

UFO

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OBSERVER, Charlotte, NC - July 2, 2000 CR: K. Wilson

Do UFO sightings mean we are not alone?

The myths of many cultures tell of creatures coming from the sky. Many Americans believe there are aliens among us now.

George Fawcett of Lincolnton is a true believer. His boyhood fascination with flying saucers grew into more than 50 years of investigating reports of sightings of unidentified flying objects. Read his conclusions at the bottom of today's editorial page.

Ed Williams
He is not alone—at least in his belief of a cover-up. Frank Newport, editor-in-chief of The Gallup Poll, wrote an essay in 1997 titled "What If Government Really Listened To The People?"

One thing he said government would do if it listened to the people is come clean about "mysterious phenomena." He wrote:

"The public appears absolutely convinced that the U.S. government knows more about UFOs than it is letting on. Seventy-one percent of Americans in a Gallup

poll conducted last year said that the government is hiding something it knows about UFOs (45 percent think that UFOs have actually visited Earth, and 12 percent say that they have actually seen a UFO).

"In a similar vein, after the U.S. military made an elaborate rational explanation of what really happened some 50 years ago in Roswell, N.M. (when citizens spotted what they thought were UFOs), the public was distinctly unimpressed. Only 25 percent of Americans believed what the government said, despite the fact that a majority also don't believe that UFO's actually visited Roswell."

The notion that aliens are among us flourishes in literature (H.G. Wells' "The War of the Worlds"), movies ("Men in Black") and on TV ("The X-Files").

Gillian Anderson - FBI Agent Dana Scully on the TV show - is less skeptical than the character she plays. She told journalist Joel

Achenbach, as reported in his witty, insightful 1999 book, "Captured By Aliens," that "It would shock the hell out of me if the government had never been involved in a UFO cover-up and if there were not life on other planets."

Those two thoughts are often linked in assertions about the reality of alien visitors, but there's no logical connection. Yes, the government lies. But that doesn't mean there's life out there.

The biggest problem with believing in alien visitors is lack of evidence other than sightings. If they're here, why isn't there evidence we can touch?

Maybe the answer is simple. Here's a report of a Nov. 25, 1997, UFO sighting in Maiden, N.C. It's one of many available on-line from the files of the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell, N.M. It says:

"While lying in bed late at night, the witness noticed a bright light shining into his bedroom window that moved up and down twice. 'What the hell was that?' he asked as he grabbed his .45 caliber pistol and opened his door to confront the intruder.

"What he saw was totally unexpected: a dark object rimmed with light that was moving (actually bouncing) close to the ground no more than 100 feet away. He thought: 'They're here to get me!'"

"The object went up and down 'really fast,' although it was slower climbing than descending. While ascending, 'the bottom blinked a few times.' About the size of a car, it was shaped like the crown of a baseball cap (without the bill), or an inverted, deep bowl...."

"After about six hops, the oddity went down behind the trees and beyond a nearby trailer. When it came back up, it went out of sight. Clad only in his underwear (shorts), the witness ran into his backyard and shouted to his neighbors, hoping someone else may have seen the sight, but there was no answer.

"Noticing the chill of the night, he went back in to put on a shirt, then returned to the yard and waited several more minutes for the object to return. He was prepared to shoot it. When the cold became unbearable, he retired from his watch. Observation

lasted three minutes."

Look at it from the extraterrestrial's point of view: If you encountered an inhabitant of a strange planet who was wearing skivvies, packing a .45 and looking for a fight, would you make contact with him?

The modern infatuation with creatures from outer space is nothing new. The myths of most societies are filled with tales of extraordinary creatures living in the sky who come to earth to do great deeds or inflict great harm.

There may be, on some distant planet, a race of beings advanced enough to accomplish interplanetary travel and sensible enough not to reveal themselves to unpredictable Earthlings.

But for now, the belief of people who think there are space aliens among us is stronger than the evidence of it. As they say on "The X-Files": "The truth is out there."

NORTH SEATTLE JOURNAL, Lynnwood, WA - May 9, 2000

UFO NEWS

A local and world report

BY GARY VAL TENUTA
**UFOs LAND IN
U.S. DISTRICT COURT**

Attorney Peter Gersten, director of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS) has brought the UFO issue into a federal court in an effort to pry information from the files of the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) regarding what have been described by eyewitnesses as huge, black, triangular crafts of unknown origin. Gersten presented the court with 33 sworn affidavits from eyewitnesses regarding this triangular object although the ac-

tual number of people having reportedly seen this type of UFO may number in the thousands.

This specific type of craft has been seen in the skies above several major cities around the world and in the U.S., including two sightings in Washington state. One of those was in Seattle in November of 1993. Except for one major mass sighting of one of these triangular UFOs in Arizona in March of 1997 the news media has virtually ignored this story.

The "Black Triangle" UFO is typically described as completely silent in operation and is usually perceived to

be about the size of a football field. Usually the craft is seen to be moving very slowly, sometimes hovering, at low altitudes ranging from treetop level to perhaps 500 feet. Speculation as to the origin of these triangular UFOs ranges from extraterrestrial to secret government experimental aircraft. Either way, since they are making their presence known in the airspace over our cities and towns Gersten assumed the Department of Defense must certainly be at least aware of them. Therefore, he filed an FOIA request for information on this UFO but the government responded by saying it had no such information.

Gersten, no stranger to this kind of action, was not convinced. He knows how the game is played. In the 1970s he succeeded in forcing the CIA to release 900 pages of UFO documents. Sometime later he sued the National Security Agency (NSA) and won the release of another 135 such documents. The very existence of these documents proved the government, despite its claims to the contrary, was heavily involved in UFO research at some level. Most civilian researchers believe such government involvement and subsequent cover-up is still ongoing.

Not all of Gersten's FOIA efforts have met with such success, however, since under a FOIA action, the defendant, the DOD in this case, need only say they performed a reasonable search for the requested information and couldn't find anything. In most cases a judge is not likely to question the truth or falsity of that claim and will simply dismiss the case. It had happened before but not this time. Gersten filed suit against the DOD in

order to get this matter into the court room. The goal was to force the DOD, by a court order, to turn over all documentation regarding their alleged attempt to search for the requested information. Once again Gersten prevailed.

Within days after the initial proceedings, United States District Court Judge Stephen M. McNamee ruled that the U.S. Department of Defense must respond to Gersten's demand. McNamee gave the DOD until March 17 to provide copies of the e-mail outlining the parameters of the search by the 200 employees of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) along with the "unique identifiers" and "keywords" that were used in the search by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The DOD complied but, once again, Gersten was not satisfied.

The search was intended to locate information about a very specific type of UFO; which was described in detail in the 33 affidavits and the accompanying sketches and one photo of the object. After studying the documents turned over by the DOD, Gersten boldly argued that the search parameters were too broad and, in addition to that, the DOD neglected to include the affidavits, the eyewitness descriptions, the sketches and the photo in the search parameters provided to DARPA. Nevertheless, this time the judge ruled in favor of the DOD and the case was closed. *UFO News* has learned, however, that Gersten is considering an appeal. At the time of this writing the decision to appeal hinges on the ability of CAUS to raise the \$10,000 it will take to accomplish such action.

NEWS-DEMOCRAT, Belleville, IL - May 22, 2000

Laser traces UFO path for TV

Belleville News-Democrat

High-powered laser beams in the sky Saturday night evidently didn't impress UFO watchers in Highland and Lebanon.

Either that, or they read the paper.

On Saturday night, Strictly FX, a Chicago-based theatrical effects company, used a high-powered laser to trace the path of a mysterious flying object spotted by several observers early in the morning of Jan. 5.

Residents apparently had read a Belleville News-Democrat report about the laser Saturday, because no one called police in Highland and Lebanon to tell

them about the lights.

Reid Nofsinger of Strictly FX said Friday that the company was tracing the path of the UFO seen in January for a Discovery Channel program.

Early in the morning of Jan. 5, a civilian in Highland and police officers in Lebanon, Shiloh, Millstadt and Duplo reported seeing a triangular shape with three bright lights flying overhead.

Some people speculated that the mysterious object could be a type of secret military aircraft, but Scott Air Force Base denied any knowledge and noted that there are no units at Scott that would be involved in testing such aircraft.

Eerie lights seen in sky over Oceanside

BY JDEL GIORGIO
Headlight-Herald Staff

OCEANSIDE — An unidentified flying object has been spotted above Three Arch Rocks. After four concerned women

saw what appeared to be flares signaling distress near Three Arch Rocks May 17, they reported their findings to David Presha, co-owner of House on the Hill Motel. Presha retrieved his binoculars and later saw an oval-shaped light moving across the sky off the coast.

"At three different times Wednesday evening, I saw a self-contained orange light that was moving both horizontally and vertically in the sky," Presha said. "The peculiar thing about it is there was no

sound. I have lived in this area for 11 years and I have never seen anything like this before."

The Air Force trains several times a week in adverse conditions day and night throughout the Pacific Northwest to stay current with new equipment and technology. However, Carol Scott, chief of public affairs for the 939th Rescue Wing Air Force Reserve, said night operations were not under way in the area on the evening of May 17.

Director of the National UFO Reporting Center Peter Davenport

said in most cases, unidentified objects will never be identified, but that 10 to 20 percent of the time a UFO report is made, a bona fide UFO exists.

Davenport, who has been witness to several anomalous events, possibly UFO related, said, "Generally, we are able to rule out UFOs." He said this means "we can show that generally the event was not a sophisticated craft."

He added that many times what people think to be UFOs is often twinkling stars, blimps, airplanes, helicopters with strobe lights, or satellites.

Presha, who was not afraid of what he saw, set up his video camera the following night to see if the lights reappeared, but weather conditions were wet and foggy.

"I wasn't afraid, but wanted to know what it was," Presha said.

When asked if he believes other life forms exist, he said: "Where you find water you find life, and I believe there is life on Mars."

Comprehensive and up to date UFO information is available on the world wide web at <http://www.ufo-center.com>. To report a UFO sighting call the National UFO Reporting Center at 206-722-3000.

WEEKLY, Boulder, CO - June 15, 2000 CR: J. Deardorff

against the grain

Boulder's a hub of crop circle research, and a breakthrough may be near

by M.B. Abbott

The Bookend Cafe's espresso machine sounds like an errant UFO. Dr. Simeon Hein—former college professor, author, fractal fan, Ph.D and crop circle enthusiast—shares his thoughts on the crop circle craze.

"They're great entertainment," says the Boulder man, who's been in at least 40 crop circles in the last three years. "I have been trying to understand (crop circles) for a couple of years and believe me, I can be as skeptical as the best of them. My mind is naturally skeptical and wants to take things apart. It's fun. But it doesn't work (with crop circles). You will not find the evidence that will let you have a simple explanation for this."

Crop circle theories—which try to explain elaborate designs of flattened crops in fields—are as abundant in Boulder as coffee flavors at the Bookend.

- They're made by superior life forms trying to communicate with us.
- They're fairy circles.
- Cosmic tattoos.
- It's angels, aliens, nymphs, all trying to give us a nudge toward higher consciousness.
- Satellite calibration marks.
- Tracks left by highly advanced aircraft that the government doesn't want the public to know about yet.
- Extraterrestrial graffiti.
- Unusual weather phenomenon such as the plasma vortex.
- Litter left behind by creatures from other dimensions just passing through.
- Pranksters, human and otherwise.
- The hand of God/gods/goddesses reaching down to us.
- Led Zeppelin cover art.

Colorado, and Boulder in particular, boasts an abundant crop of interest and influence in the global crop circle community.

Crop circle history

Crop circles gained widespread media attention in the 1970s when a rash of them showed up in the Wiltshire/Hampshire area of England, near the ancient stone monument of Stonehenge. Though they're considered to be modern phenomenon, evidence suggests crop circles have been popping up since biblical times.

In a recent Boulder crop circle meeting, local tour guides Doe Kelly and Andrew Wheeler shared slides of their recent forays.

Their lecture included pictures of a centuries old wood cut, circa 1600, documenting how, after noticing strange lights all night, a farmer discovered a perfectly formed circle amid his crops just before harvest. The wood cut decried the "mowing devil" that created it.

Though there were lots of people in tie dye and T-shirts in the crowd the night Wheeler and Kelly spoke, not a single person displayed UFO or alien designs on clothing or jewelry. Crop circle discussions concentrated more on the beauty of the formations than possible creators or conspiracies. The laid back group of about 75 gathering at a Unitarian church had much more of an earthy, spiritual feel than the obsessed extraterrestrial kooks crop circle fans, or cropies, are widely associated with.

Local experts say the average crop circle runs about 300-400 feet in diameter: the length of one football field, including the end zones. To date, the largest crop formation turned up in Etchilhampton, Wiltshire: an astounding 4,100 feet wide.

The level of intricacy advanced considerably since the '70s. Simple circles have been replaced by progressively more intricate spirals, fractal snowflakes and interconnected geometric cubes.

Stonehenge has seen many of the largest and most intricate formations, including a 915-foot fractal spiral using 151 different sized circles in 1996.

"That one was quite astonishing" said Ron Russell, one of the most influential crop circle experts in the region.

Catch of the cropies

Almost everyone involved in the local crop circle scene found their way through Russell.

In only a few short years, Russell has become

among the most renowned crop circle experts in the world. The professional artist and photographer began studying English crop circles in 1986 and began lecturing in 1992. Over the years he's amassed thousands of crop circle photos and walked through "nearly 100" of the formations personally. He, along with Hein, has appeared on your friendly neighborhood fringe radio host Art Bell's show several times. The dapper looking gentleman lectures and teaches extensively, inspiring people in and out of Colorado to look closer into these intriguing works of art.

He's had a huge impact on expanding not only crop circle audiences, but on the scientific research being done on the formations. Russell started Midwest Research in 1997, an Aurora-based non-profit organization for studying crop circles and documenting the

findings.

He's raising funds—through tours, donations and his own personal funds—to buy a small plane for viewing and photographing crop circles on short notice. Beyond that, Russell wants to lead the way for serious scientific research on crop circles and the effects they have on people and the environment around them.

In last month's meeting, and in later discussions, Russell made a point of differentiating human-made crop circles from formations of unknown causes. Crop circles of unknown origin are made by magic, Russell says, "and what is magic but technology we don't yet understand."

"It's not magic"

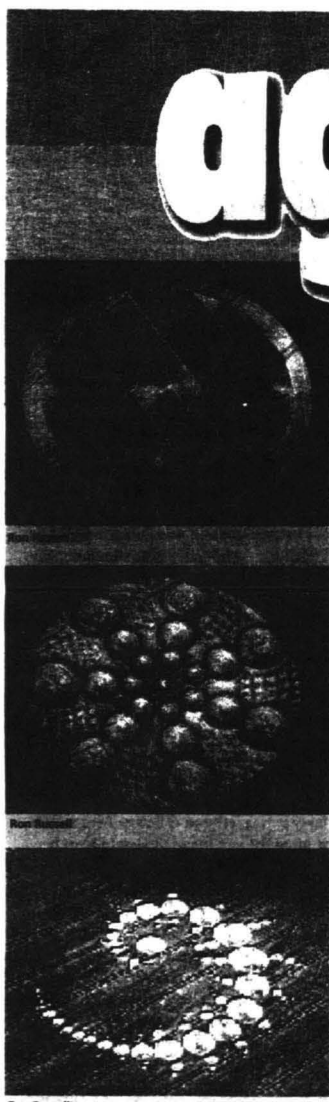
Boulder engineer Roy Stewart thinks he understands crop circle technology just fine, and doesn't buy the magic theory.

Stewart's theory, which is shared by a few other scientists, is that radar satellites orbiting the Earth create crop circles as part of their calibration system.

"They've been putting radar satellites in orbit for a long time," says the Omni-phasic design engineer, a former hippy who resembles an ex-Marine with his close cropped salt and pepper hair and no nonsense demeanor.

Stewart says the advances in crop circle designs go hand-in-hand with improvements in satellite technology and the implementation of

(continued on page 3)



Ron Russell

Ron Russell

Local experts

Ron Russell

Midwest Research Center for Crop Circle Studies
P.O. Box 460760, Aurora, 80046
303-400-1322
A few openings remain for his crop circle tour in July.

Dr. Simeon Hein

Mount Baldy Institute for Resonant Viewing
1942 Broadway, Ste. 409, Boulder, 80302
303-440-7393
www.MountBaldy.com

Doe Kelly and Andrew Wheeler

Crop Circle and Sacred Sites Tours and Products (contact for crop circles meetings and lectures)
PMB 108, 1705 14th St., Boulder, 80302
303-702-9626, 303-753-2863
pandora108@juno.com

Institute for UFO Research

1304 S. College Ave., Fort Collins, 80524
970-493-0312
www.frii.com/~lufer
IUFOR@frii.com

Roy Stewart's paper on crop circles and satellite technology was printed in *Journal of New Energy*, Vol. 3, #1, ISSN 1086-8259. Single issues of this quarterly journal costs \$45, P.O. Box 58639, Salt Lake City, Utah 84158-0639.



"Mowing Devil"

more satellites working together. "As a matter of fact the timeline goes from before these crop circles first started to appear by about 10 years."

It's a complicated theory, which Stewart wrote in a detailed manifesto published in *Journal of New Energy*, but he tries to explain it in non-technical terms. "I think the purpose of the crop circles are to calibrate the system (of interconnected satellites above the Earth). In other words, if several (radar) waves from several different satellites converge at one spot some very unusual effects can be created. Doing the designs serves two purposes... of calibrating the system and checking it out... (and) throwing everyone else on the wrong tracks so no one suspects that it's human radar making these designs."

Those controlling the radar satellites, Stewart says, don't want the public to know we have such dangerous weapons, and such a powerful way to spy on the public.

"What we have here, I think, is a highly capable system which of course could be used for good or it could be used for evil."

Who has this technology? Stewart's not pointing any fingers, but he suspects Americans are at the forefront.

But why all the crop circles in Great Britain? "England's a good target because it's a wet, cold climate," Stewart says. "The crops are probably greener and lusher and therefore react to the microwaves more readily than dry crops in Nebraska for instance."

Stewart compares these satellite radar waves to those in your microwave. Put a stack of wheat in a microwave and blast it for a moment, and it will show the same effects found in non-manmade crop circles. He notes that if you briefly nuke a stalk of grain in the microwave it bends at the node as naturally made crop circles do, rather than in the middle of the stem as in man-made crop circles.

In naturally made formations the nodes "sometimes are brown and they're burst open on the side away from the bend just like what'd happen if you put them in a microwave oven. I think that's a smoking gun right there," Stewart says.

Even with his man-made theories, Stewart believes in the possibility of extraterrestrial life. "I think the universe is filthy with life, filthy with intelligent life and I wouldn't be surprised if there's a number of local races that are visiting this planet. But I don't think they're making the crop circles... unless they've got a really good sense of humor."

Thinking outside the box

People steer clear of the crop circle culture for several reasons, says Dr. Hein. Mostly, he says, it has to do with closed mindedness: thinking inside-the-box instead of outside of it.

"What we see when we look at the world are things that confirm our belief system about the way we expect things to be. That's what holds a society together. But as soon as you go to another culture, or you travel, you realize that there are very different agreements that hold that society together. What's going on here is that crop circles don't really fit in our reality. That is the bottom line."

"We're like kindergartners," Hein said, and it's like crop circles are from the sixth grade. We just can't understand it because it's too advanced. "Perhaps they're here to help us move to sixth grade."

