

UFO

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DUWAYNE ESCOBEDO

Alien lovers to picnic in Gulf Breeze

What if E.T. really does exist? Just think, it could heal your dying plants, levitate your bicycle and freak out your little sister. Cool. Very cool.

Of course, if it can learn English and phone home with a "Speak-and-Spell" toy, it could also destroy Earth. That's not so cool.

Well folks, get ready. E.T. may just be paying locals a personal visit. No more of that light show business that has occurred in Gulf Breeze since 1987.

This is, after all, the year 2000. You can get a front row seat at the 52nd annual Alien Picnic scheduled from June 3-5 in Gulf Breeze, a city that has gained international prominence because of its documented UFO activity. For the first time, the event, usually attended by invitation only, is open to the public.

Earthling organizers report confidently in a press release issued to the Daily News that contact will be made.

Alien Picnic began in 1948 as an informal celebration after the Air Force began investigating sightings of extraterrestrial vehicles. From 1947 to 1969, Project Blue Book examined 12,618 sightings, 701 of which remained unidentified.

The study, sparked when an Army air base issued a press release saying it found a flying "disk" in Roswell, N.M., concluded no evidence existed that the UFOs were really aliens zipping around in spaceships.

No, they are actually shooting down U.S. Highway 98 in blue, beat-up Ford pickup trucks and passing you in the median at 70 mph. At least, that's my experience.

However, as the new millennium dawns, NASA and a cadre of more than 400 astrobiologists have launched a new hunt for extraterrestrial life.

It comes on the heels of a possible discovery in 1996 of fossilized life on a Martian meteorite.

The NASA Astrobiology Institute, which began in 1998, anticipates annual funding of \$15 million in fiscal year 2000 and thereafter. Already, more than \$100 million, mostly private funds, has gone to finance the hunt by groups such as Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, of Mountain View, Calif.

In March's issue of Life magazine, now at grocery store checkout lines everywhere, Chris McKay, a chief NASA astrobiologist and a Trekkie, exhorts us not to scoff.

ISLANDER, Gulf Breeze, FL - March 1, 2000

UFO Sightings

The awakening that life is from space

ROBED HOODED ALIENS

Jolene Rae Harrington writes in Filer's Files #3, "Your advice to potential abductees to be on the lookout for evidence is a good warning." However, as Derrel Sims frequently notes in his lectures, there appears to be subconscious suggestions made to abductees to eradicate any such evidence. For example, one abductee recently wrote to me reporting an event saying, "For some reason, I felt compelled to get up and brush my teeth and shower," this in the wee hours of the morning. One action those suspecting they have had an abduction can take even days afterwards is to check for fluorescent traces with the use of a black light. Hopefully, by then the urge to destroy evidence will have dimmed. This technique, discovered by Derrel Sims and still under investigation, can reveal traces on clothing, bedding, carpets, windows and especially on the human body that defy attempts at removal.

However, I would take issue with the recommendation to turn evidence over to law enforcement officials. Artifacts in the hands of officials have a way of mysteriously 'disappearing.' On the other hand, a researcher knows how to get physical evidence to reputable, open-minded scientists for further study.

Anyone who feels they may have such evidence and/or who needs help dealing with their experiences, can contact Derrel Sims and his Saber Enterprises at: dwsims@neosoft.com. Thanks to Jolene Rae Harrington: jrae@earthlink.net.

Editor's Note: I thought MUFON Investigator Evelyn Gaulson may have discovered the black light technique first, but I won't quibble about dates. The aliens may be using some kind of a dusting spray on abductees' bodies to protect themselves or others. There is some concern their medical techniques may not be sterile.

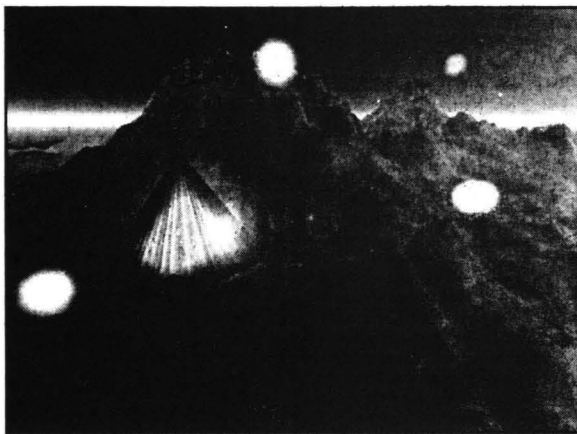


Photo Source www.au.sprintweb.org

HOODED ROBED BEINGS

Joseph A. Marmo writes, "I had some strange experiences in the middle of the night in 1993. I saw three short hooded midget sized characters in my bedroom. The room would be filled with a strange glow I can only describe as an infrared looking light. I had some very frightening night time experiences at this time as well. I would hear what sounded like many voices moaning and screaming. 'I thought I was in hell.' Once I remember saying an 'Our Father' (I'm Catholic) because these voices sounded like pure evil. While I said it, one of the voices mimicked the prayer in a strange mocking tone. My roommate at the time would see a helicopter flying very low near our apartment the day after these occurrences. I cannot come to any conclusions as to what was going on, but it was extremely frightening and very bizarre. I am a rational person but I have no explanations. Thanks to: Joseph A. Marmo jmar-mo1@rochester.rr.com

UFOs ARE BIBLICAL

D. Alan Eastwood writes, "Among the various approaches to investigating the UFO phenomenon, the Biblical approach is productive for those who accept its historical aspect as accurate." I too have studied the Bible apart from the dogma/doctrines of religious organizations, and have found it to have great value in making sense of modern day UFO related reports. In my estimation, the history and prophecies contained in that collection of books--as well as the ancient writings of other cultures--shed a great deal of reliable light on the subject from within that conceptual framework (reality tunnel).

Those who have not actually read the Bible may be shocked to find angels are described as looking and acting a lot like human beings (walking, talking, eating meals, etc) but having abilities exceeding those of humans. They are not described as having wings or ghostly appearances.

And there are many passages describing aerial objects that match

with modern day descriptions of UFOs. A number of well written books are available to those who wish to explore this avenue, including Barry Downing's book: "The Bible and Flying Saucers." It is not surprising to me that some "abductees" I and other researchers I've worked with have found by using traditional prayers for the removal of oppressive spirits, their oppressive visitors departed immediately. Some will say such a view is religious and not science-minded, but I call those efforts "successful scientific experiments." If others would like to try this, the prayers or formulas are found in books like Francis MacNutt's book: "Healing." Thanks to: D. Alan Eastwood eastwood@idsi.net Editor's Note: Some of our investigators report abductees claim some success in using prayer to stop or limit abductions.

AUSTRALIA ABDUCTIONS

Bill Hamilton reports, "Recently, Kelly Cahill gave a presentation here at MUFON LA. Her abduction involved a group of six near Melbourne, Australia.

This case was thoroughly investigated and included identical marks on different bodies, similar after reactions, ground traces including tripod marks in the soil. Soil samples were taken and a magnetometer revealed a magnetic anomaly at the landing site. Three witnesses produced similar drawings of craft and beings.

This is not the only multiple abduction case or the only case with trace physical evidence or witness corroboration. Albeit, many "bedroom" abductions may not be physical events similar to Kelly's and many may be confabulations, but just a few off road cases like hers is enough to establish a scientific basis for further research. Bill Hamilton skywatcher22@hotmail.com

To be continued next week

ARIZONA REPUBLIC, Phoenix, AZ - Feb. 8, 2000
■ VALLEY-WIDE

UFO lawsuit filer has day in court

A standing-room-only crowd heard Peter Gersten on Monday tell U.S. District Court Judge Stephen McNamee that too many people have seen an unidentified football-field-size flying object for the government not to know anything about it. Sightings have been reported in Arizona, including the Phoenix area.

McNamee could decide this week whether Gersten's suit against the U.S. Department of Defense seeking information about the mysterious triangular-shaped craft should be dismissed. Phoenix resident Tim Ley attended the hearing. He said he and his family watched the slow-moving craft pass silently over their house on March 13, 1997.

"This is not some kind of joke," he said.

"Medicine and technology should benefit. Satellites have already come from space exploration," he says. "(Besides) we're human. We want to know if we're alone."

Of course, University of Washington professors Donald Brownlee, a noted astronomer, and Peter Ward, a paleontologist, contend in their newly released book, "Rare Earth," that we are alone.

Although alien worlds are estimated at a million by some scientists, the two Washington scientists say no other planet in the cosmos has the right composition or stability to support life sophisticated enough to be awash in technological gizmos, such as DVD.

Life's March issue reports 79 percent of Americans say they have never encountered a UFO, and 92 percent say they've never met a being from another planet. (Hmmm.)

Still, 54 percent believe intelligent life exists somewhere in the universe, and 30 percent think they've already landed on Earth.

See you and E.T. in Gulf Breeze in June, maybe.

Duwayne Escobedo is a staff writer for the Daily News. He can be reached at 936-8600 or duwaynee@nwfailynews.com



A UFO hovers over buildings in this image that is part of the History Channel's four-part *UFO: Then and Now?*, which airs 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

COVER STORY

History Channel takes a look at UFOs

By **MIKE McDANIEL**

Houston Chronicle TV Editor

Give me a break. Four hours of television devoted to UFOs is three hours and 30 minutes of overkill.

That was my thought as I popped in a cassette of Hour 1. I was less skeptical as I started Hour 2. Intrigued by Hour 3. Resigned by Hour 4.

This History Channel series, 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, is a bit bloated. It's not badly written but could stand some editing. Nevertheless, it's still intriguing enough to recommend. You don't have to believe in UFOs to gain something from the series.

In fact, the less you know going in, the more admirable the TV experience will be for you. Those who regularly flock to TV shows about UFOs will surely run into stories and videos in this series that they've heard and seen before.

For someone like me, who generally avoids such shows, the series was sometimes compelling.

UFO: Then and Now?, as the series is called, seems to go to extraordinary lengths to present as complete a history on UFO sightings as possible, showing — and reshooting — as much "credible" UFO footage as possible.

The series is broken down into four parts:

■ *The Innocent Years* (8 p.m. Monday) takes us back to cave drawings, the Bible and Medieval and Renaissance art to illustrate that UFOs have apparently been a part of our lives since the beginnings of time.

■ *Cause for Alarm* (8 p.m. Tuesday) focuses primarily on two incidents, a widely reported UFO buzzing of Washington, D.C., in 1952 (wait until you see the banner headline in the *Washington Post*) and an in-depth look at whatever might have happened in Roswell, N.M., some five years earlier.

■ *Nightmare* (8 p.m. Wednesday) devotes an hour to human abductions by aliens, including the 1961 experience of Betty and Barney Hill and the infamous 1976 Allagash Incident, in which four camping buddies supposedly experienced probing by ghastly medical instruments.

■ *Aliens and Contact* (8 p.m. Thursday) reviews mankind's efforts to reach out to extraterrestrial intelligence. Included are the impressions of members of SETI (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence).

Each part of the series includes the accounts of historians, authors, scientists and UFO specialists, but whether their comments can be trusted is subject to personal interpretation.

Should a man described as a physicist be believed or not?

Would the series appear to be more balanced if it included a healthy dose of skepticism?

And why is the focus almost exclusively on Americans and UFOs? Has America cornered the market on the subject?

Not everything is laid out as fact; the series does go to the trouble of debunking (or at least questioning) the reliability of certain "evidence" of UFOs.

And the series does include refutations, the most spectacular, in my opinion, being one of the buddies involved in the Allagash Incident. The others are sticking to their stories, but today Buddy No. 4 is not so sure he and his friends were transported aboard a spaceship and probed.

Leaving it up to you to decide who's telling the truth, which is a healthy way to go into this often interesting series.

Little light shed on UFO

The investigation continues, but here is what independent investigators know so far about the mysterious low- and slow-flying object that created excitement last month in the metro-east:

Not a whole lot.

"We interviewed eight eyewitnesses from that day, including the police officers," said Colm Kelleher, deputy administrator for the National Institute for Discovery Science in Las Vegas. "In terms of origin of this craft, it's unknown."

The mysterious object appeared above Highland early in the morning of Jan. 5. It moved across the metro-east with sightings by police officers in Lebanon, Shiloh, Millstadt and Duplo before the object disappeared.



WALLY SPIERS

It was described as triangular in shape with three bright lights on the

bottom. The object moved slowly at a low altitude.

From interviews, the institute determined the object was in the area from around 10 p.m. until just before dawn, but climbed quickly in altitude to about 10,000 feet before disappearing.

"Witnesses were pretty well unanimous," Kelleher said. "They said it was very low, 1,000 feet or so, roughly triangular or arrow-shaped, extremely brightly lit and silent or with a low hum."

"The question is, was it military technology or something else? We have been unable to rule out military technology."

Kelleher said the institute has pursued a series of leads, including reports of an alleged hybrid aircraft the U.S. military is developing with a company in New Jersey. But investigators don't think the aircraft has been built.

"But that does not rule out some other exotic military black (secret) project," he said. "We do know there were no B-2s in the air that night."

Few people want to comment on the sighting. A spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration said no one has contacted the FAA about the sighting.

An Air Force spokesman said the control tower at Scott Air Force Base was shut down at the time, and any information would have to come from the FAA in St. Louis.

Kelleher said he tends to think the military may be getting some advance buzz on a new type of aircraft that may be unveiled soon.

"It was an extremely high-performance craft, making no attempt to be stealthy," he said. "In fact, the lights were described as almost blinding."

The institute has other sightings of a similar craft at other times across the country. Reports include claims that the craft literally jumped across the sky at times.

"One report said it was extremely large and flying low; low enough it had to go up to get over a tree line," Kelleher said.

"If it is flying right over houses at 800 feet and is twice the size of a C-5 cargo plane, it is a safety issue if it is military and flying that low," he said.

The institute investigation is at a standstill unless there are more sightings.

"We've gone as far as we can go," Kelleher said. "We can't speculate."

But let's not let that stop anyone else.



A depiction of the Allagash abduction scene shows what campers say happened in 1976. The incident is one of the subjects of Part 3, *Nightmare*, 8 p.m. Wednesday on the History Channel.

We're Not Alone

Tale of UFO landing not so unusual in Yuma

By Bill Briggs
Denver Post Staff Writer

YUMA — It's hard to imagine a corner of America any lonelier than this chunk of sagebrush prairie, with its silently spinning windmill and decomposing 1940s farm truck.

But every so often, when thoughts of otherworldly wonders enter his head, Tim "Goat" Cullen veers his red pickup off the smooth pavement of Colorado 59 and rumbles a quarter-mile into this treeless meadow. He pauses on a sandy flat that's nearly hidden from the few cars and 18-wheel rigs that buzz past each hour.

"This is it," he says, climbing out of the cab. "This is my spot. This is where that baby landed."

It came down 22 years ago, on a late spring night barely lit by a sliver of moon. About 10 miles south of his house, Cullen says the dark shape cut below some utility lines, then crossed the highway in front of his car.

"It was about 100 feet long, 20 feet wide and 10 feet high, and looked like an inverted pie tin. It had lights — diffused lights like they were shining through cellophane. I didn't hear nothing."

He stopped the vehicle and just watched, mesmerized but not scared. His life was forever changed, he says now.

Yet until a month ago, Cullen hadn't really told anyone in town about his close encounter — about the two bright lights from the craft that later seemed to fill the night, about his sense of lost time, especially about the mysterious hunk of metal that a doctor removed from his wrist.

Today, however, his UFO tale is the talk of Yuma, a no-nonsense farm community two hours east of Denver. It is a place where people do business on a handshake, where every summer they hold a three-day festival to celebrate an old farm staple: the thresher. A dot on the map.

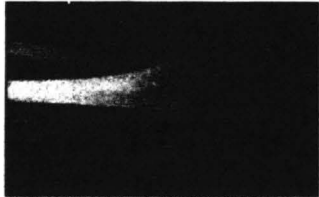
Funny thing is, a lot of folks here aren't batting an eye at the bizarre story. They believe "Goat" Cullen.

"It's kind of surprising," says Tony Rayl, editor of Yuma's newspaper. "Most people are willing to accept that it's probably within the realm of possibility. . . And this isn't a town full of crackpots, either."

