the myth of flying saucers and make a documentary explaining away the alien-ship sightings.



Bill Kurtis

He and his crew met with a woman who saw UFOs fly over her house at the same time every day. The next day, they set up their cameras in her yard and filmed something zipping through the sky.

a surprising pace, and the general public has a responsibility to understand it, said Leon Lederman, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist who moderated the discussion.

"If people are going to exercise their citizenship and make their own choices, they need to be science literate," Lederman said. "It's becoming essential, if we want safe passage through the 21st century, for people to understand science. The bridge is in the media."

The Aurora high school hosted the panel to open up discussion of how students interested in science could and should connect with people who are less concerned with the topic.

Students from high schools and middle schools all over the area attended the discussion. The two-hour talk also was broadcast live to a network of colleges that relayed it to audiences at other high schools.

Lederman and Kurtis, along with New York Times science writer Malcolm Browne and PBS' NOVA executive producer Paula Apsell, talked about the importance of fostering an interest in science in anyone and everyone.

"People like to take the easy way out and they tend to skim past things they think seem beyond their understanding. We publish a lot of stories about pandas and (stories about) dinosaurs are always biggies," Browne said. "At its best, science education (in newspapers) helps readers identify bad science and misleading science."

"Light science" is a popular subject for television and cable shows.

Kurtis couldn't explain it at the time. In fact, the flying objects on the film remain unidentified. He and scientists still are kicking around theories of what caused the phenomena. It was natural, not alien, he insists.

But that's why Kurtis thinks it's a good science story. It hooks everyone who hears it, it can make an auditorium of middle schoolers and high schoolers fall silent listening, but it's still about good, solid science.

And — according to a panel featuring Kurtis and other science reporters who spoke Wednesday at the Illinois Math and Science Academy — that's what society needs to save itself.

Science is changing the world at

Apsell said. Program listings are packed with shows on the "science" of the Bermuda Triangle or ghosts.

While such shows demonstrate that the public has a healthy interest in science, they distort science and its objectives, Apsell said.

"We could water down science so much that we wouldn't be doing the public a service," she said. "I believe that if you tell an interesting story, people will watch it even if it's complicated."

Apsell explained how she and her staff base their shows around a variety of science issues but look to tell the human side of the story.

For example, NOVA had wanted to report on a project to map out the genes in a human chromosome, but Apsell didn't want to just list facts about the project. When private companies began battling with researchers about whether the information they find should be public or patented and privately controlled, Apsell used the debate as the framework for a story that still contained all the important information about the project.

Kurtis said he approaches his documentaries in much the same way. He finds characters who can explain their science to a mass audience, follows them through experiments or research and draws a conclusion.

"In Hollywood, that's the hero journey. A hero has a problem, he attacks it and he solves it," Kurtis said. "We realized that it's also the scientific method and a wonderful way to tell the story of science."

## SEARCH FOR "BIGFOOT"



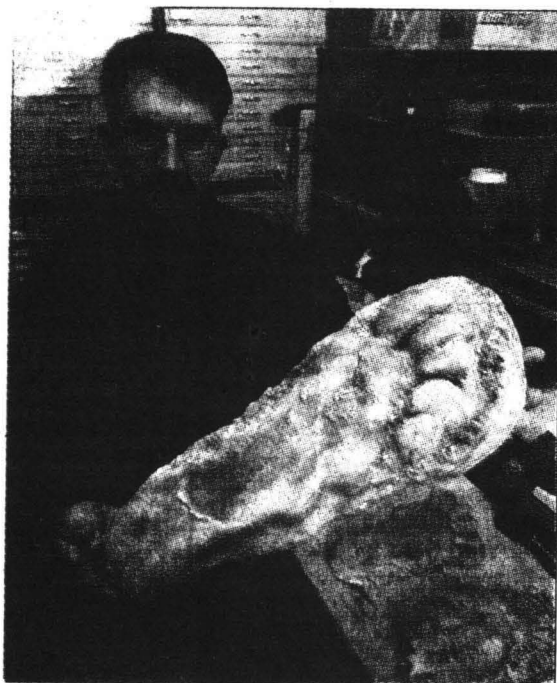
A team of eminent Chinese scientists intensified their search for the legendary half-man half-ape Bigfoot (known as "Yeren" in China) during October after verifying reports from a hunter who says he sighted it in the wild. Hundreds of other people have also reported sightings of the mythical creature during the last several decades. State media reported that a team from the prestigious Chinese Academy of Sciences

has focused its search for Yeren in the remote forests of Shennongjia Nature Reserve in central Hubei Province. The group found 40 cm footprints, brown hair and gnawed corn cobs in the same area where the hunter spotted the beast. The Yeren was described as being 2.5 metres tall, having long, red hair and moving rapidly.