Some people start studying crop circles and "think, 'Oh, I'm going to solve it, I'm going to figure it out' but you don't. The more you study this, the stranger it gets because there's more and more good evidence that there's more (going on). Most things, the more you study them, eventually they resolve into something that's more explainable."

"It's a very weird phenomenon and I think it's never going to change to fit our reality."

Hein's feelings about crop circles don't necessarily fit neatly inside the box either.

"Sometimes I just go on faith and I enjoy them, and sometimes my mind says 'Is it possible it could be people (making crop circles)?' But then I run into

these people in England who tell me how they see them happening at their feet and there's obviously nobody around to do them."

Feel the difference

Different crop circles feel differently, Hein says, both man-made and those resulting from unknown causes.

"Some feel very alive and really energetic and some feel just boring. There are all types. Some you walk in and you say 'I don't want to be here.' Those are the ones that tend to be made by people... You walk into those and they don't feel special at all, just wheat flattened down for no good reason. There are some I've been in that look picture perfect and our feet left marks on it. Some I've been in, and it looks trashed the first day. That's a pretty good sign that people were walking in it all night."

"Some you go in and they're like works of art. Everything's in the right place. I don't know who did them."

"I can't make the judgment. I didn't see who was there, but whoever did them was good. And it had a feeling and a flavor, there's a difference, there's a coherency. It looks like nothing touched it."

The feelings people have when entering the same crop circle vary from person to person.

The affects of crop circles on north Boulder resident Beverly Baima were milder than on others in her group when she attended a crop circle tour of England last summer. Several people who entered one formation in particular had to leave because of the way they felt inside of it.

"I did get a headache and I don't normally get headaches," she said.

But Baima found that often, after going in to certain crop circles, she and her roommate would plan on laying down in their room "for a few minutes and we'd be out for an hour and wake up really refreshed."

The first circle she went into was called Roundway.

"I wasn't particularly attracted to it aesthetically, but when I was in it I really felt like dancing. I didn't indulge that, though I wish I had. And when we were walking back out—I didn't say anything—but two or three other people (in the tour group) said they felt like dancing."

"The feeling around Roundway was enchantment," Russell said. He noted that it was an especially strong crop circle where, when he returned weeks later, the area still showed electrostatic potential.

Baima, an architect and painter, first became interested in crop circles in 1995 after seeing Russell speak about them.


"I'm intrigued with them mostly for their beauty and I'm intrigued because I believe in the power of shape. I'm intrigued by how they're affecting the people who see them," she says in a friendly, gentle voice.

Baima has sketched pictures of crop circles and plans on integrating them into some of her paintings which incorporate sacred geometry.

But who, or what, does Baima think creates crop circles?

"No, I don't go there," she laughed. "I find it intriguing. I'm curious because it's a mystery. I take in all options... but I don't particularly hold to a belief. That's not why I study them."

Another Boulder resident who's had interesting crop circle experiences is Sushi Zanmai owner Masao Maki. He was kicking around England the same time Russell's group was. According to Russell, Maki and a tour group of 14 from Japan decided to meditate and pray for a Japanese-style crop circle. "They did not tell anyone of this plan," Russell said, "not even me. The next morning there was the Beckhampton Origami in the very field their bus was facing when they did their three hour prayer vigil. Design-wise it is a ringer for an old Tokugawa family crest in Japan."

Russell and Hein have both heard rumors of the occasional circle cropping up in the plains, but nothing verifiable. To date, local cropies have had to travel afar to enjoy their hobby. The fields in Colorado may not be willing, but the spirit sure is. 

Supplies:

Two strong friends without a lot to do in the middle of the night.
A roll of string.
Rope or bungee cords.

Wooden boards (2 X 8s are recommended). The length of the boards will determine the width of crop circle lines.

Two round metal hooks for each board (optional).

Permission from the land owner, or someone to bail you out of jail or remove the burlap from your backside after you're caught.

Beer. Lots of it.

Let's begin:

Gather around 4 am at the designated crop circle area which you have permission to use.

Have a beer.

Make one person stand in what will be the epicenter of the circle, holding onto one end of the string. At the other end of the string, measured out to where the inner edge of the circle should be, have another person stand holding string.


Directly behind the second person, the cutter* begins pushing the board forward.

Keep pushing cutter board around, making sure to stay in line with the end of the string as the string holder walks closely in front until meeting up with the beginning of the circle.

Try to make absolutely no noise so as not to wake anyone and to make it appear the circle was not man-made.

Have more beer.

Use strings to guide cutter operator in crafting inner design pattern.

*To create your crop circle cutter, take a wooden board and attach the rope or bungee cords to it. We recommend screwing two round metal hooks to the board near its edges and then tying one end of rope to each. The rope should be of a length that the person using it can hold on to with their elbows bent. 

How to hoax a crop circle




Human-made crop circles:

- Made mechanically and it shows—soil compacted, leaves marks, scarring and/or scraping on crops, footsteps left behind.
- Plants bent or broken at the stems.
- Grain is simply flattened down with no pattern within, chaotically put together.
- Seeds, plants and soil the same inside crop circle areas outside.
- Crop circle area "feels" exactly the same as the rest of the field—flat, dead.

• Electrostatic Potential remains at 10-20 volts, the same as a field without any formations, the same as a field with wind damage.

• No change in measuring instruments, cameras, videotapes, batteries function the same.

Formations of unknown cause:

- No marks—soil not compacted, sometimes residue, mildew powder or dew remains undisturbed on plants until a human enters.
- Plants bent or elongated at the growth nodes; most flattened crops can be harvested later on.
- Stems may be swirled into patterns, even woven. It looks "like a great craftsman is at work."
- Changes in seeds, plants and soil—if formation made before harvest time seeds may be stunted, if formation occurs around harvest time, when seeds are planted they grow quicker and have slightly different characteristics; mitochondria in plants show heavy respiration.
- Energetic differences. Somatic changes—hands may feel tingly; hair on your arms or back of neck stand up; feel a rush of ecstasy, enchantment or bliss; malaise, chills, headache. Energetic and somatic feelings often occur the moment one enters the formation.
- Electrostatic Potential raises to 40-80 volts, the range of monitoring a running automobile, being near a power plant or a waterfall.
- Instruments such as electrostatic meter, Global Positioning System, camera, video camera, cell phone go haywire or quit working; batteries drained, unable to take a charge afterward. 

Crop circles: Fake vs. real

UFO museum offering \$1 million for an artifact from the 1947 crash

Check your attics, sift through your garages and break out the old metal detectors; the UFO museum could make your efforts worth your while.

Roswell's International UFO Museum and Research Center is offering up to \$1 million for the first scientifically verified piece of debris from the suspected crash of an extraterrestrial ship near Roswell in 1947.

"We're very hopeful that perhaps someone right here in the state of New Mexico will have what we're looking for," said Mark Wolf, the museum's director of fund-raising and promotion.

The museum will pay 50 percent of all net revenues earned by the museum through exhibiting the artifact until its original owner or owners receive a total of \$1 million.

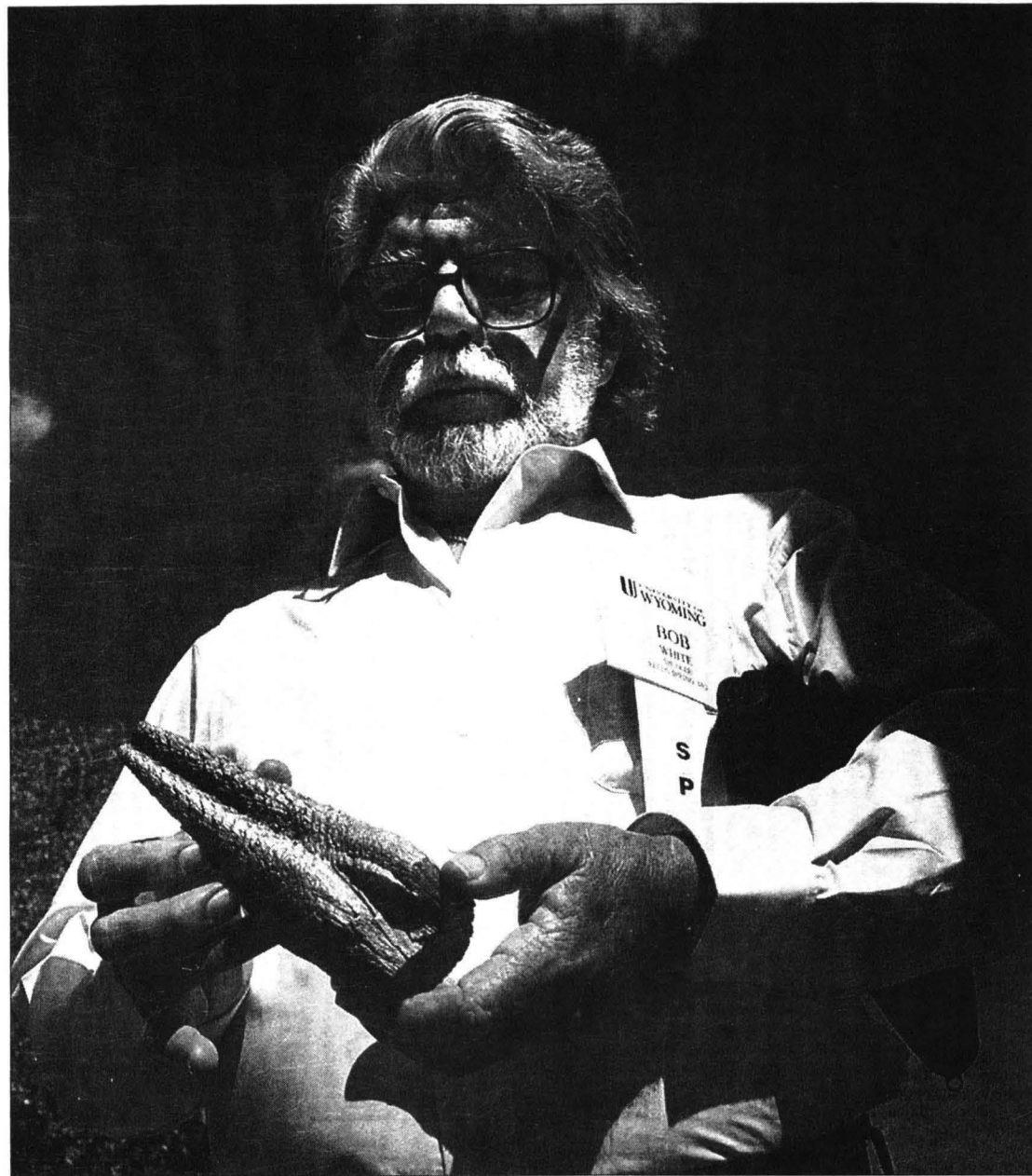
The artifact will become the property of the museum upon being accepted by the museum for scientific testing. In order to be selected, the submitted artifact must be verified by scientific testing in a laboratory chosen by the museum. The UFO museum will pay for the testing and their decision on selection of the artifact will be final.

"They not only have to prove

that it's not from Earth but also that it's a manufactured item," Wolf said. In other words, meteors don't count.

The museum's associates, employees and family members will not be eligible to receive payment of any kind in connection with this offer.

Anyone who may have such an artifact needs to call (505) 625-9495 and ask for anyone in charge of this determination. You may also contact Mark Wolf at (770) 565-2003 or e-mail him at Senor-loboWolf@netscape.net.



Bob White with what he says is a piece of a UFO that he recovered in the mountains of Colorado.

TIM CHESNUT / LARAMIE DAILY BOOMERANG

The experiences of alien abductees range from joyful encounters to tales of mistreatment. A UFO conference helps these marginalized people cope with their ET contacts

Sleeping with the aliens

BY JONATHAN GATEHOUSE

LARAMIE, WYO. • Tired of ridicule, heart-sick over ruptures with family and friends, still fearful of the disapproval of employers, the 150 participants at the 21st annual Rocky Mountain UFO Conference are steeling themselves to tackle the final frontier of disenfranchisement.

The time has come to get alien abductees out of their spaceships and into the streets.

The centrepiece of the conference, which claims to be the only UFO gathering entirely devoted to abductees, is two "closed sessions" where participants can talk at the microphone about their direct extraterrestrial contacts.

Tom and Joan Bishop of Anderson, Calif., tell of joyful encounters with superior beings that left them filled with peace and happiness. The retired engineer and his wife have been coming to the conference since 1992 and claim to have had dozens of run-ins with extraterrestrials since the late 1960s.

"I think it's very important for people to be able to open up," said Mrs. Bishop, a slender woman dressed in a leopard print shirt and wearing a holographic pin of a bug-eyed alien. "As they say, you're as sick as your secret."

Mrs. Bishop tells the group about a sighting on a lonely California highway during a lunar eclipse four years ago. Later, at home in bed, the couple were visited by two tall humanoids from the planet Pleidias. Mrs. Bishop arose and followed them to the living room. When she tried to hug one, she was blown into a rocking chair by the power of its internal life energy, she said.

"When I was shocked back into the chair, the realization of my place in the cosmos came to me. I said to them, 'I'm one of you, aren't I?'"

Janet, a speech pathologist from Colorado, is more reluctant to go on the record with her harrowing

tales of mistreatment by The Greys, the small creatures with the oversized heads and large eyes that seem to feature prominently in most stories of abduction.

"I really do feel like the government is messing with me," she said. "And you have to be quiet or you could lose your job."

Janet said she has been kidnapped on a regular basis since she was two years old. Aliens often harvest her eggs and she believes that she has produced several hybrid children for them.

She is an active participant in the workshops and lectures, easy to pick out of the audience because of her vibrant pink-and-purple Hawaiian muumuus and her practice of crocheting an afghan while

Janet's two sons aren't alone. In an era where tell-all books, talk radio and trash TV regularly put the dark secrets of the soul on display, there is still a reluctance for those who have had direct contact with beings from other planets to come forward and share their experiences.

Even within the UFO community there is a bias against abductees, said Franklin Carter, president of the Institute for UFO Research, the group that organized the three days of lectures and workshops at the University of Wyoming. Those who claim to have seen flying saucers or bright lights in the sky are not always comfortable being lumped in with those who profess having had much closer encoun-

The bulk of the weekend is filled out with a bewildering smorgasbord of lectures and workshops that could provide the basis of several seasons worth of *X-Files* episodes.

Bob White, a silver-haired 69-year-old from Missouri, displays the piece of a UFO that he claims to have recovered in the Colorado mountains. The 28-cm-long metallic object is shaped like a ham bone, with a groove down one side and partially melted scales on its exterior.

Mr. White, a former country singer and winning contestant on *The Gong Show*, weaves a complicated tale of duplicitous scientists and television producers who have tried to profit from his discovery. Despite four laboratory tests, he claims experts have yet to determine just what the object is made of and whether it has an earthly provenance.

Anna Hayes, a frenetic blond dressed in a royal purple suit, delivers an infomercial-paced 90-minute lecture on the three alien civilizations vying for control of the Earth and the Amenti star gates that open every 26,566 years. Her hand-drawn overhead transparencies provide detailed composites of more than 15 different types of aliens she has encountered on her astral travels. The condensed version: Greys bad, Reptilians very bad, tall pretty humanoids extremely good.

Pamela Stonebrooke, a forty-something bleached blond Los Angeles musician who lists performing at pornographer Larry Flint's wedding among her accomplishments, is flogging copies of her autobiographical account of alien contact — *Experiencer: A jazz singer's true account of extraterrestrial contact*.

Ms. Stonebrooke thrills the audience with her accounts of fabulous sex with the bad-boy Reptilians.

"I'm one of the few that have had Reptilian contact that didn't have an orgasm," she confides, "because I changed the [body energy] frequency and he was gone."

National Post

'I THINK IT'S VERY IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE TO BE ABLE TO OPEN UP'

she listens to the speakers. She is particularly interested by the oft-repeated theory that there may be some hereditary link to the alien visitations, with generations of families falling victim to the kidnappers.

"Both my boys are involved but they're both in denial," she said.

ters.

"Our object is to provide information to help people integrate these experiences into their daily lives," he said. "They've had a traumatic experience, their whole belief system has been turned upside down. But you still have to make your car and house payments."



Tom and Joan Bishop claim to have had dozens of encounters with extraterrestrials since the late 1960s.

TIM CHESNUT / LARAMIE DAILY BOOMERANG

Trio sues for clearer focus on UFOs

By JOSH LOFTIN
Journal staff writer

They have appeared in books as little green men, in movies as furry Wookies and on television as physics professors. Soon, aliens and unidentified flying objects could become the center of attention at Alexandria Circuit Court.

Seeking to end decades of "gov-

ernment cover-up," Alexandria resident Larry W. Bryant — along with Gretchen Condon of Hampton and Evelyn J. Goodwin of Newport News — has filed a civil suit against Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore asking a court to order Gilmore to address the issue of UFOs and alien abduction.

"Our demand comes in the form of an extraordinary legal

remedy that may or may not succeed in giving victims of the so-called UFO/E.T. abduction phenomenon their day in court," Bryant said in a news release.

No other plaintiffs could be contacted because of unlisted numbers.

The suit, filed June 5, does not seek any money. Instead, it has four primary goals.

■ Bryant wants a special state grand jury empaneled to investigate the numerous UFO sighting and abduction claims.

■ He wants Gilmore to create a task force to analyze all data related to the "alien invasion."

■ The suit seeks to have Vir-

Although the suit is the first filed by Bryant, he is no stranger to UFO research. For 22 years, he has run the Alexandria-based Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, an organization which has a similar legal battle with Arizona officials. In the Arizona case, which seeks to have the Defense Department release all of the documents it has about UFO reports, CAUS is appealing a denial of its Freedom of Information Act request to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

The time is right to begin battling the UFO "cover-up" in court because "the climate has changed," Bryant said.

"There is so much research to do out there," he said.

More than anything, however, Bryant wants answers to all of the questions the public asks. After all, he said, "what's the big secret?"

ginia's National Guard units trained to handle the continuing "alien invasion," as they might prepare to handle a terrorist attack.

■ The suit wants Virginia to grant victims of alien abductions the same rights that victims of other attacks, such as rape, receive.

Because of the continuing reports of strange encounters from people throughout the world, Bryant said in a telephone interview, "there is just too much smoke to ignore."

So far, the case has garnered very little serious attention. Bryant has sent numerous e-mail messages to Gilmore and the Virginia Attorney General Mark Earley's office, most of which were returned because of computer errors. He also has sent certified letters with copies of the suit to both offices, yet has not received a response, he said.

When contacted for this story, a spokesman for Earley had no comment.

"Maybe they hope I'll just dry up and blow away, but that's a

fruitless hope," Bryant said. "This is not some exercise in gamesmanship. This is a legitimate suit, and they should treat it as such."

Bryant is well aware that filing a suit to force the government's hand on UFOs will look slightly crazy to some people. Because of the nature of the suit, he has failed to find an attorney willing to represent him and the other plaintiffs. Yet he said he remains undeterred and is convinced he has done enough homework and provided enough evidence to win the case.

"The court has to take every lawsuit seriously and hear both sides equally," said Bryant, who retired from his job as a technical writer for the Army in 1994.

Included in Bryant's case folder of more than 50 pages are police reports of abductions in surrounding areas, complete with one victim's drawings of the aliens. Also, Bryant cites numerous cases involving the governor's responsibility to protect the commonwealth from invasions, as well as UFO research by private citizens and government agencies.