In its lead story Feb. 10, the Yuma Pioneer earnestly re-told Cullen's wild account — from his original sighting to his recent surgery to extract a seed-sized object that Cullen firmly believes was inserted by aliens. It surely marked the first time in the paper's 114-year history that a banner headline blared the word "implant," at least in connection with visitors from outer space.

Some of that stunning credibility is due to the man himself.

Cullen, 48, is known as a straight-shooting, hunting-dog-owning cement worker with a level-headed wife, two daughters in college and another headed that way. Born in Burlington, he drives



An X-ray of Tim Cullen's wrist shows the small metal object at the lower left center of the image. Below, Cullen points to the area where the shard was removed.



The Denver Post / John Epperson

around with loose tools strewn on his dashboard. He is a religious man, a guy who didn't eat his first bagel until February, a self-proclaimed "old country boy."

"I'm not trying to cause trouble," he says. Sure, he's taken his share of ribbing. When he parked outside a Yuma coffee shop not long ago, some joker stuck a Styrofoam alien head on his truck antenna. Cullen kept it there. He knows his claims carry a stigma, a taint of strangeness. He just doesn't care.

"You know, I've had some people trying to look by me. That's fine. I'm not trying to change your opinion. . . For years I wasn't going to tell anybody because I realize how absurd the facts are. Like I told my daughters, 'Your dad ain't doing nothing. I'm just telling the truth.'"

But here's an even bigger reason why Cullen hasn't been ostracized as a flying-saucer flake: So many other locals now claim they've shared similar experiences. They, too, have witnessed unexplained lights and sights around Yuma, Rayl says.

"A lot of people have seen things. Especially 20 years ago, there were a lot of (unsolved) cattle mutilations. And through the years, there have been things they've seen in the skies," the editor says. "This is a place that kind of accepts it."

In fact, around Colorado and across much of the Southwest, UFO lore has been bubbling to the surface for decades.

In 1947, there was the alleged crash and recovery of an alien spacecraft in Roswell, N.M. — a tale that town leaders have playfully built into a tourist industry. In the 1990s, the U.S. military base known as Area 51 — nestled in the south-central Nevada desert — began drawing UFO watchers who believed the heavily guarded hangars harbored space aliens.

And in Colorado, the starkly beautiful

San Luis Valley has for years been home to reports of green balls of light, triangular crafts and midnight cattle mutilations, residents say. Last year, a 54-year-old grandmother in Saguache won approval from her county commission to build two 10-foot-tall UFO watchtowers, a UFO-themed gift shop and a landing pad for aliens.

Amid all this, TV's smash-hit "The X-Files" has pushed yarns of little green men from the dark fringes of weirdness into the sunny center of the mainstream. It seems that some of us just have a deep need to believe, pop culture experts say.

"We live in a world where if we can't use our imagination, we're not going to be fully human," says Jan Delasara, an English professor at Metropolitan State College. Her upcoming book, "Pop Lit, Pop Cult and The X-Files" digs into how cultures have long produced an appetite for tales of alien coverups — or of things that go bump in the night.

"I don't think these people are crazy," she adds.

Normal mental balance

Indeed, one study that looked at the psychological stability of people who claim to be UFO "experiencers" found that their mental balance was normal, Delasara says.

More important, many of these events are undeniable fact. Cattle mutilations have been documented and photographed in the San Luis Valley. Crop circles have been videotaped in England.

"Of course, the realists will tell you anything you see that seems weird and unexplainable is the Army running tests," Delasara says. "But I think people who live in these areas, or who have neighbors with experiences, these people are more open to it."

So if you can allow yourself to believe Tim Cullen for just a second, if there are more than gray shades of truth in his UFO drama, it figures the guy should have some amazing insight into why they came, or what they want, right?

"Well, I just don't know," he says flatly. "Don't ask me why."

Then why did they decide to drop in on Yuma, of all places?

"Well, take a look out here," Cullen says, waving his hand over the empty, brown landscape south of town. "Maybe they came out here to be left alone. If I've come a couple hundred light years, maybe I just want to stop and get out and



Tim Cullen

see what it's like.

"Hell, who knows?"

For 20 years, Cullen's story was basically a private memory, a sighting without proof. But that changed in late 1998, he says, when he accidentally pounded his thumb while hammering some reinforcing rod. The thumb never healed properly, and he decided to have it examined.

At a Yuma medical clinic, Dr. Mark Hubner took some X-rays and asked Cullen about a strange metallic shard lodged within his left wrist. Did he know where it came from, the doctor asked, or how it got there?

Cullen immediately flashed back to the UFO in the prairie.

"I just put two and two together."

He began scouring the Internet for experts on UFOs and abductions. It didn't take long for Cullen to track down Dr. Roger Leir, a Southern California podiatrist and surgeon who claims he has removed nine objects such as Cullen's from people all over the country.

In February, Cullen paid for a flight to Los Angeles. A UFO group donated the money to bankroll an outpatient operation to remove the tiny object.

"It looked like a piece of peppercorn to me," Cullen says.

But to Leir, it looked like many of the other seed-shaped items he says he has extracted from nine adults after they came to L.A. on the strength of word-of-mouth or Internet referrals.

Leir says he has plucked them from feet, arms and jaws. Some have been metallic, some nonmetallic. Almost all were coated with mysterious membranes made of an oxygen-binding iron pigment, protein from coagulated blood and keratin, which is found in human skin.

"I was raised in a science, medical background. So the first time somebody came to me in 1995 with what they thought was an implant (in their foot), I thought they were trying to sell me a bill of goods about abductions," Leir says.

But his opinion changed, he claims, after he sent the objects to be tested at several independent labs in North America. Some samples were compared, he says, to meteorite fragments while others were found to contain "odd isotopes" — chemical makeup only found on other planets.

'All iron'

Leir was asked to list the scientists and labs with whom he has worked. The first — Dr. Russell Vernon Clark, currently a laboratory/research safety specialist at the University of California at Riverside — said the items he got from Leir were "too small to deal with."

"It was all iron, and there wasn't enough potential for variation (from typical Earth samples) to help me out at all," Vernon Clark says. ". . . I met Roger and he was a nice guy, so I don't really have anything negative to say about him."

The second researcher, Nick Balaskas, is a laboratory technician in the physics and astronomy department at York University in Toronto. Most of the samples he received from Leir could be easily explained away as earthly fragments, he says.

"A few," Balaskas adds, "were baffling."

Those intriguing pieces contained "isotope ratios" — or a makeup of elements — rarely seen in the soils of this planet, he says.

"But just because something is unusual, it doesn't mean that it did come from out of this world," Balaskas says. "To make that conclusion would be close to impossible."

The piece plucked from Cullen has not been analyzed. It remains in Leir's lab, stored in Cullen's own blood serum. This month, Leir plans to examine the atomic and magnetic fields around the item to try to verify its alien roots.

But the man who carried the mysterious object inside his body has no doubts about its extraterrestrial origins.

Cradling the black X-rays of his wrist, Cullen says the white speck is sure-fire evidence of something quite wonderful, something a fractured world is ready to hear.

"We've lost our perspective a little bit — we're not the only creatures in this vast universe. I think the truth will be good."

upclose by a variety of credible witnesses, is described in court documents as triangular in shape, roughly the size of a football field, with the ability to hover virtually soundless.

The UFO group brought the lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act and has submitted numerous affidavits from witnesses who had observed the object.

The Defense Department continues to maintain it could find no information confirming the object's existence.

During a 30-minute hearing before a standing-room-only audience of UFO enthusiasts, Peter Gersten, attorney for the UFO activist organization, argued the government's search lacked the necessary element of "good faith."

Gersten, holding up a Department of Defense form which initially indicated that documents had been found, only to be later changed to "Not Found," argued that the form was more than mere sloppiness on the government's part, it was evidence of bad faith and even possibly a "signal" from agency insiders in favor of disclosure, that documents were located.

The case was heard in a Phoenix federal court.

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - Feb. 9, 2000

UFO activists waiting to see if they get access

PHOENIX — A UFO group is waiting for a federal judge's decision regarding their claim the government failed to conduct an adequate search for information about a very unusual aerial object.

In the lawsuit, Citizens Against UFO Secrecy vs. the Department of Defense, Judge Stephen M. McNamee ignored the government's plea to dismiss the case and stated he would issue a written opinion soon.

The object in question, which has reportedly been seen

UFO Sightings

The awakening that life is from space

RUMOR OF LIFE ON MARS GROWS

Cara E. Anderson writes, "I have been working with a Doctor from the Biology Department of the University of Houston on a Planetarium show." In our efforts to find funding and notable scientists to be in our project, my partner has heard from several reliable sources (scientists at NASA AMES / JPL) that NASA has recently accepted there is undeniable proof of life on Mars. They have not gone public yet, but intend to do so in the not so distant future. They have suddenly decided to accept the theory there is, after all, fossilized microbial life in the Alan Hill's meteorite (ALH84001). "Not only that, but they have discovered a section of the Martian terrain that undergoes seasonal color / color temperature changes they attribute to be ALGAE." This has come from an extremely reliable source. Editors Note: Rumors of this type continue to come from various sources associated with NASA.

MARS POLAR LANDER SIGNAL?

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Another attempt is being made to contact the Mars Polar Lander after controllers noticed a very weak radio signal that could have originated from the silent probe, NASA said Tuesday. "This week's test is a real long shot, and I wouldn't want to get 'Anyone too excited about it,'" said Richard Cook, the spacecraft's Project manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. The probe was last heard from Dec. 3 as it was about to enter the Martian atmosphere for a 90-day mission to study the planet's climate and dig for frozen water beneath the

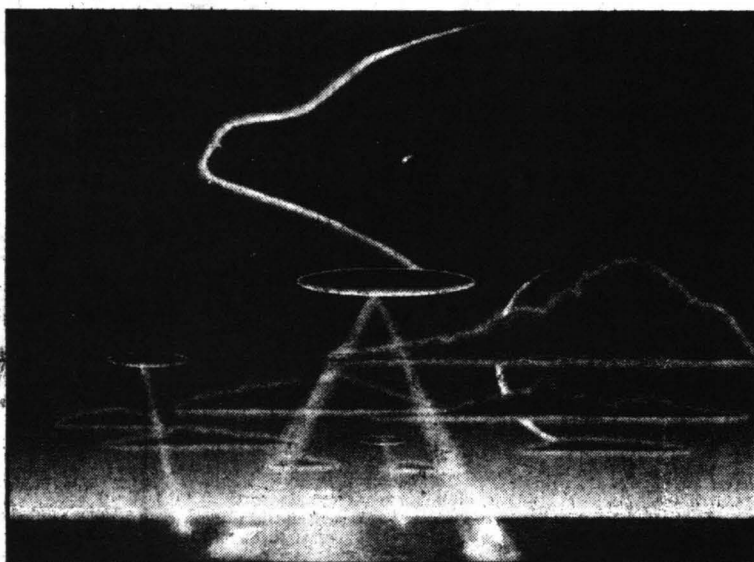


Photo Source www.au.sprintweb.org

surface. It was the second NASA Spacecraft to disappear in three months.

Seven senior Russian space experts have been meeting with NASA center directors and may be discussing the similarities between the loss of the Soviet Phobos 2 mission and our own Mars Lander.

The last known photos taken from Phobos 2 shows it being intercepted by a UFO while orbiting Mars. The photos can be seen on www.filersfiles.com.

CROP CIRCLE SIGHTINGS UP IN 1999.

VANCOUVER, BC (Wireless Flash) - It looks like Canada and England got the cream of the crop circles last year. According to Vancouver based crop circle researcher Paul Anderson, there was a fifty percent increase in crop circle sightings in England in 1999 and a thirty-three percent increase

in Canada. Meanwhile, the United States had only 12 crop circles, down from 15 in 1998. Israel, which had never had a crop circle before 1997, had three sightings in 1999.

Anderson says it's normal for crop circle sightings to fluctuate around the world, and he hopes further research will uncover the reason. Thanks to Paul Anderson, Vancouver, BC; (604) 731-8522; Access Canadian crop circle report at <http://www.geocities.com/cpr-canada>. Editor's Note: High concentrations of meteorite dust are being found within the boundaries of most verified Crop Circles. The question now is to determine how the meteorite dust was deposited in such a way to form these intricate patterns.

PHOTOGRAPH BOOKLET of some of the best UFO shots available and data on their propulsion

systems, \$10.00

US GOVERNMENT UFO PROOF RELEASED: Audio tapes of a genuine UFO Alert at Edwards Air Force Base and studies by the Foreign Technology Division at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, are now available for distribution to the public. Sam Sherman's audio documentary tape called EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE ENCOUNTER on the night of October 7, 1965, uses the actual voice recordings provided by the Air Force. During this event, 12 high tech luminous UFOs invade secure air space and came down low over the runways at Edwards AFB.

Tower operator Sgt. Chuck Sorrels spotted them and notified the Air Defense Command. Sgt. Sorrels is heard on the original tapes and in a new segment where he verifies the event as it is heard on the archival recordings. The UFOs are described, and a decision is made to launch F-106 fighter interceptors. You are there for an important part of UFO history. Hear it for yourself, it's the best UFO tape ever made. Tape cost is \$14.95 each plus \$2.00 for shipping -- total \$16.95 -- (for overseas orders-out of US - add \$6.00 shipping cost -- total -- \$20.95) you can send either a personal check or money order to: Independent International Pictures Corp, Box 565, Dept. GF, Old Bridge, New Jersey 08857.

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ARIZONA REPUBLIC, Phoenix, AZ - Feb. 12, 2000

'Phoenix Lights': Obsessive search for answers

In *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, an Indiana suburbanite played by Richard Dreyfuss sees some kind of spacecraft and becomes so obsessed that he quits his job to investigate.

It turns out that doesn't happen only in the movies.

A Paradise Valley physician who witnessed the "Phoenix Lights" from her mountainside home on the night of March 13, 1997, has put her career on hold, devoted the past three years to research into the sighting and just finished a 330-page book that contends conventional explanations don't wash.

Her work included interviews with witnesses of the unusual lights, UFO experts, optical experts, military experts, former astronauts and professors in astrophysics and computer science. She's also studied reports of UFO sightings from around the world similar to the one here.

She agreed to an interview if only her professional name, Dr. Lynne, were used. She was known that way appearing as a



STEVE WILSON

The Arizona Republic

health consultant for two Phoenix TV stations. Her husband of 28 years is also a physician.

She started out as a skeptic, looking for logical answers and using her medical training to analyze information methodically. Although she doesn't know what lit the Arizona sky that night, she's ruled out ordinary answers.

Lynne is stepping forward now — two TV interviews will also air soon — largely because she believes the hundreds of witnesses of the Phoenix Lights have been marginalized.

"They've been ignored or dismissed as unreliable," she said. "They deserve to know that what they saw was real and unexplained. I don't know what it was, but I know that it was, and I have evidence to prove it."

The lights that evening were spotted along a 300-mile corridor from the Nevada line through Prescott Valley and Phoenix to the northern edge of Tucson. Many witnesses saw a huge "V" formation flying silently over the state. Later in the night, a series of bright lights appeared on the city's southern horizon.

Those two events "constitute one of the most dramatic UFO sightings in the past 50 years," said Peter Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle.

Others, however, had less out-of-this-world explanations. The "V" formation may have been a squadron of military planes, and the balls of light could have been high-intensity flares dropped in a training exercise.

Lynne says those contentions are not supported by eyewitness accounts, photographic evidence or optical tests.

"I've tried to examine the evidence scientifically and remain open to any rational answers, but the evidence doesn't compute," she said.

Her belief that the lights were not routine is reinforced by three other sightings of bright, amber orbs from her home. The images on her photos and videotape don't look the same as pictures of flares or aircraft lights.

Lynne hardly fits the stereotype of a UFO fanatic. She's highly educated, articulate and successful. She has no apparent motive for her investigation other than to satisfy her intellectual curiosity. She says she's not interested in trying to convince anyone of anything.

Although I don't find her evidence as conclusive as she does, I'm impressed by her work. Even though I'm still inclined to think the lights came from this world, she gives good reason to doubt past explanations.

I don't believe ET and his pals were in the sky that night. But I'd feel better if we had a firmer fix on what was.

Reach Wilson at Steve.Wilson@ArizonaRepublic.com or (602) 444-8775.