# ISU professor following Bigfoot's footprints

Idaho State University Associate Professor of Anatomy Jeff Meldrum holds up a cast of a possible Sasquatch footprint.

Journal photo by Doug Lindley



Biologist says he became a believer when he saw fresh tracks for himself

By Emily Simnitt  
Journal Staff Writer

For Idaho State University biology professor Jeff Meldrum, Sasquatch is more than a myth.

For the past two years, Meldrum has been on a Bigfoot hunt, tracking footprints and looking for signs of the legendary hairy ape.

"My work is to shift the emphasis from tabloid stories to scientific inquiry," Meldrum says. "My data is in the form of footprints."

Although Meldrum says his obsession began in fifth grade after viewing a documentary film on Bigfoot, he wasn't a believer until he saw fresh tracks for himself outside of Walla Walla, Wash., a few years ago.

Meldrum describes about 35 tracks on a muddy stretch beside a road. Although he was skeptical, he says the hair on the back of his neck stood up. From then on, he was hooked.

Pictures of apes cover the walls of Meldrum's office and casts of huge footprints line his lab tables. Some feet mea-

sure 16 to 17 inches long and show what Meldrum terms anatomical features.

Meldrum also has a cast of an imprint possibly made by a Sasquatch when it sat down.

"Once you get past the snickering, you realize it's too detailed to fake," he says.

Meldrum specialized in how monkeys and apes get around, and the habit of walking on two feet in his studies at Brigham Young University and City University of New York at Stonybrook. To his trained eye, a footprint reveals not just size, but foot make-up and function. And, he says, he knows how to tell a fake.

"We're dealing with a straightforward biological question," Meldrum says. "No one can deny the footprints exist. There are two options: either they were hoaxed or they record the passing of a living animal."

Meldrum holds to the latter.

He belongs to the International Society of Cryptozoology, a group studying hidden animals. Meldrum points to the discovery of several animals this century alone: the mountain gorilla, the megamouth shark, the giant muntjak deer and Vu Quang ox.

Each of these discoveries overcame obstacles similar to those Meldrum says he faces on his quest.

"People ask why can't you track it down with today's technology," Meldrum says. "People don't understand the limits."

The Pacific Northwest and the Rocky Mountains house prime Sasquatch territory, Meldrum says.

## LOCAL SASQUATCH SIGHTINGS

Idaho State University professor Jeff Meldrum reports the following Sasquatch sightings in the Pocatello area:

■ Eight or nine years ago south of the Portneuf gap, a rancher had a disturbance in his outbuildings and found fresh Sasquatch-size footprints.

■ A Chubbuck woman reported several years ago she saw a big, hulking hairy ape. Later, she saw three sets of 16 to 17 inch-long footprints in the snow, and her juniper tree was stripped of berries up to 10 feet off the ground.

■ A recent report in Fort Hall is still under investigation. Some parties say they saw footprints, and some blame the sighting on stray cattle.

■ Several sightings over the past 10 years have been reported in the river bottoms near Mount Putnam.

Mountainous terrain and thick tree canopies provide a perfect cover for what he describes as a fairly solitary animal small in numbers.

"A lot of people have this misconception that it's this lone wretched animal wandering the face of the earth," he says. "We have examples of multiple animals, males, females and young."

Although Meldrum hasn't seen Sasquatch, he says he had an almost-sighting while in the Washington mountains doing field research. Something brushed past his tent and opened up his backpack and rifled through it. There were no claw marks on the bag.

As for the next step in Meldrum's research, he has funding from private sources to conduct a long-term field investigation in Sasquatch territory.

He also hopes to find living tissue or hair samples to submit for DNA testing.

"If it proves to be out there, it would be a phenomenal discovery," he says.

"It might help us understand the emergence of human bipedalism."

Emily Simnitt covers law enforcement and Idaho State University for the Journal. She can be reached at 239-3175 or e-mail at [esim@journalnet.com](mailto:esim@journalnet.com)

## ALBERTA: No motive known in horse's apparent mutilation

CALGARY. The owner of a horse that died from massive injuries in a suspected mutilation is shaken and dumbfounded by her animal's painful death.

"I can't even wrap my mind around the fact that somebody would do this," Tammy Hambrook, 23, said. Her 16-month-old registered quarter-horse, Diva, was apparently killed by someone reaching up her rectum with a sharp knife and slicing up her internal organs.

Diva is the third family horse to die from mysterious causes in the past year, Ms. Hambrook said. All three died in the same corner of a field leased by the Hambrook family for pasture. Neither she nor city police have determined a motive in the attack. CP

GLOBE & MAIL, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Sept. 23, 1999 CR: D. Perez