READERS GUIDE, Chicago, IL - May 26, 2000

DESTINATION SCHAUMBURG

Stalked by aliens? You're not alone.

PHOTO/EVENE ARONSON

Mary Kerfoot says she's been visited by extraterrestrials throughout her life. As a child she saw silver flames at night. "They were very playful and would roll up into a ball under the furniture."

But it wasn't until she began losing her vision in one eye that she knew for certain what she was seeing were visitors from other worlds. While recovering from surgery for a detached retina, Kerfoot encountered "the stillness that always tells me they're coming." That night they took the form of "huge bright orange flames leaping" in her living room. Their presence caused her cockatoo, Toby, to shriek wildly and sent her dog and (now deceased) husband into a deep sleep from which they could not be roused.

"Once I actually saw the beings," Kerfoot says, "it reassured me. They

MARY KERFOOT

"We each thought we were the only one

communicated telepathically. It was actually a spiritual experience."

Kerfoot, 56, feels strongly that she should educate the public about

alien phenomena. In 1995 she organized UFO

educational forums at the Museum of Science and Industry and at

the College of DuPage. Her description of accelerated healing after another eye surgery—she improved as much in one day as most people would have in three weeks after aliens visited during the surgical procedure—is published in Virginia Aronson's

Celestial Healing: Close Encounters That Cure.

And for the last eight years Kerfoot's split-

level home in Schaumburg has served as the gathering

place for an alien abductees' support group, which

meets every month or so and calls itself

CACES, the Chicago Area

(continued on page 6)

BY SUSAN DEGRANE

Center for Encounter Support.

"I wanted other people to know more about this and to help them understand," says Kerfoot. "I wanted them to realize what a narrow universe we live in and to help them in expanding their consciousness." Of course many are skeptical about her claims, but I've visited the group a couple of times in the last five years and have found its members to be ordinary citizens.

Kerfoot and others like her hope to open more minds to their perceptions of extraterrestrials on earth, but until that happens, several in the group refuse to give their full names for fear of being stigmatized. They include people of all ages and a variety of occupations: a grandmother, a few children, teachers, a government employee, a bookstore manager, a former engineer.

Most of the group members first met at a gathering of the local chapter of MUFON (Mutual UFO Network), an international organization that disseminates information about alien phenomena and urges governments to release classified information concerning UFO sightings and alien encounters. One person at the MUFON meeting, who eventually joined the CACES support group, confided about her contact experience. "Before hearing her," Kerfoot says, "I think we each thought we were the only one and were too embarrassed to tell anyone this was happening. But pretty soon we started talking and comparing notes. We discovered we really had a lot in common, and the next week we decided to meet on our own."

One recent meeting of CACES includes ten people, seated on Kerfoot's plush couch and chairs or sitting cross-legged on the immaculate carpet. Several have become friends over the years, and some are in their stocking feet and eating from paper plates heaped high from a potluck spread.

Kerfoot's cockatoo is missing, however. Toby is said to have participated in several of Kerfoot's contact experiences: though these agitated him,

They share a suspicion that extraterrestrials have taken

he'd remain when Kerfoot's other pets fled. But the bird eventually caused Kerfoot respiratory problems, so she placed him with a farm family in Janesville, Wisconsin, that owns a rare white buffalo, a sacred animal in Native American cultures.

Kerfoot has something to tell the group about Toby. Before his departure, she says, "He began speaking in a strange new language." For a while the discussion centers on Toby, with several inquiries as to whether or not the sounds he made were human. "It was like a very fluent language, like a person," Kerfoot says. "But it wasn't human."

Conversation among members of CACES heats up over such issues as whether aliens want contact with women only for their wombs or for their minds as well. It proceeds agreeably with recollections of aliens penetrating bedroom walls and doors like ghosts, and accounts of seeing shadows and reflections of aliens in mirrors. Another shared experience is seeing the world through a veil of green, and Kerfoot relates that after one encounter she saw green sparks shooting from her fingers and a green aura surrounding her computer.

"Oh, I've had that before," says

Nellie Moore, a young mother. "It's so common now, I just pretty much tune it out." Moore says that extraterrestrials installed and adjusted a device above one of her ears that helps her to be clairaudient. She often hears music, a calliope sound or lute from ancient times accompanying some message. Her son has seen the lower halves of

bodies walking up their driveway, and her daughter once described a purple light coming from her mother's forehead as she wrote about one of her extraterrestrial encounters in a journal.

A common complaint among members of the group is not being able to locate such crucial items as house keys, money, and eyeglasses: after looking several times in the same location, they'll find them mysteriously restored on the final check. "Oh yeah," says Al, a man in his 40s with dark eyes and a dark beard. "They do that just to let you know they're there." Moore can recall several objects that seemed to have fallen into a void, then magically reappeared. Once \$100 disappeared from her wallet, then reappeared while her family was searching for the cash.

Some complain of awakening with strange marks on their bodies—fine scratches across their faces, larger scrapes on their noses, and small circular depressions on their legs, carved out in perfect scoops as if with a tiny melon baller. Others have had their nightclothes unbuttoned or turned around or inside out.

Sue, a middle-aged woman with short blond hair, says she began to track the removal and replacement of

objects on her body at night. "I wore color-coded wristbands just to throw [the visitors] off," she says. "I'd make a note of what color was on which wrist the night before. I'd write it down. It'd be all switched in the morning."

Bob, a compact man in his 50s, recalls being abducted one evening several years ago from a service road

paranormal activity in his apartment.

Bob's more recent encounters seem to support his perceptions of benevolent beings. A couple of years ago he spent 15 days in intensive care after suffering a heart attack. Months later he woke up at home in the middle of the night chilled. "The sheet and bedcovers were neatly folded back," he says. "My shirt was unbuttoned, and my chest was exposed." He noted a

a special interest in their children. All highly intelligent.

near I-55 in Pontiac, Illinois. At dawn, he awoke to find himself at the wheel of his car driving down an off-ramp of an expressway near his home in a western suburb of Chicago. Dizzy and nauseated, Bob pulled over and lost consciousness for a few minutes. He later contacted the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago and was interviewed about his experience by its director, Mark Rodeghier. (Rodeghier confirms having interviewed Bob and says he's familiar with CACES: "I won't say it's aliens or what it is, but I will say something is definitely happening to these people.")

Years earlier Bob had shown the group his drawings of the aliens, most of them gray. This time around he recalls more details, such as crouching beneath the steps of a farmhouse trying to avoid being taken up by the aliens and "skin like the peel of an orange" on the arms of the lead alien, who seemed a "benevolent" being. "You won't remember a thing," Bob says they told him. But he vowed not to forget.

"Yes, that's what they always tell us," says Al, whose encounters have taken the form of poltergeist and

burning sensation in his chest and was somewhat disoriented but apparently unharmed. Bob says that when doctors examined him during a subsequent checkup, "They found no evidence of heart disease—this is a fact." Weeks after that examination, he says, his doctor invited him to appear before an audience of physicians and medical students at the University of Illinois Medical Center.

"Do you remember what they asked you?" asks Kerfoot.

"No," Bob says. "I can't remember a thing."

Moore and Sue compare notes about their pregnancies. Moore couldn't bring herself to eat sugar and developed a compulsion to close doors and windows—"I had a fit about windows and closets, and I was worried somebody was going to take my kids." Sue says her fear of being taken up by extraterrestrials while she was pregnant caused her to "just want to burrow under my husband at night," and Kerfoot had similar concerns. Another young mother, Karen, had a miscarriage that mystified her doctor, she says: the placenta and bag of waters were expelled, but there was no fetus.

All four women say they experienced a great deal of anxiety during their pregnancies over the presence of alien beings in their homes. And they share a suspicion that extraterrestrials have taken a special interest in their children, all highly intelligent and involved in gifted or accelerated programs at school.

The composition of CACES has changed over the years, Kerfoot says. Some people visit once or twice, others stay longer but eventually drop out, and a core group of four or five people meets with Kerfoot consistently. Ben Hollis, former host of Channel 11's *Wild Chicago*, once attended a meeting, and several UFO investigators and university researchers have accepted invitations to speak at Kerfoot's home. When Steppenwolf Theatre Company was about to produce *Space*, which dealt with alien contact, they got in touch with CACES.

Occasionally the group holds "contact sessions," in which members attempt to initiate contact with aliens. Sometimes they've stood on the deck behind Kerfoot's house and shone a powerful flashlight into the night sky. Bob insists that their flashing has brought responses from "intelligent craft that signaled back." During one meeting Kerfoot watched as a huge orange ball like the moon hung over her house; others in the group interpreted what they saw as the brightly lit undercarriage of an airplane that had veered low and mysteriously stalled in flight for several minutes.

On other occasions the group literally put their heads together, lying on the floor in a circle. "Once a portal of some kind opened right here in the living room," says Moore. Bob says that "bubbles of light with presences in the bubbles" appeared over the chandelier in the dining area, presences Moore describes as "extremely tall with very wide shoulders," though their faces and other features were not discernible. "The ceiling got really high too—it was weird," she says.

Four years ago, when I was attending a meeting in order to write about

the group, it got really late and several of us decided to spend the night. Sleeping on the couch in the basement family room, I was too spooked to turn out the lights. Kerfoot's ancestors peered out from neatly framed antique photographs. Staring up at the canister lights in the ceiling made me uneasy. Earlier in the evening someone had talked about the round lights beneath a mother ship attempting to draw him up.

Around 4 AM strange, loud bangs like a bed or dresser falling came from Kerfoot's bedroom. Her son called out "Mom!" from his room in the basement and ran upstairs. I ran up too. The lights came on. Kerfoot, who'd been asleep in her bedroom, stood in the living room obviously groggy, as were a couple of the other overnight guests. As I recall, Toby's feathers were ruffled. When he eventually settled down, he treated us to an all-knowing sideways glance. ■

The CACES group can be reached by phoning Kerfoot at 847-985-1123, and the Center for UFO Studies by calling 773-271-3611.



NELLIE MOORE

"A portal opened right here in the living room."

PHOTO/EUGENE ZAKUSILO

UFO theorists gain support abroad, but repression at home

Study by French officials, routine unexplained sightings, US military safety aspects combine to boost believers

BY LESLIE KEAN

Last month's release of the first detailed satellite images of Area 51, the top-secret US Air Force test site in Nevada, prompted a Web site meltdown as people from across the nation logged on in search of clues about unidentified flying objects.

"The interest has been really phenomenal," said David Mountain, marketing director for Aerial Images Inc., which posted the high-resolution photographs of Area 51 on the Internet.

But those hoping to see signs that captured UFOs are stored at the site (as some aficionados have suggested) were destined to be disappointed. Most of Area 51's operations occur underground, making photos meaningless.

Anyone looking for fresh information on UFOs would have better luck trying a new, but less publicized, source: a study by the French military, just translated into an approved English edition.

High-level officials—including retired generals from the French Institute of Higher Studies for National Defense, a government-financed strategic planning agency—recently took a giant step in openly challenging skepticism about UFOs.

In a report based on a three-year study, they concluded that "numerous manifestations observed by reliable witnesses could be the work of craft of extraterrestrial origin" and that, in fact, the best explanation is "the extraterrestrial hypothesis." Although not categorically proven, "strong presumptions exist in its favor and if it is correct, it is loaded with significant consequences."

The French group reached that conclusion after examining nearly 500 international aeronautical sightings and radar/visual cases, and previously undisclosed pilots' reports. They drew on data from official sources, government authorities, and the air forces of other countries. The findings are contained in a 90-page report titled "UFOs and Defense: What Should We Prepare For?"

"The number of sightings, which are completely unexplained despite the abundance and quality of data from them, is growing throughout the world," the team declared.

The authors note that about 5 percent of sightings on which there is solid documentation cannot be easily attributed to earthly sources, such as secret military exercises. This 5 percent seem "to be completely unknown flying machines with exceptional performances that are guided by a natural or artificial intelligence," they say. Science has developed plausible models for travel from another solar system and for technology that could be used to propel the vehicles, the report points out.

It assures readers that UFOs have demonstrated no hostile acts, "although intimidation maneuvers have been confirmed."

Given the widespread skepticism about UFOs, many will quickly dismiss the generals' "extraterrestrial hypothesis." But it is less easy to do so once the authors' credentials are considered. The study's originators are four-star General Bernard Norlain, former commander of the French Tactical Air Force and military counselor to the prime minister; General Denis Letty, an air force fighter pilot; and Andre Lebeau, former head of the National Center for Space Studies, the French equivalent of NASA.

They formed a 12-member "Committee for In-depth Studies," abbreviated as COMETA, which authored the report. Other contributors included a three-star admiral, the national chief of police, and the head of a government agency studying

the subject, as well as scientists and weapons engineers.

Not only does the group stand by its findings, it is urging international action. The writers recommend that France establish "sectorial cooperation agreements with interested European and foreign countries" on the matter of UFOs. They suggest that the European Union undertake diplomatic action with the United States "exerting useful pressure to clarify this crucial issue which must fall within the scope of political and strategic alliances."

Why might the United States be interested—albeit, privately—in a subject often met with ridicule, or considered the domain of the irrational?

For one thing, declassified US government documents show that unexplained objects with extraordinary technical capabilities pose challenges to military activity around the globe. For example, US fighter jets have attempted to pursue UFOs, according to North American Aerospace Defense Command logs and Air Force documents. Iranian and Peruvian air force planes attempted to shoot down unidentified craft in 1976 and 1980. Belgium F-16s armed with missiles pursued a UFO in 1990.

Further, the French report says that there have been "visits above secret installations and missile bases" and "military aircraft shadowed" in the United States.

Edgar Mitchell, the Apollo 14 astronaut who was the sixth man to walk on the moon, is one of many supporters of international cooperation on UFOs. Of the French report, he says, "It's significant that individuals of some standing in the government, military, and intelligence community in France came forth with this."

Mitchell, who holds a doctorate from MIT in aeronautics and astronautics, is convinced "at a confidence level above 90 percent, that there is reality to all of this." He says, "People have been digging through the files and investigating for years now. The files are quite convincing. The only thing that's lacking is the official stamp."

Mitchell joins five-star Admiral Lord Hill-Norton, the former head of the British Ministry of Defense, in calling for congressional fact-finding hearings into the UFO question.

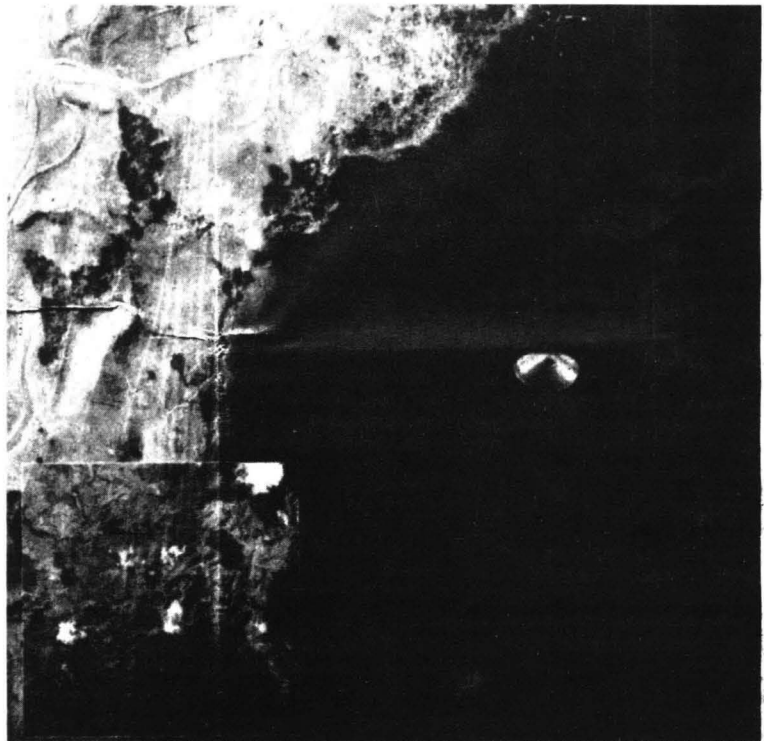
Although Congress seems disinclined to pursue the matter, the public's interest in UFOs is undiminished. A ballot initiative underway in Missouri, certified by the secretary of state in March, urges Congress to convene hearings. The initiative states that "the Federal Government's handling of the UFO issue has contributed to the public cynicism toward, and general mistrust of, government."

US Naval Reserve Commander Willard H. Miller has long been communicating this same concern to high level federal officials. With over 30 years in Navy and joint interagency operations with the Defense Department, Miller has participated in a series of previously undisclosed briefings for Pentagon brass about military policy regarding UFOs.

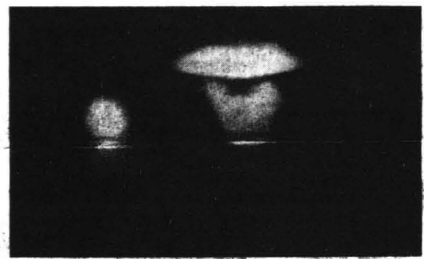
Like many, Miller says he worries that the military's lack of preparation for encounters with unexplained craft could provoke dangerous confrontation when, and if, such an encounter occurs; "precipitous military decisions," he warns, "may lead to unnecessary confusion, misapplication of forces, or possible catastrophic

anyone under its jurisdiction—including pilots, civilian agencies, merchant marine captains, and even some fishing vessels—for disclosing reports of sightings relevant to US security.

Although researchers have been able to obtain some information through the Freedom of Information Act, many UFO



Images of purported UFOs, taken by, above, a Costa Rican mapping aircraft in 1971 and reproduced on the cover of a report by the French military; below left, a Zanesville, Ohio, barber in 1966; below right, a high school student in Beaver, Pa.; bottom right, teenage brothers in Detroit in 1967.



consequences."

And he says he is not alone in his concerns. "There are those in high places in the government who share a growing interest in this subject," Miller reports.

If the US military is concerned about UFOs, it is not saying so publicly. Indeed, the French report chastises the United States for what it calls an "impressive repressive arsenal" on the subject, including a policy of disinformation and military regulations prohibiting public disclosure of UFO sightings.

Air Force Regulation 200-2, "Unidentified Flying Objects Reporting," for example, prohibits the release to the public and the media of any data about "those objects which are not explainable." An even more restrictive procedure is outlined in the Joint Army Navy Air Force Publication 146, which threatens to prosecute

documents remain classified.

In earlier decades, issues that remain pertinent today were openly discussed. In 1960, for example, US Representative Leonard G. Wolf of Iowa entered an "urgent warning" from R. E. Hillenkoetter, a former CIA director and Navy vice admiral, into the Congressional Record that "certain dangers are linked with unidentified flying objects." Wolf cited General L. M. Chassin, NATO coordinator of Allied Air Service, warning that "If we persist in refusing to recognize the existence of the UFOs, we will end up, one fine day, by mistaking them for the guided missiles of an enemy—and the worst will be upon us."

These concerns were taken seriously enough to be incorporated into the 1971 US-Soviet "Agreement on Measures to Reduce the Outbreak of Nuclear War."

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7 - GLOBE, Boston, MA - May 21, 2000)

The French report may open the door for nations to be more forthcoming once again. Chile, for example, is openly addressing its own concerns about air safety and UFOs. The now retired chief of the Chilean Air Force has formed a committee with civil aviation specialists to study recent near-collisions of UFOs and civilian airliners.