UFO Sightings

Almost everything you're told is wrong

"ENVIRONMENTAL SPACE SCIENCES" is a book written by Professor and Colonel Donald G. Carpenter, who was the originator of the Space Science Course taught at the USAF Academy.

He also served as the Commander of the SPACETRACK Radar Site at Shemya, Alaska. Colonel Carpenter was kind enough to send Eastern MUFON the book he edited and wrote with six other officers.

He questions some of the laws of physics, if we assume UFOs are real. The last chapter of his book is titled Unidentified Flying Objects, and reads in part.

"It is obvious that intensive scientific study is needed in this area; no such study has yet been undertaken at the necessary levels of intensity needed. Something that must be guarded against in any such study is the trap of implicitly assuming that our knowledge of Physics (or any other branch of science) is complete."

An example of one such trap is selecting a group of physical laws, which we now accept as valid, and assume that they will never be superseded. Five such laws might be:

1. Every action must have an opposite and equal reaction.

2. Every particle in the universe attracts every other particle with a force proportional to the product of the masses and inversely as the square of the distance.



Photo Source www.amsprintweb.org

3. Energy, mass and momentum are conserved.

4. No material body can have a speed as great as c , the speed of light in free space.

5. The maximum energy, E , which can be obtained from a body at rest is $E=mc^2$, where m is the rest mass of the body.

Laws numbered 1 and 3 seem fairly safe, but let us hesitate and take another look. Actually, law number 3 is only valid (now) from a relativistic viewpoint; and for that matter, so are laws 4 and 5. But relativity completely revised these physical concepts after 1915, before then Newtonian mechanics were

supreme.

We should also note general relativity has not yet been verified. Thus we have the peculiar situation of five laws which appear to deny the possibility of intelligent alien control of UFOs, yet three of the laws are recent in concept, and may not even be valid. Also, law number 2 has not yet been tested under conditions of large relative speeds or accelerations.

We should not deny the possibility of alien control of UFOs on the basis of preconceived notions not established as related or relevant to the UFOs. Pages 690-691.

Continued next week

Bigfoot Sighting Tops '99 Unexplained

As befits the end of the millennium, 1999 was an active year for X-file type encounters.

UFOs, glows, beams of light and a Bigfoot sighting were among the phenomena reported to Stan Gordon.

Gordon, a Greensburg resident who has been pursuing such accounts since 1959, continues to investigate these reports.

In 1999, reports that originated in 28 state counties came to Gordon's attention, along with incidents from nearby states.

Most UFO sightings and other phenomena, when properly investigated, have a natural or man-made explanation.

Some events occur each year however, that are reported by competent observers, and can't be so easily explained away.

Some UFO sightings were explained as the misidentification of bright planets and stars, meteors, and advertising searchlights.

But the case he is most recognized for is his investigation of the alleged UFO crash near Kecksburg in December 1965.

A metallic acorn-shaped object is said to have fallen slowly from the sky that day, and was reportedly recovered by the military.

Years later, a shroud of mystery still surrounds this event.

In 1998 Gordon released a video on the case called *Kecksburg: The Untold Story*.

Gordon is still pursuing information about the event, and is looking for other witnesses with information about that day.

Among the most interesting reports from 1999:

January-February-Odd early morning sky glows were reported.

On the morning of Feb. 8, a witness near Turtle Creek, looking southeast, observed the skyline lit up like a large fire.

After a few minutes a bright diamond-shaped light appeared, giving off a bright flash. Instantly the fiery glow vanished.

April 27, Fayette County---Researcher Jim Brown investigated a UFO sighting which appears to have coincided with the activation of a magnetic

field anomaly detector.

Around 1 a.m. two people reported seeing a bright circle of light. The center of the object glowed blue. As the object passed, an odd sound could be heard.

June through August---UFO reporting centers received many reports of UFO sightings across Pennsylvania.

Observations of spherical, rectangular and triangular objects were common. While much of the activity came from eastern Pennsylvania, sightings were reported from many widespread locations.

On Aug. 16, a husband and wife in Butler County saw two circular objects, dull gray metallic color, moving across the sky.

The objects appeared to be joined side by side. The objects suddenly stopped and made a sharp 90 degree turn north.

Only a few hours before, another daylight sighting of a silver disk was reported near Reading.

October, near Pleasant Unity in Westmoreland County---a family driving

down a rural road claimed to have had an encounter with a Bigfoot. It was just getting dark when the large hairy, manlike creature crossed the road in three giant strides, 40 feet ahead of them. It had long arms extending below the knees, very broad shoulders and seemed covered in smooth dark reddish brown hair.

Nov. 16th-At 7 p.m., witnesses from across Pennsylvania reported luminous objects moving in formation across the sky.

A report from Butler County indicated 10-12 round objects, each with a luminous trail, crossing the sky in four to eight seconds. The National UFO Reporting Center also received numerous reports from a number of other states. It probably was a fiery meteor.

To report any strange occurrence, call Gordon at 838-7768 or write to Box 936, Greensburg, Pa. 15601. A SASE is appreciated. Contact Gordon to obtain a copy of the Kecksburg video, and for his lecture availability. His website is <http://www.westol.com/~paufu>.

WHAT TO BELIEVE?

With Strange Lights In Sight, Stranger Theories Take Flight UFOs, ANIMAL MUTILATIONS, PARANORMAL PHENOMENA?

BY HARRIETT FORD

Strange and stranger lights in the heavens over Rockford...a mystery. Many people think it's also a money-making business. There is no question UFO research and resulting movies, books, tourist attractions and more involve big bucks. But who is getting rich?

After several recent and well-corroborated sightings over Rockford and northern Illinois, nationally known UFO investigator Don Schmitt, called a NEWS reporter explaining that as time goes by, he is finding himself in a race with the mortician when it comes to aging witnesses.

Schmitt, respected co-author of the carefully researched book "The Truth About the UFO Crash At Roswell," also won a Golden Globe award for his work on the movie entitled "Roswell."

Hollywood producers have asked him to prepare a script outline for a sequel. "The Roswell Verdict," an updated, chronological pictorial book has been released. "This is a coffee-table book, and there are only a thousand copies available," says Schmitt.

"People comment that co-author Kevin Randle and I have a best-selling book and an award-winning movie, so we must be rolling in dough, but they don't stop to think that we have no one financing our research," says Don who has made 67 trips to New Mexico in the last seven years and is planning another one soon. He says whatever he made has barely covered research expenses.

"I'm in a race with the mortician, in a sense because these witnesses from 1947 are dying off," he explained.



One of the "secondary witnesses" he is hoping to interview has a Rockford address, but was unavailable for comment.

In Dixon, Illinois, a once very active group, the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization may now be inactive. Director Bill Heft has been unavailable for comment, and all phone lines to that organization are no longer in service.

The NEWS has also been contacted by Colm Kelleher, Ph. D.,

deputy administrator for the National Institute for Discovery Science in Las Vegas, which is devoted to "scientifically investigating and analyzing anomalous phenomena, including UFOs."

Kelleher says their research indicates that thousands of people in the U.S. witness UFOs and worry that they will not be taken seriously. He is asking for calls to 702-798-1700 to report any sightings or unusual experiences

including "animal mutilations, and paranormal phenomena."

Impressive upscale literature from Kelleher's group with first-rate, color brochures, indicates some big bucks have been spent, giving the appearance of strong financing.

ALIEN INSURANCE

In London, a firm which actually insured the Heaven's Gate cult (39 members who committed suicide during the Hale-Bopp comet's appearance a few years back) included coverage for "abduction, impregnation or attack by aliens." The brokerage, Goodfellow Rebecca Ingrams Pearson, known as GRIP, once had 4,000 policy holders around the world. Britain and the U.S. were its largest markets, according to reports.

Spokesman and then-director, Simon Burgess, said the firm also offered coverage for "virgins against immaculate conception, conversion to werewolf or vampire, and death through paranormal activity."

A self-proclaimed prophet who calls himself "Yahweh" sent a letter to a NEWS reporter which states, "I saw you in a vision and knew you were going to write."

He markets (through tabloids) amateur videos of "UFO probes" which have appeared to him on "prayer demand."

The prophet states, "You are probably wondering if I have a mental problem because of my claims that the Creator and His holy Angels are a superhuman race of alien beings that live on other planets and travel around the universe in spaceships."

His long-time plans for an astounding televised 2-hour prime-time revelation of these super beings have not yet materialized.

So is the entire UFO phenomenon really big business? Genuine researchers, who actually do a lot of debunking while they are at it, appear to profit very little in terms of finances. Sensational opportunists? Who knows?

An astonishing 1,500 web sites are devoted to UFO topics. Whatever is, or is not identified, the public interest in this subject continues to remain part of the picture. And dollars will be exchanged.

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - Feb. 21, 2000

DOD to give details of its searches for reports about UFOs

PHOENIX — In a decision with the potential to redefine "reasonable search" under the Freedom of Information Act, a judge in Phoenix agreed with a UFO activist group and ordered the Department of Defense to provide additional affidavits detailing search specifics used to service an earlier lawsuit.

In that lawsuit, Chief Judge Stephen M. McNamee heard arguments from Citizens Against UFO Secrecy that the Department of Defense was not searching for information on a suspicious object in good faith.

CAUS brought the lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act in 1999.

CAUS attorney Peter A. Gersten submitted numerous affidavits from witnesses who had observed massive, black, triangular shape craft with extraordinary flight characteristics. But the DOD maintained it could find no information confirming the existence of such objects.

The judge declined to dismiss the case and has asked the DOD to provide additional affidavits expanding on the methods used by the DOD to service the request for information on the suspicious object.

CAUS is one of many groups applying pressure for full disclosure by the government as to the facts regarding UFO phenomena.

For new UFO lobby, 'X-Files' are real

By Neil Irwin

Special to The Christian Science Monitor

Who's going to expose the massive government conspiracy to hide the truth about extraterrestrials visiting earth?

Instead of "The X-Files," Mulder and Scully, it might have to be the House and Senate.

At least that's the hope of some UFO activists, who are taking a decidedly new tack toward bringing out the truth about past sightings and contact with alien spacecraft.

Some of the more vigilant flying-saucer enthusiasts have formed the Extraterrestrial Phenomena Political Action Committee (X-PPAC), the nation's first official UFO lobby.

Giving up on the men in black, UFO activists are taking their case to the men and women in charcoal gray.

Stephen Bassett, executive director of X-PPAC, is now a registered lobbyist, roaming the halls of Congress to alert members to the supposed coverup of UFO sightings.

"I can assure you there are plenty of people in this town who take this very seriously," says Mr. Bassett of his meetings with public officials.

That is, those willing to brave what Bassett calls the "ridiculous curtain," the tendency to dismiss his group as kooky.

Bassett believes that alien life has existed on earth since at least 1947, and that a group of elites in the nation's military-industrial complex are keeping it secret.

'I can assure you there are plenty of people in this town who take this very seriously.'

— Stephen Bassett, Washington lobbyist

But with the end of the cold war, word of the coverup has started to leak out, he says. Former officials, aware of what was going on, have started approaching UFO activists to tell the secrets they have seen — off the record, of course.

So the truth, as it were, is out there. But how to get it out?

That's where X-PPAC comes in. It wants Congress to hold hearings on the subject. Bassett is certain that in such a venue, former government officials would talk.

There may be a problem with this strategy, however. Many congressmen may be reluctant to hold public hearings on the issue since, according to the shocking 1994 headlines of the Weekly World News, a supermarket tabloid, 12 senators are space aliens.

Of course, if this is true, these influential lawmakers would probably prefer their true identities not be exposed. The list includes Sen. Phil Gramm (R) of Texas, former senator and astronaut John Glenn (D) of Ohio, and presidential candidate Orrin Hatch (R) of Utah.

Indeed, Mr. Hatch, who is running for the White House, would be the first alien president of the United States if elected.

"We were assured he could become president of Mars, but the senator's wife does not want to travel," deadpans his spokesman, Paul Smith. "So we're putting our hopes on people voting him in as president of the United States."

Others in Washington take the conspiracy allegations with a bit less levity. "The belief that the CIA has or continues to participate in a governmentwide conspiracy to cover up or withhold evidence of UFOs is patently absurd," says agency

spokesman Tom Crispell.

Could Mr. Crispell himself be part of the conspiracy? "I can assure you that I have never seen a UFO or alien body anywhere in the world," he adds. A Defense Department spokeswoman refused to comment on the allegations of a conspiracy at all. Hmmm.

Bassett himself discounts the hypothesis that members of Congress are in on the conspiracy,

though. "Deep within the bowels of this intelligence complex are career people who view senators and presidents as mere transients. They keep them out of the loop if they can."

There may be a reason this sounds so much like "The X-Files." Bassett says the television show presents an accurate, if overdramatized, picture of the conspiracy. "I think Chris Carter [the show's producer] has sources on the inside."

UFO lawsuit to get hearing

By Diana Balazs
The Arizona Republic

The UFO, triangular and big as a football field, flies so low that the Department of Defense surely must know about it, Scottsdale lawyer Peter Gersten suspects.

Gersten will have his day in court Monday when a federal judge in Phoenix is to hear motions in a lawsuit he filed seeking any public documents about the UFO, which was reported over the Valley three years ago and in Illinois just last month.

Gersten, 57, executive director of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, filed the suit Jan. 22, 1999, under the Freedom of Information Act.

District Judge Stephen M. McNamee will hear oral arguments at 10 a.m. on a Defense Department request to dismiss the suit.

Richard Patrick, an assistant U.S. attorney, said the Department of Defense conducted a reasonable search for information requested by Gersten's group and could not find any records.

Usually, Gersten said, the government denies release of public records on UFOs by saying the information is classified or a matter of national security.

"It's just a unique object and it's been seen flying so low over populated areas," he said. "You would think the Department of Defense would have information."

Gersten said he has 33 affidavits from witnesses, including nationally syndicated radio talk show host Art Bell, who claims to have seen the silent, low-flying craft. UFOs and government conspiracies are regular fare on Bell's popular nighttime show.

The affidavits include several from Arizonans who say they saw mysterious lights over the Valley on March 13, 1997, as well as a huge triangular-shaped flying object.

TRIBUNE, Scottsdale, AZ - Feb. 8, 2000

Valley man wants UFO documents

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Scottsdale lawyer is asking a federal judge to force the government to release documents on the reported sightings of a massive unidentified object over Phoenix in 1997.

Problem is, the U.S. government maintains it knows of no such documents.

Peter Gersten, executive director of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, is suing under the Freedom of Information Act to get any available information on a football field-sized triangular object reportedly sighted over Phoenix on March 13, 1997, and in Illinois just last month.

"It is not a secret that this thing has been seen," he said.

U.S. District Judge Stephen McNamee heard oral arguments Monday on a government motion to dismiss the suit.

He took the case under advisement and it's not known when he will rule, said McNamee's spokeswoman, Jennifer Johnson.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Patrick said the Defense Department conducted a "reasonable search" for the information requested but could not find any documents.

Gersten disagreed, saying the government usually obtains public records on UFOs but won't release them for national security reasons.

"It's hard to believe they wouldn't find anything," he said.

Gersten said he has filed 33 affidavits from eyewitnesses.

"This phenomenon is the last closet. People don't want to come out and talk about it because of their social status," he said. "I can prove that there is no doubt that we are in contact with another intelligence."



RICHARD RUELAS

The Arizona Republic

Some folks making federal case of UFOs

They were there on a search for truth, or at least their version of it.

The federal courtroom was jampacked with observers, but they weren't there to watch the trial. The actual proceeding mattered very little.

In their minds, the verdict was already in: Alien beings are among us, and the government is engaged in an all-out campaign to keep it hush-hush.

The observers just showed up in the courtroom to glean evidence to support that view.

Peter Gersten, the attorney and founder of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, sat waiting to argue his case. A man in a bright yellow jacket snapped open a briefcase and offered Gersten the beginnings of a book about the Kennedy assassination called *Flame of Silence*.

"I'm trying to get it to Art Bell," he told Gersten.

The attorney politely told him thanks but no thanks.

Gersten has filed three federal lawsuits in recent months. One, which sought wreckage from a purported 1947 UFO crash, was tossed out. Another, which asks the government to take action against the invading alien force, is pending.

Then there is the case heard Monday, asking the government to turn over all documents relating to a triangular object spotted all over the world. And in Phoenix.