As the international conversation about UFOs unfolds, sightings continue, as they have for decades. Perhaps the most notable recent US sighting took place in March 1997. Hundreds of people across Arizona reported seeing huge triangular objects, hovering silently in the night sky - a sighting that, as the state's US Senator John McCain noted recently, has "never been fully explained."

As recently as Jan. 5, four policemen at different locations in St. Claire County, Illinois, witnessed a huge, brightly lighted, triangular craft flying and hovering at 1,000 feet. One officer reported witnessing extreme rapid motion by the craft that cannot be explained in conventional terms. Nearby Scott Air Force base and the Federal Aviation Administration purport to know nothing.

The Defense Department maintains it can find no information acknowledging the existence of the triangular objects. In response to a suit by curious Arizonans, it provided details of its search to US Dis-

trict Court Judge Stephen M. McNamee of Phoenix. On March 30, McNamee concluded that "a reasonable search was conducted" even though no information was obtained, and he dismissed the case.

There is one government agency in the country that has taken steps to prepare for a UFO encounter. The Fire Officer's Guide to Disaster Control, second edition - used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and taught at the seven universities offering degrees in fire science - warns of "UFO hazards," such as electrical fields that cause blackouts, force fields, and physiological effects.

"Do not stand under a UFO that is hovering at low altitudes," the book warns. "Do not touch or attempt to touch a UFO that has landed."

The text leaves little room for skepticism. John E. Mack, professor of psychiatry at Harvard University and a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, stopped being skeptical a long time ago.

"No culture from the beginning of time, no culture from anywhere on the planet, has ever voided the idea of all other intelligent life other than ourselves," he told a UFO conference at the New York Hall of Science two weeks ago. "That's arrogance."

Leslie Kean is a freelance journalist in the San Francisco Bay area.

POST, Salisbury, NC - May 22, 2000 CR: G. Fawcett

Events in Roswell in 1947 still fuel debate on UFOs

BY MICHAEL KNOX
SALISBURY POST

No matter what happened in Roswell, N.M. - strange weather events, a crashed spaceship, a downed weather balloon or an experimental spy balloon - Dennis Balthaser knows the government lied.

"All I want is the truth," Balthaser said. "If nothing happened in Roswell, tell me... but there have already been four different reports on Roswell."

Among members of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), whatever happened in Roswell in 1947 began a long-running conspiracy. The government's press release at the time stated that a saucer-shaped vessel had crashed. Later the object was identified as a weather balloon.

Balthaser spoke about Roswell Sunday at a MUFON meeting at the Rowan County Agriculture Center.

Balthaser has been featured on MTV, "Dateline" and "Nightline." Researcher, investigator and lecturer on UFOs, he has also worked with the International UFO Museum in Roswell. Earlier, he spent 33 years as a civil engi-

neer with the Texas Highway Department.

His background in engineering was the basis for his lecture Sunday on "Underground Bases: What's Under Our Feet."

"He's an engineer by profession, and the construction of underground bases would be within his knowledge," said George Lund, 57, of Charlotte, state director for MUFON.

Members of MUFON believe it was an alien vessel that crashed in 1947. They believe the government uses the extraterrestrial beings aboard to construct new technology.

Balthaser said he nearly got hold of some of that technology while he was working at the museum in Roswell.

"We got a call from a guy in Oklahoma about a piece of metal... believed to be from Roswell, and they couldn't cut it or burn it," he said.

But Balthaser never got a look at the metal because of what he refers to as an "interception."

"I couldn't make contact (with the man) because I got intercepted by people who said they were OSI (Office of Special Investigation) agents," Balthaser said.

"The first thing they told me is 'The gentleman you plan on seeing isn't going to be here.' That got my attention."

Whatever happened in Roswell, Balthaser says those involved do not want to talk about it. He said he has contacted people who have told him they aren't even from Roswell until he tells them he's staring at their photos in the school yearbook. Then they say they don't want to talk about it.

But if aliens really landed in Roswell, why wouldn't the government disclose that information?

"Control," Balthaser explained. "Why would the government take guns? Control."

Balthaser also believes that such knowledge would "upset the apple cart" of numerous religions. But to him, the Bible seems to verify the existence of aliens.

"I don't have a problem with religion or UFOlogy because they go hand in hand," Balthaser said.

He said at least four books are missing from the Bible, books that Balthaser believes discuss alien encounters.

"There are a lot of references in the Bible that can be interpreted in UFOlogy terms," he said.

Alan Caviness, who is studying to become a UFO investigator for MUFON, added his own thoughts:

"The Bible indicates throughout the book that mankind is being tampered with and seems to be in the middle of some kind of tug of war. It's hard to believe that something that's so global would be overlooked by Jesus... All religion started from the sky."

Caviness is a believer because he has experienced the UFOs firsthand, he said.

"I know for a fact these UFOs exist, because I've seen them through my telescope," he said.

LINCOLN TIMES-NEWS, Lincolnton, NC - June 21, 2000 CR: G. Fawcett

Are we alone?

June 24th will be the 53rd anniversary of UFOs in modern times.

During this time, I have received many excellent reports of UFO encounters from 244 towns and cities in North Carolina and 54 towns and cities in South Carolina.

The Tar Heel State still ranks fourth and the Palmetto state ranks twelfth in the USA for the number of reported sightings, both in the air and on the ground. Ninety-nine landings and 77 occupants were reported.

In the meantime, the 696th Air Intelligence Group at Fort Belvoir, Virginia continues to investigate new UFO observations. And, President Bill Clinton in 1999 signed executive order #1298 to release all National Security Reports for 1975 and prior years.

More recently, scientists from France, China, Russia, England, Spain, Israel, Mexico and the United States have urged new scientific investigations of the ongoing UFO phenomenon.

GEORGE D. FAWCETT
Lincolnton

GAZETTE, Chillicothe, OH - July 2, 2000 CR: J. Fry

Crop circles appear close to home

Bainbridge family farm is newest host to mysterious rings

By RAMI YOAKUM
Gazette Staff Writer

BAINBRIDGE - ET phone home!

Lovers of mysteries and UFO enthusiasts take heed: Paranormal activity is alive and well just east of Bainbridge on U.S. 50.

On the farm of Roscoe and Elizabeth Swartz three genuine crop circles have appeared. They were discovered in a wheat field Thursday by farmer Bob Mark - who was baling hay at the time.

Some possible - albeit maybe not plausible - reasons for their appearance include, but are not limited to: aliens, Druids, Native American mysticism, the recent summer solstice, or maybe they are simply the work of a resourceful and inventive prankster.

Whatever the case may be, the Swartzs have but a short time to enjoy their circles: That field is scheduled to be cut today.

"There's no sign of machinery, but they're geometrically perfect," said Roscoe, an oral surgeon. "Maybe it has to do with summer solstice." Evidence to the contrary is scarce. "I don't know how anyone could've gotten in or out... nothing's knocked down and there are no tracks - it's a phenomenon we just can't explain," he added.

One of the circles is nearly 40 feet



Staff photo

Roscoe and Elizabeth Swartz stand in the center of one of three crop circles that mysteriously appeared in a field on their farm on Thursday.

in diameter - but it is the other two that appear most interesting. They contain an inner circle of almost 30 feet in diameter, and an outer "ring"

of three feet in width that encompasses the center circle. Two "concentric circles" if you will.

The trio of circles are just a few

feet apart and are in an area not far from Seip Mound - where ancient earthworks once stood - before losing their battle with the plow. "There's a lot of Indian lore about this area..." continued Roscoe.

The Swartz family has lived on the farm for 31 years and have never seen anything like it. "I think maybe we were invaded by Druids," Roscoe further hypothesized.

According to Elizabeth and Roscoe, the circles are a welcome break: "Usually the biggest thing they find around here are marijuana plants - and no one knows where they come from either!"

Roscoe said that when he first saw the circles he thought "What is this?" then spent some time making crude measurements and taking a few pictures before calling The Gazette. "Every now and then there's some goofy article like this in there - I thought it'd be fun."

Dale Mark was there continuing work on the hay baling process. "My wife said I'd been dreaming about UFOs," he said - before deciding it might be better not to go on.

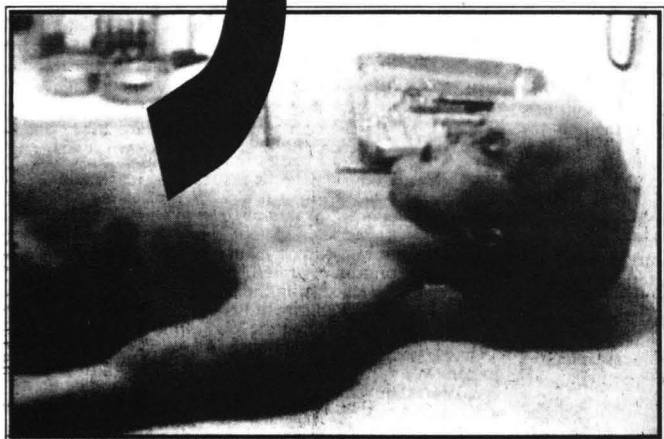
Elizabeth, who is an artist, was much more careful with her words. Unlike her husband she seemed dubious of committing herself to the question of their origins. "Whether it's a hoax or not it's still well done," she said, commenting somewhat reluctantly "I better not mention UFOs."

With the hay scheduled to be baled today, and no explanation of their origins likely to come, for now Elizabeth and Roscoe can only ponder the question "Where did they come from?" while the Bainbridge crop circles are soon to be another one of "History's Mysteries."

An artist's idea of an alien captures the being glowing.

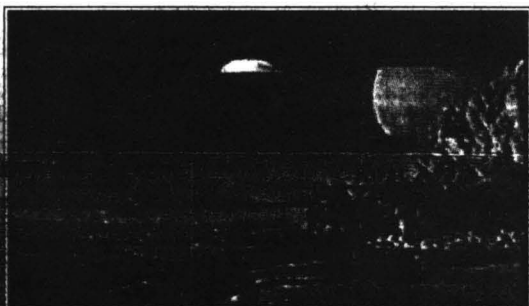


Spaced-OUT



▲ The TV special *Alien Autopsy* showed this image, claiming it was a documentary of an autopsy done by government doctors on the dead body of an alien said to have died during a mysterious 1947 aircraft crash in Nevada.

The 1957 sci-fi film *Forbidden Planet* creates a view of the heavens from another planet's surface.



UFO chaser Ed Walters took these pictures of UFOs over Gulf Breeze, near the panhandle. The top one was taken in 1987 and the one below it in 1988.



By Dan McCue
of the News staff

VERO BEACH — Ufologists, to that well-known phrase popularized by the comedian Rodney Dangerfield, get no respect. No respect at all.

Fifty-seven years after a pilot named Kenneth Arnold reported a formation of nine disc-shaped objects flying above the cascade mountain range in Washington state, and the "Roswell incident," just a week after, blasted the subject into our collective consciousness, true believers in flying saucers and extraterrestrial contact remain on the fringes of society.

But a group that's been quietly meeting in Vero Beach the past eight years is hoping to change all that. They're called the Florida UFO Research and Study Group or FURST, and their long-range goal is to establish a UFO museum and education center on the Treasure Coast.

"Basically, we're here to disseminate information and the truth," said Susan Sunset, director and founder of FURST, before their most recent meeting.

Sunset (yes, that's her real name), said she became interested in the subject herself after seeing an Unidentified Flying Object while on a family trip to Acapulco, Mexico, in 1966.

A yoga instructor by profession, Sunset said the more she learned about UFOs and what she and her fellow FURST members describe as the "vast government conspiracy" to cover them up, the more she wanted to talk about them.

In the late 1980s, she began teaching classes on "Ufology," as the concentration is known, in Stuart, Vero and Cocoa Beach. A few years later, in 1992, she hit upon the idea for a formal study group and placed an advertisement in Treasure Coast newspapers.

"After that, I felt like my cup runneth over," Sunset said. "I couldn't believe the response."

So many people showed up on a regular basis that she soon had to move the meetings from the new-age coffee shop that had agreed to lend her space to the Indian River County Main Library.

It was there that UFO enthusiasts gathered recently to hear the latest word on sightings.

contacts made and government attempts to "hide the truth about extraterrestrial intelligence," in Sunset's words.

Also on tap for most meeting are brief movie presentations bearing such titles as *Beyond The Roswell Files*, *The Truth Shall Set You Free* and *The Venus Project*.

On this given night the movie was *Secret Underground Bases*, with an accompanying chat with author and researcher Bill Hamilton.

Non-members are admitted to



A foreboding sign greets those who dare near Area 51, a secret military base in Nevada considered by some as the government's storehouse of alien information.

meetings free, but those who pay the group's annual \$35 membership fee also get to borrow books on UFOs and related subjects from its extensive private library and to attend an additional meeting each month to delve more deeply into their collective passion.

One longtime attendee and
(continued on page 10)

When not
star-gazing
for saucers,
local UFO
enthusiasts
look for
legitimacy

FURST member is "Cosmic" Connie Blizzard of Fort Pierce.

"It's hard to say something about this without sounding foolish, but I guess the main reason I keep coming are the very spiritual and enlightened people I've met at these meetings," she said.

"I get a lot of nourishment, both spiritually and intellectually, out of these meetings," Blizzard continued. "We all like-minded people."

James Rollings, executive director of the South Florida Science Museum in West Palm Beach, believes the public's continuing fascination with UFOs and extraterrestrials stems from a deep-seated need not to feel alone in the universe.

"It's more fun to have neighbors from outer space than it is to be all by ourselves," he said during an interview at the museum. "We are, after all, a social species. We want to mix with others."

Rollings quickly revealed that he's not a believer himself.

"My feeling is the distances to come here are so great and the technology needed to do it so advanced, that UFOs buzzing the Earth on a regular basis just aren't very likely," he said.

"I cannot accept that beings from outer space are expending all of their resources to draw circles in our crops or to abduct Midwestern farmers from their tractors to conduct medical experiments," he added.

But that's exactly what members of FURST believe — and then some. Showing a few first-time visitors to one of several tables covered with UFO photographs, toys, paraphernalia and

photocopies of contact accounts, Sunset explained that far from being "out there," FURST and its members are actually "very grounded."

"Florida is actually a tremendous location for UFO sightings," said Sunset, who maintains the group's sighting hot line at (561) 569-1421. "There have been over 100 over the past several years, mainly in farm country, the Everglades and near Lake Okeechobee. But what happens is, people doubt their sanity. They've seen a craft but don't understand it; they fear it when it could just be some kind of new government technology."

"Sometimes they are, sometimes they're not," Sunset continued. "Our job is to help people ground themselves and make a rationale decision about what they've seen."

"Oh, come look at this," she said, suddenly moving toward the paraphernalia table. "This is the indoctrination of America."

Spread across the table were alien dolls of every description, a Frisbee — likely the first commercial product inspired by the UFO craze of the 1950s — and even a roll of alien toilet paper.

"The next generation will adjust," Sunset said. "Because of products like these, they will accept that there are aliens and that they are already here."

Sally Buhler, the group's assistant director and a Vero Beach resident, said the dream of establishing a formal museum is still in the "baby steps" stage.

"It's our dream and our goal; but as we speak, we haven't yet started a museum fund," she said.



U.S. Army Major Jesse Marcel examines the wreckage of a mysterious aircraft that crashed in Roswell, N.M., in July, 1947. The incident's long been credited as being a downed UFO, despite dissenters claims that it was a fallen weather balloon.

"Right now, our membership fees are basically covering our day-to-day expenses."

The two unwavering convictions of Sunset and the members of FURST appear to be that extraterrestrials are holding humans in a kind of quarantine until we evolve into a kinder and gentler race, and that mishaps like the purported UFO crash in Roswell, N.M., on July 4, 1947, have turned out to be of great benefit to us.

At the South Florida Science Museum, Rollings said he sees these beliefs as a byproduct of our own desire to "become something better."

"In a way, you could say these 'advanced beings' are a symbol of what people want our own future to be," he said.

But don't say that to Ken Roberts, an Englishman who has lived in Vero Beach the past 15 years.

Roberts, a delightful man given to loud tropical shirts, said there are so many planets in the universe it's simply impossible that we are all alone.

"That's why I've always had an interest in this subject," he said. "That's why I'm very glad I joined. We've had some amazing speakers and films and seen all kinds of photographs the government refuses to release."

"You know, there are aliens working in the Pentagon," Roberts added without missing a beat. "That's where all your new technology is coming from. Until rancher Mac Brazal called authorities to report the Roswell crash,



This photo, supposedly taken of an alien who died during the Roswell crash, stands as proof to believers of intelligent life beyond the stars.

all we could come up with was the vacuum tube. But they tore that wreckage apart, and as a result, we've got everything from the Internet to lasers."

But wasn't he ever the least bit skeptical of these ideas, Roberts was asked.

"You've got to be skeptical... about any subject," he replied. "Then you make up your own mind."

With that, Roberts turned his attention to Sunset, who had started the meeting and was speaking at the front of the room.

A moment later he leaned over and whispered his last words on the subject.

"If you don't have your skepticism," Roberts said, "you're liable to believe anything."

This laser show is no UFO But sky watchers are in for a thrill

By Rod Hafemeister
Belleville News-Democrat

Those bright lights in the skies over Highland and Lebanon tonight aren't a real UFO — they're just playing one for television.

A Chicago-based company will be lighting the sky with a high-powered laser tonight in the same areas where several observers spotted a mysterious flying object early in the morning of Jan. 5.

"My understanding is, we're tracing the path of a UFO for a Discovery Channel program," said Reid Nofsinger, of Strictly FX. "That's all I know."

Nofsinger was in Nashville, Tenn., on Friday doing a laser show for the city's Arena Football team.

But early this evening, he will be outside Lebanon, setting up a large YAG (yttrium aluminum garnet) laser for the first of two performances for the cameras.

"It's a 50-watt, green-light laser.

If you were a foot away, it would burn a hole in your hand — it really starts losing power once it gets 100 feet away," he said. "But it's bright. You're going to see it for at least a couple of miles away."

The laser is so bright that Nofsinger was required to notify the Federal Aviation Administration, which issued warnings to pilots on Friday to stay out of the areas when the lasers were operating.

According to the notice, the laser will be near Lebanon between 8 and 9 p.m. It will be operating near Highland between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m. Sunday.

The laser requires a generator and a portable cooling system.

"We'll either set it up on the ground or we'll set it up in the back of the truck and open the gate," Nofsinger said.

Strictly FX is a full-service theatrical effects company, doing fire, wind, snow and other effects besides laser shows, he said.

The metro-east gained national attention in January when experts said the number of observers and similarity of their reports made it likely they actually saw something in the metro-east skies.

A civilian in Highland and police officers from Lebanon, Shiloh, Millstadt and Duplo reported seeing a triangular or arrowhead shape with three bright lights flying overhead.

Although some people speculated the object could have been some kind of secret military aircraft, officials at Scott Air Force Base denied any knowledge, pointing out that Scott is not home to any units that would be involved in testing such aircraft.

On Friday, a Scott spokesman said base leaders were hoping the laser show wouldn't bring another rash of UFO reports.

"Those lasers won't be emanating from Scott and they have no military involvement," said 2nd Lt. Jillian Torango.

POST, Washington, DC - June 22, 2000 CR: L. Bryant

'X-Files' Case Lands in Va.

Gilmore Sued Over UFO 'Invasion'

By PATRICIA DAVIS
Washington Post Staff Writer

Larry W. Bryant has a court case that could have ramifications way beyond Alexandria—way, way beyond.

Bryant believes that people who claim they were abducted by extraterrestrials should have their day in court. In an effort to force a hearing on the issue, the city resident and two other Virginians have filed a lawsuit against Gov. James S. Gilmore III (R) in Alexandria.

In the lawsuit, the trio argues that the governor has ignored an important public safety issue and has a legal obligation "to identify, assess and repel this clandestine invasion within Virginia."

"Yet, in direct dereliction of duty," the lawsuit filed in Alexandria Circuit Court charges, "he refuses even to acknowledge the existence of the 'invasion.'"

A spokesman for the Virginia attorney general's office would not

comment on the allegations. But David Botkins said the lawsuit will receive the attention it deserves. "We have turned this case over to our 'X-Files' department," he said.

Bryant said he has been unable to find a lawyer willing to take the case, but he is prepared to argue it himself. The retired soldier said he has been involved in "the politics of UFO research" for more than 40 years and directs, from his Alexandria home, the Washington office of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, a public interest organization with about 10,000 e-mail subscribers nationwide.

"It deserves a fair hearing," said Bryant, 62. "I believe that the UFO subject has serious merit and that witnesses are telling the truth as they see it."

The lawsuit, which was filed June 5, is filled with talk of mysterious "flying triangles" and the abduction of citizens from their

neighborhoods, homes and cars. Bryant—along with Gretchen Condon, of Hampton, and Evelyn J. Goodwin, of Newport News—believes that citizens deserve to know what the government knows and that the issue deserves more investigation.

Among other things, they want the court to order Gilmore to:

- Convene a special state grand jury, under the Alexandria court's jurisdiction, to investigate the scope, impact, perpetrators and methodology of "this clandestine invasion."

- Appoint a state police task force to analyze and publish all available intelligence on the subject.

- Direct the Virginia National Guard to estab-

lish and operate a quick-reaction force to repel "these non-human/humanoid/alien entities yet to be apprehended and brought to justice."

- Afford to invasion victims the same victims-rights counseling, comfort and protective measures as any other victim of criminal activity.

If they get their hearing, Bryant said, he will introduce exhibits to document the current invasion. How the court rules could have, well, far-reaching implications.

"Whatever the court decides in this case may affect how all Earth governments [and society] treat the UFO problem from here on out," Bryant said.

Or not.



FOREIGN NEWS

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

Some new findings could detail the location of a pilot who mysteriously disappeared in 1978.

Plane's location believed found

By RICK BAYNE
and PAT CONNELLY

UFO investigators are calling for an underwater search off the coast near Apollo Bay to solve the mystery surrounding the disappearance of pilot Frederick Valentich.

The move follows the release of new evidence from three people who were rabbit hunting in the area at the time, which may help unravel the 21-year-old mystery. The trio's information has backed Mr Valentich's reports of a green light hovering over his plane moments before it disappeared.

It is now believed the plane crashed into the ocean south-east of Cape Marengo minutes after losing radio contact.

The researchers believe they have tracked the final descent of the plane and have called for an underwater search to find the wreckage.

The disappearance of Mr Valentich over Bass Strait has been described as one of the most intriguing aviation mysteries since the vanishing of Amelia Earhart in 1937.

Victorian UFO Research Society investigator Paul Norman and fellow researcher Richard F. Haines have detailed statements from three people who saw what happened to Mr Valentich and his light plane on the evening of October 21, 1978.

Writing a 15-page summary in the latest issue of the *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, the duo say the witnesses saw an aeroplane descending downward at a steep angle with a much larger object with green lights flying just above it.

In their article, they plot the most probable flight path. The new



Paul Norman: search planned.

information and Mr Valentich's "own in-flight reporting of sighting events" lead them to conclude the blue-and-white plane and pilot probably crashed into the sea "between three and 12 miles" off Cape Marengo.

Now the society is seeking sponsors to launch an underwater search for the wreckage.

"This is the first time we have been able to plot what happened based on circumstantial evidence," Mr Norman said.

"Now we want to follow that through and the next step is a search."

Mr Norman interviewed the rabbit hunters near Apollo Bay in 1998 and this week released the details of the investigation.

The trio, a man and his two nieces, had seen an aircraft and

Dad hunted for clues

FREDERICK Valentich's father Guido had never given up in the search for clues to solve the disappearance of his son.

Mr Valentich joined the Victorian UFO Research Society shortly after his son's disappearance in 1978. He continued to work with scientists and UFO researchers in trying to answer the mystery.

Mr Valentich died in April.

Victorian UFO Society

investigator Paul Norman said Mr Valentich had been aware of the developments in the case.

"He was reconciled to the fact that Frederick was not alive."

the green light that Mr Valentich had radioed seeing in the sky to the south-west.

Mr Norman said the man, who wanted to remain anonymous, had told people of the strange incident the next morning but dropped the subject to avoid ridicule.

Years later he mentioned the incident to a policeman, who informed Guido Valentich, the father of the missing man.

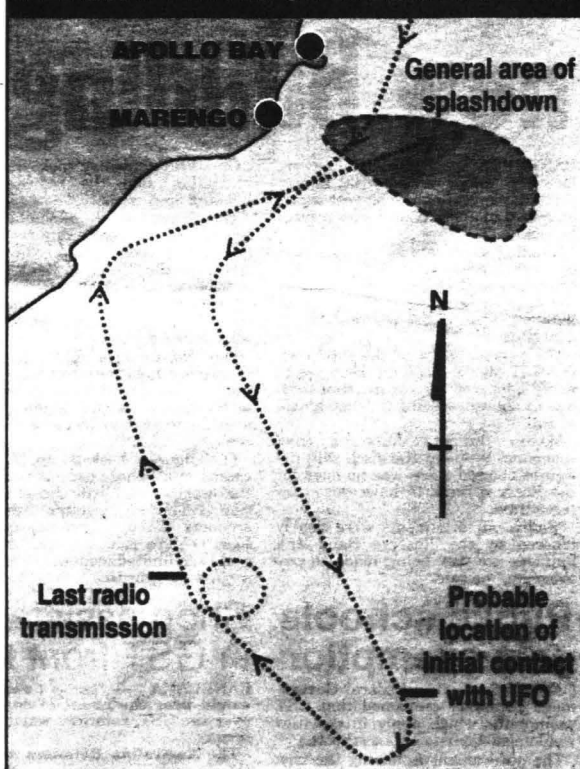
Both women gave the same basic details as their uncle.

"They saw both the lights of a small aircraft and a very large green light travelling directly above it," Mr Norman said.

"Both the airplane and the accompanying light (which appeared to fly parallel with the Cessna) seemed to descend at an apparent 30 to 40 degree angle."

The witnesses never saw the airplane strike the ground or the sea. The new evidence supports details of a 13-minute audio tape of Mr Valentich's final radio messages.

FLIGHT PATH OF CESSNA DSJ



Although there were too many unknowns to calculate a definite flight path, Mr Norman said it was possible to estimate the position of the Cessna.

No wreckage has been found, which Mr Norman said supported the theory that the plane crashed in the ocean and not on land.

"We may never know exactly what happened to Frederick Valentich. Nevertheless, an attempt should be made to locate the airplane. An underwater search should be mounted, despite the 20 years that have elapsed since the event took place," he said.

Mr Norman said he believed the witnesses' evidence, existing flight paths and Mr Valentich's radio messages made it possible to approximate the site, even accounting for tidal movements.

He said the society was seeking sponsorship to launch sonar, scuba, computer or other underwater searches.

Mr Norman, who migrated from the USA 37 years ago, is a long-time member of the Victorian UFO Research Society. His research partner, Dr Haines, is a member of the International Society of Air Safety Investigators.

Final minutes of Valentich's fateful flight into folklore

A 13-MINUTE recording of messages sent between pilot Frederick Valentich and air traffic controllers on October 21, 1978, sparked huge interest in his disappearance.

In the official transcript, Mr Valentich questions whether any other aircraft were in the area.

He told controllers he was being followed by a large aircraft with four bright lights.

Mr Valentich said the other aircraft seemed to be "playing some sort of game".

"He's flying over me two... three times at a time at speeds I could not identify," he said.

The following is a verbatim record of

the final moments of the radio conversation between the pilot and controllers.

Valentich: Melbourne, would you know what kind of aircraft I've got? Is it a military aircraft?

Flight service: Delta Sierra Juliet, confirm the, er, aircraft just vanished.

Valentich: Say again.

Flight service: Delta Sierra Juliet, is the aircraft still with you?

Valentich: Delta Sierra Juliet — (open microphone for two seconds) it's now approaching from the south-west.

Flight service: Delta Sierra Juliet.

Valentich: Delta Sierra Juliet, the

engine is rough idling, I've got it set at 23-24 and the thing is coughing.

Flight service: Delta Sierra Juliet — Roger, what are your intentions?

Valentich: My intentions are... ah... to go to King Island... ah... Melbourne. That strange aircraft is hovering on top of me again. (open microphone for two seconds) It is hovering and it is not an aircraft.

Flight service: Delta Sierra Juliet.

Valentich: Delta Sierra Juliet. Melbourne. (open microphone for 17 seconds.)

The transmission was ended by a prolonged and unexplained metallic sound.

ADVERTISER, Rugby, England - March 2, 2000

More people spot UFOs

FOLLOWING the mysterious sighting of an alien aircraft two weeks ago by a Rugby couple, further unaccountable observations have also been made within the local area.

The first sighting was reported by Simon Watts, of King Edward Road, Rugby, who glimpsed a metallic diamond shape in the sky in the area of Frankton, on Sunday, February 13, while driving home.

More recently an unexplained observation was made Mike Harris and his wife Pam, of Rodney Close, Bilton, while driving home from Stratford.

The sighting took place last Wednesday evening at

about 10.15 pm as the couple travelled along the A45 near to Cawston.

Mr Harris told the Advertiser: "I was sitting in the passenger seat when I saw some large triangular orange lights in my wing mirror, they were there for a while and then disappeared."

"My wife, who must have glimpsed the same lights in the rear view mirror, turned and asked me if I had also seen them."

Mr Harris added: "At first we thought it may have been an emergency vehicle or a grifter, but nothing drove past us and there was no way any vehicle could turn off anywhere on the A45."

"I am very sceptical about UFOs and such things, but I really do have no explanation for what I saw."

Geoffrey Brownlow, who has been a local UFO investigator in Warwickshire for two years, said: "Since the initial report was made by Mr. Watts, I have been contacted by a couple of other people who have also witnessed similar sightings."

"The same metallic silver diamond shape was also spotted in Lower Hillmorton Road on the same evening and is described as travelling very fast before 'switching off'."

Mr Brownlow added:

"And a further report has also reached me about the diamond shape being seen close to the A45 near Binley Woods."

"At the moment I am waiting to hear back from the local air traffic control and busy logging all the relevant information, which will then be sent to the International UFO Centre in Manchester."

"It would be impossible to say what these are sightings of and I do keep an open mind. But considering the speed and the abrupt change of course, it is clear that whatever they are, they are extremely advanced pieces of machinery," said Mr. Brownlow.

Bordesley triangle mystery

ET dropped into Redditch the other day, or so it is claimed, after a man saw a strange triangular object hovering near Bordesley Garage on the Birmingham Road.

The UFO was apparently spotted by a man at 7.25pm on Tuesday, February 22, hovering 25 metres above the ground.

Now a research group would like to hear of any other close encounters in the Redditch or Alvechurch area.

People who have had similar out-of-this-world experiences are asked to contact John Hanson or Dawn Holloway at PO Box 6371, Birmingham, B48 7RW.

Man makes another UFO claim

THE RASH of unexplained lights in the skies over Tayside in recent days has prompted a puzzled Perthshire man to speak about his own UFO experience.

The man, who lives in Inchyra in the Carse of Gowrie, but asks not to be named, said he saw what seemed to be a cigar-shaped object flying in bright sunshine shortly before noon on Tuesday last week.

He described the object as silver, with four or five black markings on the side.

"It seemed to be at about 5000 feet, possibly lower, and it was flying slowly. I couldn't see any sign of wings or a tail," he said.

The UFO remained in view for several minutes and the man had time to get a pair of binoculars to get a closer look.

However, he had no explanation for what it might have been and his calls to RAF Leuchars and Tayside Police were unable to solve the mystery.

He added, "Police said it might have been a plane with the sun reflecting on it, but it was nothing like a plane."

ELAINE REVEALS MANY SHOCKING UFO ENCOUNTERS



THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE: Could Elaine King have been abducted by aliens?

G3003001

Aliens abducted me, says Tetney woman

A TETNEY woman claims to have had an alien abduction experience in which she saw beings examining the insides of another human.

Forty-year-old Elaine King, of Tetney Lock, believes that she was transported from her bed to an alien space ship that was constructed entirely of a steel-like material.

It happened at 9.30am over a week ago.

Miss King explained: "I was in bed and felt myself getting weaker and weaker, like I was collapsing. The next thing I knew, I was in this corridor."

While on board the alien ship she opened a door and was shocked to find a human

By Lisa Bingham

male "spread-eagled" on a table, while aliens "peeled back his skin to look at his insides".

"There was a female being, who was milky white and wearing some sort of wig, I think it was to try and make her look less frightening, and more human.

"She communicated to me, telling me not to worry about my cats and dog, that they would be looked after.

"She didn't speak to me in words, just put these thoughts in my head. She didn't scare me, I think she was trying to help," said Miss King.

She said she thought she was going to die, but the next thing she knew she was back

in her bed and only 11-and-a-half minutes had passed.

"I was so shocked to be back, I thought I was gone for good," she said.

Miss King said she knows people will perceive her as "mad" but she honestly believes it was an abduction attempt.

She claims to have had many "alien" encounters, including seeing unearthly lights in the sky, having out-of-body experiences, hearing unexplained humming, and seeing UFOs while out riding her pony.

"Aliens are everywhere, I am sure of it. I look at the stars at night, and think 'Where are you?' It doesn't scare me and I am not worried about them coming back. I

just know they are out there, I really believe it."

Miss King's "abduction" experience happened the same day a fruiterer from Grimsby's Freeman Street saw what he believes was a UFO hovering in the sky above Willingham Street, as reported in the Grimsby Telegraph last Friday.

Thirty-seven-year-old Tony Kelsey claimed he saw a pure white unearthly object still in the sky. And investigations with the RAF revealed they did not have any aircraft in the area at that time.

Anyone who has a viewpoint on Miss King's story, or has had a similar experience themselves, contact:

lisa.bingham@grimsbytelegraph.co.uk

The truth is out there!

ADVERTISER, Rugby, England - Feb. 24, 2000

Strange object in the sky

AN ALIEN aircraft was spotted in the sky recently by a local man as he travelled with his girlfriend back to his home in Rugby.

Simon Watts, 24 and his partner Lisa Clements, of King Edward Road, both glimpsed what they believe to be a UFO on Sunday, February 13, between 6.30pm and 7.30pm.

The couple were driving down the B4453 towards Rugby near Bourton on Dunsmore and Frankton when they saw the unexplained flying object in the sky above them.

"Lisa was driving and saw the UFO and she shouted to me, I looked up and within a few seconds it was gone," said Simon.

"The UFO seemed to be flying to the ground at about 45 degrees, then suddenly changed direction and within a blink it was gone - all I was left looking at was a star."

Simon added: "The UFO looked like it was some sort of diamond shape, the surface had very bright metallic look, which gave off a very bright blue and white shine.

"In the middle I saw a reddish pink light which was either hexagonal or diamond - there also seemed to be hazy white glow around the outside of the object."

Simon is not willing to let the matter drop and has already contacted the local traffic air control and the Ministry of Defence to find out if

they were conducting any manoeuvres that evening.

"There is no doubt in my mind that I saw something and it did not look at all conventional.

"The whole experience left me feeling really strange and I will never forget it - I wanted it to come back!" said Simon.

Mr. Geoffrey Brownlow, who has been a local UFO investigator in Warwickshire for two years, said: "It is very interesting to receive news of such sightings and to carry out investigations. We are not sure what these sightings are - maybe they are from another planet or alternatively they could be secret weapons."

CHAD, Mansfield, England - June 7, 2000

Amazed by sighting of a UFO

DID anyone see the UFO that left one woman amazed at around 10.20pm on Tuesday week?

Amie Wragg, from Forest Town, was given the shock of her life after being alerted by a high pitched buzzing noise, whilst staying at her boyfriend's house at Eakring Road, Mansfield.

For when she looked to see where the bizarre sound was coming from, she was horrified to be confronted by an unusual shiny round object with lights on, not far off the ground.

After watching the object disappear into the distance, Amie said she noticed it had left behind a 'sickening' strong smell of sulphur burning.

Grimsby UFO sightings shocks fruit & veg man

A FRUITERER in Grimsby's Freeman Street saw what he believes was a UFO hovering in the sky above the town.

Tony Kelsey, 37, claimed he saw a pure white unearthly object still in the sky.

Investigations with the RAF revealed they did not have any aircraft in the area at that time.

Now a local woman has come forward saying that on the same day she had an alien abduction experience in which she saw beings examining the insides of another human.

Transported

Elaine King, 40, of Tetney Lock, believes that she was transported from her bed to an alien space ship that was constructed entirely of a steel-like material.

It happened at 9.30am about a week ago.

Miss King explained: "I was in bed and felt myself getting weaker and weaker, like I was collapsing.

"The next thing I knew, I was in this corridor."

While on board the alien ship she opened a door and was shocked to find a human male "spread-eagled" on a table, while aliens "peeled back his skin to look at his insides".



Aliens abducting in Grimsby - whatever next?

"There was a female being, who was milky white and wearing some sort of wig, I think

it was to try and make her look less frightening, and more human.

She added: "She communicated to me, telling me not to worry about my cats and dog, that they would be looked after.

"She didn't speak to me in words, just put these thoughts in my head. She didn't scare me, I think she was trying to help," said Miss King.

She said she thought she was going to die, but the next thing she knew she was back in her bed and only 11-and-a-half minutes had passed.

"I was so shocked to be back, I thought I was gone for good," she said.

Miss King said she knows people will perceive her as "mad" but she honestly believes it was an abduction attempt.

Unexplained

She claims to have had many "alien" encounters, including seeing unearthly lights in the sky, having out-of-body experiences, hearing unexplained humming, and seeing UFOs while out riding her pony.

She added: "Aliens are everywhere, I am sure of it. I look at the stars at night, and think 'Where are you?' It doesn't scare me and I am not worried about them coming back. I just know they are out there, I really believe it."

EVENING HERALD, Plymouth, England - March 25, 2000

Nigel's book lifts lid on early close encounters

by NEIL SHAW

A PLYMOUTH expert on UFO sightings has written a book about sightings of phantom airships around the time of World War One.

Nigel Watson, the Herald's Colebrook community correspondent, has taken a historical look at what people thought of lights in the sky before sci-fi films introduced the idea of alien encounters.

Nigel said that between 1909 and 1919 the most widespread explanation was invasion by German airships.

He said: "Back then, people knew about the idea of aliens from HG Wells' War of the Worlds, but it wasn't a huge part of the cultural background.

"People were more concerned about new flying technology, particularly German airships, and I have collected news coverage of literally thousands of sightings of so-called phantom airships.