"(We're) talking about an object that's been in existence for 20 years, the size of a football field, flying at treetop level, with no noise. And they don't know what it is," Gersten told the judge. "You would think it would be the Number 1 priority of the Department of Defense."

Richard Patrick, an assistant U.S. attorney, doesn't much look the part of a shadowy government figure bent on keeping a lid on the truth, but that's the role he played in the minds of the UFOlogists in the audience.

He said the government looked for the documents but didn't find any. He asked the judge to drop the matter, saying the search for paperwork on the spooky craft was "reasonable."

Problem is the word "reasonable" doesn't mean much to true believers.

Nothing the government said would be trusted or believed by the life forms in the courtroom, unless it helped prove their extraterrestrial views.

ISLANDER, Gulf Breeze, FL - March 22, 2000

UFO Sightings

Almost everything you're told is wrong

The NEW SCIENTIST article "SEEDS OF LIFE" January 22, 2000, reports, "The building blocks of DNA could have formed in space before the Earth was born, providing a starter kit of genetic material for life to evolve rapidly on Earth, claim astrochemists in India.

Their computer models of chemicals evolving in space may explain why life emerged only six hundred million years after the Earth formed 4.5 billion years ago.

The model also suggests comets are packed with the building blocks of life. If true, it backs up the idea comets seed when they smash into planets.

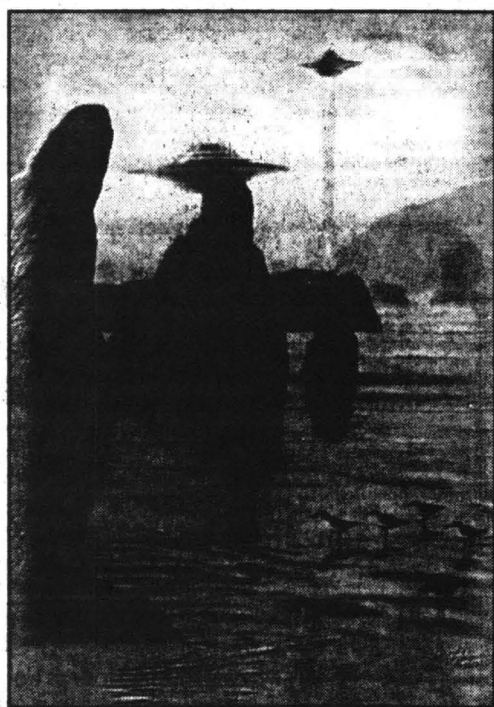
Sandip Chakrabarti and his wife Sonali at the S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences in Calcutta, modeled how chemicals would evolve in an interstellar cloud collapsing under gravity over a million years. The model began with a typical cloud seven light years across, containing a dozen elements including hydrogen, carbon, oxygen and nitrogen.

The computer worked out the variations, and at the end of the simulation, the cloud was littered with adenine predicting Earth would have been showered with millions of tons of the DNA.

"DNA produced in the collapsing cloud could have contaminated the Earth," the Chakrabartis will report in the journal *Astronomy and Astrophysics*. "There should be many such planets in each galaxy where DNA-based life should flourish." (But the idea remains controversial, since it shoots holes in the Theory of Evolution, that life started by accident on Earth.)

Tom Millar of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, the database of chemical reactions, formed the basis of the new work.

British researchers who suggested in 1977 the ingredients of life originated in space and were dispersed by comets, are delighted by the Indian findings. "It's yet another indication the chemical feedstock of life could be produced throughout the Universe, and nothing on Earth would repro-

Photo Source www.au.sprintweb.org

duce that grandeur of scale," says Chandra Wickramasinghe of the University of Wales at Cardiff, who suggested the idea along with his colleague

DNA series continued next week

OKANAGAN VALLEY GAZETTE-TRIBUNE, Oroville, WA - Feb. 24, 2000

UFO seen over Highlands

MOLSON - An Unidentified Flying Object was reported sighted last Saturday, Feb. 19 about 11:45 p.m.

According to a Molson area man the object was green, glowing and oblong in shape. It was said to have streaked across the sky from west to east, passing over Mary Ann Creek and disappearing behind Lady Bug Mountain, near Molson.

According to Peter Davenport of the Seattle UFO Center, there were several nearly identical reports that night. A few days earlier, jets scrambled over Illinois because of reports of a flying, glowing object, said Davenport. A few scant minutes before the Molson sighting, another, similar object was reported to have been spotted over south Seattle.

Davenport asks that anyone else that has seen this phenomenon, to call him at (206) 722-3000.

The only "reasonable" evidence they'd accept would be FBI agents coming into court with a red wagon filled with spacecraft wreckage and a dead alien or two.

And they're not alone. Seems like a lot of us like to suspend reason when it comes to reports of alien spacecraft.

Television reports about the infamous "Phoenix lights" of March 13, 1997, still say that there is no "reasonable" explanation for the orbs that appeared the night.

But there is an explanation. A very reasonable one.

An astronomer pointed his telescope at the strange hovering pattern around 8:30 that night and saw planes in formation. The bright lights people saw to the

west of town around 10:30 that night coincide with planes dropping an unusual amount of flares over a gunnery range.

But those explanations are discounted in favor of the one that is more fun: Aliens are among us.

District Judge Stephen McNamée said he'd issue a ruling soon. But it won't matter much.

If UFOlogists lose the suit, they still win. They'll just have more proof that the government is hiding the real truth.

That truth being that the sky is filled with aliens, monitoring our thoughts and actions.

No wonder they just keep on flying.

Reach Ruelas at
Richard.Ruelas@ArizonaRepublic.com
or (602) 444-8473.

Visitors land in Eureka Springs: Annual UFO conference draws crowd

Johnathon Williams
The Morning News

EUREKA SPRINGS — Florida native Jim Greener had a long talk Saturday with a commercial airline pilot who says he was harassed by the FBI after speaking in public about seeing a UFO.

Greener nodded, not missing a beat, and went on to share the similar experiences of several other pilots he's spoken to. The story was, after all, one of the more plausible shared with him that day.

"We know they're here. We know they're real, and we know they're (the government) covering it up. That's obvious," he said.

This weekend, Greener and his wife, Mary, rolled into town for the 12th-annual Ozark UFO Conference to compare notes with about 400 other believers on UFO sightings, alien-abduction stories and conspiracy theories.

Aside from some minor differences, these are the average ufologist's core beliefs, according to some of the staff members and vendors at the conference:

■ First, the earth has been and is

being visited by a technologically superior race of beings, who likely travel here from somewhere in outer space.

■ Second, human beings are regularly abducted by these beings for unknown purposes.

■ Third, the U.S. government is aware of this, possibly even involved in it, and wants to keep the public ignorant.

"I think universally we all believe that the government knows all about this and does not want the public to know about it," said Jim Spruill, one of the conference's organizers.

Beyond that, there are the theories and people even the vendors consider weird.

"Of course, we get the nuts. You'll have somebody walking around who says they're talking to aliens or someone who says they're carrying an alien's baby. They just come here and screw things up. The news media just seems to pick them out, and that's what you see on TV ... We just say 'oh no,'" Greener said.

Greener and his wife have operated the International UFO Center since leaving Lockheed-Martin

about 10 years ago. The couple sells T-shirts, signs and other UFO fan items at conventions across the country.

The collection of presenters and vendors at the conference covered the full range of theories and beliefs. In one booth, a hypnotherapist offered regression therapy to help people remember forgotten abductions; from another, a man sold a book that explained UFO abductions as attacks from spiritual beings and claimed only faith in Jesus Christ could stop them.

A sign at the registration desk Saturday warned any visiting government agents to register with the staff and wear a name tag identifying their agency at all times. None had done so as of Saturday afternoon.

Another sign, hanging on a nearby wall, offered information on "Big Brother's Implantable/Injectable, Micro/Bio Chips."

The UFO culture has its own language. Abductee, missing time, MIB, Grays, hypnotic regression therapy — all are labels as meaningful to many of the conference-goers as they are meaningless to out-

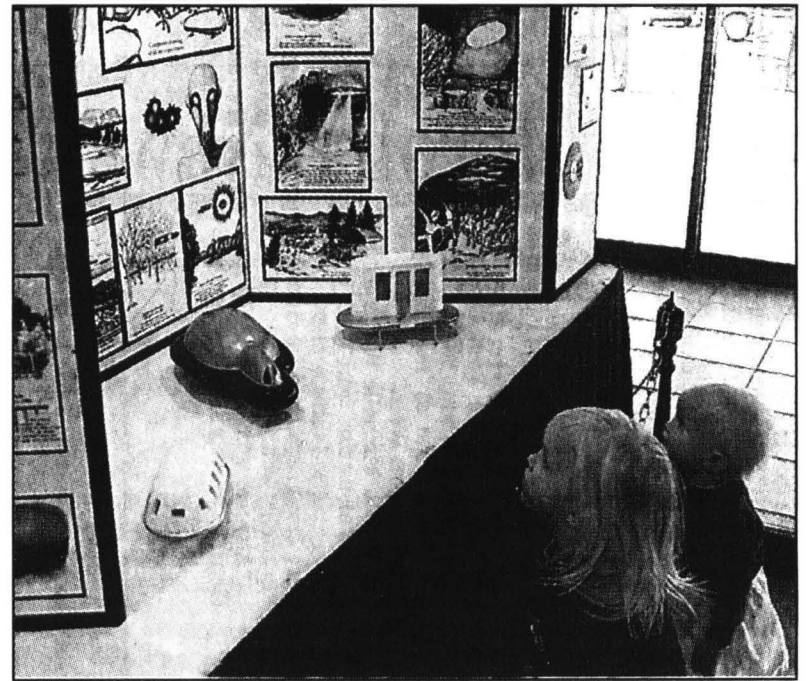
siders.

Of course, there was much mention this weekend of the UFO Mecca: Roswell, N.M., where an alien spacecraft is said to have crashed before being recovered by the U.S. government and moved, in secret, to an Air Force base called Area 51 in Nevada.

Hundreds of books, T-shirts and ball caps sold at the conference made mention of the event.

Other than sampling the vendors' wares, conference visitors spent Friday and Saturday listening to UFO experts from around the world speak on various subjects. A sampling of titles: "A Psychiatrist's View of Alien Abduction," "A History of UFO Photos," "Crop Formations 1999," and "Mysterious Lights."

It is difficult for most people not deeply involved in UFO mythology to speak about the subject without lapsing into examples from popular culture. "The X-Files" television show, movies such as "Independence Day" and "Men In Black," books such as Whitley Strieber's "Communion" and countless Web



JOHNATHON WILLIAMS / THE MORNING NEWS

Two-year-old Flora Smith (left) and 1-year-old Evelyn Smith examine a presentation Saturday at the 12th-annual Ozark UFO Conference in Eureka Springs. The girls were brought to the convention by their mother, Kathy.

sites have served to expand what was once an unknown subject into the public's eye.

Participants at the conference said one result of the information explosion has been a better-informed group of people at the conference, and a higher level of discourse about the subject.

"People definitely seem to know more ... When you watch television now, you can see aliens and flying saucers in beer commercials," Spruill said.

Greener said recent years also have seen a smaller number of conferences each year and less attendance.

"This is the best. Absolutely the best. We look forward every year to coming here. We just have a lot of fun here," he said.

Conference coordinator Lou Farish said the numbers have remained high each year at the Ozark conference. The conference ends this morning with a collection of presentations by UFO researchers. Farish said another is planned for next year.

According to Farish and Spruill, most visitors come to the conference to talk about experiences they often can't mention to friends or other people in their area.

For the most part, Spruill said, people come to the conference to share and reinforce their belief that, despite the official denials and skeptical sneers, something is out there.

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - Feb. 14, 2000

NASA getting Roswell artifacts

JOSHUA BYERS
RECORD STAFF WRITER

Roswell UFO festival artifacts are making a voyage to the NASA Space Center in Houston Tuesday for a two-month stay at an exhibit there.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration officials contacted Stacy Wolkwitz, UFO committee chairwoman, because they needed pieces for an exhibit on UFOs and their impact on popular culture which they are presenting in Houston.

"They want to do an exhibit primarily displaying things from the past UFO festivals and promoting the UFO festival that we have each year," Wolkwitz said.

Wolkwitz said space center representatives flew to

(continued on page 10)

Roswell about a month ago and brought marketing experts to look over potential items to be included in its exhibit.

"They said it's the first time that NASA has ever given permission for them to display anything on UFOs or aliens," Wolkwitz said. "But they feel that it has so saturated pop culture and that it's so much a part of the movie and TV industry that they felt it was time they addressed it and showed how we view aliens as a culture."

She said the exhibit will also deal with "how we celebrate their existence or the mystery of whether or not they exist."

Wolkwitz said while in nego-

tiations she was able to strike a deal.

"When I was talking to them about how they would get these items and when we would get them back, I tried to strike a bargain with them that they would send us an exchange exhibit for the UFO festival material," Wolkwitz said she told space center officials.

"In order to make the exchange, what we told them was that we would find a way to get the items to them in Houston and then they would cover the cost of getting the items back to us," Wolkwitz said. "In addition, they would give us some items for display at the UFO festival."

"We're trying to keep our

costs at rock bottom," she laughed. "We just think it's tremendous advertisement for the festival because they've agreed to put out brochures and give credit to anyone who contributes to the exhibit."

Items to be included in the exhibit are the model UFO from the former Millennium Zone store, a car that looks like a spaceship which appeared in the Tom Green Show on MTV, and some UFO artifacts from artists Larry and Sharron Welz.

As well, Michelle Watts and Ann Johnson, who did the intergalactic fashion show the past few years, will be donating their "wearable art."

"Anyone who goes to Space Center Houston will be seeing

all of this," Wolkwitz said. "So we felt it was worth it to take the trip down."

The exhibit opens in March and ends in the middle of May.

So Tuesday at noon behind the Alien Zone store, 216 N. Main St., there will be a send-off for the UFO artifacts traveling to the NASA Space Center in Houston.

Wolkwitz invited anyone interested to meet behind the store Tuesday and help say goodbye with UFO pride.

She added planning for the 2000 festival is going well.

"It's picking up speed," Wolkwitz said.

The exhibit agreement with NASA, she said, is good news for Roswell's UFO festival.

ISLANDER, Gulf Breeze, FL - March 29, 2000

UFO Sightings

Almost everything you're told is wrong

DNA MOLECULES MAY BE FROM SPACE

Colin Jordan writes concerning your FF-#4, Dr. Francis Crick won the Nobel Prize for helping to discover 'the structure of DNA,' the master molecule of life. He now believes the 'origin of life' was from space. I was doing some reading recently and came across some surprising statements from Dr. Crick, made more remarkable still given his professional achievements. I think there is a prejudice among scientists regarding current evolutionary theories. Many of them have spent their careers considering the theory to be scientific fact and are loath to let that go. Their need to cling to that theory at all costs smacks more of faith than science. Besides the evidence there was but a single genetic code, there is also the issue of so-called "simple" cell complexity. Crick wanted to determine the probability that even a single molecule of DNA could come into existence by chance. The probability for transition from inanimate to animate would be ten to the 40,000th power. Mathematically speaking, anything above ten to the 50th power is considered statistically impossible, because the sum total of all the electrons in the universe is only ten to the fifty-second power.

Apparently, the average biological scientist is more concerned with not being wrong rather than discovering what is true. cjordan@gte.net (Colin Jordan)

Red Setter writes, "People today are very poor at real thinking: whether in astronomy, evolution, physics, UFOs, etc. We are no more correct than in Galileo's day, yet many scientists tell me that 'we know so much we can't be wrong!' And friends can't believe there is any real UFO phenomenon, or else 'the press would have reported it!' So don't worry if they criticize you, because their brains are programmed by intensive indoctrination. See the new book 'Galileo's Daughter' by Dava Sobel. 'It claims it was academics that perse-

cuted Galileo, not the Church.' Thanks to Red Setter.

CONNECTICUT UFO

My friend and I went out to a club, then stopped for McDonalds on the way home on January 15, 2000. We arrived home around 2:45 a.m. and pulled into her drive way. Since it was very cold, I asked her to keep her car running so we could wait inside until my car warmed up. I got out of her car, and started my car. As I got back into her car, I noticed a bright light went on. I thought it was her house flood lights turning on automatically. The next thing we remember was it was two hours and forty-five minutes later. Neither of us had a clue as to what happened, except for the fact we both were unconscious for almost three hours.