"It started in the UK but quickly

spread to New Zealand, where they thought the Germans were taking cruisers up to their shores and launching Zeppelins from there."

In the US, strange lights were usually put down to the flying inventions of American entrepreneurs.

Nigel said: "It is fascinating to see the way people explained strange lights in the sky. Today, people automatically assume aliens; back then, the Germans were a real threat, so that is what people feared.

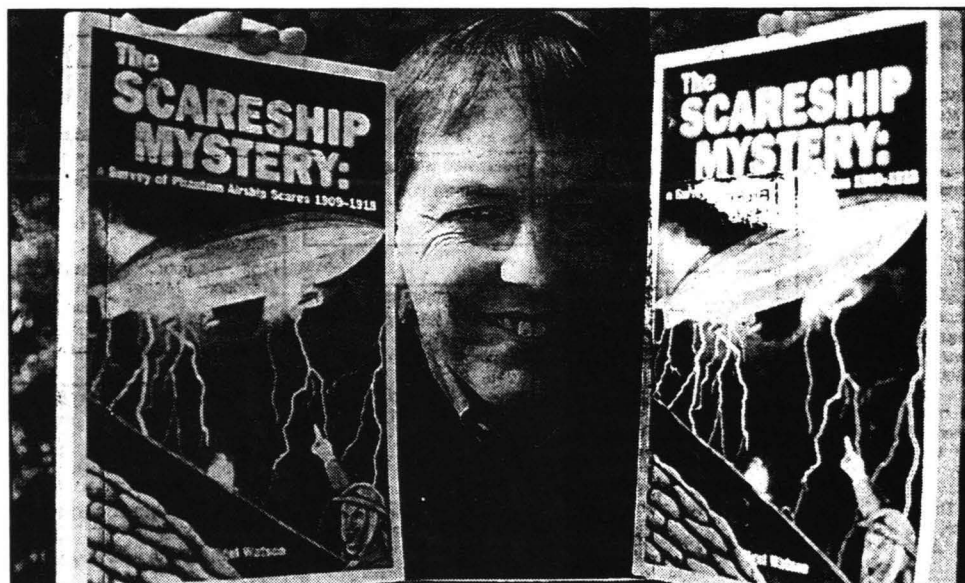
"Winston Churchill used sightings

in 1912 to push for greater defences against air attack, when he was First Lord of the Admiralty.

"It's been a lot of work putting this together but I think the end result is fascinating."

Nigel, of Colebrook, has written a number of books in the past, including Portraits of Alien Encounters and a look at the sci-fi work of Hollywood movie director Steven Spielberg.

His latest book, Scareship Mystery, costs £9.95 and is available from local bookshops.



THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE: Nigel Watson with his book

Picture Lucy Blake
DX67715

PICK OF THE GALLERIES Tales of unexpected visitors

Witness

Artangel, London

Last year at Delfina, Susan Hiller presented five floor-to-ceiling projections showing film extracts of adolescent girls exercising telekinetic powers. Hiller's interest seemed partly to be in an audience's wish for such strange powers to exist. "Witness" explores a related territory.

The installation is located in a disused Baptist Chapel. The upstairs space is dimly lit, but glow-

ing lights attract you towards the middle of the space which is dominated by hundreds of metal saucers suspended at different heights on semi-transparent plastic-coated wires which hang down from above. Each is a small loud-speaker, and as you move through the whispering forest, by putting your ear against any one of them, you clearly hear a single voice, and can listen to a first-hand account of a UFO sighting or some such alien contact. "I wanted to cry out, but couldn't. I mean I literally could

not speak or move." As you move around "Witness", you realise that many of the voices are speaking languages other than English, emphasising that UFO-spotting is a transcultural phenomenon.

Periodically, the whispering from all around stops and a single voice is left to tell its tale. "Words do not explain the whole situation, their size and how the sky was lighted up." This voice comes from higher in the installation and makes you stand still and look up, as if witnessing one

of the incidents for yourself. If this is momentarily transporting, the experience is brought down to earth by the little flying saucer speakers, whose wires are more noticeable when seen as dark shadows on the floor. Speakers that have been knocked rock to and fro, further undermining the earnestly described visitation from another planet.

You recall that you're standing in a former church. Up until 50 years ago most people believed in God in this country. Far fewer peo-

ple have traditional religious faith nowadays, but the need for a belief in something over and above socio-economic factors, for something which transcends the limitations of self, is clearly widespread. Hiller's installation draws attention to this. But it leaves you free to locate for yourself where you stand in relation to huge flying objects and peculiar bright lights in the night sky.

"Witness": Artangel at The Chapel, W10 (020 7336 6803) to 25 June

A strange pyramid-shaped spacecraft has been spotted in the skies of the West Midlands. Not once, but scores of times over the past 10 years. Yet the sightings are dismissed by the authorities as the "crackpot" theories of overheated imaginations. Chief feature writer **PAUL DALE** asks: Is there anyone out there?

AS A FORMER aircraft designer, Colin Saunders reckoned he was pretty much an expert on the huge variety of flying craft to be found around the world.

But nothing could have prepared the 41-year-old draughtsman for the amazing sight that greeted him while travelling along the Fosse Way in March last year.

Returning from a family meal with his wife, daughter and mother-in-law, Colin was close to the village of Monks Kirby at about 10pm when he noticed several bright red lights across the road in the distance.

"It was odd because we had been along that road many times and there had never been lights in that place before," recalled Colin.

As their car approached it became clear to the Saunders family that a large pyramid-shaped flying machine was hovering 100 feet in the air.

"It had rounded corners and looked like a big blob of liquid mercury," remembered Colin. "There was a thickness to the edges which were definitely metallic but looked alive, shimmering, as though they were covered in water."

"There were lines on the surface of the craft in the form of square box sections running through 90 degrees to give the impression of a garden maze."

Mr Saunders' wife, Karen, stopped the car and reversed a short distance to get a better view of the strange object.

Scared

"We were not at all scared. With my interest in aircraft I wanted to get on board and have a look."

But before Mr Saunders and his family could get closer the craft tilted at an angle and shot off in a westerly direction towards Coventry.

At no time could he recall the machine making any noise. There was total silence.

"It moved towards Coventry, about 20 miles in a few seconds, still showing the red lights but it appeared to grow to an enormous width," he recalled.

The object had been in view for half a minute which was enough time for Colin to commit the detail to memory. When he arrived home in Hinckley he set about sketching the craft and then built a scale model of what he had seen.

He believes this is the first time anyone in this country has constructed an accurate model of a UFO.

Strange experiences for the Saunders family didn't end there. Over the course of the next few days they suffered numerous problems with electrical apparatus at home, including a clock that began to work of its own accord and faults with the television and a computer.

Similar inexplicable occurrences have been reported over the years by many others who have come into contact with UFOs.

Asked to make sense of what he had seen, Mr Saunders confesses he is mystified. He says a day hasn't passed since then when he hasn't thought about the experience and wondered whether he and his family really had stumbled over an alien spacecraft.

"I am a down to earth sort of person and there's no way I would make up something like this. I know what aircraft look like and I knew it wasn't from this world."

The case is just one of scores documented by former West Midlands police officer turned UFO hunter, John Hanson.

John, along with his partner Dawn Holloway, has interviewed witnesses all over the country who claim to have

experienced extra-terrestrial happenings.

He is convinced there is something out there, but he has an open mind on whether aliens from other galaxies are involved.

He points to the fact that many sightings take place close to old Roman Roads, like the Fosse Way. He thinks certain people may be able to witness ancient energy sources.

"We firmly believe that these things are there all the time but they move in an invisible part of the spectrum. It's only occasionally that they can be seen."

What really angers John is the refusal of the authorities to take UFOs seriously.

The Ministry of Defence receives

around 300 calls each year from people who are convinced they have spotted strange craft or unexplained bright lights in the sky.

But the men from the ministry are not amused.

Sightings

There have been numerous sightings across the West Midlands of a pyramid-shaped object with bright red and yellow lights hovering and then moving off at vast speeds. The MoD, however, has a stock answer. It doesn't believe the security of the country is at risk and therefore sees no point in investigating.

The British Astronomical Association

takes an equally frosty view, having written to Mr Hanson describing UFO spotters as members of "crackpot" organisations. Bright lights in the sky and other unexplained objects are routinely dismissed by the BAA as fireballs or meteorites.

This isn't good enough for John and Dawn, whose research into the subject is meticulous. "Over the past few years we have attempted to get to the bottom of what all this is about. We weren't prepared to accept the sensationalised way in which the UFO subject is generally treated," said John.

"It would be impossible to calculate all UFO sightings over the past 50 years. They would fill a pile of books going up to the ceiling."



OUT OF THIS WORLD EXPERIENCE: Aircraft designer Colin Saunders who made a model of the UFO he saw and (inset) how the public's perception of UFOs is portrayed

Why Colin is saucer-eyed



UNEXPLAINED: TV shows like The X Files often investigate the UFO phenomena

"I am a down to earth sort of person and there's no way I would make up something like this. I know what aircraft look like and I knew it wasn't from this world"

LOCAL UFO SIGHTINGS

● CIVIL servant Steve Whittingham hadn't gambled on a strange encounter when he set up a late-night card session at his home in Whitestone, Nuneaton. In the early hours of the morning Steve and his pal, Robert, heard a loud humming sound coming from outside the house, in Purcell Avenue.

A bright fireball shot across the sky, illuminating nearby fields. The two men rushed outside but they could see no sign of the fireball. What they did see took their breath away.

A strange triangular aircraft was moving slowly over the night sky. Both men had been sceptical about UFOs before their bizarre experience, which happened in October 1995. Not any longer.

● JANE BAYLEY, 43, from Tamworth, has the distinction of seeing three mysterious flying objects in the space of two months.

Sighting one, in November 1995, happened as she was stabling her horse on the outskirts of Warton, near Tamworth.

At 3pm she witnessed a bullet-shaped wingless plane with a flashing yellow light pass low overhead and then disappear out of sight.

Ten days later Mrs Bayley was driving with a friend through the North Warwickshire countryside. As the pair passed along Warton Lane, Austrey, they spotted a flying saucer hovering over the roof of a nearby farmhouse. The craft was displaying red and green flashing lights around its circumference, which tapered to a sharp dome.

The following February Mrs Bayley was again stabling her horse when she noticed what she thought was the same UFO she had spotted at the beginning of November. This time the craft hovered much further away and appeared to be "watching" her. She and her husband could still see the craft as they drove home.

● A TAXI driver travelling from Sheepy Magna to Tamworth was left "frozen with fear" when he encountered a blinding white light on a country lane in March 1996. The driver later told how the ball of light changed into a pyramid of square blocks of light which hovered in front of him before accelerating away at great speed.

● IN January 1995 several people reported seeing a UFO over Birmingham. They spoke of a red ball with a blue head flying through the air at high speed. A year later motorists on the M6 in Birmingham reported seeing a triangular craft hovering at about 250 feet. The craft displayed a number of red lights and a large white light in the centre.

● IN October 1995 teacher Avril Osborne woke in the early hours of the morning to witness a triangular mass of orange light travelling silently in the sky above her house at Crick, near Rugby.

● FIVE silver discs hovering in the sky over the village of Water Orton, Warwickshire, were seen by several witnesses in December 1999. Warwickshire police alerted Birmingham Airport and the Ministry of Defence, but the discs remain a mystery.

"Sightings have been prolific since the 1940s. How can so many people come up with similar stories? We are dealing with something that needs to be investigated far more thoroughly than it is.

"Yet the authorities and the police genuinely aren't interested in wanting to find out what the answers are.

"The MOD say the defence of the country isn't at stake. But how do you explain that to someone in a vehicle who has been followed by a UFO?"

John Hanson says the fact that large numbers of people report seeing the same pyramid-shaped craft around the Fosse Way is significant. "How can so many people tell the same stories? There is definitely something there and it is clear that these are not conventional aircraft.

"At the end of the day UFOs remain unidentified, and that's no answer."

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



THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE: A shot of a UFO from the Argus X-Files. Inset - South Wales Unidentified Flying Object Network members Paul McCarte, left, and Garry Darlington check the group's website

Pictures: ADRIAN WHITE (main) and BETINA SKOVPRO

Some close encounters

Close encounters enjoyed by the group include:

● Standing on St Illtyd, a SWUFON member claims to have witnessed a plane disappear into neighbouring mount Pentwyn. The next day men in overalls were seen digging in the same spot, said Mrs Johnson.

"They were wearing body suits, silver on one side, black on the other," she said.

● There has been talk of an underground base near Brecon. UFO investigator Derek X claims he had his house burnt down when he got too close to a vast multi-story subterranean cham-

ber of the unknown.

"I was arrested under the prevention of terrorism act on October 26 - the day of the Brecon tremor - but it was no tremor, believe me," explained SWUFON group member Mr X, who claims he was picked up by military personnel during an investigation.

"An explosion left a 25 foot hole in the ground - that had to have been dropped from the air."

● An encounter with a supposed UFO late one night 410ft up on the summit of Blaen-y-Cwm near Pontypool caused Mrs Johnson to flee the mountain.

"I thought it was something huge when it came over - I started to panic and I jumped in my car and I was gone," recalled Mrs Johnson who left her fellow UFO spotter temporarily stranded.

"But it turned out to be a huge aeroplane! My friend wasn't very pleased."

● SWUFON's own spot on St Illtyd was the scene of a UFO happening involving objects rising out of the ground.

"Objects of light floated towards the watchers so they got in their car and drove away," said Mrs Johnson.

UFO mystery remains unsolved



● Close encounter - Telford lorry driver Carl Farlow pictured in 1967. Do you know where he is today? Now, Mr Paul Fuller of the UFO Investigations Network would like Carl - or anyone who knows his whereabouts - to contact him on 023 8073 0526. The Ufoin website is www.ufoin.org.uk

THIRTY-THREE years ago, a Telford lorry driver had a close encounter.

Driving along one evening, he was stopped by a flying saucer - or what he thought to be a flying saucer.

Suddenly, his lorry lights went out.

"The electrics were completely dead. Then this thing appeared from my right and stopped there just hovering in the centre of the road," 25-year-old Carl Farlow told a Shropshire Star reporter.

Petrified

"It was about 10 to 12ft above the ground. I just stayed there petrified. It was beyond what I had seen before." After two or three minutes, the object moved off.

"It seems far fetched and ridiculous. My only hope is people will decide not to laugh, but to believe," added Mr Farlow, of Hills Lane Drive, Madeley.

The incident on November 5, 1967, was reported in both the local and the national press.

Now a group of UFO investigators are trying to track him down to speak to him about that night.

Paul Fuller, a member of the

'He said that it came out of the sky and landed on the road and stopped his truck and another car. It flew off and he claims it damaged the road surface' But what was it? **Report by TOBY NEAL**

group called Ufoin - it stands for UFO Investigations Network - said: "We are investigating the whole of the '67 wave. It was a very big year for UFO sightings. I was only seven in that year, which is when I had my sighting. It was not until I was 16 that I found what it was. It was a rare meteorological phenomenon."

"Carl Farlow's case was one of the most interesting cases of the '67 wave. We have now got the Ministry of Defence file on his case, which is a single sheet of paper and is very disappointing. It said it must have been a firework. But what he claimed was much more. He said that it came out of the sky and landed on the road and stopped his truck and another car. It flew off and he claims it damaged the road surface. It's very rare that we hear of a UFO doing that."

"We want to go through the case with him. I have a strong interest in meteorological explanations and I think what he saw was an example

of ball lightning. We know that under certain conditions, phenomena which have a strong ionised magnetic field could interfere with the ignition system on the vehicle."

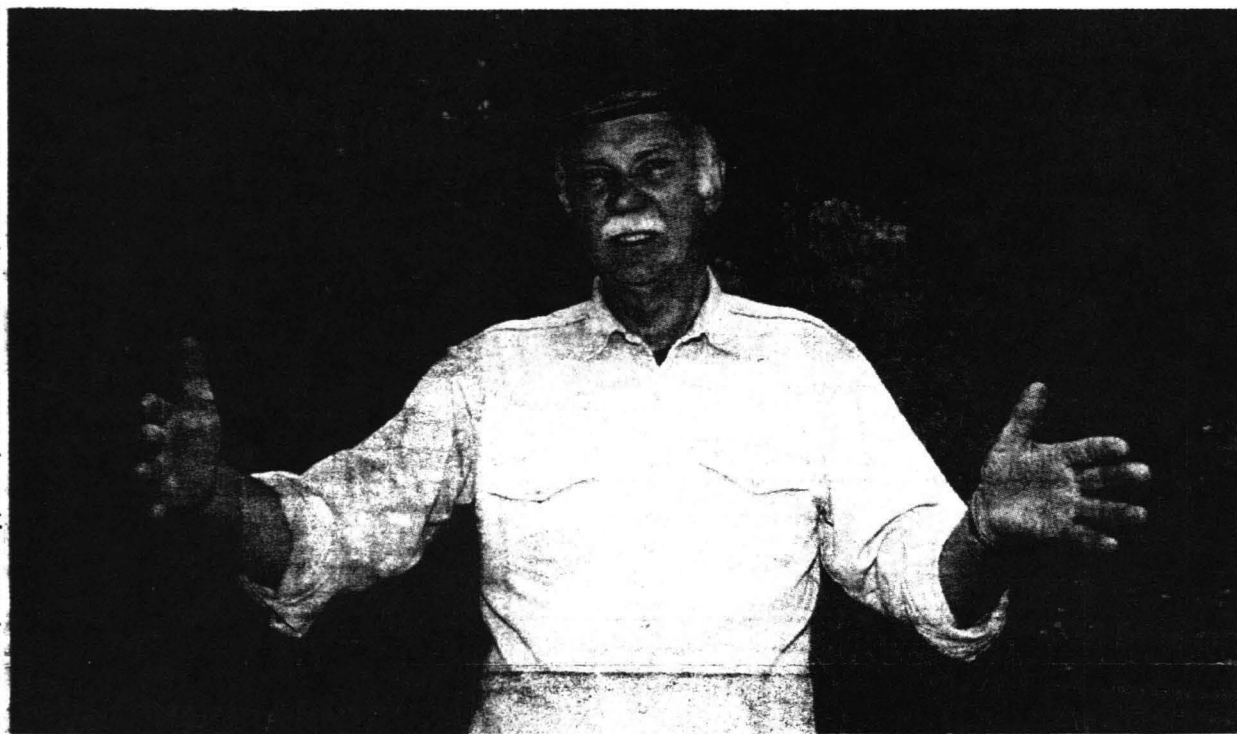
"It may be my theory doesn't hold up. Unless I speak to Carl Farlow, I won't know. No-one has spoken to him about it since 1978."

Scientific

Mr Fuller, who is from Southampton, is a statistician in local government and an independent researcher into scientific mysteries. He said Carl was delivering a consignment of Aga cookers to Christchurch when he made the sighting on the Salisbury to Bournemouth road at Ibsley.

"Carl has also lived in London and Manchester and recently visited the Greek island of Kos."

"He returned to live in the Dawley area in 1980. Now I'm not sure where he is."



Sam Nazaruk describes a UFO which he saw hovering beneath power lines on the evening of Thursday, May 18 near his home in Sorrento.

Man shares his close encounter

By Tracy Hughes
MARKET NEWS STAFF

Sam Nazaruk is the last person you would expect to tell you he'd seen an unidentified flying object.

He's a rugged man, well-educated, well-traveled, a retired electrical engineer and now a hobby farmer in the Sorrento area. He's the kind of man who looks you in the eye, and whose word would be sealed with a firm handshake.

And he's also a man who is convinced that on May 18 he saw a UFO while walking his dog near his home,

"I don't care what people think," he says, "I know what I saw, and that's enough."

But he has heard unconfirmed reports of UFO sightings in the Kelowna area that same night.

"I must admit that made me feel better," he adds.

Nazaruk was walking his toy poodle, Ruff, at approximately 11 p.m. on Notch Hill Road. As he turned onto Mackenzie Road, an orange glow caught his eye. Approximately 300 feet ahead, Nazaruk saw a silver metallic disc-shaped object with a vertical band of orange/red

light. The object was about two feet across and about one foot high. Trying to get a better look, Nazaruk shone the beam of his flashlight out in front and watched as the disc began to rise into the air at an angle just off to the right-hand side of where he was standing. The disc didn't turn, he explains, or make a sound. It simply rose up slowly until it was almost directly overhead. At that

point, Nazaruk could see the disc about 400 to 500 feet above him and he shone his flashlight up into the sky to try for a better look. As soon as the beam of light hit it, the object disappeared.

Immediately, Nazaruk went home to tell his wife, Anita, what he had seen.

"I was very surprised when he told me," says Ani-

ta. "Sam's so logical, he's not the type to make up stuff or be fanciful or flighty. I know Sam and I have to believe him. I know he saw something, I'm just glad it was him and not me. I would have been scared out of my wits."

The couple's other dog was behaving strangely that night. When they let it out later that evening, the dog raced to the end of the drive, barking and running back and forth.

"He's never acted like that

"I hope it does come back some day. I don't think it's impossible that it was from another world..."
Sam Nazaruk

before or since," says Nazaruk.

Sam was also acting strangely for a couple of days after the sighting.

"It was like I was in a fog," he says. "then it was like my head cleared and I remembered even more."

What Nazaruk remembered was seeing a being, something with widely spaced eyes that flashed green in the light, something that crawled into the bushes.

"It appeared to be on what I would call its knees and elbows, as I could see the dark shadows of what would have been hands and feet. It appeared to be having difficulty in moving and was almost dragging the part I would call its feet. The head was up above the arm, but I did not have my light on it at the time, so I did not get a view of the features," writes Nazaruk in an account of his experience.

Anita says her husband was preoccupied and distant during those two days and also had an intense need to talk about the experience.

"He doesn't think so, but I think he was a bit traumatized by this. Like his mind is so logical, it was difficult to deal with it. It was like he had absorbed it unconsciously and it took a while for it to process. Those things can happen when you have been through something traumatic."

Nazaruk does have regrets about the experience, saying he wished he could have tried to communicate with the object, rather than just standing in awe. And he has been going back to the site each night on his walks just in case.

"I hope it does come back someday. I don't think it's impossible that it was from another world, and that they are exploring just as we explored the Earth."

Alien video claims made

AN Ilkley company claims it has discovered top secret NASA space footage which threatens to destroy a huge UFO cover-up.

Graham Birdsall is editor of UFO Magazine, part of Quest Publications International Ltd, based in West Street.

The magazine believes it has obtained authentic footage of several space shuttle missions which will no longer allow intelligence agencies to deny all knowledge of alien encounters.

Mr Birdsall is preparing to address a huge UFO conference near Las Vegas next month, where he will show the footage for the first time while simultaneously releasing the material onto the internet.

The Gazette has been given a sneak preview of material Mr Birdsall believes will 'blow people's minds.'

Although it is clearly impossible to say exactly what the images are, Mr Birdsall said NASA explanations that the white moving objects are ice crystals, simply did not add up.

"Ice crystals do not suddenly stop, hover around the Mir Space Station, go behind it for a look and then speed off," he said.

Russel Callaghan, the man responsible for

the magazine web site, pointed to what he described as an abandoned satellite on the screen. The objects can be seen clustering around the object. "They are clearly taking an interest in it," he said.

Mr Birdsall said: "Once this stuff is released on March 11, people are suddenly going to be very very interested in Ilkley all of a sudden."

The magazine editor said Ilkley should prepare itself for the 'greatest story never yet told.'

The UFO Magazine team is convinced the footage is genuine and claims NASA has tried (and failed) to employ scientists to back up its ice crystals theory.

He said those who sought to mock and criticize had no idea what they were dealing with. He said those 'in the know' most certainly did and realised they had possession of material which was quite awesome in its content and breathtaking in its scope.

Mr Birdsall believes the world has the right to make up its own mind about the images. That opportunity will come at the forthcoming conference. "At that conference we will show the world there are unusual goings-on in space," he said.



Pictured above (left to right) Russel Callaghan, Mark Birdsall and Graham Birdsall.

STAR, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada - June 9, 2000

By CARMEL ECKER
Star Reporter

A myriad of millennium projects will bombard the Yukon as the months progress until the end of 2000.

A collection of these projects was presented to the community Thursday morning at the Beringia Centre. The territorial government has contributed \$900,000 to the cause.

One project will be the Yukon UFO Conference, which will bring experts such as nuclear physicist and lecturer Stanton T. Friedman.

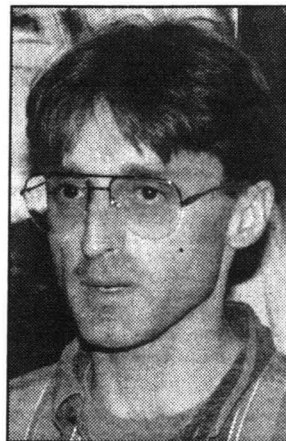
The conference's focus, said presenter Martin Jasek, is on promoting discussion in the community, government and professional organizations about what these sightings could be.

The need for this discussion, said Jasek, is "because it's impossible to determine what this (phenomenon) is all about through private individuals investigating during their own leisure time."

There is also the need to "mitigate the ridicule factor," said Jasek.

A local resident who reported a sighting in April has received such comments as, "What were you drinking?" said Jasek.

The possibility of such ridicule makes many people refrain from coming forward about things they've seen.



MARTIN JASEK

CR: G. Conway



VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

A long look at a Bigfoot!

TIMES, Waitsburg, WA - May 4, 2000

Except for the 1967 filming by Roger Patterson, there is not much to support belief in the existence of a Bigfoot, other than the telling of experiences by persons claiming to have seen one.

And, there are thousands of such experiences that would fill a big book on the subject.

A lot of those experiences have come in recent years from the Blue Mountains and especially in the high country just a few miles east of Dixie, a town of a couple hundred people on U.S. Highway 12, some 10 miles east of Walla Walla.

This column has recounted many of those stories, related by the observers and they are a part of the cloth into which is woven the documentation for a Bigfoot in these parts. We have interviewed many who were firm disbelievers before their experience but are now firmly entrenched on the side of the believers in this creature.

A most unique interview was done the other day when Bill Laughery and I met the man who had a long, long look at one and right up close. The distance separating man and beast was close enough that features and expressions on the Bigfoot's face were plain for the observer. Bill had heard of the man's encounter and convinced him he should tell it for a reporter to do a story. Convincing the man to meet us on the Blacksnake Ridge road recently was not easy but the story needed telling so he agreed.

"But no name," the man asked, recounting some of the ridicule he

had received when a story of his encounter leaked to his "buddies." So, we've gone along with that and he suggested the nickname of "Jack the Logger." What Jack had to say about the Bigfoot he met on the mountain road with truckload of logs makes for one of the best Bigfoot stories I've yet recorded.

His trip that afternoon off the mountain, headed towards Dixie, was to prove the highlight for Jack of some 45 years of trucking logs. Jack probably knows more about Blacksnake and Biscuit ridges than most people. He said he makes two or three trips per day when he's hauling logs and this counts a lot of days when he has to put on chains at the top, and take them off when he gets out of snow.

And, Jack could probably give a pretty good count of deer and elk in those parts as well.

But, these days ... ever since the late November of 1998 ... he has been eying the landscape for Bigfoots!

Jack first spotted the Bigfoot when it was seen on an open slope some three fourths of a mile away, but he didn't realize what the moving object was. Jack says he estimated about where on the road he would likely cross its path.

"All that time, I'm wondering what kind of animal it was," he said. "It never entered my mind that it was going to be a Bigfoot."

As his rig came into the curve at the end of a long grade in the road, the two met, with only about 40-45 yards separating them!

"As I got there and saw him,"

Jack said, "I stopped my truck and shut off the motor. He was standing there in a heavy, tufted grassy area, just standing and looking at me. We both eyeballed each other real good.

"Pretty soon ... I was close enough I could see his facial expressions ... he didn't look like an ape in the face, more like man features but hairy in the face. I would say he had a nose but not much. The skin was black and his hair color was like this (and he pulls a smoky-blue ski hat out of his truck cab). He was about this color and had gray hairs showing like an old dog will get around his nose.

"Anyway, while he was standing there, the expression on his face changed three or four times. That led me to believe that man may not be the only animal that has reasoning. This old boy was thinking and every time he'd go to a different train of thought, his expression would change."

Bill asked if Jack could see its eyes.

"I wasn't really interested in that," Jack said. "I was looking at the width of his shoulders and his height, wondering what the hell was going to happen!"

How wide was the Bigfoot?

"He was a good yard or more through the shoulders and I've had people tell how a Bigfoot is about eight foot tall ... well, this dude was taller than eight feet and closer to nine feet tall.

"When you're that close it's no problem to figure out how big it was. And, he never made any effort to run from me. He never acted like he was scared ... I sure know he wasn't scared of ME ... not a bit!"

"Then he turned and walked along this way (Jack simulated a limping gait) like something was wrong with one leg, like he had an old injury or someone had shot him. Then he stopped and turned and looked at me for another full minute before he left ... didn't run ... he just walked over to the edge of the brush that dropped off steeply into the Dry Creek north fork.

"There was no getting around it ... this was not any man-made object or a man dressed up, there isn't a man in this county big enough to wear that suit!"

Jack says this sighting was his first Bigfoot encounter although several years ago he "saw something that I thought was a bear standing up... always thought it was a Bigfoot but could find no sign.

"But this time, it's different... absolutely no doubt about it. I would pull \$50 out of my own pocket though, if one of you guys could have been there with me."

Jack told us more about his initial reluctance to come forth with a report of what he'd encountered nearly two years ago.

"I didn't know whether to say anything to anyone about this ... you know, if I'd go downtown and tell the guys I saw a Bigfoot they'd laugh me clear out of the place.

"I told my wife about it and she kind of had her doubts about it for awhile, but she knew I wasn't going to come in with some kind of cock-and-bull story to take a ridiculing over."

"But, I don't really care what people think ... I just didn't talk about it, except with someone who has seen a Bigfoot or is a serious believer. They can believe what they want, but I'm the one who knows what I saw ... they can say there is no such thing but they don't have anything to back that up and I do.

"This thing was the closest to a real human than anything I've seen on television or real life ... his body is proportioned more to a human than anything I've ever seen. He's not like an ape. This dude walked like a man and somehow acts like a man. He walked like he was crippled in the right leg or foot.

"I'll tell you this much, too: I've never seen anything like it, before or since. He's a one-of-a-kind for me!"

So, the interview ended that sunny day on Blacksnake Ridge. Jack climbed into his log truck cab to head into the timbered country for his second trip of the day. As he stepped into the cab, I heard him shout back to us:

"Keep your eyes open, kids! At least there are two of you ... you can back up each other's stories."



DAVE JEWETT
Ink

D.B. Cooper, Bigfoot, UFOs have a thing in common

Events and places in the Pacific Northwest are among those covered in a new book, "100 of the World's Greatest Mysteries," a collection of hundreds of unusual happenings around the world, from ancient times to today.

Four chapters deal with happenings that have direct or peripheral connections to this corner of the world.

Recounted is the story of **D. B. Cooper**, the mysterious 1971 airline hijacker. He's the guy who boarded a plane in Portland and demanded \$200,000 in \$20 bills. The plane stopped briefly in Seattle to pick up the money, then took off again heading

in this direction. He bailed out of the plane and vanished, presumably somewhere over Southwest Washington. The book quotes retired FBI investigator **Ralph Himmelsbach** as saying if the sky-jacker didn't freeze to death on his way down, he probably died when he hit the ground.

In 1980, an 8-year-old boy playing along the banks of the Columbia River near Vancouver discovered a bundle of crumbling \$20 bills, and the serial numbers matched those given Cooper. So far, those have been the only bills of the air pirate's 10,000 \$20 bills to show up.

Bigfoot, also known as Sasquatch, gets another three pages in the 305-page book by **E. Randall Floyd**. Quoted is **Grover Krantz**, a Washington State University professor, who believes that between 200 and 2,000 such monsters inhabit the rugged high country of Washington, Oregon, British Columbia and northern California.

A chapter on flying saucers recalls Oregon pilot **Kenneth Arnold's** famous sighting of several "disk-shaped" objects skipping through the skies over Mount Rainier in 1948, a widely publicized sighting that soon had many others rushing forward with similar reports. Such reports persist today, with some people claiming they have been kidnapped and taken aboard spacecraft.

Also covered is the mystery of crop circles, in which strange and sometimes intricate designs suddenly appear in wheat fields and other crop fields. The author says the circles have become one of the most famous and visually recognizable enigmas of all time.

First publicized sightings occurred in England, but now have spread almost everywhere, including to the Pacific Northwest.

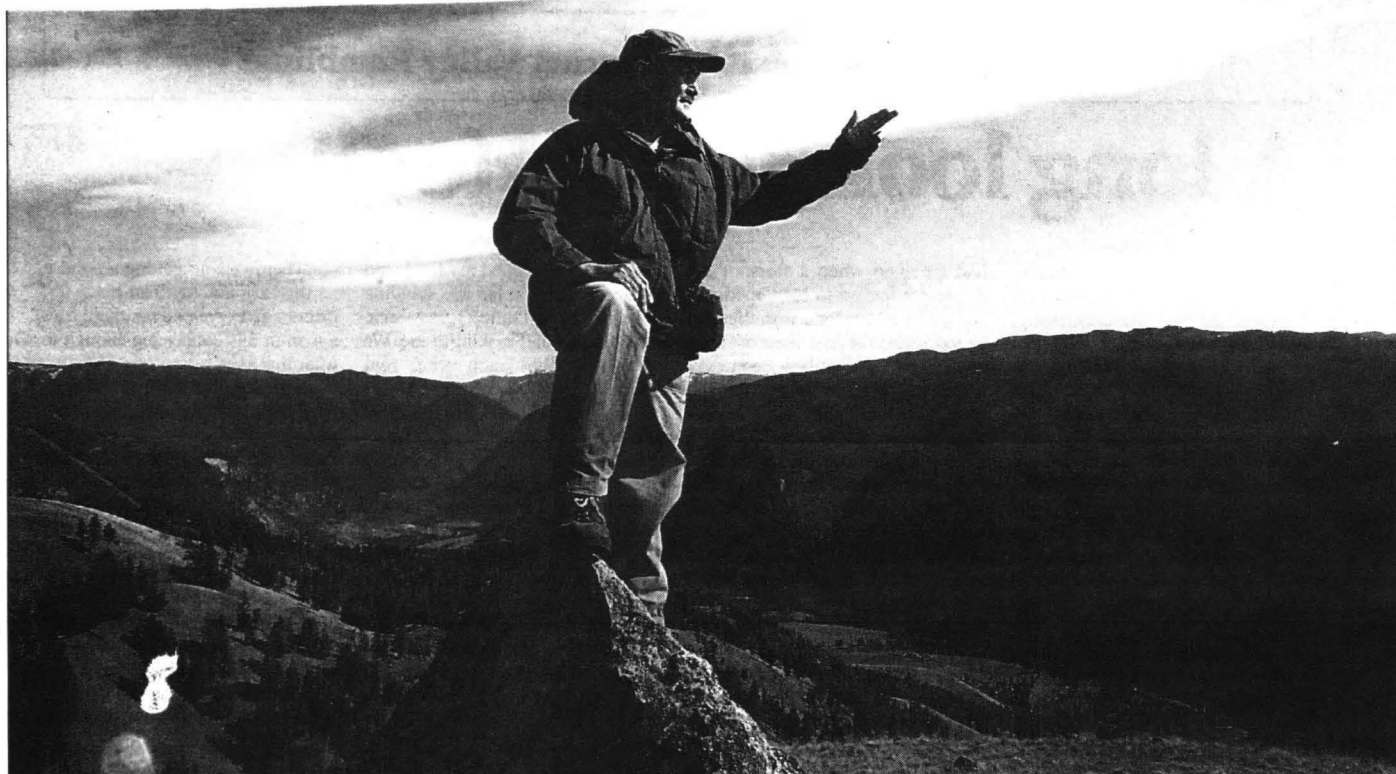
NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
May 26, 2000 CR: G. Duplantier

Ogopogo staying in Manitoba

SHOWBIZ

The Ogopogo feature film is back on track for shooting this summer in Manitoba. Winnipeg producer Kim Todd said Wednesday that financing for the film has been secured and shooting will begin in late August. The local film industry was sent reeling last week when word spread that the project — the most expensive movie ever to be shot in Manitoba — was about to be lured away to New Brunswick. Todd said the film's budget was higher

than the German financiers had planned and the Manitoba tax grant was less than they were expecting; the lure of a big wind-fall for the investors from New Brunswick never materialized. Todd said the film's \$25-million budget will be trimmed, but added that the cutbacks will not affect the almost \$10-million to be spent in Manitoba. The animatronic Ogopogo creature has been built in England by the Jim Henson Creature Shop, responsible for the Muppets, 101 Dalmatians and Indian in the Cupboard. Winnipeg Free Press



Jonas Faber stands above the Similkameen River in British Columbia where he is convinced he has discovered a huge pre-historic site of stoneworks.

NICK DIDLICK / NATIONAL POST

On a resplendent B.C. glacial shelf lie what an Inuit carver believes are the remnants of celestial compasses aligned by a culture seeking to track the skies using huge boulders

An ancient hand's touch

BY MARK HUME

PRINCETON, B.C. • A sloping, glacial bench above the Similkameen River near here may contain clues to an ancient culture that tried to track the movement of the stars.

But the discovery of what appears to be a huge pre-historic site, spread over several kilometres, has triggered some deep concerns, as natives and scientists ponder the significance of mysterious rock works found by Jonas Faber.

Mr. Faber, an Inuit soapstone carver who lives in Princeton, was looking for a place to hunt deer when he first saw the giant boulders. There were four of them, each weighing several tons, aligned so perfectly across a rock-strewn field he thought they'd been moved there during the construction of a nearby road.

But the stones were submerged in the topsoil, covered with lichens, and seemed to have been sitting in place for hundreds, perhaps thousands of years. The ground around them had not been disturbed by machines.

Had they been dropped by a glacier? In a perfectly straight row?

Possibly, but as he examined the rocky plain, he soon saw another row of five big rocks, set at a sharp angle to the first set. And then a third line, a fourth, a fifth — all straight lines, all cutting off in different directions.

"I knew right away this wasn't done by nature," says Mr. Faber.

Neither scientists nor natives knew about the rock works until Mr. Faber found them. Now everyone is arguing — and fretting — about what it all means.

In addition to the curious rock lines, Mr. Faber has found stones laid out in circles, a curving rock wall at the base of a scree slope, the ruins of an ancient pit house, built of stone, and a series of what he believes are graves — one of which is marked by a weird, skull-shaped rock covered with red lichens.