Both of our cars were still running and neither of us had any phys-

ical evidence of abduction. We were not drunk nor on drugs. The next day, I told a friend my story and they checked my neck and back and found a small circle of five punctures in my upper back/lower neck. I was told this was common in abductions. I am afraid for my well being.

Thanks to Peter Davenport and the National UFO Reporting Center www.ufocenter.com

TENNESSEE DISC FADES IN AND OUT

BRENTWOOD -- On January 10, 2000, I saw an unidentified flying object at about 500 feet above the Brentwood Middle School at 9:15 a.m. As I drove along I had a totally unobstructed view of this object about one-half mile away until Murray Lane became divided by a tree line.

As I drove along, the object

appeared to be keeping pace with the speed of my car. The object then faded out of sight. The UFO had no wings, was silver pewter in color and made no noise. After turning left onto Franklin Road I saw it again as it flew pacing my car at the exact same distance and altitude. I had a totally unobstructed view of the UFO as it flew low over a farmer's field. Again the object faded from my view, then three seconds later reappeared. I watched this object for another twelve seconds, until it faded from view for the last time. There also seemed to be an aura or hazy like disturbance in the air around the craft each time it faded from view. Thanks to Peter Davenport NUFORC www.ufocenter.com

Continued next week

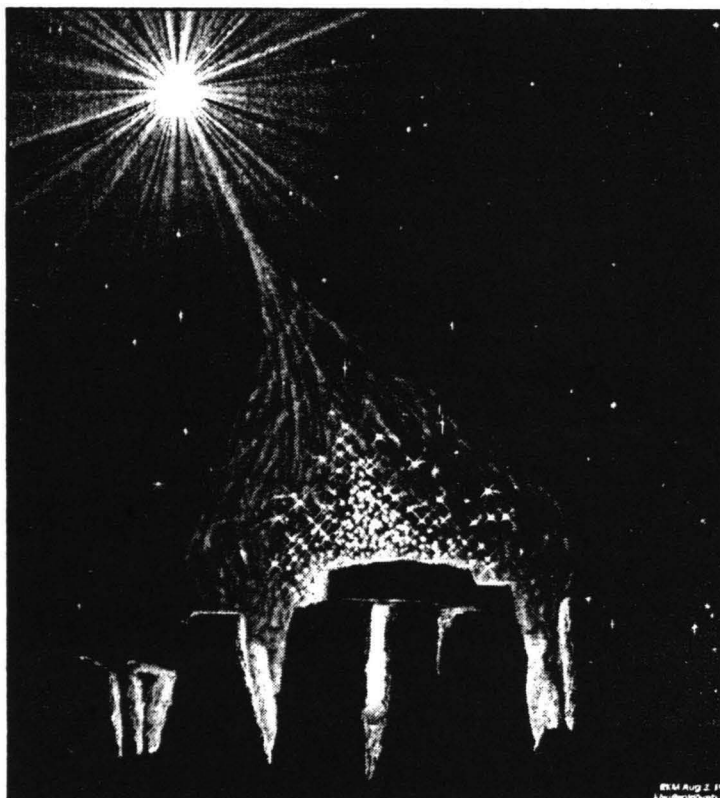


Photo Source www.au.sprintweb.org



FOREIGN NEWS

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

SUNDAY MERCURY, Birmingham, England - Dec. 19, 1999

Did Hiroshima open the door for UFOs?

THE Midlands was reported to be on UFO alert at the start of this month after five silvery discs were seen hovering over the village of Water Orton, Warwickshire.

Police contacted what they called 'the relevant authorities' including the Ministry of Defence, air traffic controllers at Birmingham International Airport and local UFO investigators about the sightings. So is there any truth about strange and inexplicable sightings in the sky? Or are UFOs simply the result of one too many at the pub? JONATHAN WALKER investigates.

AS a former police officer, John Hanson is used to interviewing witnesses and examining evidence.

And for the past five years, he has dedicated his skills not to solving crimes - but to discovering the truth about UFOs.

The 52-year-old from Redditch, Worcestershire, has travelled the county interviewing those who claim to have witnessed a UFO fly overhead, spoken to aliens or been abducted.

He has collected hundreds of accounts and believes the Midlands is a flying saucer hotspot.

With partner Dawn Holloway, aged 45 - herself an expert on crop circles - he has written a book, although it has yet to be published.

The pair met when he was a lecturer in UFOs in a 12-month course at Redditch College, and she was a student.

The reports from Water Orton came as no surprise to John. An eye-witness claimed he saw lights swoop over the village before moving off slowly towards Tamworth.

Inspector Dave Fry, of Warwickshire Police, said: "The caller had not been drinking and appeared to be of sound mind. He clearly believed he had seen something."

"We treated it as a genuine inquiry and passed the information on to the relevant authorities."

John believes incidents such as these are connected to ghosts, ancient pagan churches and the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

His search for the truth began in January 1995, soon after he retired from West Midlands Police.

Some old colleagues, still with the force, told him about a disturbing incident in Edgbaston, Birmingham.

They saw a huge oval shaped ball of light surrounded by a blue field of energy.

The Meteorological Office said the strange phenomena was a shooting star but the officers were not convinced. John's police instincts



PARANORMAL EXPERTS... Dawn Holloway and John Hanson have written a book on UFO activity in the Midlands

kicked into gear. He decided to use some of the free time on his hands to discover what had actually happened.

At the time, he didn't believe in UFOs. Like most people, he was a sceptic who thought they were usually the result of a deranged mind or a pint too many.

His search for clues brought him into contact with organisations like the Birmingham UFO Society and Birmingham UFO Group, also dedicated to researching objects in the sky.

They allowed him to look through their files and he came across more unusual reports such as panoramic light displays above Birmingham in the mid-70s and golden balls of light spotted by motorists outside Bromsgrove in 1984.

Then in June 1995, John himself was visited. One evening, he noticed a light outside his bedroom window.

It was a silver pear-shaped object hovering above a tree, 40ft off the ground. It was around 20ft long and 5ft wide, he said.

Opposite this was a red cigar shaped object, about 30ft tall. The two objects then merged into one, producing a rippling light effect and vanished.

John now treats his research as a full-time job, working at least nine to five, five days a week.

Much of his time is spent following up leads from newspaper reports or articles in specialist magazines such as Flying Saucer Review.

He will try to contact eyewitnesses, for a first-hand account of what they experienced. Often this will include

drawing garish illustrations showing what they saw, including spacecraft or alien beings.

His researches have covered:

■ A UFO seen by Rover workers in Longbridge, in 1995. One worker reported an alien later visited him at his home.

■ A woman who found a UFO parked in her back garden in Tamworth, in February 1996.

■ A number of objects seen flying in formation over Birmingham late in 1996, which was apparently linked with the death of a pet guinea pig.

John has developed theories explaining these bizarre events but he is not convinced UFOs come from outer space.

He said: "One common feature of these reports is the objects seem to vanish suddenly."

"This suggests they are moving between dimensions. Sometimes the objects are visible in our dimension and other times they are not."

"UFOs have always been with us in some form. They may well form the basis of stories of dragons flying through the skies."

"But it is possible they are more visible now than in the past following the use of atomic bombs which could have weakened the barriers between dimensions."

■ Anyone who spots a UFO can write to John at: PO Box 6371, Birmingham, B48 7RW.

■ What do you think about UFOs? Have you ever seen a UFO? Or is it all pie in the sky? Write and tell us what you think at Talk About, Sunday Mercury, 28 Colmore Circus, Birmingham B4 6AZ.

LINCOLNSHIRE CHRONICLE, Boston, England - Oct. 22, 1999

WHAT'S THAT UP THERE IN 'UFO TRIANGLE'?

TWO friends driving near Nettleham on Sunday night have told of their close encounter with Lincolnshire's most famous UFO - the "flying triangle".

The unidentified object - always seen as three lights in the sky - has been reported many times in this area over a number of years, and the latest sighting began

when the friends were making their way along the A46 between Nettleham and Lincoln at about 8.30pm and saw what they thought was a "strange aircraft" above them.

The car driver told the Chronicle: "We saw three lights, two forward and one flashing behind, and it didn't appear to be moving... it was hovering. I slowed down and then stopped and put

my window down and realised it was coming towards us slowly from the direction of Riseholme. It was completely silent."

"As it came to the point where it was going to fly over the road, it did a sharp left turn and went away from us. While it turned around I could see it was a triangle and it was this perfect triangular shape which raised my suspicions."

"It went towards police headquarters and my friend said she saw it come back again and hover over the fields with a red, pulsating light."

When she reached home, she reported the incident to the RAF Waddington and the Police, and claims to have been told by the RAF base that similar reports were being made at the rate of two a week.

When the Chronicle contacted RAF Waddington, press officer Jacqui Wheeler said she had seen the triangle seven years ago, but said there were no other reports of lights in the sky on Sunday.

She said the skies were not monitored outside normal flying time, but if the witness wanted to fill in the forms, the incident would be investigated by the MoD.

TIMES, London, England - Oct. 11, 1999

ture infidelities. They see UFOs and thousands of such films are downloaded daily onto the net.

If you want to photograph UFOs, two simple methods are available. On dry days, prop your camcorder against the side of the house, so that the lens points towards the sun without focusing directly into the light. And on clear nights, take a disposable camera and

point it into the darkness.

The possible results are graphically displayed on Anthony Alagna's site. He reveals the best images he has acquired in North Arizona's Sedona desert, including a mind-blowing picture of a ghostly blue globe floating above reeds like a full moon.

Alagna did not invent the idea of filming UFOs by point-

ing a video camera at the sun's cusp, this technique has been promoted on the web for at least two years - but I believe he is the first to display his results in movie format.

On his pages, classic flying saucers glide across the screen, clearly visible for five or six frames. Cigar-like rods flash in and out, tiny bolts of lightning - Alagna suggests they might

be aerial lifeforms.

The pictures are available as postcards, along with Sedona Indian jewellery, but this is not a truly commercial site - Alagna is so anxious to prove his psychic credentials that he offers a free Tarot reading to all visitors. Perhaps a pilot from Alpha Centauri will take him up on the offer.

● www.paranormalpics.com



Uri Geller

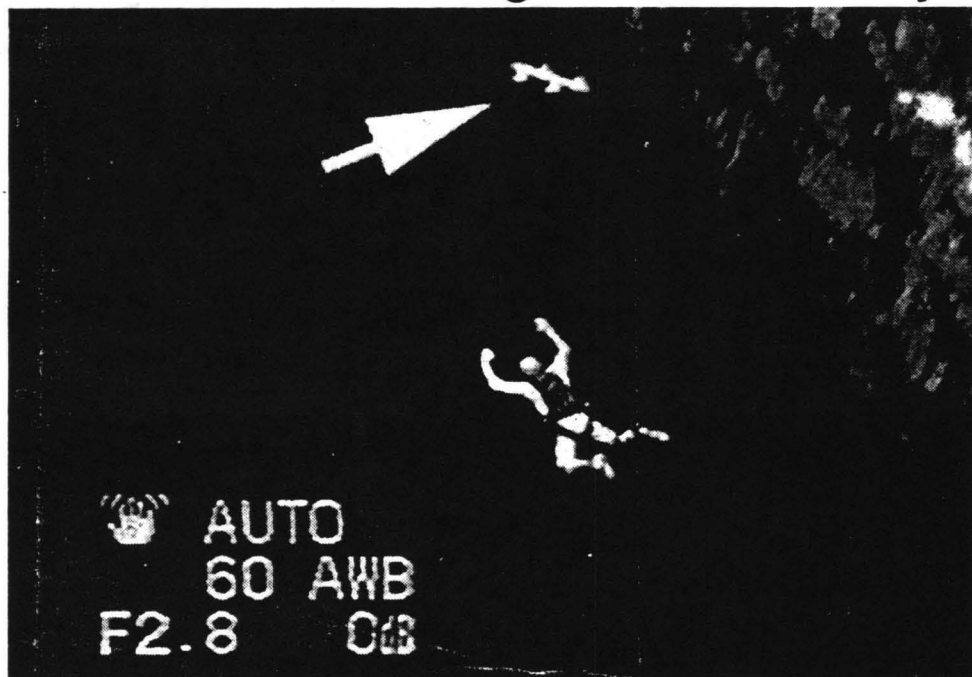
urigeller@compuserve.com

Sometimes we can't see what's before our eyes. Relationships break up, and we deny it. Strange lights flash in the sky, and all our vision registers is the clouds.

Cameras are not like eyes. They are not subject to emotions, they see wrinkles and cap-

Lytham conference will hear of amazing UFO discovery

Those UFOs 'are really



● A still from video footage showing the UFO, arrowed, and a skydiver plunging into a cave in Mexico

living creatures'

VISITORS to a UFO conference will this weekend be treated to a new amazing explanation for airborne phenomena — that some of the "craft" could actually be living creatures.

The conference in Lytham promises to be the biggest in Britain this year with guest speakers from the USA, including Jose Escamilla, who believes he has conclusive proof that the classic cigar-shaped UFO is an undiscovered life form which originated on earth.

Jose was born in Roswell, New Mexico, famous for an alleged alien spaceship crash in 1947. He claims he discovered what he calls "Rods" on film in 1994.

Since seeing them on an extreme sports video,

By Chris Dixon

where skydivers parachuted into a 1,250 ft-deep Mexican cave, Jose has collected more than 2,500 hours of video footage of them from all over the world.

And he has already answered sceptics who say all the footage is fake by collecting footage from other sources, such as National Geographic, CBS and Fox.

Jose, who has appeared on countless American television shows, said: "I went back to the cave just two weeks ago and we captured footage of the Rods on 16mm camera, digital camera and Hi-8 film at the same time."

"I think they are a life form of some kind that has

been here for a long, long time.

"This cave seems to be a natural habitat for them and we could now go in to do a scientific study."

James Peters from Colorado's Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) has accompanied Jose on his trip and assisted with his research.

120mph

He added: "We feel the creatures move with the same type of motion as a cuttlefish — but they are flying and have been seen moving at more than 120mph. They seem to also vary in size, from 4ins to 12ft."

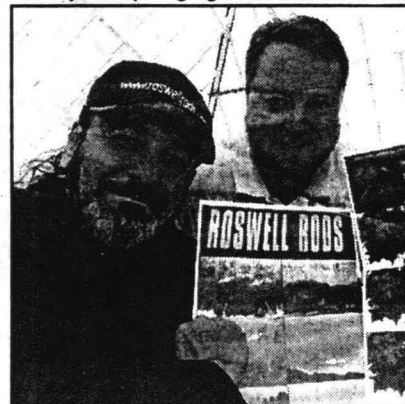
Event organiser Robert Whitehead, also a leading member of Lancashire Aerial Phenomena Investigation Society (LAPIS), believes this conference

will be the best yet. He said: "This year we are bringing a mixed bag of speakers to Lowther Pavilion, which is the best venue around."

"Jose will be showing exclusive new footage, and other speakers over the two days include author Nick Redfearn, talking about the FBI and their UFO files, and a retired British Airways pilot who will talk about two close encounters."

The conference is taking place on Saturday and Sunday at Lowther Pavilion and tickets cost £20 for the two days, or £12 each day.

● Have you had a UFO "experience"? Write to the News Desk, Citizen, St Annes Building, Clifton Drive North, St Annes FY8 2NA.



● Jose Escamilla and Jim Peters

GLOSSOP CHRONICLE, Derbyshire, England - Nov. 4, 1999

UFO expert backs tales of mysterious sightings

A UFO expert has backed the report of a recent sighting in Glossop saying it bears a close similarity with a 1997 sighting in Cheshire.

Stockport-based David Cayton is a member of the Quest International organisation which

looks into reported sightings.

He said: "On 1 June, 1997, a family of four were driving on the M56 when they claim to have seen a delta shaped object in the sky."

"That same day, two aeroplane pilots claim to have seen a delta-shaped shadow moving quickly across the ground. They were unable to say where the shadow was from."

Also in 1997 There was a sighting of an arrow shaped object above Glossop.

This was reported to the Chronicle by two different people. At the time there were rumours it might have been an American 'stealth' bomber.

Mr Cayton is anxious to hear any other reports of sightings.

He is particularly interested in the phenomena of animal mutilation which he believes could be a result of paranormal activity.

He is appealing to farmers to contact him on 0161 483 4956 or 07899 941291 should they come across any animals which have died mysteriously.

Saucer sightings are on way up

FLYING saucers may have been swooping over Merthyr Tydfil and the Rhymney Valley according to a team of UFO spotters.

The South Wales UFO Research Network claim that more and more sightings of mysterious flying saucers are being made across the Valleys.

A spokesman for the organisation explained that there have been a number of saucer sightings over the last month in the Gwent area.

He said: "On July 17 at around 3-3.30pm an object was observed from the Brynmawr area by a local couple. The object was described as a metallic sphere. It was observed for approximately 15

minutes.

"The couple described the sphere as being perfectly stationary despite strong winds. A thin layer of cloud passed behind the object and it was shortly after engulfed by thicker cloud. The object did not reappear."

"The sphere was also sighted over the Sugar Loaf Mountain in Abergavenny on July 16 around midday and there have been sightings in Ebbw Vale."

If you have spotted a UFO hovering over the Merthyr or Rhymney Valley, or can offer an explanation as to what may have been spotted in the skies over Gwent telephone 01495 215601 or 01495 321117.

EXPRESS, Merthyr, England - Sept. 3, 1999

Country musician lands huge CD

By Sylvia MacBean
Freelance writer

MIDALE, Sask. — Randy Johnner always wanted a big CD.

The retired member of the Johnner Brothers, a Saskatchewan-based country music band, was combining wheat when he discovered a crop circle.

"It looks just like a huge CD out in my wheat field," said Johnner. "We were combining at midnight and we suddenly came upon it and shone the combine lights on it."

"We walked out into the middle of it and were standing out there in the dark. It was quite a thing to see. The crop is just laid flat, flat as a pancake."

"It had to have been done fairly recently, because if you lay crop down like that and the heads aren't filled with grain, then they won't mature."

Johnner figures the crop circle was made by pranksters. He cut around the crop circle and left it for others to see.

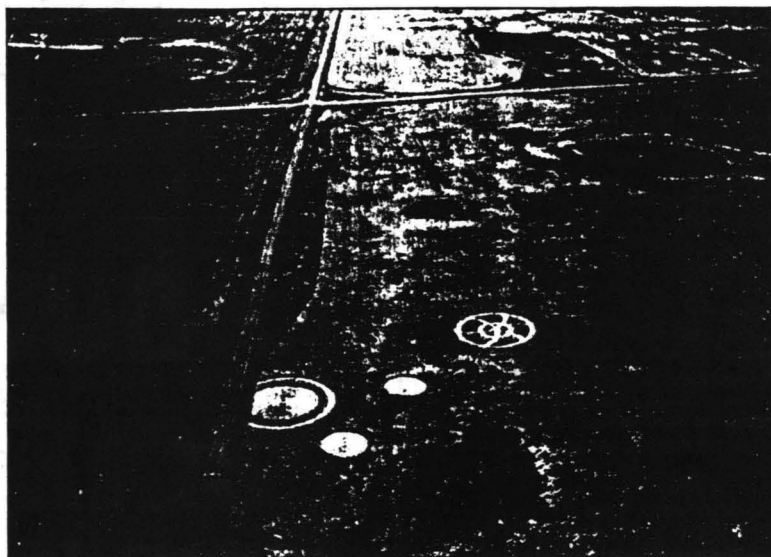
"It's about 50 feet across and the crop is all laid down in one direction all the way around. The only peculiar part about it is that off to one side, it has a three-foot circle within the circle where the wheat is standing perfectly straight."

He views it as a new art form.

"It's field art. Someone likes to do that sort of thing and create a mystery for the rest of us."

One mystery is how the circle was made. "This is a very heavy wheat crop. When we combined that field we did not notice any tracks to the circle. It's about 200 feet from the road. The crop is so thick that we would have noticed the tracks."

There are five sets of crop circles in the Midale area.



Mysterious circles appeared in Dayle Martinson's wheat field Sept. 6. They are one of five sets of crop circles in the Midale, Sask., area, including the Johnner farm. (Sylvia MacBean photo)

Crop circles become more frequent, complex

By Mary MacArthur
Camrose bureau

Rusty Manuel and Thelly Whit-

man have always joked that the strange lights near their grain fields on the outskirts of Edmonton are UFOs.

But they're not laughing after circles were found in their barley field. "We're not going to joke about that

any more," said Whitman.

A custom sprayer operator hired to spray Roundup on a barley field infested with thistles spotted the circles first. Without bothering to look at the field, Manuel put the circles

down to animals or wind. "I thought it was some animal rolling around in it. I hadn't seen it. When I started to cut it I got pretty inquisitive."

"I've always been a strong believer there's something more than us around. There's something more than our little world."

— Thelly Whitman, Alberta farmer

don't like that end of the field. I get an eerie feeling in that end of the field."

Whitman doesn't know what made the circles, but she hasn't ruled out some other life form. "I've always been a strong believer there's something more than us around. There's something more than our little world."

Gordon Sopczak, Alberta co-ordinator for Circles Phenomenon Research Canada, said he's sure whatever is creating the circles will "delight us and astound us again."

Members of a crop circle investigative team took grain and soil samples from within the crop circle on the farm near Edmonton to test for abnormalities.

Manuel plans to harvest the grain separately. He wants to see if there's anything unusual about it next spring when it's reseeded.

More intricate
Sopczak said crop circles like the one in north Edmonton are becoming more complex. No longer are they simple circles in a field.

In 1999, 17 crop circles were reported across Canada. One on the University of Alberta farm was a hoax, another was caused by fairy rings, but several others were complex patterns, he said.

As in Britain, many of the crop circles are reappearing in areas where they have been reported in previous years.

Sopczak doesn't know if more crop circles are being reported because there are more circles, or if people are learning how to report them. According to a website run by Circles Phenomenon Research Canada, there were 14 circles reported in Canada in 1998, two in 1997, three in 1996, two in 1995, four in 1994, nine in 1993, 21 in 1992, 12 in 1991 and 22 in 1990. Nine circles were reported between 1969 and 1989.

The website can be found at www.geocities.com/Area51/Cavern/3310.

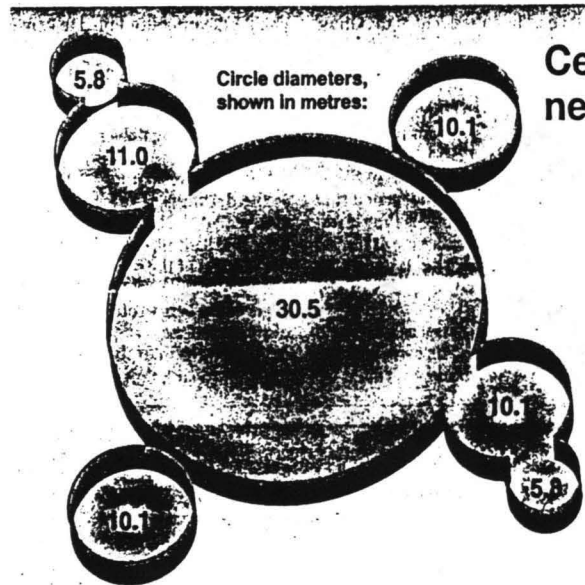
Cereal circles found near Edmonton

A set of seven circles has been recently discovered in a barley field near Edmonton by farmer Rusty Manuel.

The farmer swathed around the circles, leaving them intact for study. According to field researchers, the formation measured nearly 58 metres across. The crop within each circle was flattened from the centre out to the edge, rather than in usual swirling patterns found in other crop circles.

Researchers noted the field is full of tall thistle, which was flattened along with the barley inside the formation.

Source: Crop Phenomenon Research Canada
WP graphic by Michelle Houlden



CANNOCK CHASE POST, Wolverhampton, England - Sept. 30, 1999

Cross-shaped UFO over skies

by Harriet Newman

A UFO investigator is hoping to track down further sightings of a mysterious flying object after reports came in from the Penkridge area.

Chris Holton wants to hear from anyone who saw the possible UFO which was seen near Overton at 8pm on September 8.

"The cross shaped object was seen hovering in the air for several minutes before it shot off into the clouds."

"The person reported seeing a bright light coming from it and we believe it must have been quite a sizeable object."

Anyone who believes they saw the object should call Chris on 01785 602029.



●Artists impression of the craft

UFO SPARKS EXCITEMENT

'Video pictures best for 30 years'

By BRIAN COATES

VIDEO footage taken in Calderdale has produced the best pictures of UFOs for 30 years, according to excited enthusiasts.

Film taken by Mr Paul Mercer over Shibden and Hipperholme captures a sighting which changes shape and moves speedily.

Members of the International UFO Research Network are excited by the find and the film will be sent for analysis to Professor Roger Green, an expert in electronic imaging engineering and formerly of Bradford University.

Mr Mercer, of Queensbury, was filming the moon at 8 am on Monday, October 25, and he then switched to an aircraft which came into view.

He said he was stunned when the UFO suddenly appeared and seemed to give a display of contrasting shapes and movement.

"When something suddenly appears from nowhere it's quite a shock," he said. "I wish I knew what it was I saw."

The UFO comes into view as a ball initially and then takes on a series of shapes which have been described as a hamburger, an oyster opening up and a cigar.

Mr Russell Kellett, co-ordinator of the research network, dismissed any connection between the UFO and the aircraft because of its sudden loss of altitude and movement.

He said there had been fewer UFO sightings this year until recently but a spate of sightings had been reported in recent weeks.

"This film has given some of the best



Mr Paul Mercer and Mr Russell Kellett

footage caught in England during the last 30 years," he said. "We now want to find out if anybody else has seen something similar."

"It's astounding and we want to collect what information we can."

Mr Kellett, of Lidget Green, Bradford, said it was difficult getting information from the authori-

ties on UFO sightings and it was unknown to the public if military technology was available which could account for UFOs.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said it was not aware of any unusual air activity in the area.

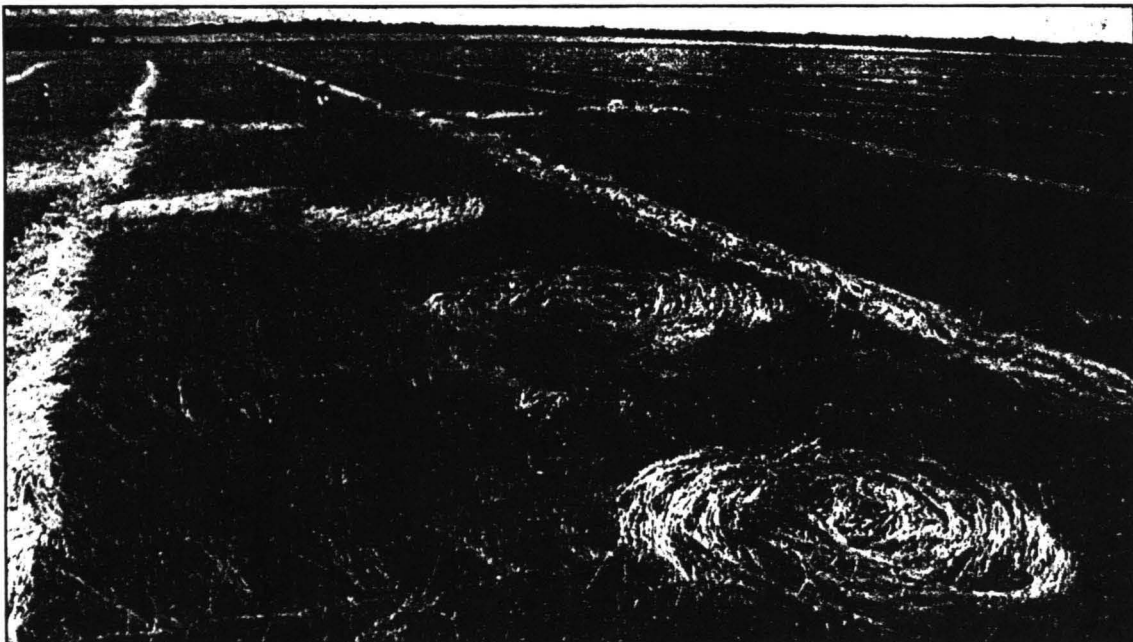
Reports the ministry received

were logged but needed to be collaborated and none of the 82 reports this year had been. Last year there were 600 sightings.

Halifax Police also said they were not aware of any reported sightings in Calderdale.

Mr Kellett can be contacted on 01274 501463.

WESTERN PRODUCER, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada - Sept. 16, 1999 CR: G. Conway



WHAT GOES AROUND, COMES AROUND? — A pattern of crop circles have appeared near Neilburg in northwestern Saskatchewan on land farmed by Bill and Laura Herle. The circles were discovered by hired hand Dave Robertson while swathing the wheat crop Sept. 3. The Herles didn't notice the circles when they dessicated the crop Aug. 22. (Don Whiting photo)

OTHER WORLDLY VISITATIONS

Canada's first sighting was in 1792

SCOTT EDMONDS
CANADIAN PRESS
WINNIPEG

Explorer David Thompson got the ball rolling with Canada's first recorded UFO sighting in 1792, a tale lifted from his Hudson Bay journals that would do very nicely as an episode of The X-Files.

"He and a companion were camped out in the middle of the winter in a very isolated area near a lake and they saw what he described as a large gelatinous blob... flying through the air," says Chris Rutkowski, a Winnipeg UFO researcher and author.

"It appeared to fall to the Earth on the frozen lake not far from them."

The sighting took place near what is now Thicket Portage, just south of Thompson, Man., which isn't named after the famous fur trader and map maker. (It's named after former Inco president John Thompson, who paid the guys who built the town.)

At any rate, David Thompson and his companion failed to find any sign of the blob on the ground, but they did see a similar object in the sky a few days later.

Ever since, Canadians have continued to see strange objects or lights in the sky and report other contact with what many insist are visiting aliens.

Rutkowski has been chronicling and investigating these stories for almost 25 years and he has culled what he considers to be 11 of the strangest tales of the last 100 years from his files.

"Whether or not they are real is irrelevant," says the founder of Ufology Research of Manitoba, whose latest book on the subject, *Abductions and Aliens*, has just been published by Dundurn in Toronto.

"They have each fired the Canadian imagination and fascination with the possibility of life elsewhere in the universe."

Rutkowski's weird and wonderful list starts with a 1915 phantom invasion of aerial objects over wartime Ottawa that was never explained.

It was scary enough for officials to turn out the lights on Parliament Hill to avoid presenting a tempting target to the "enemy."

"It caused such a concern that they actually did put Ottawa on alert."

The list concludes in Duncan, B.C., in 1980 with the strange tale of Granger Taylor. The teenager was obsessed with aliens and UFOs, building a full-size mockup of a flying saucer in his backyard.

One day he announced to his friends he was going to be taken away by aliens. He was never seen again.

But those aren't the strangest stories as far as Rutkowski is concerned.

"Out of all of them it would be a toss-up between Shirley's Bay and Shag Harbour."

Shirley's Bay, Ont., is where Wilbert Smith, a Canadian Defence Department engineer, set up equipment in 1954 he said detected a large magnetic disturbance which he believed to be from an alien spacecraft.

More important perhaps for UFO researchers, it was from Smith's meetings with American investigators at the time that they learned of incidents like the alleged crash of a flying saucer near Roswell, N.M.

Shag Harbour, N.S., is where something crashed into the ocean in October 1967 that had people in the area gossiping for years.

American navy vessels appeared, divers recovered something and mysterious green foam was seen on the water, but there was never a satisfactory explanation.

"I would classify those as the most unusual among all the 11," says Rutkowski.

If those are the strangest, he says the most significant is the case of Steve Mihalak, burned by an object he said landed near Falcon Lake, Man., in May 1967, the same year as the strange goings-on near Shag Harbour.

"It was investigated by American and Canadian military and government officials and it stood the test of time," says Rutkowski.

Mihalak died last October.

"Right to the very end he insisted that what he had seen and what occurred to him happened just as he said."

Rutkowski says there has been a slight decline in the number of UFO sightings in Canada, to about 200 a year.

He had been expecting a little "millennium fever" that might push up the number of sightings as 1999 draws to a close.