"That," says Mr. Faber, bowing to the strange stone, "is where I believe an important leader is buried. It's someone very significant — you can tell by the unusual marker. That stone was carried here from somewhere else. There are no other rocks with red

lichens here."

It's true. In the pine forest, the rocks are muted colors of gray and black. Some are marked by whorls of cream or white lichens. The red stone is unique.

But does one odd rock make a grave? Mr. Faber points to the jumble of stones above it, oval shaped. And nearby, another oval and a large rock which appears to have been wedged upright by smaller stones.

There are six stone circles in the woods here too, set out in pairs. And below, a rough arrowhead design that points due North, up the slope.

"There can absolutely be no doubt," says Mr. Faber, as he rushes from one site to the next, showing the curious stoneworks. "This all reflects the touch of human hand. I've worked with stone for 25 years. I know — people made these lines, these patterns, not nature."

He thinks the rocks were placed several thousand years ago — perhaps by a primitive culture that lived in the region long before the Upper Similkameen Band appeared.

The Similkameen band, like other

believes further study will show others indicate the place where celestial bodies rise above the horizon.

"I feel sincerely that they are astronomical alignments," he says. "Today you would call it an analog computer that tracks the movement of celestial bodies, that predicts the movement of the stars, the sun, the moon."

If Mr. Faber is right, the discovery he has made would be of immense archaeological importance.

"I say this place is the oldest university in Canada," he says as we walk across the rock-strewn plain. "It might be 4,000 years old. Maybe 10,000. It was a place of learning, a place where they tried to understand the universe."

Not everyone shares Mr. Faber's view. Indeed, his pronouncements have stirred some strong feelings.

"They could be alignments, but then, any three rocks can make a line. Could be he's seeing lines that aren't there," said Stan Copp, an archaeologist at Vancouver's Langara College, who has been studying native sites along the Similkameen River.

"I have serious concerns about his claims ... the mind picks out what it

with peer review."

Later this spring, Mr. Copp will return to the site with a group of students to map the entire area.

"We will map all the things he sees, and everything else," he said.

Philippe Batini, Upper Similkameen band manager, made it clear the band is deeply concerned about the future of the find — whatever it is. The exact find area is being kept secret.

"We are skeptical, but we want to remain open minded," he said. "We want to do a scientific assessment, and we want to rely on traditional knowledge to assess what's here."

Mr. Batini pointed out that pit houses built by the Upper Similkameen had been located along the river below the rocky plain. And that there was evidence of his people inhabiting the area for thousands of years.

"We have to consult with our elders. We have to be very careful in what we have to do," he said.

Mr. Batini said the band will wait until Mr. Copp's has completed his field work before reaching any conclusions.

"This is one of the biggest archaeological discoveries of the century," said Mr. Faber, who would like the band to call on the government to protect the site.

"If you don't protect it, it will be destroyed. There is logging, ranching, mining; look there's a gas line and a road cutting through here already ... I will show you a place where a bulldozer has run over an ancient burial ground."

"You haven't found any bones," shot back Mr. Batini, before adding he didn't want anyone digging around on the site without the band's approval.

"I believe the past belongs to everyone," replied Mr. Faber.

After Mr. Batini left, Mr. Faber stood on a high bluff and looked down at the broad, rocky field, which would cover several football fields. There was no doubt that below us, on a slope strewn with ancient rocks, there were straight lines running in different directions. And nobody can yet explain what they are or what they might mean.

"The natives are pretty uptight," said Mr. Faber. "So are the scientists. But it doesn't matter. It's too significant for any of them to stop. This is big. It's huge. There is something here and I just know it's incredibly important."

National Post

'IT WAS A PLACE OF LEARNING, A PLACE WHERE THEY TRIED TO UNDERSTAND THE UNIVERSE'

native groups in British Columbia, dates its presence back about six thousand years.

Mr. Faber believes the site pre-dates that, because the Similkameen Indians did not engage in stoneworks like this. They didn't build stone walls, or lay lines across the plains, or set out patterns of rocks on the ground.

"To me," said Mr. Faber, "it looks like a medicine wheel."

Throughout the Great Central Plains of North America native people have marked off ceremonial sites and sacred grounds with patterns of rocks known as medicine wheels. But the plains culture that gave birth to those markings never penetrated the Rocky Mountains.

There has never been a medicine wheel found in British Columbia.

Mr. Faber thinks one of the stone lines is set out to align with the summer solstice sunset, another marks the place where the sun rises, and he be-

wants to see," he said.

But then he added that the site, which he has visited for only 20 minutes, does contain a prehistoric pit house and other rocks that have clearly been set in line or arranged in patterns by humans.

"He did show me things that could be alignments. But when were they built?"

"That site is located on an ancient terrace from the last ice age. And it's a logical place for someone to have done something. I'll give him that," said a skeptical Mr. Copp.

In an e-mail to Mr. Faber, Mr. Copp was somewhat more enthusiastic about the site's possibilities.

"I agree with you that this site has the potential to be very important, for all the reasons you state," he said.

"However, there is still the matter of establishing 1) that the site is a medicine wheel and 2) its date of manufacture. This can be accomplished by a qualified archaeologist, preferably

Man 'made cold by the universe' walks Delta

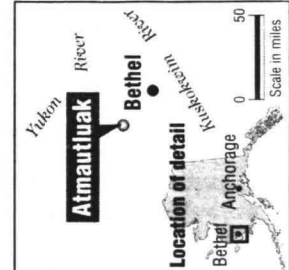
Residents glimpse snowmobiler lost months ago

By LIZ RUSKIN
Daily News reporter

BETHEL — In villages along the Kuskokwim River and in this hub city, scores of people have reported catching sight of Richard Pavilla, a 38-year-old man who disappeared in December while on a snowmachine trip from his home village of Atmautluak.

Pavilla, they say, is still alive but he is in a rare condition in which he is feather-light and as wary as a wild bird.

"It has happened in the past, but it's kind of long and in be-



RON ENGSTROM / Anchorage Daily News



Peter Atchak of Bethel has checked many sightings of Richard Pavilla. "I wouldn't have believed it myself if I hadn't seen his tracks, his footprints and the way they disappeared," he says.

MARC LESTER
Anchorage Daily News

who say they've seen the lost man.

Pavilla and Richard Tikiun, 27, left Christmas Eve on a snowmachine for Bethel, about 30 miles away across the frozen tundra. People in the village told troopers the men had been drinking and may have been planning to pick up Tikiun's stash of alcohol on the way. Searchers found Tikiun's body Dec. 28, four miles from Atmautluak and just north of the main trail to Bethel. He lay face down on the ground next to his snowmachine and an empty vodka bottle, troopers said.

Pavilla, troopers said, obviously stayed alive for a while, despite fierce winds and temperatures that dropped to minus 30 degrees.

Searchers found a series of windbreaks made of snow blocks and tree branches, snow caves dug into drifts and even a hastily made igloo, as well as several sets of tracks thought to be Pavilla's.

It was shortly after New Year's when the first sighting of the lost man was reported, said Peter Atchak, Bethel's volunteer search and rescue coordinator. Five of the searchers, Pavilla's cousins, reported seeing a solitary figure on foot about eight miles southwest of Bethel.

"They thought it was a searcher, but when they were approaching close he took off running," Atchak said. The person crossed the frozen river and was gone, the cousins reported.

The next report came a couple of days later. A group of youngsters were driving a truck from Napakiak upriver to Bethel when someone came out of the brush toward them. They got frightened and drove off, Atchak said.

The troopers ended their search Jan. 9, figuring no one could survive so long in such severe weather.

The volunteer search and rescue group kept looking, and Atchak kept track of the reported sightings. They came from up and down the Kuskokwim and from villages on the coast. In all, there were more than 50 reports from 10 villages. People also reported seeing Pavilla in Bethel — near the high school, at the hospital and crouched under a woman's house.

Atchak said he has repeatedly investigated reports of boot prints and found they were made by size 7 Sorels, just like Pavilla's.

"I wouldn't have believed



MARC LESTER / Anchorage Daily News

Peter Jacobs, 77, talks with volunteer search and rescue coordinator Peter Atchak about the state of Richard Pavilla, who disappeared in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta in December.

it myself if I hadn't seen his tracks, his footprints and the way they disappeared," he said.

To learn more, Atchak convened meetings of elders in Bethel. More than 100 came.

Pavilla is stuck between two worlds, some of the old people told him. It happens sometimes: People get lost, become very frightened and fall into these states. Their senses sharpen so that they can hear rabbits and foxes running in the woods. They don't feel the cold. They are not ghosts, but their bodies become so light they can walk on top of trees and cross wide rivers like the Kuskokwim in a hop or two.

The Yup'ik term for it, Atchak said, is *cillellem quellra*. Roughly translated: "made cold by the universe."

"I've been hearing (about) that since I was a little girl," said Neva Rivers, a Hooper Bay elder.

Martha Larson, of Napakiak, said her family had a brief brush with this phenomenon. In the late 1950s, her teenage sister got lost at their summer fish camp. She was missing only about half a day. When the sister came back she told them that she could hear her family calling her but she was too afraid to show herself.

"Something happens to you when you get lost like that. Your mind — you start to panic," Larson said.

Some in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, such as Rivers and Peter Jacobs, remember the case of Gabriel Fox. Thirty years ago, Gabriel walked away from a children's home upriver to avoid punishment for some trouble he was in. Searchers chased the boy on their snowmachines but he was too fast for them. As he ran, his feet didn't touch the ground, Jacobs said, holding one hand about 10 inches

above the other as he recounted the story.

Gabriel's body was never found, Atchak said.

To bring back a person who is in limbo like that, you have to touch him, some of the old people told Atchak, or spit on him. He will be skittish and afraid of people, but he will also be terribly thirsty. You might be able to lure him closer by pulling out a water bottle and drinking from it, Atchak learned.

Whoever rescues him should try to keep him isolated for about two weeks, Peter Jacobs told him. Give him only a sip of water at first, and a trace of dried fish. As he recovers he will gradually be able to tolerate more.

Atchak said he talked to a Napakiak man who said he had such an experience after he was left for dead in minus 30 degree weather.

"He got touched by somebody," Atchak said. "He said he felt so heavy when he fell down. Then he woke up in the hospital."

Apanguluk Kairaiuak, who is documenting the stories of Southwestern Alaska elders, said these experiences are consistent with his understanding of Yup'ik creation mythology. According to this ancient belief, he said, people were created by animal, bird and fish spirits. Before they become people, the pre-humans pass through three other phases, gradually growing more connected to the earth and less connected to their creators, he said. When a crisis strikes, a person sometimes reverts to an earlier phase, he said.

"Without that kind of spiritual memory, our people would not be able to do this," he said.

Atchak said he now understands the stories he would hear old people tell.

"They used to talk about

CLARK CO. PRESS, Neillsville, WI

April 12, 2000 CR: R. Heiden

Sheriff closes out 'creature' investigation

In a press release last Thursday, Clark County Sheriff Dale Olson stated that he does not feel that any further investigation was needed into the reported sighting of a "Bigfoot"-like creature north of Granton on March 28.

"No further sightings have been reported," Olson stated. "From the information gathered, it does not appear this creature is a threat to anyone."

According to Olson's press release, James Hughes was traveling east on Cty. Hwy. H just west of the intersection of Cty. Hwy. K near the Panther Creek Bridge at about 5:15 a.m. when he observed what he described to be a large creature, approximately eight feet tall and covered with grayish-colored hair, step off the roadway and go into a ditch. He estimated this creature to weigh in excess of 500 pounds and walking on two legs. Hughes also told investigating officers that it was carrying something in its arms, possibly the carcass of a goat.

A sheriff's deputy later went to the site with Hughes; however no physical evidence, in the form of tracks or otherwise, was able to be obtained, Olson stated.

some time in the future when our world would get thin," he said. "Like between our world and the next world, they become closer together."

He isn't dispatching searchers to look for Pavilla these days, but he held a meeting Thursday in Atmautluak to ask locals to be alert for Pavilla as they go out bird hunting, ice fishing and gathering wood. About 50 people came, he said.

"In the event anybody should have an encounter with him, we should approach him carefully and try not to frighten him," said Atchak.

After talking to the Napakiak man again, Atchak is also advising people to look for a body.

"From his experience, it sounded like he was able to leave his body and go into a

different body," Atchak said. Jacobs' son, Peter Jacobs Jr., said he thinks he saw Pavilla just last week, as he was riding from Atmautluak to Napakiak.

"I saw someone up on a tree, standing up in a tree," Jacobs said. "I got kind of spooked."

He stayed a long distance away but he figures it was Pavilla because it was miles from any village and the person standing on the branch had no snowmachine.

In other recent reports, people have said Pavilla's face is dark and his hair is long, Atchak said.

"He's been outside for a heck of a long time," Atchak said.

In Atmautluak, Pavilla's father looks for his missing son every day.

Moses Pavilla said he has believed from the start that

his son is alive. Soon after he went missing, the elder Pavilla went to the trail he disappeared from. He believes he heard his son in the bushes.

"He was close by me but I couldn't see him," the father said in a recent telephone interview.

A few weeks later, in Atmautluak, Moses Pavilla says he saw Richard heading into his sister's house. She was inside but said she hadn't seen anyone.

So Moses Pavilla keeps looking, riding his snowmachine back and forth between the village, his fish camp and a neighboring village.

"I never stay home much this winter, because I really need him," Moses Pavilla said by telephone last week.

Reporter Liz Ruskin can be reached at lruskin@adn.com.

PHYSICS

SPACE TRAVEL MAY BECOME 10 TIMES FASTER

BEYOND SOLAR SYSTEM?

BY FRANCIS TEMMAN

GREENBELT, MD. • The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is partly funding research by a professor at the University of Washington in Seattle, Robert Winglee, who thinks his magnetic propulsion system could make space travel about 10 times faster.

Winglee's invention is only a prototype, but if he can perfect it, exploration beyond the solar system would become possible.

The next experimental tests will be conducted at the NASA Marshall Space Center in Huntsville, Ala.

"The computer simulations already have proved that my theory works. If it is validated by the tests that NASA will conduct later this year, then we might see it become reality in the next 10 years," Winglee said during a presentation at Goddard Space Center in Greenbelt, Md.

He has left more than one scientist stunned by the simplicity of his idea, which consists of enveloping an engine in a magnetic bubble that would deflect the solar wind and accelerate a vessel to speeds of 80 kilometres per second, or 288,000 kilometres per hour.

At this amazing speed, it would take only three or four years to reach the edge of the solar system, compared with 42 years using the technology currently available.

U.S. space shuttles with chemical propulsion systems now travel at speeds of 27,700 kilometres per hour or 7.7 kilometres per second.

Winglee's inspiration came as he studied the frequent eruptions on the surface of the sun. He noticed that a magnetic field formed around spurts of plasma, or ionized gas, that were violently ejected into space.

He also noted that the Earth itself is protected from solar wind by the magnetosphere, which is essentially an enormous bubble surrounding the planet.

This bubble deflects the gaseous winds travelling at speeds up to 3.6 million kilometres per hour from the sun. The wind exerts a force, but it is not powerful enough to displace the Earth because of the planet's immense mass.

However, the force could be enough to move the smaller mass of a spaceship, Winglee explained.

His idea is to reproduce this bubble around a spaceship. The

DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - June 17, 2000 CR: J. Fry

Monsters are lurking in the wilds of Ohio

The other day I was drawn to a book in *The Dispatch* library: *The Field Guide to North American Monsters*. Its subtitle is "Everything You Need To Know About Encountering Over 100 Terrifying Creatures in the Wild."

Some monsters, the book says, are found in or around Ohio, including cattle mutilators, Mothman, Orange Eyes, Serpent Woman and something called the Armouchiquois.

The Armouchiquois are "ancient diminutive entities who have become embittered by the loss of their lands to human settlers and will attack people with little provocation," according to the book, which cites Indian mythology and folklore as sources.

The Armouchiquois reportedly live in the fertile farmlands around the Great Lakes, and their population is estimated to be several hundred.

They are described as stubby humanoids, who stand 3 feet tall and have exceedingly long arms and legs. They weigh in the neighborhood of 60 pounds and are omnivorous, the book says.

"When an Armouchiquois is sitting, its knees actually extend at least 6 inches above the top of its (shrunken) head," the book says. In many ways, they resemble frogs.



JOHN
SWITZER

They can leap great distances and run at mind-boggling speeds. They prefer to live on the outskirts of farming communities or completely in the wild. "The Armouchiquois are renowned for their quick and volatile temper. They are easily angered, and their rage knows few bounds," the book says.

I'm not making this up.

They are capable of harassing folks with magical spells and enchantments, especially those who defile the land with landfills, chemical spills and pollution.

"A victim of the Armouchiquois' wrath might suddenly develop a lingering cough, painful rash, constant muscle spasms" or other ailments that cannot be cured by modern medicine.

When humans attempt to build near or encroach on Armouchiquois land, they will be plagued by fires, faulty equipment, diseased crops and livestock, broken windows and a host of mechanical failures, the book says.

"Although unpredictable, these monsters are not inherently evil and only resort to dangerous tricks to ensure the survival of their species," the book says.

The monsters can sometimes be appeased by offering gifts and showing an increased respect for the land, according to the book.

I kind of like 'em.

METEOROLOGY

Giant ice cubes from clear skies tested in Spain

OZONE DEPRESSION LINK

Meteorite, comet and aircraft theories excluded

MADRID • Giant ice cubes that fell out of clear Spanish skies in January may have been a result of global warming, experts studying the freak weather phenomenon have said.

One chunk from Chilches in the east of Spain weighed four kilograms and measured 20 by 26 centimetres.

If the troposphere — the first 15 kilometres of the Earth's atmosphere — heats up, it can provoke cooling in the stratosphere, producing giant hailstones, accord-

ing to a report published in *Geotimes*, the American Geological Institute's magazine.

Satellite maps generated by the U.S. space agency NASA showed a depression in the ozone layer over Spain between Jan. 8 and 17, when the ice cubes fell, the report compiled by 14 Spanish scientists said.

Analysis of the ice cubes proved they were not meteorites or aerolites, such as comet tails, as originally thought.

The tests also ruled out the hypothesis that the ice had fallen from an airplane, said the head of the inquiry commission, Jesus Martinez-Frias, a geologist.

Only nine of the 50 ice cubes tested turned out to be authentic. The others were "discovered" by jokers or trouble makers keen for media attention, the commission said.

Documented incidents of this kind go back to the 19th century: for example, two kilograms of ice in Spain in 1826 and one kilogram in New Hampshire in 1851. In April, 1973, two kilograms fell in Manchester, England.

The commission said its report was not a definitive explanation.

Agence France-Presse, with files from National Post

injection of plasma, helium for example, around the vessel would cause the bubble to swell and help propel the ship.

"What we're proposing to do is create a magnetic bubble to deflect the solar wind," Winglee explained.

His invention, called Mini-Magnetospheric Plasma Propulsion, M2P2, rests on long-known principles of physics. It would render

unnecessary the immense Mylar sails to "surf" the solar wind that others have conceived.

"We have been stuck with chemical propulsion since the day of the V-2 rocket," laments Ed Weiler, a NASA associate administrator. "If humans are ever to reach the stars, we need a lot more of this innovative thinking."

Agence France-Presse