But while the numbers may be down, interest is definitely up, he says.

"People are very much into this sort of thing."

**UFO researcher and author
Chris Rutkowski's list
of what he calls the 11 strangest
Canadian UFO reports of the last century:**

■ **OTTAWA, Feb. 15, 1915** — Strange lights in the sky prompt fears of enemy invasions.

■ **GANDER, Nfld., Feb. 10, 1951** — U.S. Navy transport aircraft reports near mid-air collision with circular orange object.

■ **SHIRLEY'S BAY, Ont., Aug. 8, 1954** — Defence Department engineer Wilbert Smith says he detects large magnetic disturbance with his "flying saucer detection station."

■ **FORT MACLEOD, Alta., Aug. 23, 1956** — RCAF Squadron Leader Robert Childerhouse and his flight lieutenant observe and photograph a bright oval object at 36,000 feet (10,800 metres).

■ **FALCON LAKE, Man., May 20, 1967** — Prospector Steve Mihalak is burned by a strange object he says lands near him and then takes off.

■ **CALGARY, July 3, 1967** — Warren Smith and two companions observe and photograph a disc-shaped object moving rapidly across the sky.

■ **SHAG HARBOUR, N.S., Oct. 4, 1967** — Witnesses observe a bright object fall from the sky and observe a patch of luminous foam on the water.

■ **LANGENBURG, Sask., Sept. 1, 1974** — Farmer Edwin Fuhr comes across bowl-shaped objects spinning in his hayfield. They take off, leaving circular impressions similar to crop circles that appear years later in England.

■ **CARMAN, Man., May 13, 1975** — Hundreds of people first observe bobbing, bright reddish-orange light that reappears for months and is dubbed "Charlie Redstar."

■ **MONTREAL, Jan. 6, 1977** — Florida Malboeuf watches as saucer-shaped object lands on roof of building across from her home. Says two spindly creatures in tight suits emerge before the object takes off.

■ **DUNCAN, B.C., Nov. 1980** — UFO-obsessed teenager Granger Taylor says he is about to be taken away by aliens. He is never seen again.

**SOUTH YORKSHIRE TIMES,
Barnsley, England - Dec. 2, 1999**

The truth is out there

ON Wednesday evening (Nov 24) time 5.54pm to be exact, two RAF Jets flew fast and low over Mexborough chasing what would appear to be a (UFO) a ball of red light.

They went over Montagu Hospital, Kings Road, Alexander Road, over Old Denaby's farm on the hill top and out of view.

I know that you may think that I am daft but my boyfriend, his mate and myself saw this object actually being chased over Mexborough.

What I would like to know is, did anyone else in Mexborough see it, and was it reported to any local UFO research branch?

I myself would like for the time being to remain anonymous because I fear ridicule, this I am sure you will understand, but this is a genuine report and it ought to be put on record as such.

"A local nurse"
● Did YOU see anything? If so, contact our newsdesk on (01709) 303050.



Did spacemen crash on Welsh mountain?

FARMER Hugh Lloyd will never forget the night a mystery fell to earth on a North Wales mountain.

He was just 14 on the night of January 20, 1974 and was watching television at around 8pm when the family home was shaken by a huge earth tremor.

Scared by the incident but wanting to find out what had happened, he piled into a Land Rover with friends, neighbours and local police and sped towards the source of the mystery explosion in the Berwyn Mountains.

"It was pretty scary. I have never experienced anything like it," said Mr Lloyd, a farmer at Garthiaen, Llandrillo.

At the time, there was speculation of an explosion or a plane had crashed.

Mr Lloyd said: "It was pretty dark. You could hardly see anything on the mountain and then all of a sudden this incredibly bright light lit up the sky, like an arc welder, two or three miles away, lasting for about 20-30 seconds. You could make out details in the countryside around."

Mysterious

Although he never discovered the source of the light, a mysterious rock was found nearby by his sister who was gathering sheep a couple of days later.

"It was a colourful rock and it was taken to a doctor of science in Bala. He said it was very unusual and it was sent to Keele University for analysis.

"We eventually got the rock back and then we were approached by somebody from London University who asked if they could have the rock. They assured us we would have it back, but we have never seen it since," he said.

In the days following, scientists and investigators, some of whom could have been from official departments, combed the area and Mr Lloyd was questioned about the incident, the light and asked exactly what it looked like.

"I do not believe that it was a UFO but I would like to find out exactly what it was," Mr Lloyd said.

The mysterious events of that



□ CLOSE ENCOUNTER: Huw Lloyd who witnessed the strange events

Picture: STEVE PEAKE

By Daily Post Correspondent

night came to be known as the Welsh Roswell incident - with claims that a flying saucer had crashed and alien bodies taken away.

Now a new book has been published which is attempting to shed light on the mystery that has surrounded the Berwyn Mountains for over 25 years.

Crashed flying saucer, an earthquake, or a cover-up for an accident connected to nuclear technology, are just some of the theories explored by Nick Redfern's book "Cosmic Crashes".

The book also covers a startling

new testimony by a man claiming to be a soldier who said he was ordered to take recovered alien bodies from the site to a chemical and biological facility at Porton Down, near Salisbury.

True or not, investigators into the Berwyn Mountains incident agree something out-of-the-ordinary did happen.

But if the testimony of the alleged soldier, recorded by Tony Dodd - a retired police officer of 25 years is to be believed - it could herald one of mankind's most important discoveries - we are not alone.

In Cosmic Crashes, the soldier - under the pseudonym James Prescott - recounts an amazing story where he was instructed to transport two large oblong boxes to

Porton Down from the Berwyn Mountains.

At the facility, the boxes were opened to reveal two humanoid creatures about 5-6 ft tall, almost skeletal in build. Although Mr Prescott claims he did not see any vehicle at the site, he said he spoke to other military personnel who told him they had witnessed a large craft crashed on the mountains.

Author Nick Redfern said: "I have tried to take an impartial view of the evidence but it is difficult to discover where truth ends and the rumour mill starts." He respects Tony Dodd as a reputable researcher and added that Mr Dodd had met Mr Prescott and was impressed by the sincerity of his story.

GUARDIAN, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada - Aug. 28, 1999 CR: P. Anderson

Crop circles appear near Tignish, leave landowner mystified

BY WAYNE THIBODEAU
THE GUARDIAN

CHRISTOPHER CROSS — Residents of this bedroom community just outside Tignish have their eyes peeled to the skies after two mysterious crop circles appeared in a blueberry field.

Bernard Handrahan said he discovered the two circles in fields across from his house a couple of weeks ago.

There are two circles, one

measuring about 18 feet in diameter and the second, slightly smaller, measuring about 12 feet. The circles appear to be perfectly round but the centre wasn't touched.

"It's just a circle and the grass is burnt. The grass is still dead but the little bushes are starting to regrow," said Handrahan, in an interview with The Guardian.

"I don't understand what it is. I've never sprayed in the blueberry field. I've never

burnt the blueberry field. I was just walking around the field and I noticed one circle. I went home to find someone to show it too and then I discovered the second circle."

By the condition of the damage, Handrahan believes the circles were formed last fall but only discovered just recently.

Handrahan's neighbours are as mystified as he is about what caused the phenomenon.

UFO irrationality

WHY do some scientists seem compelled to debunk UFO sightings (Mail) and regard the public as a collection of idiots?

Anyone who researches the subject with an open mind, or who knows a reliable witness, will regard some of the put-downs (flocks of geese, etc) as an insult to our intelligence.

We're expected to swallow their bizarre scientific theories about black holes, parallel universes and so on, yet not countenance the idea that perhaps, just perhaps, another life form is curious enough to visit this planet and has been seen by credible witnesses.

RICHARD SHEPPARD,
Mapperley, Notts.

DAILY MAIL, London, England - Sept. 17, 2000



INDEPENDENT, Gallup, NM - Feb. 22, 2000

Is something afoot with Bigfoot? Expert thinks so

By Harvey Rice
Houston Chronicle

CONROE, Texas — Jimmy Chilcutt is not someone most people would associate with the kind of wild, unsubstantiated stories that show up in supermarket tabloids.

Chilcutt, 54, is skeptical by nature. His job as a fingerprint technician at the Conroe Police Department requires hard-nosed judgments and painstaking attention to detail.

He is highly regarded by agents of the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and state and local law enforcement agencies because of his innovative techniques and ability to find fingerprints where others fail.

But in doing what comes naturally — being careful and thorough — he ended up rocking his own skepticism about one of the most sensational tales that routinely show up in the tabloids.

Chilcutt's quest to squeeze more information out of fingerprints led him to develop a rare expertise in nonhuman primate prints. He tried to use his special knowledge to debunk alleged evidence of Bigfoot, also known as Sasquatch.

But his examination of alleged Bigfoot footprint castings didn't lead to the conclusion he had expected. He now believes that — while some of them are fakes — some are the genuine prints of a reclusive animal that has yet to be documented and studied.

The path to Chilcutt's unusual investigation began with an idea he had in 1995. "If I could look at fingerprints and could tell the sex, gender and race, I'd be way ahead," he recalled.

He began examining fingerprints to determine whether there were differences based on race or sex.

"But every time I thought I had it right, I'd be wrong," Chilcutt said.

It finally occurred to him that the key to understanding human fingerprints could lie in nonhuman primates.

"If Darwin was correct, if we did in fact evolve, we should be able to study primate prints," Chilcutt reasoned.

Primates are members of the order of mammals that includes humans, great apes, monkeys and lemurs.

Chilcutt said he hoped to find primordial characteristics that would unlock hidden information in human fingerprints. First, he had to convince a zoo or a research center to allow him to take fingerprints.

"It was hard to find somebody who would let you fingerprint their monkey," he said.

After being rebuffed about 25 times over three months, he called Ken Glander, director of the Duke University Primate Center in Durham, N.C.

"At first I wasn't sure that it wasn't one of my friends playing a joke on me," Glander said about his initial reaction. "But it didn't take long talking to him to realize that this was a legitimate request."

Impressed by Chilcutt's expertise, Glander offered prints from his collection of lemurs. But Chilcutt was primarily interested in apes, so Glander steered him to the Yerkes Regional Primate Center at Emory University in Atlanta.

Kaylee Summerville, occupational health program coordinator at Yerkes, said Chilcutt's request was received with caution.

"We've never had one like it before or since," she said. "It was unusual, but in the study of primates we get unusual requests sometimes."

After checking Chilcutt's credentials, the center arranged for him to take prints of apes at the Atlanta zoo during an annual medical checkup, while the apes were anesthetized.

Since then, Chilcutt has amassed a collection of about 1,000 nonhuman primate prints.

"That is a fantastic, incredible sample size," Glander said. "I've been working with primates for 30 years. I started in 1970. I have about 350 prints."

He said there are only about four or five researchers working with nonhuman fingerprints. "All are biologists," Glander said. "We don't have fingerprint expertise."

Chilcutt studied the primate prints and discovered characteristics that distinguish different species and traits within species. He said he has become an expert on primate prints through long study of his samples, although he is not yet able to decipher human fingerprints.

But an opportunity arose in December 1998 to put his rare knowledge to use. He was at his home in Montgomery, which is about 40 north of downtown Houston, reading a book one evening, barely paying attention to a TV program about Bigfoot.

His interest was piqued, however, when he heard the term "dermal ridges," a reference to fingerprints.

He listened closely as Jeff Mel-

dren, associate professor of anatomy at Idaho State University, held a casting of a supposed Bigfoot footprint and pointed to what appeared to be the loops and whorls of prints.

Believing he could determine the authenticity of the prints, Chilcutt phoned Meldren, a specialist in primate anatomy and locomotion.

"If there is a Sasquatch, only a handful of people in the world know the difference between a primate and a human print," Chilcutt said.

Meldren said he was delighted to find someone who could help authenticate his collection of about 100 castings of supposed Bigfoot footprints.

A skeptical Chilcutt arrived in Pocatello, Idaho, last April and began studying the collection.

He first examined the casting Meldren had shown on TV and quickly determined it to be a fake. The toeprints were actually human fingerprints.

Meldren turned him loose on the entire collection.

"What I actually found surprised even me," Chilcutt said.

The print ridges on the bottoms of five castings — which were taken at different times and locations — flowed lengthwise along the foot, unlike human prints, which flow from side to side, he said.

"No way do human footprints do that — never, ever."

"The skeptic in me had to believe that (all of the prints were from) the same species of animal," Chilcutt said. "I believe that this is an animal in the Pacific Northwest that we have never documented."

Meldren, for whom the study of Bigfoot prints is a sideline, believes it's a legitimate, scientific inquiry.

"A misconception is often perpetrated that this should be relegated to the tabloids," he said. "The question is, what made the tracks? They are there; that is indisputable. It's either a hoax or the track of a living animal."

"Officer Chilcutt has brought his expertise to that question. We will never know for sure until a specimen is collected. Until then, it's unscientific, in my opinion, to dismiss this evidence without giving it an airing."

Glander, who was casually acquainted with Meldren when Meldren taught briefly at Duke, said: "Do I believe in Bigfoot? I don't know, but I think it's one of those things that is interesting and intriguing."



American Institute of Physics

Part of the quantum century: Belgian industrialist Ernest Solvay brings together in Brussels some of the greats of physics Oct. 30, 1927, for a quantum mechanics conference. Front row, from left (Nobel Prizes noted): Irving Langmuir (1932, chemistry), Max Planck (1918, physics), Marie Curie (1903, physics; 1911, chemistry), Hendrik Antoon Lorentz (1902, physics), Albert Einstein (1921, physics), Paul Langevin, Charles Guye, C.T.R. Wilson (1927, physics) and Owen Richardson (1928, physics). Middle row, from left: Peter Debye (1936, chemistry), Martin Knudsen, William Bragg (1915, physics), Hendrik Anthony Kramers, Paul Dirac (1933, physics), Arthur Compton (1927, physics), Louis de Broglie (1929, physics), Max Born (1954, physics) and Niels Bohr (1922, physics). Standing, from left: Auguste Piccard, E. Henriot, Paul Ehrenfest, E. Herzen, T. De Donder, Erwin Schrödinger (1933, physics), E. Verschaellert, Wolfgang Pauli (1945, physics), Werner Heisenberg (1932, physics), Ralph Fowler and Leon Brillouin.

All the answers for all time in one tiny package

No limits on quantum mechanics' potential

By John Yaukey
Gannett News Service

With its impenetrable, blackboard-filling equations encrypted in Greek symbols, quantum mechanics may be the most counterintuitive, confusing scientific theory ever concocted.

And the most successful. TV, lasers, CD players, computers, MRIs, fiber optics, atomic bombs and a host of other technologies hinge on quantum principles.

Quantum mechanics describes the twitchy world of atoms and subatomic particles. It explains the periodic table of the elements and how chemical reactions occur, the stability of DNA and how stars burn. By knowing the quantum properties of different gases and the light they emit, scientists have decoded the composition of the cosmos through telescope lenses. Calculating the quantum properties of semiconductors yielded the ubiquitous computer chip.

Quantum mechanics may even explain existence: Some scientists believe that the universe erupted during the big bang from a bizarre state known as a "quantum vacuum."

As quantum theory nears its centennial, there's no waning in its ability to explain and exploit the cosmos.

Some physicists argue that as the 19th century was known for the development of machines and the 20th century for its information technology, the 21st century will be characterized by quantum technology.

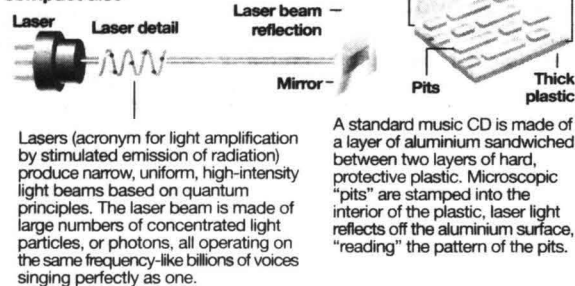
Scientists use quantum principles to make virtually everything electronic vastly smaller, cheaper, smarter and more efficient. But that's only part of the story.

Quantum mechanics promises exotic technologies: computers that can exploit the inherent fuzziness of the subatomic world to plow through

Quantum technology now...

Quantum mechanics describes the twitchy world of atoms and subatomic particles. It seems an exotic byway of science to many, but in truth it pervades modern technology. The common CD player is a good example of quantum technology at work on many levels. Apart from the laser that scans the disc, quantum effects are crucial in determining the electrical properties of the solid-state circuitry.

How the laser reads the compact disc



Sources: GNS, USA TODAY

By Janet Loehke, Gannett News Service

equations no conventional computer could; quantum codes so profoundly encrypted no supercomputer could crack them; smart materials that can sense and react to their environment and to novel states of matter.

"The quantum age is already here," Cornell physicist Persis Drell says. "Look around: Anything with a chip in it depends on quantum mechanics. It's hard to think of a technology that quantum mechanics hasn't affected or won't."

Quantum weirdness

Those are lofty claims for a theory so few understand.

What makes quantum mechanics so difficult is that the atoms and subatomic particles it describes do not behave in any way similar to the large objects they form.

Unlike the larger world of classical physics, in which objects from petunias to planets have definite identities, matter at the quantum level takes on multiple realities at once.

For example, subatomic particles

don't have to be particles; they can be waves. Light will behave like a wave if it's measured as a wave and as a stream of individual particles if it's measured that way.

What's more, the particles — or waves — can be thought of as existing at different points simultaneously. Only the act of measurement forces them to be anywhere specific.

Scientists were dumbfounded when experiments confirmed those seemingly impossible properties. But once down the quantum rabbit hole, they discovered technological possibilities if they were willing to surf the weirdness rather than fight it.

Finessing weirdness

Scientists and engineers from a variety of disciplines agree that the ability to miniaturize everything from microchips to motors will define the next technological age the way transistors and chips characterized the present.

In the nascent field of miniaturization called nanotechnology, scientists

...and in the future

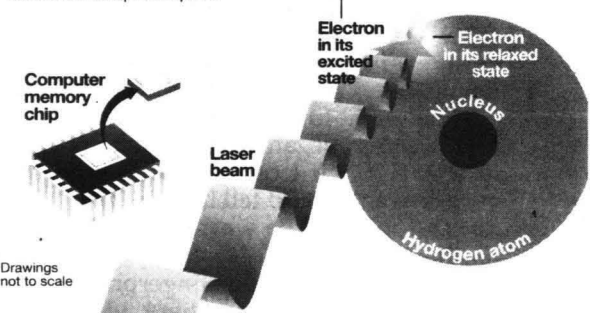
Scientists envision replacing the standard memory chip on computers with quantum systems that use the excited and relaxed quantum states of individual atoms to do the number-crunching.

Example

Hydrogen atoms could be used to store information the way that silicon chips store the 0 and 1 digital signals in a standard computer.

A hydrogen atom in its relaxed state, with its electron in its lowest energy level, could represent a 0 digital signal. The same atom in an excited state, with its electron in a higher energy level, could represent a 1 signal. The atom's 1 or 0 bit could be flipped from one to the other using a pulse of laser light.

A quantum computer based on such a system would be much faster than any conventional supercomputer.



Sources: GNS, USA TODAY

By Janet Loehke, Gannett News Service

envision turning atoms and molecules, the building blocks of matter, into microscopic machines.

"When you talk about how atoms bind together, you are talking about quantum mechanics," says Nobel Prize-winning Cornell chemist Roald Hoffmann. "It is the theoretical framework that describes how atoms connect."

For billions of years, nature has assembled atoms into enzymes and other molecules, little machines atomically structured for perfect performance. In the next century, scientists predict they'll be able to build micromachinery — molecule-size transistors, lasers and sensors that eventually will replace the comparatively clunky components now central to solid-state electronics.

But quantum engineering isn't merely about shrinking technology. It's about exploiting the properties of the quantum world to do what conventional technology can't.

One of the most exciting possibilities is the quantum computer. Using lasers and crystals in configurations

still on the drawing board, such a machine could process information in many quantum realities at once — the way particles or waves can exist in multiple states — then integrate it all into a single-reality answer.

While conventional digital computers rely on transistors switching on and off — the switch is either a 1 or a 0 — processing units in quantum computers could simultaneously register both numbers.

"It's a different computational paradigm altogether," says computer scientist John Rogers of Chicago's DePaul University.

Quantum computers are decades away, but scientists have developed crude prototypes.

Quantum cosmology

Because quantum mechanics explains the behavior of matter with unparalleled precision, it should say something about the origin of matter, which is to say the universe.

Most scientists agree the universe erupted from a big bang. But what

existed before that explosion?

Quantum mechanics is perhaps the only science that addresses the question, and the answer is nothing. But nothing in quantum mechanics doesn't mean the same as it does in the conventional sense. Nothing in quantum mechanics refers to what is called the "quantum vacuum." In it, particles arise and vanish like bubbles on boiling water, bubbles so ephemeral as to be essentially nothing, possibility without actuality.

But some scientists believe the quantum vacuum is what sparked the big bang.

"The words really get tricky here," University of California, Davis, cosmologist Andreas Albrecht says. "In this vacuum, there is actually a lot going on. . . . It's a very interesting place where it is never impossible for a universe to start."

Critics argue that the theory can't be proved. But its proponents say that it dares to venture where the rest of science breaks down and that it permits a rational, mathematical framework for grappling with an event that otherwise defies secular explanation.

Coming of age

For all its success in explaining the universe, quantum mechanics was not readily welcomed even by many of the physicists who developed it.

It didn't come on the wings of a single, elegant discovery; it was assembled like a casserole of often awkward equations over decades.

Quantum mechanics was conjured from the strange data scientists came up with early this century as they probed the atom. Philosophically, it raises vexing questions.

For instance, if elemental matter is both a wave and a particle until it's forced to become one or the other, does fundamental matter have no real identity — is it ultimately random or duplicitous in nature?

Einstein found that concept so troubling, he complained that God doesn't "play dice" with the universe.

But he lost that argument. According to quantum mechanics, the universe at its most basic level is a bit of a crapshoot.

For budding scientists, it's no longer an issue. The universe is quantum in nature, and that's where the exciting work will be.

Cornell's Drell says: "I get students asking if we'll even bother to teach classical physics in 10 years."

Rumors link meteor sighting, brush fire

Speculation rife, but witness saw blaze a day earlier, official says

BY MARK MINTON
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

A falling star arced across the central Arkansas skies last Thursday night, its fiery tale lingering as it descended. About two hours later, a caller reported a fire burning a patch of brush southwest of England.

Nearly a week later, investigators have determined that the falling star did not start the fire. But it did start a commotion.

As news of the meteor and the mysterious fire spread, theories began to circulate and phones began to ring.

"Everybody's speculating," said the woman tending the lunch counter Wednesday at The Country Store on Arkansas 256 at Wright. "I like the one about the little green men, myself."

Like the men in the lunch crowd inside the gray cinder-



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

block store, where the sign out front promises "Beer, Ammunition, Hardware," the counter

agency Management in Pine Bluff.

"We've had calls from CBS New York and various other nationwide agencies," Hunt said Wednesday. "I'm not going to estimate how many calls I got" after news of the fire and the meteor hit the news wires Friday, Hunt said.

Pulaski County sheriff's office spokesman John Rehauer said that a woman identifying herself as a radio news reporter from New Jersey questioned him about the meteor, which he saw as it fell. He said she published it on her UFO Web site.

The phones were also ringing at the Jefferson County sheriff's office, where investigators have been looking into the cause of the fire since the first report came in about 11 p.m. March 9.

The caller reported a "mush-

room-type ball of fire" southwest of England at the point where Jefferson, Lonoke and Pulaski counties adjoin. Hunt said the caller thought an airplane might have crashed and initially reported the fire to Little Rock National Airport, Adams Field.

The airport relayed the alert to authorities, Hunt said, and an Arkansas State Police helicopter that happened to be in the area had a look but found no evidence of a plane crash. Since determining there was no crash, investigators have been working to establish what did cause the fire.

Nearly a week later, Jefferson County sheriff's Lt. Eugene Butler still doesn't know the precise cause. But he could say for certain Wednesday that it was not a meteor.

woman was willing to repeat the good-natured UFO banter but not to attach her name to it. For more gossip, the group recommended the Brodie Bend bar and pool hall, housed in a former bait shop just up the highway.

Brodie Bend patrons said word of the mysterious fire was spreading Wednesday through a noontime television report aired in the bar.

The radio waves were also carriers, as the England fire was mentioned on at least one national radio show that takes calls about UFOs, according to one weary Jefferson County sheriff's official who said he heard it on the way home.

Meantime, media inquiries kept Wally Hunt's phones ringing at the Jefferson County Office of Emer-

Butler had no doubt that a meteor *did* fall, though — several people reported it, including Rehauer.

But Butler said a witness emerged Wednesday to tell investigators he had seen the fire on the property March 8, the day *before* the falling star shot through the sky. The witness, a retired farmer who Butler said did not want his name released, did not view the fire as an immediate concern and did not report it that day.

Hunt was hoping the eyewitness account would still the rumors and quiet his phone.

"That," he said, "should probably put to rest any theories that we might have had a UFO or whatever land out there."

Weighing 'empty' space poses paradox

By JAMES GLANZ
The New York Times

Like the sorcerer's apprentice, who could not banish the spirits that his spells had conjured up, astronomers around the world have been trying — with increasing desperation — to disprove an astonishing discovery announced early last year: Distant galaxies are being swept apart, ever faster, by a tide formed of apparently empty space.

Although scientists have long known that the universe is expanding, they had assumed that the expansion was gradually slowing because of the gravitational attractions of the galaxies.

Instead, scientists announced last year, some anti-gravity effect seemed to be accelerating the expansion.

The finding was such a challenge to conventional theories that most scientists assumed they would quickly discredit the theory.

But almost two years of effort to do

so has yielded observational data that only support the conclusion.

Last month, a subtle but initially promising objection to the measurements of the accelerating expansion by one group of astronomers was disproved by a new analysis of that data.

And just last week, a different team of astronomers reported its observations of ripples in the gases of the young universe, before stars and galaxies had even formed.

Though the observations supported a favored theory of how the universe began, they also provided fresh new evidence of the distressing finding that something in the wastelands of space could be pushing against gravity.

So scientists are reluctantly accepting the notion that something in the most fundamental theories of physics is terribly wrong.

To explain their observations, scientists say, they must answer a question that sounds paradoxical: How much

does emptiness weigh?

Although the answer has eluded scientists since Einstein first raised the question more than 70 years ago, physicists are comfortable with the idea that a seemingly perfect vacuum could weigh something.

According to the theory of elementary particle physics, even a vacuum is filled with fields containing energy and evanescent particles that flit in and out of existence, adding heft to nothingness. But when physicists try to use conventional theories to calculate how much energy should repose in emptiness, the result is a vacuum so monstrously heavy that it would blow the universe apart.

Galaxies, stars, planets and life could never have formed. Dr. Frank Wilczek, a particle physicist at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J., called the nothingness problem "maybe the most fundamentally mysterious thing in basic science."

Physicists discover material that seems to operate in reverse

BY ALEXANDRA WITZE
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

MINNEAPOLIS — Physicists have popped through the looking glass and created a new material in which fundamental laws of nature apparently will run in reverse.

Just as Alice in Wonderland found a world where everything was curiously and curiously, this stuff behaves in ways that are "reverser and reverser," said Dr. Sheldon Schultz of the University of California, San Diego, in whose lab the research was done.

The material has properties never before reported in natural or artificial substances. These properties could cause microwaves to bounce through the material in opposite directions from the way they would in ordinary materials. Such

behavior would reverse, but not break, a physical law.

The possibility of such a material's existence was predicted more than 30 years ago.

The work might one day lead to faster and better cellular phones, which rely on microwave transmissions. Or there may be entirely new types of applications not even imagined today, scientists said.

"Someone's got to think of something clever to do with this," Schultz said Tuesday in Minneapolis, where he announced the finding at a meeting of the American Physical Society.

The material is made of nothing fancy. It's a palm-sized array of small copper rings hung between a grid of copper rods. It is the arrangement of the rings and rods that creates the

bizarre new behavior, which so far has been demonstrated only with microwaves but might work in other electromagnetic wavelengths.

If the stuff plays similar tricks with visible light waves — which hasn't yet been tested and might not be possible — it could grow curiously yet, said David Smith, the other leader of the San Diego team.

For instance, Snell's law, a scientific description of how rays bend through different materials, would run in reverse: A lens made of this material would scatter, rather than focus, light.

Other physicists called the discovery exciting and potentially very important.

"Technology is hungry for new materials, and what is on offer here are totally new materials, most of

which have no counterpart in nature," wrote John Pendry, a physicist at Imperial College in London, in an e-mail interview.

Over the past few years, Pendry developed the foundation for the San Diego team's work. He was the first to use copper rings and rods, although separately, to alter two specific electrical and magnetic properties of a material.

A series of copper ring pairs, each of which looks like one locking washer set inside another, exhibits a reversed version of the property called magnetic permeability, which describes how the material responds to a magnetic field. Instead of being a positive number as it is for most materials, the rings have a negative magnetic permeability.

Similarly, using an array of cop-

per rods switches a property called electric permittivity, which describes how the material responds to an electric field. The rods turn out to have negative electric permittivity — again, rather than positive, Pendry noted.

The San Diego team put rings and rods together for the first time, creating a material with both negative magnetic permeability and negative electric permittivity. Such a combination of properties, which should cause the reversal of physical laws, had never been created before, the scientists write in an article to appear in the journal *Physical Review Letters*.

The bending of light through a lens is just one example of how things could run backward. Another is the Doppler effect, in which light waves ordinarily become red-

der when receding and bluer when approaching. The effect would be reversed in the new substance, with light waves becoming bluer as they moved away. It would be as though a train whistle fell in pitch as the train approached and rose as the train moved away.

Because the material is relatively cheap and easy to make, the scientists hope to test some of this potential backwardness soon, Schultz said. Other scientists have already made the same stuff in their labs and verified that it works.

"There's nothing really hard about it," said Walter Kohn, a Nobel Prize-winning chemist at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

"I share the feeling that this is interesting and would be surprised if there weren't consequences."



POST, New York, NY - March 15, 2000

Can NASA save face?

THOSE who believe there is/was life in space think they may have won over both Disney and NASA. Michael Luckman, director of the New York Center for UFO Research, is ecstatic that Disney's new No. 1 movie, "Mission to Mars," features a giant, human-like face on the surface of the Red Planet.

"The question is, what is the face doing there so prominently when NASA, which had script approval, has steadfastly insisted that it's only a trick of light and shadow?" Luckman asks. "It is inconceivable to me that NASA would give this level of cooperation to the movie if it didn't fit the space agency's plans to alert the public about the truth about Mars in the very near future."

That could be. Or maybe NASA is willing to bend its beliefs a little to get public support for its future missions. One of the stars of "Mission to Mars," Jerry O'Connell, was on Fox News the other night, saying he thinks the agency hopes the movie will persuade D.C. regulators that a manned flight to Mars would be a smart political move.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Jan. 27, 2000 CR: G. Conway

Giant ice chunks falling from sky in Italy

Experts are puzzled over the phenomenon that started last week when a frozen block crashed on to a school.

TIMES OF LONDON

ROME — An unusual cold snap in Italy has knocked out cellular telephone links, killed homeless people near St. Peter's Square and, to the population's growing alarm, caused mysterious ice blocks to tumble from the sky.

Experts have been puzzling over the chunks of ice since last weekend when the first blocks crashed on to a school in the northern city of Padua. On Tuesday a man in Ancona had a narrow escape when a block weighing about one kilogram, landed on his head as he walked to work. Massimo Giunchi, 24, suffered only minor injuries because he was wearing two hats to protect himself from the cold.

In Marino in the Alban Hills, south of Rome, the groundskeeper of a golf club discovered an ice block reportedly weighing about five kilo-

grams as he was making his car-morning rounds. Just before midday in Milan a "pumpkin-sized" ice chunk crashed on to the street.

Several other blocks landed in Piedmont and near Bologna. However, Mario de Carolis, a spokesman for Gianni Borgna, the Rome Alderman for Cultural Heritage, poured scorn on suggestions that the monuments of the Eternal City might be at risk from the blocks or from the low temperatures. "We are more worried about the citizens of Rome than the monuments. After all the statues built by the Romans have survived for thousands of years in all weathers," he said.